

## RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH PROGRAM-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

In addition to the general travel risks outlined in the [Study Abroad Risk Advisory](#) this program *Costa Rica—Ag Science & Sustainability* Internship (hereinafter “Program”) has specific activities which may pose a heightened level of risk for participants. UC Davis Study Abroad provides this information so that students can make an informed decision about consenting to participate in the Program. Participants in the *Costa Rica—Ag Science & Sustainability* program will be expected to participate in the activities below.

If participants do not want to participate in an activity, they must inform the UC Davis Study Abroad or Program Coordinator immediately and ask to opt out. In some cases, an activity may be a required in order to participate on the Program (e.g. travel to another site). In these instances, participants wishing to opt out may not be able to participate in the Program at all and may need to choose another program. Study Abroad will try to keep opt out decisions confidential, but due to the group nature of certain activities (such as group travel/tours), it may be impossible for the decision to be kept confidential.

***By participating in in a UC Davis Study Abroad Program, participants voluntarily assume these additional associated risks, both known and unknown. If participants do not ask to opt out, UC Davis Study Abroad will assume they consent to the risks associated with participating in the activities.***

- **This Program includes non-traditional motorized transportation** both during Program hours and/or as the primary means of transportation for students:
  - Private car-for-hire (similar to taxis, but operated by regulated or unregulated private drivers)
  - Private motorcoach or van-for-hire (similar to a small public bus but may be operated by regulated or unregulated private drivers)

This form of transportation is a common form of public transportation in the country abroad but may have limited or no governmental regulation. This means vehicles may or may not be inspected, drivers may or may not be licensed or certified, drivers may or may not have insurance, and safety standards (if they exist) may be significantly lower than those in the U.S.

- **This Program includes non-traditional non-motorized transportation** both during Program hours and/or as the primary means of transportation for students depending on internship and field trips:
  - Bicycle
  - Extended walking or hiking of approximately (1-2 hours)

This form of transportation is a common or elective form of public transportation in the country abroad but may have limited or no governmental regulation. This means that equipment or

animals may or may not be inspected, that I may be at risk for injury due to contact with animals or their behavior, and that this form of transportation may require my own physical exertion.

- **This Program may include water-based recreational activities such as swimming.** Water sports and activities include elevated risk of injury or death due to weather or water conditions (currents, riptides, storms, lightning, etc.), drowning, hypothermia, equipment failure, contact with a water-borne bacteria or virus, as well as other water-based injuries. Travelers who participate in these activities must be able to swim, even if floatation devices are provided. A lifeguard may not be present at the activity site. Travelers assume additional responsibility for assessing their own comfort and risk tolerance related to prevailing water conditions and equipment on site.
- **This Program includes hiking and/or camping.** Hiking and/or camping includes additional risk of injury or death related to physical exertion, accident, or exposure to insects/animals, the environment or weather. These activities are supervised, travelers will be provided with necessary equipment and will take place in relatively safe locations, but weather and environmental conditions are unpredictable and can change quickly. Travelers may be required to: hike/walk for distances of a few miles; hike/walk over uneven, slippery, inclining/declining, or rocky terrain (which increases risk of falls, accidents); carry or lift gear or supplies; shelter in tents/sleeping bags; share in group cooking/cleaning/camp preparation activities; and tolerate mild but possibly uncomfortable weather conditions (moderately hot or cold temperatures, rain, wind, very high or very low humidity, periods of sun without shade, etc.) While preventative measures are taken, travelers are nevertheless at elevated risk for physical injury, and exposure to water-borne illnesses, disease carrying insects, or poisonous plants or animals.
- **This program includes activities in the vicinity of dangerous and dynamic natural phenomena** This program includes low-risk activities such as walking, which may take place around higher-risk geologic activity, or natural phenomena that may have fewer public safeguards or warnings as in the United States. There is an elevated risk of injury to travelers who are not aware of their surroundings. For example, travelers may hike near cliffs, crevasses, fissures, rivers, waterfalls, oceans, lagoons, active volcanoes, and hot geysers that have minimal or no public barriers to prevent injury and which could cause substantial risk of bodily injury or death to the individual who is not aware of their surroundings. Warning signs may be minimal or non-existent. The required activities are supervised and precautionary warnings will be provided but students must remain alert, exercise caution and be aware of their surroundings at all times. Additionally, these geologic phenomena can undergo rapid and unexpected changes at any moment, such as earthquakes or eruptions, which are unpreventable.
- **This Program includes travel on rural or mountainous roads** both during Program hours and/or as the primary route to/from communities. This means roads may be in poor condition and/or

poorly maintained; crash barriers and guardrails are rare even on steep mountainous roads; bus travel can be particularly dangerous, especially at night; and truck and bus traffic may be heavy.

- **This Program includes outdoor work in a humid climate.** Travelers may be required to tolerate possibly uncomfortable weather conditions (moderately hot temperatures, rain, very high humidity, periods of sun without shade, etc.) While preventative measures are taken, travelers are nevertheless at elevated risk for physical injury, and exposure to heat illness, water-borne illnesses, disease carrying insects, or poisonous plants or animals.
- **In this location you may encounter many stray dogs.** Rabies can be found in dogs, bats, and other mammals. Travelers should avoid free-roaming mammals. Do not assume stray dogs are nice. In most cases they are harmless, but many are not, and they can bite. Please consult travel health professionals to determine if preexposure vaccination is recommended. Visit the Centers for Disease Control ([CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)) website for more information.