

RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH PROGRAM-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

In addition to the general travel risks outlined in the [Study Abroad Risk Advisory](#), this program “Microbiology Laboratory in the Kingdom of Smiles” (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 Microbiology Laboratory in the Kingdom of Smiles 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 they consent to the risks associated with participating in the activities.

- **This Program includes 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 Thailand. 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 includes 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 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 include 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 work in a laboratory environment.** The courses in this Program include a laboratory component at Assumption University in Thailand. Students will be working in a “wet lab” which includes the use of laboratory equipment, various chemicals, biological samples, and protective/safety devices. This lab is under direct control of Assumption University and will adhere to safety and control standards required at the site which may vary from those at UC Davis or in the U.S. Although the lab (and samples) are considered safe, there is always a risk of injury associated with accidents in the lab. Lab work requires students to properly prepare for, learn about and understand the use of equipment and to follow strict protocols for the safety all in the lab.