

AMERICAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

EXPERIENCE THE SOUTH CAUCASUS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

The American Research Institute of the South Caucasus' (ARISC) Experience the South Caucasus Fellowship Program is designed to promote an appreciation of the people and cultures of the South Caucasus through blending experiential and classroom learning; these programs allow you to be immersed in the host country's culture. They are also designed to provide a safe experiential learning environment, one in which all participants will grow and learn. When you choose to deviate from the program's policies, there are consequences for such actions.

I agree to comply with the behaviors outlined below:

1. I will represent myself, my group, ARISC, and my country in a positive manner. This includes
 - a. being patient and flexible if things don't go exactly as planned
 - b. staying focused on the purpose of the trip
 - c. being open to new experiences
 - d. keeping a positive attitude
 - e. refraining from complaining about situations that cannot be changed.
2. I will be kind and considerate of others.
3. I will be respectful of others' personal space and personal property.
 - a. If damage does occur, it will be my responsibility to pay for it.
4. I will communicate with the in-country administrators and members of the group by:
 - a. Sharing my phone number with the group
 - b. Reading WhatsApp messages and/or email messages frequently.
5. I will attend all orientations, internship programs, and evening learning sessions as scheduled by ARISC.
 - a. Poor health is the only permissible reason for not participating in such activities, projects, and excursions. I understand that if I am feeling ill at any time during the program I will notify any one of the in-country administrators who will immediately seek medical assistance to address my condition. Reasons not to accompany the group other than a medical condition will not be accepted by the in-country administrators. Illnesses will be dealt with immediately.
6. I will actively participate in all cultural activities scheduled outside of class time.
7. I will actively promote the safety of the group by:
 - a. Being aware of my surroundings at all times.
 - b. Being responsible for my own personal property (i.e. room key, cell phone, passport, laptop)
 - c. Refraining from traveling alone or isolating myself in social situations
 - d. Making sure no one person in the group gets left behind
 - e. Speaking up if I am feeling uncomfortable
 - f. Refraining from consumption of mood-altering drugs (street drugs)

- g. Refraining from harassing or assaulting any group members or local people with whom I am in contact;
 - h. Maintaining all safety precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
8. I understand that occasional drinking of alcoholic beverages in moderation is permitted provided that I am of legal drinking age in the U.S (21 years). I will not engage in excessive and irresponsible drinking leading to intoxication.
 9. I will notify the in-country administrators if I choose to travel outside of the area in which my internship is located in my free time. I will always travel with another group member when I am outside the area in which my internship is located. I understand that during free time within the period of the fellowship and after the period of the fellowship, I may elect to travel independently at my own expense. I agree to inform the proper authorities abroad of my travel plans and understand that ARISC, CAORC and/or staff and counterparts overseas are not responsible for me.
 10. As a participant in the ARISC Experience the South Caucasus Fellowship Program in a host country, I will be subject to the laws of that country and to the rules and regulations of the institution with which I am engaged.
 11. While participating in and/or attending the ARISC Experience the South Caucasus Fellowship Program, I am responsible for my own self-care, including managing appropriate personal hygiene, medical conditions, illnesses (including mental health), disability-related needs, and other personal matters.
 12. I hereby acknowledge that I have read the U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory for the host country. I am aware that the State Department may issue additional or more severe Advisories and I accept responsibility for keeping myself informed of such changes. In spite of such information, I have voluntarily decided to travel to a host country which has given risks as referenced by the particular Travel Advisory. I understand that no one at ARISC can guarantee my safety, and that I am responsible for my own personal safety. I recognize that should I decide to leave the Program before the end of the Program because of security concerns, I will not be entitled to receive credit or payment of any other fees or expenses for the program.
 13. I will read and acknowledge the safety policies, procedures, and tips provided by ARISC, but I understand that I am ultimately responsible for researching and practicing personal safety while traveling abroad.
 14. ARISC provides no insurance for fellows. Fellows are required to provide ARISC with proof of their own health insurance for the entire fellowship period and evacuation/repatriation insurance for the travel portion of the fellowship (minimum of four weeks). Travel reimbursements and stipend payments will not be made by ARISC until such satisfactory proof is received.
 15. I agree that I will not take photos of anyone without their expressed consent, nor will I post them to social media without additional expressed consent.

I have read all of the foregoing points and I agree to abide by the requirements of this behavior contract. I understand and agree that I may be subject to immediate disciplinary action, including termination in the program, and return to the United States at my own expense, if I engage in certain misconduct, including but not necessarily limited to: (a) *use of illegal drugs*; (b) *excessive and irresponsible drinking*;

or (c) other behavior that substantially interferes with the rights of others, the enjoyment of the trip by others, or the conduct of the trip itself. I further understand and agree that the determination as to the imposition of such discipline rests in the discretion of the ARISC Executive Committee and in-country administrators, and that their decision is final.

I agree that if I do not adhere to the policies listed above, I will be removed from the program, and will be required to go to the nearest airport and return home at my own expense. I further understand that I will be responsible for my own safety at this time, as I will no longer be enrolled as a participant in the Experience the South Caucasus Fellowship Program. I also understand that I will not receive a refund for any costs or the remainder of my per diem. I understand that all the above requirements are intended to promote the success, safety, and fun of this trip and I voluntarily agree to all of them.

I certify that I am at least eighteen (18) years of age, medically and mentally sound, physically fit to participate in the Experience the South Caucasus Fellowship Program for which I am applying, and competent to enter into this agreement. I further certify that no oral promise, agreement, warranty, or representation concerning safety or liability has been made to me.

Participant Name (printed)

Signature

Date

Witness Name (printed)

Signature

Date