



International Travel Studies INSTITUTE PROFESSIONAL RECOMMENDATION AND ENDORSEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION

The following applicant, _____ (name of applicant), has applied for admission to the International Travel Studies Institute Study Abroad program that departs for six weeks of intensive travel and study in the Holy Land. They will be on a very demanding academic and physically challenging schedule. During this time, they are expected to abide by high standards of morality and virtue. They will also serve as examples to all around them of the values and beliefs of their family, country, and faith while living among and serving people of diverse religions and cultures.

The applicant is expected to abide by the standards and policies of the International Travel Studies Institute program, attend their respective worship services and participate in their faith’s service assignments and ordinances when possible. For these and other reasons, we have asked that each applicant receive a professional recommendation or endorsement from a qualified leader to be admitted to the program. The International Travel Studies Institute does not expect you to share confidential information; however, we do ask that you provide recommendations and endorsements, committing the applicant to the standards and policies of International Travel Studies Institute while they are part of the program. Provided for you is a two-page explanation of the International Travel Studies Institute Standards and Policies Statement.

Additionally, as most of the applicants are Latter-day Saints, the students will be expected to fully participate in their priesthood and Relief Society functions, serve in the local LDS branch and district, provide priesthood ordinances and other services expected of worthy and active members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. If this is not possible due to counselling or ecclesiastical issues, the local branch presidency needs to be aware of these matters before making requests or issuing callings that may not be appropriate. The International Travel Studies Institute prefers that such issues be resolved before a student is admitted for participation in the program.

We, therefore, request that you ask the following questions of the applicant after reviewing the requirements for participation on the International Travel Studies Institute Study Abroad program:

- Have you read, and do you understand the International Travel Studies Institute Commitment to the Standards and Policies statement? Check the box, if you asked the question.
- Are you willing to abide by all these rules, standards and policies while participating in the International Travel Studies Institute Program? Check the box, if they agree to abide by these standards and policies.
- Do you understand and agree to abide by the “Non-Proselytizing Agreement”? Yes No
- Is there any reason why you would not be willing to serve in your worship practices or other program and community service projects, if asked to do so by local leadership or members of the administration, staff and faculty of the International Travel Studies Institute Program? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

After reviewing the foregoing questions with the applicant, I feel comfortable with recommending _____

Applicant's Name

for participation in the International Travel Studies Institute Study Abroad program. I also desire to provide the following statement of endorsement (any additional comments or recommendations):

Signed _____, (Position or relationship to applicant) _____

Date ____/____/_____(mm/dd/yyyy)

Address and Contact Information: _____

Thank you for providing this recommendation.

Please return form to: International Travel Studies Institute
285 East 1910 South
Orem, UT 84058
or email to: travelstudiesinstitute@gmail.com



STATEMENT ON COMMITMENT TO THE STANDARDS AND POLICIES OF International Travel Studies Institute

RELIGIOUS PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

All students are expected to exhibit ideals of service to their community and their religious institution. One purpose of the International Travel Studies Institute program is to teach the principles of charity and virtuous living.

“A person of equity acknowledges and appreciates the hand of ‘divine Providence’ and applies the universal wisdom of the Golden Rule – ‘do unto others as you would have others do unto you’ – the epitome of equity in relationships.”

Regardless of religious affiliation, all students are expected to participate in accepting opportunities to serve on the program committing several hours of service each week to the management and operation of the program and in the community, including acceptance of their church or religious organization’s assignments.

ADHERENCE TO RULES & POLICIES

Another principle taught on the program is the principle of duty.

“All citizens within a free society have a responsibility to exercise rights in a manner that preserves freedom. We owe this duty of care to each other as a commitment to honor the ‘Golden Rule.’ This commitment fulfilled, creates and preserves equity within economies and becomes the adhesive that unites society. Fulfillment of duties is the price we pay to maintain a foundation of liberty that ensures our continuing freedom to enjoy peace, prosperity and happiness.”

The following Rules of Conduct and Policies of the International Travel Studies Institute term program is expected to be adhered to by all participants:

International Travel Studies Institute DRESS & GROOMING STANDARDS

Although clothing standards vary from region to region in the Middle East, some contemporary clothing styles, particularly for young women in the US and Europe, are inconsistent with standards of modesty for many residents of the region and, in particular, of Jerusalem who generally belong to orthodox—and hence conservative—Christian, Muslim or Jewish faiths. Even commonly accepted clothing styles worn by students at conservative university campuses would be considered by many in Israel, the Palestinian Authority territories, and elsewhere in the Middle East to be immodest. International Travel Studies Institute students need to adopt a modest look that will both set them apart and show respect. Students are expected to dress consistent with at least minimal standards of modesty during their travels with the International Travel Studies Institute program. A detailed list of these dress and grooming standards expected of all students are included in the pre-departure packet materials.

SPECIAL HEALTH STANDARDS

Due to the unique nature and demands of the program, each applicant is screened thoroughly, particularly with regard to emotional and medical health issues. The student will be placed in a foreign living situation that is physically, emotionally and academically rigorous without the usual support services available in the United States or which they may normally be accustomed to in familiar home environments. The concerns are both for the student and his/her fellow students.

Students who require special medical or emotional attention may cause a disruption to the program and even endanger the well-being of others. Rather than benefit from the experience, the student may, in fact, be harmed. International Travel Studies Institute must ensure that this student can independently manage physical and emotional challenges in a demanding environment. Therefore, a special Health Evaluation form is to be completed by all students when applying for the program. Also, maintaining a healthy body, mind, and spirit is an essential part of the experience. Students are expected to maintain the following health practices while part of the program:

- Use of tobacco products, any form of alcohol, or illegal drugs are prohibited.
- Avoidance of dangerous activities that put the student’s body or others at risk of serious injury.
- Care for one’s body, eating nutritious food (the program provides excellent foods for breakfast and dinner), exercising regularly, and getting enough sleep.
- Practicing balance and moderation in all aspects of one’s physical health.
- Avoidance of extremes in diet that could lead to eating disorders.
- Not intentionally harming one’s body.

BEHAVIOR & DATING

Activities and behavior must be consistent with high standards of taste and decency. Be aware that any public displays of affection (arms around person of the opposite sex, etc.) is considered inappropriate among certain peoples in the Near East. Dating or pairing off between members of the program is strongly discouraged, and dating or pairing off with anyone outside of the program is not allowed.

Friendships develop and intensify on this study program because of the amount of time spent living, studying and traveling together; but time, the setting, and the environment make dating unwise.

Due to the nature of the living facilities it is inappropriate for male and female single students to be in each other’s cabins or hotel rooms. Students may meet in any of the public areas that are very available wherever the program is located. If students of opposite gender need to enter a cabin, permission of attending faculty is required.

As a matter of personal commitment, students, faculty, and staff of International Travel Studies Institute seek to demonstrate in their daily living adherence to standards of morality and virtues as exemplified by Jesus Christ. These principles of equity include:

Be honest	Respect others	Encourage others in their commitment to
Use clean language	Obey the law and all program policies	comply with the standards and policies of
Live a chaste and virtuous life	Participate regularly in church services	EquityLife Institute

STATEMENT ON COMMITMENT TO THE STANDARDS AND POLICIES OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL STUDIES INSTITUTE(CONTINUED)

NON-PROSELYTIZING COMMITMENT

EquityLife Institute has made a firm commitment that no one associated with the International Travel Studies Institute programs will engage in religious proselytizing activities while in the countries visited as part of the program. Students may not proselytize, directly or indirectly. Proselytizing is defined as any activity that could be construed as aimed at including, encouraging or leading people in these countries visited to investigate any religion for possible conversion are strictly contrary to the desires of the government and people of the lands.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Brigham Young University have signed formal agreements and ask that their members abide by these policies. Non-LDS people who visit or reside in the countries generally understand the high tensions caused by proselytizing and generally abide by this policy as well.

Students, faculty and staff must agree to not distribute, either directly, by mail or by Internet, any materials pertaining to one's church or its doctrines within Israel or Palestine. It is not permitted to discuss one's church or its doctrines or answer any questions regarding one's church or its doctrines with individuals who reside in the Holy Land or who may be visiting there. If asked questions about one's religion, students must state that they are in the Holy Land as a student and are not permitted to discuss their church or its doctrines. The students enrolled on the International Travel Studies Institute program, who may not be LDS, must understand that much of the instruction and field experiences are from the perspective of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and that their religious study courses and lectures include instruction and research into the beliefs and doctrines, histories and origins of many religions. Therefore, the rules of discussion of one's religious beliefs and doctrines does not apply to the students and faculty participating on the program, but does apply to all others that they encounter while enrolled and traveling on the International Travel Studies Institute programs.

ATTENDANCE AT CLASSES, FORUMS, FIELD STUDY TRIPS AND TRAVEL POLICIES

International Travel Studies Institute Study Abroad programs are six-week intensive travel study programs offering university-level credit courses through classroom and on-site field experiences. With the required orientation course, the program offers students eight university credits taught by university-level instructors, faculty, and knowledgeable guest lecturers who are from local and international communities. A correlated curriculum of survey courses provides students with an introduction to religious studies and Near Eastern history, geography, culture, and current events. Classroom study is built around field trips that cover the length and breadth of the Holy Land (Israel and the Palestinian Authority) including travel throughout Jordan. Upon admission to the International Travel Studies Institute program students are automatically enrolled in the courses.

The curriculum is designed to achieve a balance of spiritual, academic, and cultural development consistent with the unique mission and goals of EquityLife Institute in Galilee. The International Travel Studies Institute experience begins before students reach the Holy Land. The Orientation Course (Near Eastern Studies 100) is required of all students to complete. We wish to emphasize that each of the courses, field study trips, forums, special historic dinners, and numerous other educational and academic activities are an integral part of each International Travel Studies Institute program, and students are expected to participate in all these activities.

Class and field trip attendance is required. Students who wish to transfer these courses to their university or college must meet with and obtain approval for these transfers from the appropriate officials at their home institution before departing on the program. For assistance pertaining to transfers of certification of credit, please visit with the Academic Advisor for International Travel Studies Institute. As most text materials are digital and available on the internet, students are expected to bring their own durable laptop computer.

Classes are offered in the early morning hours. Field trips always begin in the early morning as well, often with breakfast between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. Students with sleep disorders or similar challenges should expect that they will need to be able to function effectively each day by 6 a.m. or earlier. The students cannot be excessively tardy to classes or field trips. Consistent tardiness will result in a violation of standards and will be dealt with at the discretion of the International Travel Studies Institute administrator.

Most of the field trips are a full day in length. No field trip has a rest-break, so students will need to be able to participate fully for 10 to 12 hours without difficulty. Students travel on field trips in groups of 40 and it is not possible to make accommodations for individual challenges. Each student must be able to participate fully, without special assistance, with the other students in their travel group, and without imposing on other students. Students are expected to not be late or cause the group to be delayed. Field trips require extensive walking, generally over rough and rocky terrain, climbing stairs and the ability to easily negotiate getting on and off buses. Some of the field trips involve several hours of hiking in mountainous terrain. Temperatures during most of the year are warm or hot. There is no access to reliable refrigeration for preserving special foods or medications during extended trips.

There are four students in each cabin. Each student must be able to share housing accommodations with others without imposing on them and without expecting special accommodations from their roommates. Students are not permitted to travel outside of the Center in groups of fewer than three students. Students must be able to travel with others without imposing on them and without expecting special accommodations from them.