

'RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH PROGRAM-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

In addition to the general travel risks outlined in the [Study Abroad Risk Advisory](#) this program *Wildlife, Conservation, and Veterinary Medicine Internships in Costa Rica*—Animal and Veterinary Science internship program (hereinafter “Program”) has specific activities which may pose a heightened level of risk for participants. UC Davis Study Abroad provides this information so that students can make an informed decision about consenting to participate in the Program. Participants in the Costa Rica—Animal and Veterinary Science internship program will be expected to participate in the activities below.

If participants do not want to participate in an activity, they must inform the Faculty Leader or Program Coordinator immediately and ask to opt out. In some cases, an activity may be a required in order to participate on the Program (e.g. travel to another site). In these instances, participants wishing to opt out may not be able to participate in the Program at all and may need to choose another program. Study Abroad will try to keep opt out decisions confidential, but due to the group nature of certain activities (such as group travel/tours), it may be impossible for the decision to be kept confidential.

*By participating in in a UC Davis Study Abroad Program, participants voluntarily assume these additional associated risks, both known and unknown. **If participants do not ask to opt out, UC Davis Study Abroad will assume participants consent to the risks associated with participating in the activities.***

- **This Program may include transportation or tours on boats or other marine vessels.** These vessels may be public conveyances or private charters, subject to oversight by marine regulatory bodies of Costa Rica. UC Davis Study Abroad cannot certify pilot training or licensure, vessel integrity, or mechanical service. UC Davis Study Abroad cannot anticipate water conditions but where possible will postpone travel or change itineraries under inclement conditions (may not be possible for public conveyance). All travelers should ensure appropriate life-saving/personal floatation devices are available before boarding, review and understand all safety procedures, and ask questions about the use of safety devices.

- **This Program includes non-traditional motorized transportation** both during Program hours and/or as the primary means of transportation for students during free time via:
 - Private car-for-hire (similar to taxis, but operated by regulated or unregulated private drivers)
 - Private motorcoach or van-for-hire (similar to a small public bus but may be operated by regulated or unregulated private drivers)

This form of transportation is a common form of public transportation in the country abroad but may have limited or no governmental regulation. This means vehicles may or may not be inspected, drivers may or may not be licensed or certified, drivers may or may not have insurance, and safety standards (if they exist) may be significantly lower than those in the U.S.

- **This Program may include water-based recreational activities such as snorkeling or swimming.** Water sports and activities include elevated risk of injury or death due to weather or water conditions (currents, riptides, storms, lightning, etc.), drowning, hypothermia, equipment failure, contact with a water-borne bacteria or virus, as well as other water-based injuries. Travelers who participate in these activities must be able to swim, even if floatation devices are provided. A lifeguard may not be present at the activity site. Travelers assume additional responsibility for assessing their own comfort and risk tolerance related to prevailing water conditions and equipment on site.
- **This Program may include hiking and/or camping.** Hiking and/or camping includes additional risk of injury or death related to physical exertion, accident, or exposure to insects/animals, the environment or weather. These activities are supervised, travelers will be provided with necessary equipment and will take place in relatively safe locations, but weather and environmental conditions are unpredictable and can change quickly. Travelers may be required to: hike/walk for distances of a few miles; hike/walk over uneven, slippery, inclining/declining, or rocky terrain (which increases risk of falls, accidents); carry or lift gear or supplies; shelter in tents/sleeping bags; share in group cooking/cleaning/camp preparation activities; and tolerate mild but possibly uncomfortable weather conditions (moderately hot or cold temperatures, rain, wind, very high or very low humidity, periods of sun without shade, etc.) While preventative measures are taken, travelers are nevertheless at elevated risk for physical injury, and exposure to water-borne illnesses, disease carrying insects, or poisonous plants or animals.
- **This Program requires the use of public transportation.** Travelers on this Program will be required to utilize public transportation (buses, trains, taxis, etc.) as the primary means of conveyance. Travelers may be provided with transportation passes as part of their Program fees. Public transportation services are regulated by local governments and are typically held to minimum standards of repair, safety, timely service and accessibility. Public transportation is often very safe and, in some areas, is the only means of transportation. However, local regulations may differ or be less than those for public transportation in the U.S. Use of public transportation includes the risk of injury from accident (including operator negligence), transit delays, fines or penalties for improper use, impacts or shutdowns related to worker strikes, petty theft and assault, and minimal but elevated risk from terrorist activities.
- **This program includes activities in the vicinity of dangerous and dynamic natural phenomena** This program includes low-risk activities such as walking which take place around natural phenomena that may have fewer public safeguards or warnings as in the United States. There is an elevated risk of injury to travelers who are not aware of their surroundings. For example, travelers may hike near cliffs, crevasses, fissures, rivers, waterfalls, oceans, lagoons, active

volcanoes, and hot geysers that have minimal or no public barriers to prevent injury and which could cause substantial risk of bodily injury or death to the individual who is not aware of their surroundings. Warning signs may be minimal or non-existent. The required activities are supervised and precautionary warnings will be provided but students must remain alert, exercise caution and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

- **This Program includes travel and may expose you to insect/wildlife transmitted diseases found and/or not commonly found in the US.** Spending time outdoors elevates the risk of catching insect/wildlife transmitted diseases. Before you travel abroad make sure to visit the [U.S. Department of State](#) website and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) for country-specific travel information regarding your destination and any specific travel advisories recently issued. When appropriate follow recommendations on treating clothing and gear with recommended insect repellents/avoiding areas where wildlife transmitted diseases are prevalent. Upon your return if you are feeling ill, please discuss ANY post-return symptoms with your doctor, including stating travel/exposure from study abroad.
- **This Program includes handling animals (wildlife centers, farms and/or zoos)**
Part of this Program includes hands-on work with animals. A portion of the Program will include visits to facilities that house animals in wildlife parks, farms and/or zoos. Animals may be dangerous and may carry diseases that could be fatal to humans. Participants must obey all instructions given by Program on-site coordinator and facility personnel regarding personal protective equipment and interaction with animals.
- **This Program includes activities that may expose you to zoonotic diseases found and/or not commonly found in the US.**
Animals can sometimes carry harmful germs that can spread to people and cause illness' known as zoonotic diseases. Before you travel abroad make sure to learn more about zoonotic diseases and safety advice via the UC Davis Occupational Health [page on Zoonotic Diseases](#) as well as visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) for information regarding zoonotic diseases. Upon your return if you are feeling ill, please discuss ANY post-return symptoms with your doctor, including stating travel/exposure to animals.

Students will have the opportunity to perform physical exams and assessments on dogs and cats and some other mammals on the programs. Any animal has the potential to bite. Read the program webpages for more specifics on each program.