**Participation Agreement**

*This document is a modification of the student Participation Agreement that all students who participate on a JMU Study Abroad program must sign.*

As a participant in James Madison University's international study program, you are agreeing to the following conditions established by the Center for Global Engagement, which includes Program Directors, Program Coordinators, staff and administrators of the University, generally referred to in this document as “the official representatives of JMU”:

**University Policies:**

I am responsible for adhering to established policies, heeding verbal and written announcements and responding as necessary, and exhibiting reasonable and acceptable behavior which shows genuine concern for the social patterns of the host culture as well as my personal integrity at scheduled events and on excursions. I understand that by travelling on a JMU program, I am not only representing myself, but am also representing JMU, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the United States. I’m aware that my actions while abroad will reflect the broader opinion of JMU, Virginia, and the U.S. and I will carry myself in such a way that helps to increase the positive representation of the above entities.

If I am a JMU student, I understand the rules governing student responsibility and behavior as stated in the James Madison University Student Handbook, including the Honor Code, OSARP, and CGE Student Handbooks are in effect for the duration of the program.

**Program Orientation:** I am responsible for attending required pre-departure and on-site orientation meetings and for submitting all forms and identification materials by the specified due date(s). Failure to do any of the above may result in my removal from the program.

**Payment of Fees:** I understand that I have paid a $1,000 deposit, of which $500 is non-refundable, that goes toward the cost of the program. I accept the responsibility of ensuring the remaining $1,800 will be paid by February 1, 2025. I am aware that there will be other associated program fees that are not part of the billable costs that I am also responsible for (airfare, passport, souvenirs, extra food and beverage, etc.). Non-payment of fees will jeopardize my continuing participation in the program and may result in my removal from the program.

**Travel to Program Site:** I am responsible for securing travel arrangements that will allow timely arrival to the program site for on-site orientation and for notifying JMU CGE of my itinerary and transportation methods through Terra Dotta. I am responsible for investigating and applying for appropriate documentation (e.g. passport, visa, etc.). I understand that the CGE strongly recommends that I purchase trip cancellation insurance (CFAR, or Cancel For Any Reason) as protection against the possible cancellation of a program due to low enrollment, world events, and any other unforeseen events. I further understand that I should check with the individual program director before purchasing an airline ticket. I understand that JMU will not be held liable for the price of the ticket or any fees associated with changing the ticket, should the program be cancelled for any reason.

**Attendance and Participation:** I acknowledge that this program is not for academic credit, but that my attendance and participation is still a vital part of this program and mandatory program-related outings and excursions except in cases of illness and/or emergencies beyond my control. With the exception of personal and family emergencies where the participant and the official representative have made appropriate arrangements, participants must remain in the program abroad for its entire duration.

**Programing changes:** I understand that due to the uncertainty of international travel, alternative program options may be triggered due to unexpected events. By participating in a JMU Study Abroad Program, I am willing to participate on any iteration of a program itinerary, even if unexpected changes occur while abroad. I acknowledge that I am encouraged to enroll in trip cancellation and trip interruption insurance with a Cancel for Any Reason supplement to cover for any possible changes, whether initiated at the country level, program level, or individual participant circumstances.

**Health Care and Emergencies:** I am responsible for my own health care, conduct, financial integrity and travel plans related to the program. I am also responsible for obtaining any immunizations that may be required for entry into my host country, and will consider obtaining recommended immunizations as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control. In the event of serious illness, accident, or emergency, my designated emergency contact(s), as indicated on the Health and Emergency Treatment Authorization Form, may be notified. I also authorize any official representative(s) of the program to secure medical treatment on my behalf, including surgery and the administration of an anesthetic and to provide any health information as appropriate.

**Health insurance:** I hereby certify that I am covered with my primary health insurance which I have determined to be adequate and satisfactory for any injury or illness that might befall me while I am participating in a JMU study abroad program. I acknowledge JMU encourages me to purchase an international health insurance supplement. (*NOTE: Current JMU students are automatically enrolled in international health insurance as part of the program fee.*) I acknowledge that JMU and its representatives have not made any representations to me concerning the adequacy of my health insurance, and I further accept that it is my sole responsibility to ensure that my health insurance coverage is adequate for my needs.

**Disability Accommodations:** I am aware that I need to communicate any accommodations to the program director. All efforts will be made to provide such accommodations but I’m aware that the Americans with Disabilities Act does not apply to countries outside of the United States, and therefore accommodations aren’t guaranteed.

If I am a JMU student, I accept the responsibility for registering with the JMU Office of Disability Services to determine eligibility for services and accommodations related to disabilities, if appropriate; and further, I understand that an Access Plan outlining my accommodations should be submitted to my program director(s) at least ninety (90) days before the program commencement date in order to assess and determine the ability of the university to provide a reasonable accommodation.

**Program Free Time:** I am responsible for travel, lodging, and meals during designated free times within the inclusive program dates, during periods of independent activity, and before or after the program. As during official program time, I also assume all risks and am responsible for my decisions during program free time and hold no liability or responsibility to the program for any consequences that result from my behavior during program free time.

**Alcohol:** If I am of legal age and choose to consume alcohol while abroad, I will be expected to drink and behave responsibly. The illegal or excessive consumption of alcohol or misconduct due to alcohol consumption will not be tolerated and will result in removal from the program without refund.

If I am a JMU student, I understand that JMU prohibits the illegal or otherwise irresponsible use of alcohol and that it is my responsibility to know the risks associated with alcohol use and abuse. Because I will be studying and traveling in countries where the legal age for alcohol consumption and/or rules regarding the consumption of alcohol are different than in the United States, I accept the responsibility to know relevant country and local laws concerning the possession, use, and abuse of alcohol. If I am of legal age and choose to consume alcohol while abroad, I will be expected to drink and behave responsibly. The illegal or excessive consumption of alcohol or misconduct due to alcohol consumption will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action, and may include dismissal from the program and campus disciplinary proceedings against me through the OSARP process if warranted.

**Drugs:** I understand that JMU prohibits the illegal or otherwise irresponsible use of drugs and that it is my responsibility to know the risks associated with drug use and abuse, and I understand illegal drugs in any form are not tolerated. Possession or use of illegal drugs is punishable by fine, imprisonment, and/or deportation.

If I am a student and am found using or possessing illegal drugs in any form, I am subject to immediate dismissal from the program and potential disciplinary proceedings through the OSARP process.

**Costs Related to Withdrawal, Dismissal and/or Absence**: I shall be solely responsible for any and all costs arising out of my voluntary or involuntary withdrawal or dismissal from the program before or during the program prior to its completion, including but not limited to withdrawal for reasons of health, family emergency, illegal drug or alcohol use or abuse, legal detention, etc., or disciplinary action by official representative(s) of the University. Costs incurred on my behalf include, but are not limited to, moneys advanced on my behalf for non-refundable deposits at other institutions, legal documents, special fees, and housing contracts. If I withdraw, depart, or am dismissed from a program for any reason prior to its formal completion, I understand that the fees charged for the program pay for the trip as a whole, and that I cannot be refunded for parts of it that I miss due to absence, withdrawal and/or dismissal. According to the Withdrawal Policy, I understand that if I withdraw after February 1, 2025, I will not be refunded any portion of the program fee. I acknowledge that the Center for Global Engagement encourages me to enroll in travel insurance with a Cancel for Any Reason supplement to protect me from unexpected events that may occur that prevent me from participating in the program.

**Dismissal:** I understand that the official representative(s) of JMU has the right to dismiss me from the program at any time if: a) my conduct violates established rules of behavior; b) I violate laws, rules and regulations of my host country, community, institution or program; or c) the official representative(s) has reasonable cause to believe that my continued presence in the program constitutes a danger to the health or safety of persons, including myself, or property, threatens the future viability of the program, or brings the program into disrepute or its participants into legal jeopardy. I understand that a decision made to dismiss me from the program will be final; that separation from the program will result in the loss of all program costs and terminate my status as a program participant; and I will not be entitled to any refunds and will remain responsible for costs incurred on my behalf. I understand that once dismissed I will not be allowed to remain in program facilities (such as housing) nor participate in any program group activities.

**Personal Responsibility:** Although JMU is sponsoring this program, I understand that neither JMU nor any of the directors, instructors, or travel arrangers are responsible for events outside of JMU control, my behavior, or any subsequent consequences that result from my behavior. Therefore, I will be responsible for my own safety and cannot hold JMU liable for any injuries to my person or property or any other losses as a result of my participation in the program, whether during official program time or during program free time.

**Third-party Liability:** I understand that JMU does not represent or act as an agent for, and cannot control the acts or omissions of, any host institution, host family, transportation carrier, hotel, tour organizer or other provider of goods or services involved in the program. I understand that JMU is not responsible for matters that are beyond its control, and I hereby release the University from any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay, or expense arising from any such matters.

**Assumption of Risk:** I understand that my participation in the program will potentially subject me to greater risks to myself and my property than if I were to remain in the United States. I acknowledge that JMU has attempted to inform me of the nature of those risks and to advise me how to minimize those risks. I expect that JMU will continue to endeavor to use good faith efforts to keep me informed of material developments that would affect those risks, but I agree that I am the one responsible for my safety and the safekeeping of my property. Accordingly, I agree to hold harmless and release the Commonwealth of Virginia, JMU, and their respective agents and employees (including, but not limited to the faculty member in residence, program director/coordinator, program staff, and personnel of JMU’s CGE from any liability whatsoever for injury, illness, death or loss or damage to property which may occur in connection with my participation in this program except for such injury, damage, or death that is caused by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the University, and I agree not to make any claim or to commence any litigation or other proceeding against any of the foregoing.