

# International Group Winter Term Projects

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### ***1. Who can lead an International Group Winter Term Project?***

Repeating International Group Winter Term Projects are typically led by the same faculty, staff member, or student organization, from year to year. New projects are generally led by the individual bringing forward the proposal. The Office of Study Away encourages anyone who would like to lead an International Group Winter Term Project to get in touch with Ann Deppman, at [Ann.Deppman@oberlin.edu](mailto:Ann.Deppman@oberlin.edu), or by calling 775-8623, to discuss his or her idea.

### ***2. How are new International Group Winter Term Projects developed?***

A project proposal is submitted to the Winter Term Committee for approval. Once the project is approved, the Office of Study Away works with the Trip Leader to organize and develop the project.

### ***2. What kind of communication should parents expect when their student decides to participate in an International Group Winter Term Project?***

Trip Leaders will be encouraged to send parents pre-departure materials that contain the group's itinerary and contact information while abroad. Students will be given various pieces of documentation at their pre-departure orientation(s), including a waiver, insurance information, and a country-specific handout. Students are expected to share information with their parents.

### ***3. How involved is Oberlin College in helping to plan an International Group Winter Term Project?***

The Office of Study Away offers Trip Leaders various resources in order to assist them in planning their project. The office meets with Trip Leaders to discuss their project and to offer assistance with regard to administrative matters. Typically a representative from the office attends a pre-departure meeting with the group to go over administrative details, and to provide a country specific orientation handout. The Trip Leader is responsible for planning the details of the trip. The project sponsor (an Oberlin College faculty or staff member) is responsible for making the sure the project meets Oberlin College standards, and for awarding Winter Term credit for the project.

### ***4. What safety and security precautions are taken?***

The Office of Study Away reviews conditions in the destination country and provides the group with basic safety and security information specific to their destination. Groups will also be registered on the State Department website.

### ***5. Under what circumstances might an international trip be cancelled?***

While rare, there are several situations that might precipitate the need to cancel an International Group Winter Term Project. These include dangerous conditions in the destination country, budgetary infeasibility, and an unexpected event causing the Trip Leader to cancel his or her plans. For more information refer to the policy for

Cancellation of International Group Winter Term Projects.

***6. What if the Trip Leader can't go?***

The impact of the need for a trip leader to step down will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. If this situation arises, the campus sponsor, and Office of Study Away will discuss whether or not it is advisable for the trip to go forward.

***7. What happens if the Trip Leader or a Participant becomes ill and needs medical attention?***

Oberlin College participants are required to obtain high quality medical insurance while they are overseas. They should not hesitate to seek medical attention if it is needed. If a participant or the Trip Leader needs to be hospitalized, or is otherwise unable to continue to the trip, the Office of Study Away will evaluate the situation and determine whether it is possible for the trip to proceed. Under no circumstances will a group leave a disabled participant behind without arranging for a representative to oversee their care.

***8. Are non-Oberlin College students permitted to go on the trip?***

Winter Term Projects are presumed to be for-credit endeavors by Oberlin College students. While there might be an exceptional circumstance where a non-Oberlin student would join a group for all or part of a Winter Term project, this is generally discouraged.

***9. What administrative requirements does Oberlin College have, and what are the consequences for failing to meet those requirements?***

Oberlin College will require each student participating in an International Group Winter Term project to sign a waiver, enroll in the HTH Worldwide health insurance plan, and complete a Group Winter Term Abroad Information Sheet. In addition, the Trip Leader will be asked to provide a copy of the group's final itinerary as well as emergency contact information.

***10. What if something happens in the country after the group is already there?***

If conditions in the host country change such that the group's safety and security is in jeopardy, Oberlin College will work with parents and all relevant officials to develop a plan that meets the needs of the situation.

***11. What about countries under a US State Department Travel Warning?***

US State Department Travel Warnings are considered as a possible cause for cancellation of a program. A determination of the program's status will be made in accordance with the policy for Cancellation of International Group Winter Term Projects.