



Can You Hear Me Now?

A Guide to Staying Connected to Students and the Office of Education Abroad During Study Abroad Programs

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Introduction

- ▶ This session covers the importance of
 - ▶ staying connected with students and the Office of Education Abroad (OEA) during study abroad programs;
 - ▶ legal responsibilities of faculty program directors; and
 - ▶ program decision-making in light of current global unrest.



Staying Connected: Administrative

- ▶ TDS (Terra Dotta Software) study abroad database
 - ▶ Locating students during disasters or emergency events
 - ▶ Students self-reporting location/status
 - ▶ Messaging from Education Abroad
 - ▶ Security
 - ▶ Health

Staying Connected: Methods



- ▶ Cell Phones
 - ▶ Are students expected to have phones/international service?
 - ▶ Faculty
 - ▶ Phones are required
 - ▶ Call trees
- ▶ Email - official means of communication
- ▶ Time zone differences
- ▶ GeoBlue travel insurance
 - ▶ Incident response; family, health facilities, etc.

Staying Connected: Methods



- ▶ Social Media
 - ▶ Talking to students about how to use it while abroad
 - ▶ "Mark yourself safe"—communicating with friends, family, faculty, students in a crisis
 - ▶ Faculty-created social media pages for groups/trips
 - ▶ Best practices
 - ▶ University social media accounts (Section III [University Policy 302, Web Communications](#))
 - ▶ OEA will use as last resort to contact students in time of crisis

Legal Responsibilities: Resources



- ▶ OEA Training and Faculty Handbook
 - ▶ Required to attend workshop
 - ▶ Handbook is required reading
 - ▶ Highlights:
 - ▶ Emergency Reference Guide
 - ▶ On-Site Program Management
 - ▶ Emergency Response

Legal Responsibilities: Compliance



▶ Title IX

- ▶ Faculty as “[responsible employee](#)”--responsible for reporting any alleged violation of Title IX
- ▶ Online [report form](#)
- ▶ Provide the victim/survivor with the [Interpersonal Violence Resource Guide](#)
- ▶ Obtain on-site assistance from host institution, local authorities, consulate, etc.

Legal Responsibilities: Compliance



▶ Clery Act

- ▶ Obligation to report crimes that occur on property that the University “owns or controls”
 - ▶ “Control” includes rental/lease/use of all or part of a building or property by written agreement
- ▶ Work with OEA to report to PPS
- ▶ Obtain on-site assistance from host institution, local authorities, consulate, etc.
- ▶ See [CUA Note](#) and [NAFSA paper](#)

True Stories



▶ Berlin example

- ▶ Best practices
- ▶ Lines of communication:
 - ▶ Faculty → OEA
 - ▶ Faculty → local authorities (including consulate/embassy, police, etc.)
 - ▶ Faculty → other program participants
 - ▶ OEA (not faculty) → parents
 - ▶ OEA → other University offices

Current Global Unrest



- ▶ What are policies for running/cancelling programs?
 - ▶ Travel Warnings (new policy forthcoming)
 - ▶ US State Dept.
 - ▶ CDC
 - ▶ WHO
 - ▶ Enrolling in [STEP](#) (Smart Traveler Enrollment Program)

Current Global Unrest



- ▶ How sites are chosen
 - ▶ Who is involved?
 - ▶ What are the barometers?
- ▶ Communicate with OEA whenever there is a current crisis at or near site location(s)

Q&A



- ▶ Questions for OEA or OLA?
- ▶ Contacts:
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