

# **World Campus is NOT a Penn State Study Abroad Program**

Taking one or more World Campus courses while living independently abroad does not substitute for enrollment in a Penn State or affiliated study abroad program. Students enrolled in World Campus classes do not receive any of the following support from Penn State or any local partner.

## **Students on a Penn State study abroad program receive**

- 24/7 emergency assistance
- Local staff with English and local language skills specifically there to assist you with routine and emergency needs
- A valid student visa for the duration of the visit
- Safe housing
- International health insurance
- Risk management professionals to monitor international security and assist in evacuation and relocation when required
- Pre-departure and on-site orientations

## **High quality study abroad programs**

- Provide guidance and tips for safety in the new environment
- Offer courses relating to the region's culture
- Arrange for field trips and guest lectures to enhance the academic content
- Provide extracurricular activities unique to the area
- Help engage students in interactions with local residents (course projects, homestays, local buddy)
- Have direct-enrollment opportunities at local universities for qualified students

## **World Campus Classes**

World Campus is solely a platform for taking courses online. World Campus students do NOT have the Penn State health, safety and risk management support systems used for study abroad students on an affiliated program. They must take responsibility for their own health and safety. It is important that parents understand this as well, and we strongly suggest sharing this message with them.

Students should be aware that WIFI access is often less reliable abroad, which may prevent participation and timely assignment submission. Additionally, enrolling in World Campus classes does not make someone eligible for a student visa. Students must research and apply for the appropriate visa for the country(ies) in which they plan to stay. If the stay is longer than the visa allows, you may be subject to fines, arrest and/or expulsion.

**If you are typically a residential Penn State student, the Smeal Office of International Programs strongly discourages taking World Campus classes while living independently abroad for a semester as a substitute for a study abroad experience.**

## **Registering Travel**

Registering with the State Department Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is recommended for all US citizens planning to travel abroad. Students may register their presence abroad:

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

To further discuss the implications of your plan, please contact Smeal's Office of International Programs <http://ugstudents.smeal.psu.edu/international-programs/international-programs/contact-us>.