Special Waiver and Acknowledgement required for study

JORDAN – Fall and Summer 2023

As a condition of, and as consideration for, my studying abroad under the auspices of Wesleyan University’s Office of Study Abroad, either on a Wesleyan-administer program or another program, I agree to the following assumption of risk and release and waiver. I understand and agree that no oral representations can or will alter the contents of this document, and that if any portion of this document is deemed unenforceable, all other provisions remain in full force and effect.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, I acknowledge and fully understand that these travel arrangements may be interrupted or cancelled by the University, or by the associated study abroad provider outside of the University’s control, for reasons that are unforeseeable at this time. I also understand and acknowledge that travel involves the risk of a variety of hazards to health and/or safety, including but not limited to, injury, illness, disease, epidemics, and/or pandemics. I expressly understand and agree that I assume all such risks associated with travel whether or not specified herein.

I affirm that I am age 18 or older.

Assumption of Risk:

I understand that participation in a study abroad program involves risks not present on Wesleyan’s Middletown, CT campus. For initiatives abroad these include, but are not limited to, risks inherent in travel to and from, and within, a foreign country, and risks resulting from different:

- legal, economic, social, political, and law enforcement conditions;
- standards for the safety and maintenance of both private and public buildings and conveyances, including different standards for the accessibility and accommodations of persons with disabilities;
- standards for the availability and provision of medical care;
- weather conditions; and
- educational systems and expectations

I understand these risks and accept and assume them as a condition for my participating in such a program. I acknowledge that my participation in that program is voluntary.

General Release and Waiver:

I, for myself, and for my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, release and waive any and all claims arising out of my participation in a study abroad program led by a Wesleyan faculty or
staff member that I may have, now or in the future, against Wesleyan University, its employees or agents, including, but not limited to, claims for damage to or loss of property, consequential damages, violation of civil rights, personal illness or injury, or death.

I understand that Wesleyan University, including the leader of the off-campus initiative, does not administer or control all aspects of such initiatives, and that other providers of goods or services in this connection are not agents of Wesleyan or under its control.

**Medical Release and Authorization:**

I assume all risk and responsibility for my medical needs while a participant in a Wesleyan approved or administered Study Abroad Program, and acknowledge that Wesleyan is not responsible for the provision and quality of medical treatment or hospital care that I receive while such a participant.

In the event of a medical emergency, however, I authorize Wesleyan to take any action deemed in good faith to be necessary for my health and safety. I assume full financial responsibility for, and release Wesleyan, including the leader of such initiative, from any and all liabilities resulting from the good faith exercise of this authority.

I understand that Wesleyan has the authority to contact my parent/guardian about my physical or mental health while I am abroad if it is deemed advisable to do so.

I authorize Wesleyan, including the leader of the program, to determine whether it is in my best interests or those of Wesleyan or the program that I return home.

I have read the U.S. Department of State Travel Country Information page concerning travel to JORDAN.

I understand and acknowledge that:

- I am required to sign the Assumption of Risk and Release and Waiver form and other forms required for Wesleyan approved study abroad programs generally because I will be a registered Wesleyan student while studying in JORDAN; and that references to Wesleyan’s permission to, and approval of, study abroad in those forms means only that Wesleyan has agreed to give me credit for approved courses I satisfactorily complete in JORDAN;
- Wesleyan University is in no way responsible for my health, safety or security while in, and while traveling to and from JORDAN;
• In spite of my being encouraged to follow the advice of the on-site coordinator and regardless of any advice that is given, neither Wesleyan nor the on-site coordinator is responsible for my health, safety or security while in, or while traveling to and from, JORDAN; and that

• Should I decide to leave JORDAN before the end of a program because of health or safety concerns, or for any other reason, Wesleyan will not be obligated to give me credit for a partial semester of study or a refund of tuition or any other fees.

I am aware of the specific risks of travel to, and in, JORDAN, as detailed below:

• **State Department Travel Advisory Level 2: Exercised Increased Caution**
  o Exercise increased caution in Jordan due to terrorism. Some areas have increased risk.

• **When you visit Jordan:**
  o Monitor local media for breaking events and adjust your plans based on new information.
  o Avoid demonstrations and protests.
  o Be aware of your surroundings.
  o Stay alert in locations frequented by Westerners.
  o Obtain comprehensive medical insurance that includes medical evacuation.

• **Do Not Travel to:**
  o **The Border with Syria and Iraq:**
    ▪ Within 3.5 km of the Jordanian border with Syria and east of the town of Ruwayshid in the direction of the border with Iraq due to terrorism and armed conflict.
  o **Refugee Camps:**
    ▪ Designated Syrian refugee camps in Jordan due to Government of Jordan restrictions on entry into these camps.
  o Zarqa, Rusayfah, and the Baqa’a neighborhood of Ayn Basha due to terrorism and crime.

• **Reconsider Travel to:**
  o Ma’an City and as-Salt due to terrorism and crime.

• **Terrorism**
  o Terrorist groups and those inspired by such organizations are intent on attacking U.S. citizens and other travelers abroad. Terrorists are increasingly using less sophisticated methods of attack – including knives, firearms, and vehicles – to more effectively target crowds. Frequently, their aim is unprotected or vulnerable targets, such as:
High-profile public events (sporting contests, political rallies, demonstrations, holiday events, celebratory gatherings, etc.)
- Hotels, clubs, and restaurants frequented by tourists
- Places of worship
- Schools
- Parks
- Shopping malls and markets
- Public transportation systems (including subways, buses, trains, and scheduled commercial flights)

The threat of terrorism remains high in Jordan. Transnational and indigenous terrorist groups have demonstrated the capability to plan and implement attacks in Jordan. Violent extremist groups in Syria and Iraq, including the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS), and al-Qa’ida, directly or indirectly have conducted or supported attacks in Jordan and continue to plot against local security forces, U.S. and Western interests and “soft” targets, such as high-profile public events, hotels, places of worship, restaurants, schools, and malls. Jordan’s prominent role in the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS and its shared borders with Iraq and Syria increase the potential for future terrorist incidents.

- Travelers to Jordan should be aware that violent extremist groups have carried out terrorist activities against U.S. and Government of Jordan targets in Jordan.
- Jordanian security services have conducted multiple operations to disrupt terrorist plots and operations.
- In November 2019, a lone terrorist stabbed eight people, including four foreigners, at the Jerash tourist site. The perpetrator was immediately arrested and charged with committing a terrorist act.
- Travelers should avoid most border areas or any refugee camps on personal travel.

Terrorists may target areas frequented by Westerners, such as tourist sites, hotels, restaurants, bars, nightclubs, liquor stores, shopping malls, transportation hubs, places of worship, expatriate residential areas, and schools. In light of these security concerns, travelers should maintain a high level of vigilance:
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Take appropriate steps to increase your security awareness
- Be unpredictable in your movements by varying your times and routes
- Maintain a low profile
- Avoid contact with any suspicious or unfamiliar objects and immediately report the presence of such objects to local authorities

- Crime

Statistically, petty crime is the most common form of crime that travelers experience in Jordan, especially at tourist sites and in crowded areas.
- Pickpockets, purse snatchers, and opportunistic thieves are known to target foreigners in the narrow and crowded streets of the older parts of
Amman’s city center. Travelers should be alert in these areas and in all tourist locations in Jordan. Jordanian police have warned the public to exercise vigilance when leaving banks or ATMs, to reduce likelihood of targeting by thieves.

- Thefts of vehicles, assaults, robbery, and attempted residential break-ins have also been reported. Take care not to display valuables in your car or on your person and be sure to lock car doors and windows.
- Violent crime does occur, but foreigners are rarely targeted. Celebratory gunfire is common, especially during major festivals, sporting events, or the biannual release of high school test scores.
- Do not buy counterfeit or pirated goods. Not only are the pirated copies illegal in the United States, if you purchase them, you will also be breaking local law. Most DVDs, CDs, and software available for sale in Jordan are pirated.

**Demonstrations**

- Demonstrations occur frequently.
- They may take place in response to political or economic issues, on politically significant holidays, and during international events.
  - Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly become violent.
  - Avoid areas around protests and demonstrations.
  - Check local media for updates and traffic advisories.
- In general, demonstrations remain peaceful. However, some have turned violent, even when intended to be peaceful, leading security officials to intervene. Travelers should avoid all protests and large gatherings of people. Many demonstrations occur on Thursday evenings near government buildings and on Fridays near mosques following mid-day prayers.
- You should exercise special sensitivity and caution when visiting or traveling near mosques and religious sites during holy days and Fridays.
- Demonstrations and other forms of unrest have occurred on public university campuses in Jordan. Some acts of violence on university campuses have involved the use of firearms.

**Flash Flooding**

- Certain areas of Jordan, including Petra, the Dead Sea, and other tourist areas, are prone to heavy rain and flash flooding, especially from October-March.
- Roads and bridges may become impassable and the Jordanian government may close tourist areas completely. The first rains of the season in particular often cause flooding throughout Amman and other cities in Jordan. It is important to watch the weather reports and heed local recommendations.

**Tribal Violence**

- Clashes between feuding tribes, clans, or families periodically erupt without notice and sometimes involve violence, including the use of firearms. In some cases, Jordanian security services are slow to respond or may opt to let the violence subside before intervening.
• Tourism
  o The tourism industry is unevenly regulated, and safety inspections for equipment and facilities do not commonly occur.
  o Hazardous areas/activities are not always identified with appropriate signage, and staff may not be trained or certified either by the host government or by recognized authorities in the field.
  o In the event of an injury, appropriate medical treatment is widely available throughout the country.
  o Outside of a major metropolitan center, it may take more time for first responders and medical professionals to stabilize a patient and provide life-saving assistance. U.S. citizens are encouraged to purchase medical evacuation insurance.

• Travel and Transportation
  o Road Conditions and Safety
    ▪ Exercise caution or avoid driving at night outside the Amman metropolitan area due to road conditions, poorly lighted rural roads, livestock crossings, and erratic behavior by other drivers.
    ▪ Drivers tend to be aggressive and inattentive to surroundings, and cars operate very closely together on highways.
      • Jordanian roads are particularly treacherous during the rainy season, which runs from October to March.
      • Highway traffic is heavy around the Muslim holidays when many Jordanian expatriates return to Jordan for family visits.
    ▪ The Desert Highway outside Aqaba, the Dead Sea Highway from Amman, and the King’s Highway between Petra and Madaba, all popular tourist routes, are dangerous because they are narrow, winding, steep, and crowded with trucks.
    ▪ Collisions with livestock are common.
    ▪ There have been reported attacks on various tourist buses on the highway between Amman and Aqaba, known as the Desert Highway, due to ongoing business or tribal disputes.
    ▪ Licensed drivers must carry local third-party insurance with sufficient coverage for accidents resulting in injury or death. Drivers who are involved in an accident should remain at the scene and immediately call the police and emergency personnel in case injuries have occurred.
      • Police frequently hold the driver’s license or passport in order to prevent the driver from fleeing. It is common for foreign drivers to be blamed for accidents, regardless of the actual circumstances of the incident.
  o Traffic Laws
    ▪ Drivers must have a valid Jordanian license or a valid foreign license with an International Driving Permit to drive in Jordan.
    ▪ Drivers and passengers are required to wear seatbelts.
    ▪ All cars must have a fire extinguisher and warning triangle in the vehicle.
- Speed cameras are installed on many roads in Jordan.
- Talking on a cell phone while driving is prohibited. If stopped by police, drivers may face a fine.

**Public Transportation**
- Visitors should make arrangements for taxis via their hotel and request that drivers not pick up additional passengers en route to their destinations.
- On-call taxi services, such as Uber and Careem, also operate in Jordan.
- Licensed on-call taxi drivers will have government-issued license sticker on the upper corner of the vehicle windshield on the passenger seat side.
- Mass transportation options are not recommended.
- Jordanian security authorities often establish checkpoints, especially on roads leading to popular tourist destinations, where drivers are expected to stop and present their identity documents.

**Local Laws**
- You are subject to local laws. If you violate local laws, even unknowingly, you may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned.
- The Jordanian constitution provides for freedom of speech and of the press with some restrictions.
  - Insulting the King or members of the Royal Family may lead to detention or imprisonment.
- The Jordanian government considers proselytizing to Muslims (including the distribution of religious material) illegal, and anyone undertaking these activities is subject to prosecution, imprisonment, and deportation.
- It is illegal to use, possess and/or distribute drugs, including marijuana and its derivatives, in Jordan.
  - Accused offenders can be detained for up to two weeks without charges.

**Arrest Notification**
- If you are a visitor and are arrested or detained, ask police or prison officials to notify your home country’s embassy immediately.

**Customs**
- Jordanian customs authorities may enforce strict regulations concerning temporary importation into or export from Jordan of items such as drugs, firearms, poisons, chemicals, explosives, pornographic materials, communications equipment, drones and antiquities, among other items.

**Male Military Requirement**
- U.S. citizen males who also hold Jordanian citizenship may be subject to laws that impose military service obligations on Jordanians.

**Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drones)**
- Tourists’ use of smaller drones is becoming increasingly popular. However, drones are illegal for personal use in Jordan, and persons seeking to bring any drone into Jordan must first obtain pre-authorization and approval from authorities before entry and use.

**Faith-Based Travelers**
• Islam is the state religion of Jordan. The Jordanian government generally does not interfere in religious practices.
  • Activities such as proselytizing or encouraging conversion to any faith other than Islam are prohibited.
    ▪ Travelers have been detained, arrested, denied re-entry and/or deported for discussing or trying to engage Jordanians in discussions about religion, even if such discussions also involve other activities, such as humanitarian aid.

• LGBTI Travelers
  • There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBTI events in Jordan. However, laws against adultery or breaches of modesty may be used against LGBTI travelers.
  • Public displays of affection between individuals in general, and especially of the same sex are not considered culturally acceptable.
    ▪ Foreigners exhibiting such behavior or expressing themselves outside of traditional gender norms in terms of dress or appearance may face greater risk of official and societal harassment and/or be targets of violence.

• Women Travelers
  • Women visiting and residing in Jordan have reported incidents of sexual harassment, stalking, indecent exposure, and assault. The Embassy continues to receive sporadic reports regarding incidents of harassment and sexual assaults involving taxis and taxi drivers. Some have included physical assaults.
  • To reduce the likelihood of being victimized, women should take precautions such as avoiding travel to unfamiliar areas at night, traveling alone, and riding in the front seat of a taxi.
  • Additionally, dress modestly when in public. Carrying a cell phone at all times is recommended. Immediately report any incidents to the Family Protection Department by calling 911.

• Accessibility
  • While in Jordan, individuals with disabilities may find accessibility and accommodation very different from what is found in other countries. Outside of a few upscale hotels in the capital, individuals with disabilities will find almost no accessible accommodations. Similarly, there are very few accessible restaurants, shops, or historical sites.
  • Transportation is not accessible and sidewalks and crosswalks, even in the main cities, are not accessible. Handicap-accessible toilets and bathrooms, even in major hospitals, are generally not available.

• Health
  • For emergency services in Jordan, dial 911.
  • Modern medical care and medicines are generally available in Jordan’s main cities but not always in outlying areas.
    ▪ Most acute and chronic medical conditions can be treated.
When called, ambulances are often slow to arrive and not widely available and personnel generally have only a basic level of training. Most hospitals in Jordan, especially in Amman, are privately owned.

Adequate health facilities are available in Amman but health care in rural areas may be below U.S. standards.

Medical staff may speak little or no English.

Patients bear all costs for transfer to or between hospitals.

Psychological and psychiatric services are limited, even in the larger cities, with hospital-based care only available through government institutions.

Medical Insurance

- Make sure your health insurance plan provides coverage overseas. Most care providers overseas only accept cash payments.
  - Hospitals and doctors often require payment “up front” prior to service or admission.

Pharmaceuticals

- Exercise caution when purchasing medication overseas.
- Pharmaceuticals, both over the counter and requiring prescription in the United States and other countries, are often readily available for purchase with little controls. Counterfeit medication is common and may prove to be ineffective, the wrong strength, or contain dangerous ingredients. Medication should be purchased in consultation with a medical professional and from reputable establishments.
- Medication purchased abroad must meet their requirements to be legally brought back into your home country.

Water Quality

- In many areas, tap water is not potable.
- Bottled water and beverages are generally safe, although you should be aware that many restaurants and hotels serve tap water unless bottled water is specifically requested. Be aware that ice for drinks may be made using tap water.

Air Quality

- The air quality varies considerably and fluctuates with the seasons. It is typically at its worst in the spring.
- Seasonal dust storms that envelop the country for days or weeks each spring may significantly aggravate respiratory conditions such as asthma or sinus problems.

Student Signature: __________________________________________________________