

# Going Global @ WPI



A handbook developed by the Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division at Worcester Polytechnic Institute for students going to the residential project site:

## ***Morocco A 2010***

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# Morocco Project Center A2010

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# Section 1 – WPI and IGSD Procedures

## INTRODUCTION

Congratulations! You are beginning to prepare for one of the most meaningful experiences that you will encounter while at WPI. In order to ensure that you have a successful experience, the *Going Global at WPI Handbook* has been compiled from a number of sources to provide as much practical information as possible that may be applicable to all project sites. The Handbook was prepared to inform the student who has been accepted to participate in the Global Perspective Program during the 2010/2011 academic year.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute has been practicing innovative, project-based technological education for over 30 years. WPI requires all undergraduates to complete a series of projects, including one in which they examine how science or technology interacts with societal structures and values - the Interactive Qualifying Project. Because of its commitment to a global perspective, the university offers its students opportunities to complete this unique degree requirement at locations around the world. WPI operates more than ten international project programs where students, with resident faculty advisors, live and work full time solving real-world problems for public and private agencies and organizations. WPI sends more engineering and science students overseas for experiential learning than any other U.S. college or university; during the 2010/2011 academic year, approximately 625 WPI students -- including over half of the junior class -- will travel to a global project site to complete one of these interdisciplinary projects.

A successful off-campus experience does not just occur; it requires careful consideration of things you will need to do before you leave, and while at your off-campus site. The Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division (IGSD) has developed this document to outline these considerations.

For the mutual protection of WPI, the students, and their families, the obligation assumed by each must be carefully defined and understood. You should recognize the fact that you have entered into a contractual agreement with WPI that states the obligations and responsibilities of both the university and yourself. This Handbook was created as the document that should be read carefully and thoroughly to avoid misunderstandings.

*The following text is taken from the NAFSA: Association of International Educators' website. NAFSA is the predominant professional association in the world dealing with international education, and the section of the Association that deals specifically with study abroad currently known as the Education Abroad Knowledge Community. A committee of study abroad professionals (the Interorganizational Task Force on Safety and Responsibility in Study Abroad) developed the following document and is included here for your reference. Please keep in mind that while WPI's off campus program is unique in its structure, the University is committed to uphold the standards of the profession.*

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## **Responsible Study Abroad: Good Practices for Health and Safety**

### Statement of Purpose

Because the health and safety of study abroad participants are primary concerns, these statements of good practice have been developed to provide guidance to institutions, participants (including faculty and staff), and parents/guardians/families. These statements are intended to be aspirational in nature. They address issues that merit attention and thoughtful consideration by everyone involved with study abroad. They are intentionally general; they are not intended to account for all the many variations in study abroad programs and actual health, safety and security cases that will inevitably occur. In dealing with any specific situation, those responsible must also rely upon their collective experience and judgment while considering their specific circumstances.

### I. Responsibilities of Program Sponsors

The term "sponsors" refers to all the entities that together develop, offer, and administer study abroad programs. Sponsors include sending institutions, host institutions, program administrators, and placement organizations. To the extent reasonably possible, program sponsors should consider how these statements of good practice may apply. At the same time, it must be noted that the structure of study abroad programs varies widely. Study abroad is usually a cooperative venture that can involve multiple sponsors. Because the role of an organization in a study abroad program may vary considerably from case to case, it is not possible to specify a division of efforts that will be applicable to all cases. Each entity should apply these statements in ways consistent with its respective role.

In general, practices that relate to obtaining health, safety and security information apply to all parties consistent with their role and involvement in the study abroad program. Much of the basic information is readily available and can be conveyed to participants by distributing it and/or by referring them to, or utilizing materials from, recognized central sources. Statements of good practice that refer to the provision of information and the preparation of participants are intended for parties that advise, refer, nominate, admit, enroll, or place students. Statements of good practice that suggest operating procedures on site apply to entities that are directly involved in the operation of the overseas program.

It is understood that program sponsors that rely heavily on the collaboration of overseas institutions may exercise less direct control over specific program components. In such cases, sponsors are urged to work with their overseas partners to develop plans and procedures for implementing good practices.

The use of letters is provided for ease of reference only and does not imply priority.

Program sponsors should:

- A. Conduct periodic assessments of health and safety conditions for their programs, and develop and maintain emergency preparedness processes and a crisis response plan.
- B. Provide health and safety information for prospective participants so that they and their parents/guardians/families can make informed decisions concerning preparation, participation and behavior while on the program.
- C. Provide information concerning aspects of home campus services and conditions that cannot be replicated at overseas locations.

- D. Provide orientation to participants prior to the program and as needed on site, which includes information on safety, health, legal, environmental, political, cultural, and religious conditions in the host country. In addition to dealing with health and safety issues, the orientation should address potential health and safety risks, and appropriate emergency response measures.
- E. Consider health and safety issues in evaluating the appropriateness of an individual's participation in a study abroad program.
- F. Determining criteria for an individual's removal from an overseas program taking into account participant behavior, health, and safety factors.
- G. Require that participants be insured. Either provide health and travel accident (emergency evacuation, repatriation) insurance to participants, or provide information about how to obtain such coverage.
- H. Conduct inquiries regarding the potential health, safety and security risks of the local environment of the program, including program-sponsored accommodation, events, excursions and other activities, prior to the program. Monitor possible changes in country conditions. Provide information about changes and advise participants and their parents/guardians/families as needed.
- I. Hire vendors and contractors (e.g. travel and tour agents) that have provided reputable services in the country in which the program takes place. Advise such vendors and contractors of the program sponsor's expectations with respect to their role in the health and safety of participants.
- J. Conduct appropriate inquiry regarding available medical and professional services. Provide information about these services for participants and their parents/guardians/families, and help participants obtain the services they may need.
- K. Develop and provide health and safety training for program directors and staff, including guidelines with respect to intervention and referral that take into account the nature and location of the study abroad program.
- L. Develop codes of conduct for their programs; communicate codes of conduct and the consequences of noncompliance to participants. Take appropriate action when aware that participants are in violation.
- M. In cases of serious health problems, injury, or other significant health and safety circumstances, maintain good communication among all program sponsors and others who need to know.
- N. In the participant screening process, consider factors such as disciplinary history that may impact on the safety of the individual or the group.
- O. Provide information for participants and their parents/guardians/families regarding when and where the sponsor's responsibility ends and the range of aspects of participants' overseas experiences that are beyond the sponsor's control.

In particular, program sponsors generally:

- A. Cannot guarantee or assure the safety and/or security of participants or eliminate all risks from the study abroad environments.
- B. Cannot monitor or control all of the daily personal decisions, choices, and activities of participants.
- C. Cannot prevent participants from engaging in illegal, dangerous or unwise activities.

- D. Cannot assure that U.S. standards of due process apply in overseas legal proceedings or provide or pay for legal representation for participants.
- E. Cannot assume responsibility for actions or for events that are not part of the program, nor for those that are beyond the control of the sponsor and its subcontractors, or for situations that may arise due to the failure of a participant to disclose pertinent information.
- F. Cannot assure that home-country cultural values and norms will apply in the host country.

## II. Responsibilities of Participants

In study abroad, as in other settings, participants can have a major impact on their own health and safety through the decisions they make before and during their program and by their day-to-day choices and behaviors.

Participants should:

- A. Assume responsibility for all the elements necessary for their personal preparation for the program and participate fully in orientations.
- B. Read and carefully consider all materials issued by the sponsor that relate to safety, health, legal, environmental, political, cultural, and religious conditions in the host country(ies).
- C. Conduct their own research on the country(ies) they plan to visit with particular emphasis on health and safety concerns, as well as the social, cultural, and political situations.
- D. Consider their physical and mental health, and other personal circumstances when applying for or accepting a place in a program, and make available to the sponsor accurate and complete physical and mental health information and any other personal data that is necessary in planning for a safe and healthy study abroad experience.
- E. Obtain and maintain appropriate insurance coverage and abide by any conditions imposed by the carriers.
- F. Inform parents/guardians/families and any others who may need to know about their participation in the study abroad program, provide them with emergency contact information, and keep them informed of their whereabouts and activities.
- G. Understand and comply with the terms of participation, codes of conduct, and emergency procedures of the program.
- H. Be aware of local conditions and customs that may present health or safety risks when making daily choices and decisions. Promptly express any health or safety concerns to the program staff or other appropriate individuals before and/or during the program.
- I. Accept responsibility for their own decisions and actions.
- J. Obey host-country laws.
- K. Behave in a manner that is respectful of the rights and well being of others, and encourage others to behave in a similar manner.
- L. Avoid illegal drugs and excessive or irresponsible consumption of alcohol.
- M. Follow the program policies for keeping program staff informed of their whereabouts and well being.

N. Become familiar with the procedures for obtaining emergency health and legal system services in the host country.

### III. Recommendations to Parents/Guardians/Families

In study abroad, as in other settings, parents, guardians, and families can play an important role in the health and safety of participants by helping them make decisions and by influencing their behavior overseas.

Parents/guardians/families should:

- A. Be informed about and involved in the decision of the participant to enroll in a particular program.
- B. Obtain and carefully evaluate participant program materials, as well as related health, safety and security information.
- C. Discuss with the participant any of his/her travel plans and activities that may be independent of the study abroad program.
- D. Engage the participant in a thorough discussion of safety and behavior issues, insurance needs, and emergency procedures related to living abroad.
- E. Be responsive to requests from the program sponsor for information regarding the participant.
- F. Keep in touch with the participant.
- G. Be aware that the participant rather than the program may most appropriately provide some information.

NAFSA: Association of International Education  
Responsible Study Abroad: Good Practice for Health and Safety  
Guidelines, Revised November 8, 2002

[http://www.nafsa.org/knowledge\\_community\\_network.sec/education\\_abroad\\_1/developing\\_and\\_managing/practice\\_resources\\_36/guidelines\\_for\\_health](http://www.nafsa.org/knowledge_community_network.sec/education_abroad_1/developing_and_managing/practice_resources_36/guidelines_for_health)

## MANDATORY PAPERWORK

The following documents must be submitted to the IGSD office by the stated deadline before you leave WPI for your off-campus project experience. If any forms are missing, you will be in jeopardy of not being allowed to participate at off-campus programs.

### **Paperwork Deadline**

***All paperwork for Morocco must be in the IGSD by 3:00 p.m., Thursday, April 15, 2010***

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## Participant Statement of Agreement

Once accepted to the Global Perspective Program at WPI, every student is required to submit to the IGSD along with his or her housing deposit a signed and dated "Participant Statement of Agreement". The text of that document is included below for your convenient referral. Of course, you may request a photocopy of your signed "Participant Statement of Agreement" at any time.

**I understand that my participation in the WPI Global Perspective Program is subject to my agreement to accept and abide by the following conditions of participation:**

### **A. Financial Responsibility**

- 1) I understand that my deposit of \$400 is used to secure my place in the program and will be credited toward my housing cost.
- 2) I understand that charges for any damages to housing, WPI property on site, the property of our host institutions, or project sponsors will be charged to my WPI account. When responsibility for damages to housing cannot be assigned to an individual student, all students in the housing unit will be charged an equal share of the cost. I also realize that an official hold will be placed on my records until all payment responsibilities are satisfied.
- 3) I agree to pay all housing charges as requested. The accounting office normally bills housing costs at program sites at the time of the usual billing for Spring, Fall, and Summer terms.

### **B. Withdrawal, Cancellation, or Dismissal**

- 1) I understand that the \$400 acceptance deposit is fully refundable up to 120 business days before the beginning of the program. Notice of withdrawal must be made in writing to the Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division. Withdrawals after this time are subject to forfeiture of the entire deposit, plus any unrecoverable portion of the housing costs or other program expenses advanced on my behalf.
- 2) WPI makes every effort to deliver every program offered. However, many circumstances beyond our control could affect the welfare and safety of our participants. WPI, therefore, reserves the right to cancel a program in the event of changes that adversely affect our ability to deliver a quality academic program in which we can reasonably safeguard the health, safety, and well-being of all participants. In the event of cancellation by WPI, all *recoverable* deposits, tuition, and housing costs will be fully refunded.
- 3) Students who are dismissed from a program for any reason will receive no refund of any costs involved and are subject to charges for any unrecoverable housing costs or program expenses advanced on their behalf.

### **C. Behavioral Responsibilities**

- 1) I understand that all policies governing acceptable behavior as printed in The Policies section of *The Campus Planner & Resource Guide* apply to me during my participation at an off-campus program site. Failure to abide by these policies, either before or during my participation in an off-campus program, can result in disciplinary action, up to and including my immediate dismissal from the program. I recognize that the authority for adjudicating alleged violations of the WPI Code of Conduct while at an off-campus program site lies with the on-site WPI representative in accordance with basic due process.
- 2) I further understand that as a WPI student at an off-campus program site, I represent my institution and my country and will behave as an ambassador for both. I understand that grounds for dismissal may also be found in behavior disruptive to the group as a whole, or offensive within the host culture: disruptive sexual behavior, or behavior deemed offensive to the host culture; or disruptive, violent, or destructive behavior in student housing.
- 3) I understand that WPI must take steps to ensure that no offensive, disruptive or potentially dangerous conduct occurs while WPI students and faculty are abroad. Accordingly, WPI reserves the right to dismiss a student from the program on the basis of any observed conduct or behavior which causes WPI concern for the safety and well-being

of students or others. The Dean of Interdisciplinary and Global Studies shall have the authority to make the final decision on dismissal from the program.

**D. Academic Responsibilities**

- 1) I understand that my participation in this program is subject to successful completion of all required preparation classes. I agree to attend all required orientation and re-entry meetings.
- 2) I understand that if I am placed on academic probation, I am no longer eligible to participate. The withdrawal refund policy stated above will apply.
- 3) WPI reserves the right to withdraw acceptance to students who are subsequently placed on academic warning. The withdrawal refund policy stated above will apply.

**E. Medical Issues**

- 1) I understand that there are certain risks inherent in travel to an off-campus program site and WPI cannot assume responsibility for all of my activities or medical needs. I understand that it is my responsibility to carry medical insurance that is valid at the off-campus site for the length of my stay.
- 2) I accept all financial responsibility for any medical treatment I receive while at the program site and understand that to obtain medical care abroad it is usually necessary to pay when the care is administered and seek reimbursement from my insurance company when I return home.

**F. Legal Issues**

- 1) I understand that as a non-citizen in a foreign country, I will be subject to the laws of that country. The use or possession of illegal drugs or other substances in violation of the laws of the host country or The Policies section of *The Campus Planner & Resource Guide*, before or during my participation in the program, can result in disciplinary action, up to and including my immediate dismissal from the program and legal action under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and / or the laws of the host country.

**G. Travel Issues**

- 1) I understand that I am responsible for making my own travel arrangements and for arriving at the program site on the designated arrival date and remaining until the official departure date.
- 2) I understand that while WPI encourages students to travel during their free time, the university can take no responsibility for my safety during independent travel. I further understand that I must inform the faculty-in-residence of my travel plans.

**H. Federal Compliance Issues**

- 1) I understand there are Federal regulations regarding the export of information to foreign countries or foreign citizens, with which all of us at WPI must comply. WPI's emphasis on engineering programs makes us particularly sensitive to these regulations. If I take a laptop computer (or other type of computer digital storage device, I hereby assure WPI that I will not have any restricted information on that device as such action may be considered an export.

**I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the above stated conditions of participation.**

Participant Signature	date	site	term
Printed Name	student number	date of birth*	

*\*If participant is under 18 years of age, both parents and/ or legal guardian must also read and sign this form.*

I am the parent or legal guardian of the above Participant, have read the foregoing Participant Statement of Agreement Form (including such parts as may subject me to personal financial responsibility), and will be legally responsible for the obligations and acts of the Participant as described in this Participant Statement of Agreement Form, and agree, for myself and for the participant, to be bound by its terms.

X  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Parent / Guardian Date

X  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Parent / Guardian Date

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## Travel Information Form (Appendix A)

The IGSD must have completed Travel Form from each student on file before the student leaves for their site. The office keeps a copy of this itinerary and we send a copy with the faculty advisor. By doing this, the IGSD staff, the advisor and the local coordinator knows when and where every student will arrive and will alert them if a problem arises.

Any students traveling outside the United States to a WPI project site must supply the IGSD with a scanned copy of the information pages of their passport. Electronic copies will be sent with the faculty advisor and kept on file in the IGSD. If a passport is stolen or lost while outside the U.S., having copies of this document will greatly facilitate having new travel documents issued.

Students should understand that they are responsible for making their own travel arrangements and for arriving at the program site on the designated arrival date and remaining until the official departure date. If you are traveling by air, you must have confirmed reservations. Flying stand-by is not acceptable.

Students and their families should also understand that while WPI encourages students to travel during their free time, the university can take no responsibility for the student's safety during independent travel. The student must inform the faculty-in-residence of any travel plans.

Students may not take vacation days off from their project work, even if they have the permission of their project mentor. If they have an urgent family or academic or job related need to travel away from the project site on a project work day, they should consult with the faculty member in residence before making any travel plans.

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## Health Update and Records Release Form (Appendix B)

The IGSD must have a completed Health Update and Records Release Form on file for each student before the student leaves for her site. The IGSD keeps a copy and sends a copy with the faculty advisor in case of an emergency. The student should list any medical conditions that could affect the student while off-campus (i.e. epilepsy, diabetes, depressive episodes, etc.) Also, the student must list any changes in their health not noted on medical records on file with WPI Health Services. Medical allergies must be listed, as well as prescription medications.

The IGSD strongly recommends that every student who plans to travel outside of the United States should read closely all information put forward by the Center for Disease Control specific to the geographic area where they will be going. This information is included in this handbook.

When traveling abroad it is a good idea to take a supply of your prescription medications sufficient to last for the entire length of the trip. Prescription medicines should always be kept in the original containers with the prescription label intact to avoid problems with customs officials. It is also important to take along a copy of the prescription from your physician, clearly written, in generic terms, and with an indication of the condition being treated.

Two people need be listed as emergency contacts. These contacts should be people empowered to make a medical or legal decision on behalf of the participant (i.e., parent, guardian, living adult relative). Contact information for each must also be provided to the IGSD on this form: name, relationship, address, phone (home and work), and email.

Participants and their families should understand that there are certain risks inherent in travel to an off-campus program site and WPI cannot assume responsibility for every activity or medical need. It is the student's responsibility to carry medical insurance that is valid at the off-campus site for the

length of the stay. Students must accept all financial responsibility for any medical treatment received while at the program site. Students should understand that to obtain medical care abroad, it is usually necessary to pay when the care is administered and they will have to seek reimbursement from their insurance company when they return home.

**All students traveling off-campus to participate in a WPI program are required to carry medical insurance that is valid at the program site for the entire length of the program. The IGSD must have the name of your insurance provider and your subscription number. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure that they are covered for the entire length of the program while they are off-campus.**

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## Voluntary Acknowledgement Form

All participants are required to sign a Voluntary Acknowledgement Form that is kept on file in the IGSD. The text of the form is below for your convenient referral. We hope that by asking participants to read and sign such a form that we remind them of the nature of their participation and the responsibilities which are assumed by the individuals.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT and RELEASE

I acknowledge that I am voluntarily participating in the \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Program"), which is being offered by Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). I further acknowledge that WPI has provided me with adequate information about the Program, both verbally and through written materials, and that I have read and understand such information. I agree to comply with any immunization or medical treatment necessary to participate in this program. I also acknowledge that any laptop computer (or other form of computer or digital storage device) that I may take abroad cannot contain any restricted information as such action may be considered an export subject to Federal control and regulation.

Assumption of Risk and Release of Claims. Knowing the risks described, and in consideration of being permitted to participate in the Program, I agree, on behalf of my family, heirs, and personal representative(s), to assume all the risks and responsibilities surrounding my participation in the Program. To the maximum extent permitted by law, I release and indemnify Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and its officers, employees and agents, from and against any present or future claim, loss or liability for injury to person or property which I may suffer, or for which I may be liable to any other person, during my participation in the Program (including periods in transit to or from any site in country where the Program is being conducted).

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS.

---

Participant Signature

date

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Printed Name

date of birth\*

\*If participant is under 18 years of age, both parents and/or legal guardians must also read and sign this form.

I am the parent or legal guardian of the above Participant, have read the foregoing Acknowledgement and Release Form (including such parts as may subject me to personal financial responsibility), and will be legally responsible for the obligations and acts of the Participant as described in this Acknowledgement and Release Form, and agree, for myself and for the Participant, to be bound by its terms.

X

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Signature of Parent / Guardian

Date

X

---

Signature of Parent / Guardian

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## Scan of Passport

You are required to bring your passport to the IGSD office so that staff can scan a copy of the face and information pages. IGSD keeps this on file.

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## International Student Identity Cards (ISIC)

All WPI students completing course requirements abroad are required to get the ISIC. As you have been charged the \$24.00 cost of the card, it makes the most sense to get yours from the IGSD. If you choose to purchase a card elsewhere you will forfeit the \$24.00. In some countries, the student discount network is highly developed, and an ISIC will entitle students to reduced entrance fees at museums and theaters, special rail or bus passes, and even discounts at hotels and shops. While it cannot be guaranteed that you'll get discounts wherever you go, the ISIC is the most accepted card for international access to all student discounts that are available.

With the ISIC, you gain access to a 24-hour, toll free help line that can provide aid in the case of a medical, financial or legal emergency while abroad. You can call the ISIC Help Line from the United States at (877-370-4742). Outside of the United States, call collect 715-342-4104. The call is free, but be prepared to provide your card number to the ISIC Help Line.

The most important reason for the ISIC requirement is the additional insurance coverage that you get. The ISIC provides a basic sickness and accident insurance policy to students while traveling outside the United States. ISICs also provide students with emergency evacuation insurance, if due to injury or sickness, a legally licensed physician certifies the severity of your condition is such that you must be evacuated for medical treatment. In addition, cardholders are eligible to have expenses covered for the repatriation of remains in the unlikely event of death while abroad. (For more specific coverage information, contact American Home Assurance Company 70 Pine St. New York, New York 10270).

*Again, the cost of this card is built into the expenses associated with going off-campus and does not require additional fees to be charged to the student. However, students must supply the IGSD with two photos in order to process the card. These photos can be taken at the IGSD Office.*

You are required to come to the IGSD, located in the Project Center, to fill out an application form for the ISIC and turn in your photos (extra passport photos will suffice as well, but please keep in mind the need to carry two other passport photos with you when traveling). IGSD staff will process your card, which will be given to you when all mandatory paperwork mentioned previously has been completed and turned in to the IGSD. If you need the number from your ISIC to book your flight, a photocopy of your card can be provided to you at your request. For more specific information about discounts, go to [www.isic.org](http://www.isic.org).

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## ATC Laptop Form (Appendix C)

WPI will provide one laptop per team if you request it. You do not have to use a WPI laptop – you are welcome to take your own. If you do, however choose to sign out a WPI laptop, you will need to complete the form and turn it in to the IGSD with the rest of your mandatory paperwork.

## WPI POLICIES AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS AT OFF-CAMPUS SITES

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### Informal Hearing Procedure at Off-Campus Residential Program Sites

Students at off-campus residential program sites, accused of violating the WPI code of conduct or any other WPI policy as outlined in the annual Campus Planner and Resource Guide shall be accorded an informal on-site hearing before a WPI representative designated by the dean of Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division. The following guidelines will be applicable.

(a) Students will be informed of the complaint pending and the time, date and location of the informal hearing, in writing, at least two (2) days prior to the hearing. This notice should include a full description of the incident, names of witnesses, if any, and a reference to the section(s) of the campus code allegedly violated.

(b) The informal hearing shall be conversational in nature and non-adversarial.

(c) Before the hearing, the student shall be given the opportunity to consult with an on-site advisor of their choice or a member of the WPI community.

(d) During the hearing, the WPI representative shall elaborate on the nature of the complaint and present any evidence or witnesses in support of that complaint.

(e) The accused student shall have an opportunity to respond to the complaint and present any evidence or witnesses in response to the complaint.

(f) The WPI representative will make a determination of the student's responsibility for the complaint based on the outcome of the informal hearing.

(g) If the student is found responsible, the WPI representative must contact the dean of students or her/his designee to review the student's past record, if any, before a sanction is determined. The WPI representative must then consult with the Dean of Students Office and the director of global operations in the Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division to determine an appropriate sanction for the offense.

(h) All decisions shall be final and not subject to appeal on site. The decision may be appealed to the dean of Interdisciplinary Studies Division once the student has returned to the WPI campus. Appeals may be submitted in writing to the dean of the Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division within five (5) days of the start of classes of the term following the off campus project experience. The appeal must be specific and contain a full description of the basis for the appeal. Grounds for an appeal must be based on one or more of the following criteria:

- a. Failure to follow the procedures outlined in the Campus Planner and Resource Guide;
- b. Inappropriate gravity of the sanction in relationship to the offense;
- c. That no reasonable person could conclude, on the basis of the evidence presented, that the accused was responsible.

The appeal will not be reviewed until after the start of the term following the off campus project experience when all parties involved have returned to the WPI campus.

(i) If the on-site WPI representative determines that continued presence at the project center by the student would constitute a danger to the safety of persons or property on the premises of the project center, a recommendation for interim suspension may be made to the vice president for student affairs or his/her designee.

Note: WPI's Academic Honesty Policy and the procedures described therein also apply to the off campus residential programs. The WPI representative must communicate with the dean of Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division and Dean of Students Office before taking action.

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## WPI Housing

If you live in a WPI residence hall, it is your responsibility to notify Residential Services of your intended absence.

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## Mail Services

All students going off-campus must go to Central Mail to fill out the appropriate card to have their mailboxes closed and their mail forwarded. Failure to do so will result in mail staying in the student's mailbox for the entire term. All students must now be responsible for their own mailbox and mail by signing a forwarding card at Central Mail.

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## Protocol for PCs for Off-Campus Project Centers

Students who participate in the Global Perspective Program are offered the opportunity to borrow laptop personal computers from WPI. This is not an entitlement to students, but rather a privilege extended to students. It is expected that the following protocol will be followed and the proper responsibility will be assumed by the students taking advantage of this opportunity. WPI does not have an unlimited supply of laptop computers to loan to students. If student teams are unable or unwilling to comply with the dates specified by the Academic Technology Center (ATC), the ATC reserves the right to refuse to accommodate that request. One PC per project team for each site as available:

After you have turned in the completed ATC Team form to the IGSD, at least one member of your group (although we suggest the entire group so that everyone takes equal responsibility for the equipment) is required to go to the ATC and reserve a laptop BEFORE pick-up on the specified date.

### Procedure

1. Each team will fill out an ATC Team Form (Appendix C). Kelly Donahue (from the IGSD) will send approved names to ATC. Every team member must meet all IGSD paperwork deadlines before names are sent to the ATC.
2. Person(s) responsible for PC will be required to register at the ATC and sign a statement accepting responsibility for the PC.
3. Person(s) responsible for PC should have the tightest travel schedule. Arrangements can be made for one person to pick up the PC and another member of the team to return the PC but, BOTH people must register when the reservation is made with the ATC.
4. It is strongly recommended that everyone in the group sign the ATC's reservation form. The ATC will hold only signing parties financially responsible for damage beyond normal wear and tear and/or any fees incurred.

### Reservations

1. Make your reservation early for your PC. You must go to the ATC to make your reservation with your WPI ID card. At the time of reservation you must be specific about the dates and times of pick-up and return of the equipment and about your hardware requirements. Be as specific as possible about what you will be using the PC for: (e.g. word processing, spreadsheets, data analysis, etc.) PCs are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Avoid last minute changes as they may not be able to be accommodated.
2. If two people are responsible (one for pick up, one for return) BOTH must go to the ATC to register before leaving campus. If arrangements have been made for a faculty member to return the PC, then the faculty member must send confirming email to Mary Beth Harrity (mharrity@wpi.edu) before the PC will be released.

3. Modems, ethernet cards and other miscellaneous hardware are in limited supply and must be requested at the time the reservation for the PC is made.
4. Upon request, the ATC can provide external drives that can be attached to the laptop.
5. Pick-up and return deadlines will be strictly enforced. If the laptop computer is not returned to the ATC on the agreed upon date, your group will be charged a \$50 per business day late fee.

### **Software**

1. All PCs will be loaded with Windows, MS Office, Explorer and communications software. The ATC does not provide or load software other than this.
2. If students load their own software it must be removed prior to returning the PC to the ATC.
3. If you significantly alter the original configuration of the laptop (e.g. install a different operating system), your group will be charged a \$50 software re-installation fee.

### **Picking up the PC**

1. You must have your WPI ID card in order to pick up the PC assigned to you.

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### **Acceptable Use Policy Regarding Computers (WPI laptops, sponsor PC's, internet use)**

At a minimum, you must adhere to the WPI Acceptable Use Policy (<http://www.WPI.EDU/Pubs/Policies/>) whether using WPI computer resources or your housing provider or sponsor's resources. Your housing provider or sponsor may have more restrictive computer and web use policies and those must be followed. It is your responsibility to determine what your housing provider or sponsor's policy is and to comply with it. Using a housing provider or sponsor's network(s) or computer(s) for recreational use (defined as non-project related use – on or off the web) is not permitted. Violators will be subject to disciplinary actions.

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## General Policies and Important Things to Remember

- There can be *no overnight guests* in any accommodations acquired and provided by WPI for use by the Project Center students.
- Charges for any damages to housing, WPI property on site, the property of our host institutions, or project sponsors will be charged to your WPI account. When responsibility for damages to housing cannot be assigned to an individual student, all students in the housing unit will be charged an equal share of the cost. An official hold will be placed on all records until all payment responsibilities are satisfied.
- If you are dismissed from a program for any reason, you will not receive a refund of any costs involved and will be subject to charges for any unrecoverable housing costs or program expenses advanced on your behalf.
- All policies governing acceptable behavior as printed in The Policies section of *The Campus Planner & Resource Guide* apply to participants at an off-campus program site. The authority for adjudicating alleged violations of the WPI Code of Conduct while at an off-campus program site lies with the on-site WPI representative in accordance with basic due process.
- You must always keep the resident faculty advisors informed of your whereabouts. If you plan to travel during the term, you must give your advisor a written itinerary.
- **The IGSD will notify your parents if you fail to return from a weekend excursion at the predetermined time. If you are delayed you MUST contact your resident faculty advisor to inform them that you are safe.**
- As a WPI student at an off-campus program site, you represent your institution and your country and will behave as an ambassador for both. Grounds for dismissal may also be found in behavior disruptive to the group as a whole, or offensive to the host culture: disruptive sexual behavior, or disruptive, violent, or destructive behavior in student housing.
- You may not take vacation days off from your project work, even if you have the permission of your project mentor. If you have an urgent family or academic or job related need to travel away from the project site on a project work day, consult with the faculty member in residence before making any travel plans.

**Violations of any of these policies can result in disciplinary action up to and including immediate dismissal from the program.**

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### What can you expect to pay “out of pocket” toward your IQP while off-campus?

Current WPI policy states that students are expected to contribute \$25 per person per 1/3 unit of IQP work toward any out of pocket expenses encountered. This means that each student is expected to pay \$75.00 towards the completion of the IQP before asking for reimbursement of any kind. If you have a project team of 4 students, then the total contribution before being reimbursed is \$300. If you anticipate that your expenses will exceed this expectation, then you must submit a budget for your project. The on-site faculty advisor and Center Director must approve this budget prior to submission of any expenses to the IGSD. (Commuting costs are not reimbursable.)

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## Travel Documents and Competencies

### Passports

Who needs a passport?

A U.S. citizen needs a passport to depart or enter the United States and to depart and enter most foreign countries. U.S. Immigration requires you to prove your U.S. citizenship and identity when you reenter the United States.

If you are not a U.S citizen, contact the embassy or consulate of the country you are planning to travel to, as well as the U.S. Embassy in order to receive specific entry instructions. International students should consult with Mr. Tom Thomsen, Director of the International Students and Scholars Office, about these issues. His contact information is listed under the heading WPI Offices.

Beware of a passport that is about to expire. Certain countries will not permit you to enter and will not place a visa in your passport if the passport is valid for less 6 months. If your passport is expiring in less than the 6 months, you will need to get a new one. If you return to the United States with an expired passport, you are subject to a passport waiver fee of \$100, payable to U.S. Immigration at the port of entry.

It is your responsibility to acquire your passport. The IGSD does not administer this process for students.

#### **How to get your passport**

1. You can get passport photos taken at the U.S. Post Office, or other local stores such as CVS.
2. Pick up a passport application form from the U.S. Post Office, or download from: [http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html)
3. Turn in all required documentation to the nearest federal post office with the appropriate fee.

## For Immediate Release

April 2, 2002

### STATEMENT BY PHILIP T. REEKER, DEPUTY SPOKESMAN U.S. Passports Will No Longer be Issued Abroad

*All passports, except those required for urgent travel, will be issued in the United States using the new more secure photo-digitized imaging system.*

Effective April 8, 2002, American citizens residing or traveling abroad, who require issuance of a U.S. passport, will be issued the latest, state-of-the-art passport. It incorporates a digitized image with other enhanced security features. Because this technology is not available at U.S. embassies and consulates, overseas passport issuance is being transferred to the National Passport Processing Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Travel documents in the post-September 11 world have become even more important. The new passport has many features that make it one of the most secure travel documents produced anywhere in the world. Getting these more secure passports into circulation will help minimize the misuse of American passports by criminals, terrorists, and others.

This new procedure will increase processing time at U.S. embassies and consulates, but the Department is committed to ensuring that American citizens receive secure documents in a timely manner. American citizens overseas are encouraged to apply early for renewal of expiring passports.

U.S. embassies and consulates will continue to issue passports that are needed for urgent travel. However, such passports will be limited in validity, and cannot be extended. Bearers will be required to exchange, at no additional cost, their limited-validity passport for a full-validity digitized passport upon completion of their urgent travel.

Information on applying for a U.S. passport, passport application forms and requirements, and other travel-related information can be accessed through the Department of State's web site at: <http://travel.state.gov>.

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## Visas

A visa is an endorsement or stamp placed in your passport by a foreign government that permits you to visit that country for a specified purpose and a limited time. You should obtain all necessary visas before you leave the United States, because you will not be able to obtain visas for some countries once you have departed. Apply directly to the embassy or nearest consulate of each country you plan to visit. Passport agencies *cannot* help you obtain visas.

If you are doing your project in Thailand or Namibia, your faculty advisors and the IGSD will help you obtain your non-immigrant visas. In order to take advantage of this, you must be prepared to give the IGSD your passport, a completed visa application (available in the IGSD office) and a passport picture, by the date that your advisors determine. The IGSD will send all documentation with one cover letter to the appropriate embassy to expedite the visa process for your group. The single entry visa fee of has been built into your housing charge.

If you are not a U.S. citizen, it is your responsibility to determine what other documentation you will need to file to obtain your visa.

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## How to Take Money

You should take a sufficient amount of living/spending money with you. The IGSD recommends the following modes of carrying money.

### Travelers Checks

Rather than carrying large amounts of cash, it is always safer to take most of your money in travelers' checks. Remember to record the serial number, denomination, and the date and location of the issuing bank or agency. Keep this information in a safe and separate place. In case your checks are lost or stolen, you can get replacements quickly with this information.

### Credit Cards

Some credit cards can be used worldwide, even for cash advances. However, be sure to monitor your charges carefully, so as not to exceed your limit -- do not forget to account for the exchange rate! Leave all unnecessary cards at home. Record the numbers and expiration dates for the cards you take in a separate place. Always report the loss or theft of your credit cards immediately to the issuing companies and notify the local police.

### ATM info:

Making withdrawals from an ATM is generally considered to be the easiest and least expensive way of accessing money while abroad. The biggest advantage is that regardless of the size of your withdrawal, you will receive the wholesale exchange rate which banks use. ATM networks like the Global ATM Alliance, Cirrus and PLUS are used widely around the globe, although you should be sure to verify that your network operates in the country to which you're going. The following websites provide links to ATM locator services for each network:

<http://www.mastercard.com/us/personal/en/cardholderservices/atmlocations/index.html>

<http://visa.via.infonow.net/locator/global/jsp/SearchPage.jsp>

[http://www.scotiabank.com/cda/content/0,1608,CID8040\\_LIDen,00.html](http://www.scotiabank.com/cda/content/0,1608,CID8040_LIDen,00.html)

Before you leave, you should contact your bank to let them know where you will be and for how long. Many banks view activity such as withdrawals in another country as an alert to possible fraudulent activity on your account. Telling them ahead of time, may prevent your accounts from being frozen -- a massive inconvenience when you're abroad.

### Things to consider when using ATMS abroad include the following:

1. Be sure you know the numeric equivalent of your PIN if it contains letters as well as numbers. ATMs abroad may only provide numbers.
2. Some ATMs (especially in Europe) do not accept PINs longer than 4 numbers. You may wish to contact your bank to change your PIN if it is longer than four digits.

There are of course fees associated with using most ATMs, and some of these can be significantly higher than the fees you are used to paying in the U.S. You should check with your bank (be sure to ask if they assess extra fees for international ATM use), and plan for these extra expenses in your budget.

Finally, be sure to keep your ATM card and your money in a safe place. When withdrawing cash from an ATM be sure to do so in a well lighted, safe location so that you decrease your profile as a potential target for theft.

Source: [www.independenttraveler.com](http://www.independenttraveler.com)

### **Foreign Currency**

Before departing, it is recommended that you purchase some foreign currency to use for buses, taxis, food, phones or tips when you first arrive. You can purchase several currencies at the airport, but be advised that they only carry major currencies and that exchange windows may be closed depending upon your time of departure. You may be able to purchase foreign currency at one of your local banks. Do not change all of the money you plan to take while still in the U.S. The exchange rate is always better in the host country.

## Section 2 - Health & Safety

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### Safety Policies

When traveling to an off-campus project site, there are a number of precautions you should follow in order to travel safely:

- Do not leave your bags or belongings unattended at any time. Security in airports and train stations are instructed to remove or destroy any unattended baggage. Do not agree to carry or look after packages or suitcases for individuals you do not know well. If someone approaches you to make such a request, tell security immediately. Make sure that no one puts anything in your luggage without your knowledge. Take all questions from airport personnel seriously and do not make jokes in response to security questions.
- Safeguard your passport! Your passport is the most valuable document you will carry abroad. It is your best form of identification and confirms your citizenship. You must guard it carefully. Do not lend it to anyone or use it as collateral for a loan of any sort. You will need it when you check into hotels, embassies or consulates, or when cashing travelers' checks. Some countries require that you carry it with you at all times as a means of identification. When you carry your passport, hide it securely on your person. Do not leave it in a handbag, book-bag, backpack or in an exposed pocket.
- Never keep all of your documents and money in one place or suitcase. You should make a list of all of your important numbers - your passport information as well as credit cards, travelers' checks and airline ticket numbers. Leave a copy at home, and carry a copy with you, separate from your valuables.
- **Always keep the resident faculty advisors informed of your whereabouts. If you plan to travel during the term, you must give your advisor an itinerary in writing. All student need to be accounted for every weekend whether you are traveling or not, see Appendix D.**
- **The IGSD will notify the parents of students who fail to return from a weekend excursion at the predetermined time. If you are delayed you MUST contact your resident faculty advisor to inform them that you are safe.**
- Have sufficient funds or a credit card on hand to purchase emergency items such as train or airline tickets.
- Always be careful about traveling alone.
- **All WPI students who are participating in the Morocco A 2010 Project Program are expected to behave in a manner so as to not put themselves at risk.**
- **All students have an obligation to look out for each other and themselves. This means that if one student observes another engaging in risky behavior, that student should report the behavior to either of the faculty advisors. The faculty advisor must then address the issue with the student at risk. Repeated behavior identified as risky will be cause to be sent home.**
- Be as inconspicuous in dress and demeanor as possible. If the host country nationals do not wear baseball caps and sneakers, you will stand out as a foreigner if you do.
- Do not flash money or documents in public places. Be discreet in displaying your passport.

## **AVOIDING TRAVEL RISKS**

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### ***Planning and Preparing:***

Do not display provocative luggage tags, overly patriotic displays or any other indications that you are from the United States;

Do not pack anything that could be construed as a weapon, including knives, nail files, razors or other sharp instruments;

Arrive at the airport at least three hours in advance of your flight.

### ***Air and Ground Travel:***

Dress casual and look like a traveler; do not dress like a “flamboyant” US patriot;

Spend little time in foreign airports or public transportation areas that carry a high risk of or invite terrorist attacks;

Avoid air, rail and local ground carriers from countries where terrorist groups are based or have grievances;

Avoid flights or trains with intermediate stops, especially stops in hostile countries, which would allow terrorists to board;

### ***In the Country;***

Avoid countries, areas of countries and regions, even for leisure travel on weekends, that are hostile or likely to be hostile to Americans;

Study and understand the customs and political environment of the country(s) you are visiting;

Be prudent in your choice of eating and drinking establishments;

Avoid political discussions, confrontation and arguments;

Do not reveal personal information to casual acquaintances;

Beware of overly friendly or flirtatious persons;

Always travel in groups of two or more people;

Should you find yourself present during a coup, uprising or riot, remain in a safe harbor, such as your hotel or residence, that is not apt to be a military target;

Carry the phone number and address of the American Embassy and local police – and a cell phone if possible;

Return to your apartment or living quarters at a reasonable, early hour every night.

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## Safety Tips from the U.S. Department of State

Crime in many parts of the world seems to be increasing.

Visitors should take common sense precautions:

- Safety begins when you pack. Leave expensive jewelry behind. Dress conservatively; a flashy wardrobe or one that is too casual can mark you as a tourist. Use travelers' checks, not cash. Leave photocopies of your passport personal information page and your airline tickets with someone at home and carry an extra set with you.
- Use a money belt or a concealed money pouch for passports, cash and other valuables.
- In a car, keep doors locked, windows rolled up and valuables out of sight. A common trick is for a thief to reach through a car window and grab a watch from a persons' wrist or a purse or package from the seat while you are driving slowly or stopped in traffic.
- When you leave your car, try to find a guarded parking lot. Lock the car and keep valuables out of sight.
- When walking, avoid marginal areas of cities, dark alleys and crowds. Do not stop if you are approached on the street by strangers, including street vendors and beggars. Be aware that women and small children, as well as men, can be pickpockets or purse-snatchers. Keep your billfold in an inner front pocket, carry your purse tucked securely under your arm, and wear the shoulder-strap of your camera or bag across your chest. To guard against thieves on motorcycles, walk away from the curb, carrying your purse away from the street.
- Use official taxi stands rather than cruising taxis. Illegal taxis can be decoys for robbers.
- Whenever possible, do not travel alone. If you travel in isolated areas, go with a group or a reputable guide.
- Avoid travel at night.
- Money exchangers on the street pass off counterfeit U.S. dollars and local currency. Credit card fraud is growing.
- Do not take valuables to the mountains or on excursions.

Any U.S. citizen who is criminally assaulted should report the incident to the local police and to the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

**The U.S. department of State has produced a website specifically for students going abroad. This site provides student specific travel tips and advice, and we strongly encourage you to visit it: [www.studentsabroad.state.gov](http://www.studentsabroad.state.gov).**

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## Drugs and the Legal System

When you are in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws. Learn about local laws and regulations, preferably before you arrive on site, and obey them. Deal only with authorized outlets when exchanging money or buying items such as airline tickets and travelers checks. Adhere strictly to the local laws because the penalties you risk are severe.

About 3,000 Americans are arrested overseas each year. Of these, approximately one-third are held on drug-related charges. Despite repeated warnings, drug arrests and convictions are still a common occurrence. Many countries have stiff penalties for drug violations and strictly enforce drug laws. You are subject to foreign, not U.S. laws while overseas, and you will find, if arrested, that:

- because you are subject to local laws abroad, there is very little that a U.S. consul can do for you if you encounter legal difficulties
- few countries provide jury trial
- most countries do not accept bail
- prisons may lack even minimal comforts: bed, toilet, wash basin
- officials may not speak English
- nutrition is often inadequate
- physical abuse, confiscation of personal property and inhumane treatment are possible

In other words, it is not worth imprisonment or extradition to break local laws. Be mature. Remember that laws are established for reasons (and you don't need to agree with those reasons), and that you are a guest, and should behave as such.

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## WPI Code of Conduct

As articulated in the Drug and Alcohol Policy in the WPI Code of Conduct, students may not possess, use, or distribute illicit drugs or possess drug related paraphernalia. If there are any complaints or evidence of illicit drug use, your Faculty Advisor(s) and the Director of Global Operations in the IGSD will initiate and follow the steps outlined in the "Informal Hearing Procedure at Off-Campus Residential Program Sites" to fairly investigate and adjudicate the matter. Drug policy violations are taken very seriously and could result in sanctions up to and including dismissal from the program.

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# Health Information for Travelers to Morocco

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## On This Page

- [Travel Notices in Effect](#)
- [Safety and Security Abroad](#)
- [Preparing for Your Trip to Morocco](#)
- [Other Diseases Found in North Africa](#)
- [Staying Healthy During Your Trip](#)
- [After You Return Home](#)



## Travel Notices in Effect

- [2010 Measles Update](#) January 13, 2010
- [2009 H1N1 Flu: Global Situation](#) October 15, 2009
- [New Article about Typhoid Fever Infection in U.S. Travelers Highlights Travel Risks in Certain Destinations](#) September 09, 2009

## Safety and Security Abroad

- [Registration of Traveler Emergency Contact and Itinerary Information](#) June 18, 2007
- [Transportation Security Administration](#)
- [U.S. Department of State](#)

## Preparing for Your Trip to Morocco

**Before visiting Morocco, you may need to get the following vaccinations and medications for vaccine-preventable diseases and other diseases you might be at risk for at your destination:** (Note: Your doctor or health-care provider will determine what you will need, depending on factors such as your health and immunization history, areas of the country you will be visiting, and planned activities.)

To have the most benefit, see a health-care provider at least 4–6 weeks before your trip to allow time for your vaccines to take effect and to start taking medicine to prevent malaria, if you need it.

Even if you have less than 4 weeks before you leave, you should still see a health-care provider for needed vaccines, anti-malaria drugs and other medications and information about how to protect yourself from illness and injury while traveling.

CDC recommends that you see a health-care provider who specializes in Travel Medicine. [Find a travel medicine clinic](#) near you. If you have a medical condition, you should also share your travel plans with any doctors you are currently seeing for other medical reasons.

If your travel plans will take you to more than one country during a single trip, be sure to let your health-care provider know so that you can receive the appropriate vaccinations and information for all of your destinations. Long-term travelers, such as those who plan to work or study abroad, may also need additional vaccinations as required by their employer or school.

**Be sure your routine vaccinations are up-to-date. Check the links below to see which vaccinations adults and children should get.**

**Routine vaccines**, as they are often called, such as for influenza, chickenpox (or varicella), polio, measles/mumps/rubella (MMR), and diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) are given at all stages of life; see the [childhood and adolescent immunization schedule](#) and [routine adult immunization schedule](#).

Routine vaccines are recommended even if you do not travel. Although childhood diseases, such as measles, rarely occur in the United States, they are still common in many parts of the world. A traveler who is not vaccinated would be at risk for infection.

### Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

Vaccine recommendations are based on the best available risk information. Please note that the level of risk for vaccine-preventable diseases can change at any time.

Vaccination or Disease	Recommendations or Requirements for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases
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Vaccination or Disease	Recommendations or Requirements for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases
<b><u>Routine</u></b>	Recommended if you are not up-to-date with routine shots such as, measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, poliovirus vaccine, etc.
<b><u>Hepatitis A</u></b> or immune globulin (IG)	Recommended for all unvaccinated people traveling to or working in countries with an intermediate or high level of hepatitis A virus infection ( <a href="#">see map</a> ) where exposure might occur through food or water. Cases of travel-related hepatitis A can also occur in travelers to developing countries with "standard" tourist itineraries, accommodations, and food consumption behaviors.
<b><u>Hepatitis B</u></b>	Recommended for all unvaccinated persons traveling to or working in countries with intermediate to high levels of endemic HBV transmission ( <a href="#">see map</a> ), especially those who might be exposed to blood or body fluids, have sexual contact with the local population, or be exposed through medical treatment (e.g., for an accident).
<b><u>Typhoid</u></b>	Recommended for all unvaccinated people traveling to or working in North Africa, especially if visiting smaller cities, villages, or rural areas and staying with friends or relatives where exposure might occur through food or water.
<b><u>Rabies</u></b>	Recommended for travelers spending a lot of time outdoors, especially in rural areas, involved in activities such as bicycling, camping, or hiking. Also recommended for travelers with significant occupational risks (such as veterinarians), for long-term travelers and expatriates living in areas with a significant risk of exposure, and for travelers involved in any activities that might bring them into direct contact with bats, carnivores, and other mammals. Children are considered at higher risk because they tend to play with animals, may receive more severe bites, or may not report bites.

## Items to Bring With You

### Medicines you may need:

- **The prescription medicines you take every day.** Make sure you have enough to last during your trip. Keep them in their original prescription bottles and always in your carry-on luggage. Be sure to follow security guidelines, if the medicines are liquids.
- **Medicine for diarrhea**, usually over-the-counter.

Note: Some drugs available by prescription in the US are illegal in other countries. Check the US Department of State [Consular Information Sheets](#) for the country(s) you intend to visit or the embassy or consulate for that country(s). If your medication is not allowed in the country you will be visiting, ask your health-care provider to write a letter on office stationery stating the medication has been prescribed for you.

### Other items you may need:

- Iodine tablets and portable water filters to purify water if bottled water is not available. See [A Guide to Water Filters](#), [A Guide to Commercially-Bottled Water and Other Beverages](#), and [Safe Food and Water](#) for more detailed information.
- Sunblock and sunglasses for protection from harmful effects of UV sun rays. See [Basic Information about Skin Cancer](#) for more information.

- Antibacterial hand wipes or alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- To prevent insect/mosquito bites, bring:
  - Lightweight long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and a hat to wear outside, whenever possible.
  - Flying-insect spray to help clear rooms of mosquitoes. The product should contain a pyrethroid insecticide; these insecticides quickly kill flying insects, including mosquitoes.
  - Bed nets treated with permethrin, if you will not be sleeping in an air-conditioned or well-screened room and will be in malaria-risk areas. For use and purchasing information, see [Insecticide Treated Bed Nets](#) on the CDC malaria site. Overseas, permethrin or another insecticide, deltamethrin, may be purchased to treat bed nets and clothes.

See other suggested over-the-counter medications and first aid items for a [travelers' health kit](#).

Note: Check the [Air Travel section](#) of the [Transportation Security Administration](#) website for the latest information about airport screening procedures and prohibited items.

## Other Diseases Found in North Africa

Risk can vary between countries within this region and also within a country; the quality of in-country surveillance also varies.

The following are disease risks that might affect travelers; this is not a complete list of diseases that can be present. Environmental conditions may also change, and up to date information about risk by regions within a country may also not always be available.

[Dengue](#), [filariasis](#), and [leishmaniasis](#) are other diseases carried by insects that also occur in parts of this region. Protecting yourself against from [insect bites](#) will help to prevent these diseases. [Schistosomiasis](#), a parasitic infection, is found in fresh water in the region, especially in the Nile Delta and Valley; it is found focally in other countries. Do not swim in fresh water (except in well-chlorinated swimming pools). Other infections that tend to occur more often in longer-term travelers (or immigrants from the region) include [tuberculosis](#), [hepatitis B](#), and [hepatitis C](#) (prevalence > 15% in Egypt).

The World Health Organization declared Egypt a polio free country in March 2006. Imported cases in neighboring countries have occasionally occurred.

Avian influenza (H5N1) was found in poultry in Egypt in 2006; human cases and deaths were also reported. Avoid all direct contact with birds, including domestic poultry (such as chickens and ducks) and wild birds and avoid places such as poultry farms and bird markets where live birds are raised or kept. For a current list of countries reporting outbreaks of H5N1 among poultry and/or wild birds, view [updates from the World Organization for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#), and for total numbers of confirmed human cases of H5N1 virus by country see the [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Avian Influenza website](#).

## Staying Healthy During Your Trip

### Prevent Insect Bites

Many diseases, like malaria and dengue, are spread through insect bites. One of the best protections is to prevent insect bites by:

- Using insect repellent (bug spray) with 30%-50% DEET. Picaridin, available in 7% and 15% concentrations, needs more frequent application. There is less information available on how effective picaridin is at protecting against all of the types of mosquitoes that transmit malaria.
- Wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and a hat outdoors.
- Remaining indoors in a screened or air-conditioned area during the peak biting period for malaria (dusk and dawn).
- Sleeping in beds covered by nets treated with permethrin, if not sleeping in an air-conditioned or well-screened room.
- Spraying rooms with products effective against flying insects, such as those containing pyrethroid.

For detailed information about insect repellent use, see [Insect and Arthropod Protection](#).

### Prevent Animal Bites and Scratches

Direct contact with animals can spread diseases like rabies or cause serious injury or illness. It is important to prevent animal bites and scratches.

- Be sure you are up to date with tetanus vaccination.
- Do not touch or feed any animals, including dogs and cats. Even animals that look like healthy pets can have rabies or other diseases.
- Help children stay safe by supervising them carefully around all animals.
- If you are bitten or scratched, wash the wound well with soap and water and **go to a doctor right away**.
- After your trip, be sure to tell your doctor or state health department if you were bitten or scratched during travel.

For more information about rabies and travel, see the [Rabies chapter](#) of the [Yellow Book](#) or [CDC's Rabies homepage](#). For more information about how to protect yourself from other risks related to animals, see [Animal-Associated Hazards](#).

### Be Careful about Food and Water

Diseases from food and water are the leading cause of illness in travelers. Follow these tips for safe eating and drinking:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially before eating. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand gel (with at least 60% alcohol).

- Drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated (bubbly) drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes. If this is not possible, learn how to make water safer to drink.
- Do not eat food purchased from street vendors.
- Make sure food is fully cooked.
- Avoid dairy products, unless you know they have been pasteurized.

Diseases from food and water often cause vomiting and diarrhea. Make sure to bring diarrhea medicine with you so that you can treat mild cases yourself.

## Avoid Injuries

Car crashes are a leading cause of injury among travelers. Protect yourself from these injuries by:

- Not drinking and driving.
- Wearing your seat belt and using car seats or booster seats in the backseat for children.
- Following local traffic laws.
- Wearing helmets when you ride bikes, motorcycles, and motor bikes.
- Not getting on an overloaded bus or mini-bus.
- Hiring a local driver, when possible.
- Avoiding night driving.

## Other Health Tips

- To avoid infections such as HIV and viral hepatitis do not share needles for tattoos, body piercing, or injections.
- To reduce the risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases always use latex condoms.
- To prevent fungal and parasitic infections, keep feet clean and dry, and do not go barefoot, especially on beaches where animals may have defecated.

## After You Return Home

If you are not feeling well, you should see your doctor and mention that you have recently traveled. Also tell your doctor if you were bitten or scratched by an animal while traveling.

**Malaria is always a serious disease and may be a deadly illness.** If you become ill with a fever or flu-like illness either while traveling in a malaria-risk area or after you return home (for up to 1 year), you should seek immediate medical attention and should tell the physician your travel history.

**Important Note:** This document is not a complete medical guide for travelers to this region. Consult with your doctor for specific information related to your needs and your medical history;

recommendations may differ for pregnant women, young children, and persons who have chronic medical conditions.

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## Health Issues: HIV and AIDS information

Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) is a severe, often life-threatening, illness caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The incubation period for AIDS is very long and variable, ranging from a few months to many years. Some individuals infected with HIV have remained asymptomatic for more than a decade. Currently, there is no vaccine to protect against infection with HIV. Although there is no cure for AIDS, treatments for HIV infection and prophylaxis for many opportunistic diseases that characterize AIDS are available.

*The universal precaution to prevent infection of either AIDS and/or HIV is to assume that everyone you meet has these diseases. While this may seem extreme, there is no way to judge from looking at someone whether or not they have been exposed to these illnesses or if, in fact, they are infected.*

HIV infection and AIDS have been reported worldwide. The number of persons infected with HIV is estimated by WHO to be approaching the range of 18 million worldwide. Because HIV infection and AIDS are globally distributed, the risk to international travelers is determined less by their geographic destination than by their sexual and drug using behaviors.

### **Transmission and Prevention Information**

The global epidemic of HIV infection and AIDS has raised several issues regarding HIV infection and international travel. The first is the need of information for international travelers regarding HIV transmission and how HIV infection can be prevented.

HIV infection is preventable. HIV is transmitted through sexual intercourse, needle or syringe sharing, by medical use of blood or blood components, and perinatally from an infected woman to her baby. HIV is not transmitted through casual contact; air, food, or water routes; contact with inanimate objects; or through mosquitoes or other arthropod vectors. The use of any public conveyance (e.g., airplane, automobile, boat, bus, train) by persons with AIDS or HIV infection does not pose a risk of infection for the crew or other passengers.

#### Increased risk for contracting AIDS and HIV

Travelers are at risk if they:

- have sexual intercourse (heterosexual or homosexual) with an infected person;
- use or allow the use of contaminated, unsterilized syringes or needles for any injections or other skin-piercing procedures including acupuncture, use of illicit drugs, steroid or vitamin injections, medical/dental procedures, **ear or body piercing, or tattooing**;
- use infected blood, blood components, or clotting factor concentrates. HIV infection by this route is a rare occurrence in those countries or cities where donated blood/plasma is screened for HIV antibody.

People should avoid sexual encounters with a person who is infected with HIV or whose HIV infection status is unknown. This includes avoiding sexual activity with intravenous drug users and persons with multiple sexual partners, such as male or female prostitutes. Condoms, when used consistently and correctly, prevent transmission of HIV. Persons who engage in vaginal, anal, or oral-genital intercourse with anyone who is infected with HIV or whose infection status is unknown should use a condom.

For the information made available by the Center for Disease Control, please go to the following web address

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/yellowBookCh4-HIVAIDS.aspx>

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## Internet Addresses

The following are web addresses that you may find helpful, particularly before you leave for your site.

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### Health & Safety Sites

Center for Disease Control (CDC)

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx>

American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH)

<http://www.astmh.org>

Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE)

<http://www.ciee.org>

Travel Safe: AIDS and International Travel

[http://www.ciee.org/health\\_safety/health/AIDS\\_intl\\_travel.aspx](http://www.ciee.org/health_safety/health/AIDS_intl_travel.aspx)

Lonely Planet

[http://www.lonelyplanet.com/travel\\_services/flights/singapore\\_return.cfm](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_services/flights/singapore_return.cfm)

The Travel Clinic

<http://www.drwisetravel.com/index.html>

Travel Health Online

<https://www.tripprep.com/scripts/main/default.asp>

U.S. State Department

<http://travel.state.gov>

Association for Safe International Road Travel (ASIRT)

<http://www.asirt.org/>

StudyAbroad.com Handbook

<http://www.studentsabroad.com/contents.asp>

NAFSA: Association of International Educators

<http://www.nafsa.org/>

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### Travel Sites

U.S. State Department

[http://www.state.gov/www/background\\_notes/index.html](http://www.state.gov/www/background_notes/index.html)

Travel Warnings and Consular Information Sheets

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis\\_pa\\_tw\\_1168.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis_pa_tw_1168.html)

Links to U.S. Embassies and Consulates Worldwide

[http://travel.state.gov/visa/questions/questions\\_1253.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/questions/questions_1253.html)

Services and Information for American Citizens Abroad

<http://travel.state.gov/travel/abroad.html>

Travel Warning on Drugs Abroad

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/living/drugs/drugs\\_1237.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/living/drugs/drugs_1237.html)

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### Women's Sites

Journeywoman

<http://www.journeywoman.com>

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### Disability Sites

Access-Able

<http://www.access-able.com/tips/>

Air Travel Tips and Resources

<http://www.miusa>

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## Advice from the CDC: General Travel Precautions

The following web address should be accessed for health information specific to where you will be traveling: <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx>. We strongly encourage all students to review these guidelines, advice and suggestions carefully. If vaccines are recommended then you should consult with your own personal health care professional (who has knowledge of your medical history) to determine what the best course of action is for you. The IGSD cannot provide medical advice. Any opinions expressed by students, advisors, or center directors with regard to medical issues are only opinions and should not be taken as authoritative.

The preventive measures you need to take while traveling depend on the areas you visit and the length of time you stay. All travelers should take the following precautions, no matter the destination:

- Wash hands often with soap and water.
- Because motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of injury among travelers, walk and drive defensively.
- Avoid travel at night if possible and always use seat belts.
- Always use latex condoms to reduce the risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.
- Don't eat or drink dairy products unless you know they have been pasteurized.
- Don't share needles with anyone.
- Never eat undercooked ground beef and poultry, raw eggs, and un-pasteurized dairy products. Raw shellfish is particularly dangerous to persons who have liver disease or compromised immune systems.
- Drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated (bubbly) drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes. If this is not possible, make water safer by BOTH filtering through an "absolute 1-micron or less" filter AND adding iodine tablets to the filtered water. "Absolute 1-micron filters" are found in camping/outdoor supply stores.
- Eat only thoroughly cooked food or fruits and vegetables you have peeled yourself. Remember: boil it, cook it, peel it, or forget it.
- If you visit an area where there is risk for malaria, take your malaria prevention medication before, during, and after travel, as directed. (See your doctor for a prescription.)
- Protect yourself from insects by remaining in well-screened areas, using repellents (applied sparingly at 4-hour intervals), and wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants from dusk through dawn.
- To prevent fungal and parasitic infections, keep feet clean and dry, and do not go barefoot.

### ***To Avoid Getting Sick***

- Don't eat food purchased from street vendors.
- Don't drink beverages with ice.
- Don't eat dairy products unless you know they have been pasteurized.
- Don't share needles with anyone.
- Don't handle animals (especially monkeys, dogs, and cats), to avoid bites and serious diseases (including rabies and plague).
- Don't swim in fresh water. Salt water is usually safer.

### ***What You Need To Bring with You***

- Long-sleeved shirt and long pants to wear while outside whenever possible, to prevent illnesses carried by insects (e.g., malaria, dengue, filariasis, and Japanese encephalitis).

- Insect repellent containing DEET (diethylmethylnoluamide), in 30%–35% strength for adults and 6%–10% for children.
- Over-the-counter antidiarrheal medicine to take if you have diarrhea.
- Iodine tablets and water filters to purify water if bottled water is not available. See Do's above for more detailed information about water filters.
- Sunblock, sunglasses, hat.
- Prescription medications: make sure you have enough to last during your trip, as well as a copy of the prescription(s).

### ***After You Return Home***

- If you have visited an area where there is risk for malaria, continue taking your malaria medication weekly for 4 weeks after you leave the area.
- If you become ill after travel—even as long as a year after your trip—tell your doctor the areas you have visited.

### ***CDC Site Specific Information for Morocco***

<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinationMorocco.aspx>

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## Section 3 – Site Specific Information

# Morocco - Consular Information Sheet

Americans planning travel to *Morocco* should read [Worldwide Caution Travel Alert](#) available on the Department of State web site at <http://travel.state.gov>

**March 12, 2009**

**COUNTRY DESCRIPTION:** Morocco is a constitutional monarchy with a bicameral Parliament and independent judiciary; however, ultimate authority rests with the king. The population is estimated to be almost 34 million. While Morocco has a developing economy, modern tourist facilities and means of transportation are widely available, though the quality may vary depending on price and location. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Morocco for additional information.

**ENTRY/EXIT REQUIREMENTS:** Travelers to Morocco must have a valid passport. Visas are not required for American tourists traveling to Morocco for fewer than 90 days. For visits of more than 90 days, Americans are required to apply for an extension of stay (providing a reason for the extension). No vaccinations are required to enter Morocco. Travelers who plan to reside in Morocco must obtain a residence permit. A residence permit may be requested and obtained from immigration authorities (Service Etranger) at the central police station of the district of residence. U.S. citizens are encouraged to carry a copy of their U.S. passports with them at all times, so that, if questioned by local officials, proof of identity and U.S. citizenship is readily available.

Children born to a Moroccan father may experience difficulty in leaving Morocco without the father's permission. Under Moroccan law, these children are considered Moroccan citizens. Even if the children bear U.S. passports, immigration officials may require proof that the father has approved their departure before the children will be allowed to leave Morocco. Although women, regardless of their nationality, are normally granted custody of their children in divorces, the father must approve the children's departure from Morocco. American women married to Moroccans do not need their spouse's permission to leave Morocco.

For further information on entry/exit requirements for Morocco, please contact the Embassy of Morocco at 1601 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20009, telephone (202) 462-7979 to 82, fax 202-462-7643, or the Moroccan Consulate General in New York at 10 E. 40th Street, New York, NY 10016, telephone (212) 758-2625, fax 212-779-7441. Visit the Embassy of Morocco web site for the most current visa information.

Information about [dual nationality](#) or the prevention of [international child abduction](#) can be found on our web site. For further information about customs regulations, please read our [Customs Information](#) sheet.

**SAFETY AND SECURITY:** In March and April 2007, a series of terrorist bombings occurred in Casablanca, two of which simultaneously occurred outside the U.S. Consulate General and the private American Language Center. In 2003, a series of similar attacks in Casablanca targeted

hotels and restaurants. The potential for terrorist violence against American interests and citizens remains high in Morocco. Moroccan authorities continue to disrupt groups seeking to attack U.S. or Western-affiliated and Moroccan government targets, arresting numerous individuals associated with international terrorist groups. With indications that such groups still seek to carry out attacks in Morocco, it is important for American citizens to be keenly aware of their surroundings and adhere to prudent security practices such as avoiding predictable travel patterns and maintaining a low profile. Establishments that are readily identifiable with the United States are potential targets for attacks. These may include facilities where U.S. citizens and other foreigners congregate, including clubs, restaurants, places of worship, schools, hotels, movie theaters and other public areas. Such targets may also include establishments where activities occur that may offend religious sensitivities, such as casinos or places where alcoholic beverages are sold or consumed.

All U.S. citizens are urged to remain alert to local security developments and be vigilant regarding their personal security and report any suspicious incidents or problems immediately to Moroccan authorities and the U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Demonstrations occur frequently in Morocco and usually center on local domestic issues. During periods of heightened regional tension, large demonstrations may take place in the major cities. All demonstrations require a government permit, but on occasion spontaneous unauthorized demonstrations occur, which have greater potential for violence. In addition, different unions or groups may organize strikes to protest an emerging issue or government policy. Travelers should be cognizant of the current levels of tension in Morocco and stay informed of regional issues that could resonate in Morocco and create an anti-American response. Avoid demonstrations if at all possible. If caught in a demonstration, remain calm and move away immediately when provided the opportunity.

The Western Sahara, with a population of approximately 350,000, was long the site of armed conflict between government forces and the POLISARIO Front, which continues to seek independence for the territory. A cease-fire has been fully in effect since 1991 in the U.N.-administered area. There are thousands of unexploded mines in the Western Sahara and in areas of Mauritania adjacent to the Western Saharan border. Exploding mines are occasionally reported, and they have caused death and injury. Travel to the Western Sahara remains restricted; persons planning to travel to the region should obtain information on clearance requirements from the Moroccan Embassy.

For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs' web site, where the current [Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts](#), as well as the [Worldwide Caution](#), can be found.

Up-to-date information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada or, for callers outside the U.S. and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The Department of State urges American citizens to take responsibility for their own personal security while traveling overseas. For general information about appropriate measures travelers can take to protect themselves in an overseas environment, see the Department of State's [A Safe Trip Abroad](#).

**CRIME:** Crime in Morocco is a serious concern, particularly in the major cities and tourist areas. Aggressive panhandling, pick-pocketing, purse-snatching, theft from occupied vehicles

stopped in traffic and harassment of women are the most frequently reported crimes. Criminals have used weapons, primarily knives, during some street robberies and burglaries. These have occurred at any time of day and night, not only in isolated places or areas less frequented by visitors, but in crowded areas as well. It is always best to have a travel companion and utilize taxis from point to point, particularly at night and when moving about unfamiliar areas. Residential break-ins also occur and have on occasion turned violent, but most criminals look for opportunities based on stealth rather than confrontation.

Women walking alone in certain areas of cities and rural areas are particularly vulnerable to harassment from men. Women are advised to travel with a companion or in a group when possible and to ignore any harassment. Responding to verbal harassment can escalate the situation. The best course of action is generally not to respond or make eye contact with the harasser.

Joggers should be mindful of traffic and remain in more heavily populated areas. It is always best to have a jogging companion and avoid isolated areas or jogging at night.

Taxis in Morocco are generally crime-free, although city buses are not considered safe. Trains are generally safe, but theft, regardless of the time of day, sometimes occurs. Avoid carrying large sums of cash and be particularly alert when using ATM machines. In the event you are victimized by crime or an attempted crime, or experience any security-related incident during your stay in Morocco, please report the incident to the local police and the U.S. Consulate General in Casablanca as soon as possible.

Fraud in Morocco may involve a wide range of situations from financial fraud to relationship fraud for the purpose of obtaining a visa. If you believe you are the victim of a fraudulent scheme, you may wish to consult with an attorney to best determine what your options are under Moroccan law. Since fraud can involve a wide range of circumstances, it is difficult to provide general guidelines on how to pursue criminal charges in these issues.

There have been instances in which an American has met a Moroccan online and come to live with or visit him or her in Morocco and found themselves in financial or otherwise difficult situations while in country. If you are concerned about a family member or friend who is visiting someone he or she met online, you can contact the American Citizens Services Unit at 212-522-26-71-51.

**INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME:** The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. If you are the victim of a crime while overseas, in addition to reporting to local police, please contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate for assistance. The embassy/consulate staff can, for example, help you find appropriate medical care, contact family members or friends and explain how funds could be transferred. Although the investigation and prosecution of the crime is solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and to find an attorney if needed.

The local equivalent to the “911” emergency line in Morocco is 190.

Please see our information on [Victims of Crime](#), including possible victim compensation programs in the United States.

**CRIMINAL PENALTIES:** While in a foreign country, a U.S. citizen is subject to that country's laws and regulations, which sometimes differ significantly from those in the United States and may not

afford the protections available to the individual under U.S. law. Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than in the United States for similar offenses. Persons violating Morocco laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Morocco are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines. Engaging in sexual conduct with children or using or disseminating child pornography in a foreign country is a crime, prosecutable in the United States. Please see our information on [Criminal Penalties](#).

**SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:** The government of Morocco considers all persons born to Moroccan fathers to be Moroccan citizens. In addition to being subject to all American laws, U.S. citizens who also possess the nationality of Morocco may be subject to other laws that impose special obligations on citizens of Morocco. Recently, Morocco has begun allowing Moroccan mothers of children born outside of Morocco to petition for their children's citizenship. For further information on that process, please contact the Moroccan Consulate General in New York or the Embassy of Morocco in Washington DC.

Current Moroccan customs procedures do not provide for accurate or reliable registration of large quantities of U.S. dollars brought into the country by tourists or other visitors. As a result, travelers encounter difficulties when they attempt to depart with the money. In particular, American citizens with dual Moroccan nationality have been asked to provide proof of the source of the funds and have incurred heavy fines. The export of Moroccan currency (dirhams) is prohibited; however, Moroccan currency can be converted back into U.S. dollars prior to departure only if the traveler has a bank or money transfer receipt indicating he or she exchanged dollars for dirhams while in Morocco.

Also, Moroccan customs authorities may enforce strict regulations concerning temporary importation into or export from Morocco of items such as firearms, religious materials, antiquities, business equipment, and large quantities of currency. It is advisable to contact the Embassy of Morocco in Washington, DC or the Moroccan Consulate General in New York for specific information concerning customs requirements.

Please see our [Customs Information](#).

Islam is the official religion in Morocco. However, the constitution provides for the freedom to practice one's religion. The Moroccan government does not interfere with public worship by the country's Jewish minority or by expatriate Christians. Proselytizing is, however, prohibited. In the past, American citizens have been arrested, detained and/or expelled for discussing or trying to engage Moroccans in debate about Christianity.

Although rare, security personnel in Morocco may at times place foreign visitors under surveillance. Taking photographs of anything that could be perceived as being of military or security interest may result in problems with the authorities. As a general rule, travelers should not photograph diplomatic missions, government buildings or other sensitive facilities and, when in doubt, they should ask for permission from the appropriate Moroccan authorities.

**MEDICAL FACILITIES AND HEALTH INFORMATION:** Adequate medical care is available in Morocco's largest cities, particularly in Rabat and Casablanca, although not all facilities meet high-quality standards. Specialized care or treatment may not be available. Medical facilities are adequate for non-emergency matters, particularly in the urban areas, but most medical staff will have limited or no English skills. Most ordinary prescription and over-the-counter medicines are widely available. However, specialized prescriptions may be difficult to fill and availability of all medicines in rural areas is unreliable. Emergency and specialized care outside the major cities is

far below U.S. standards, and in many instances may not be available at all. Travelers planning to drive in the mountains and other remote areas may wish to carry a medical kit and a Moroccan phone card for emergencies.

In the event of vehicle accidents involving injuries, immediate ambulance service usually is not available. The police emergency services telephone number is 190 (See Traffic Safety and Road Conditions section below).

The U.S. Department of State is unaware of any HIV/AIDS entry restrictions for visitors to or foreign residents of Morocco. Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747) or via the CDC's web site. For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad, consult the World Health Organization's (WHO) web site. Further health information for travelers is available from the WHO.

**MEDICAL INSURANCE:** The Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and whether it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. Please see our information on [medical insurance overseas](#).

**TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ROAD CONDITIONS:** While in a foreign country, U.S. citizens may encounter road conditions that differ significantly from those in the United States. The information below concerning Morocco is provided for general reference only, and may not be totally accurate in a particular location or circumstance.

Traffic accidents are a significant hazard in Morocco. Driving practices are very poor, and have resulted in serious injuries to and fatalities of U.S. citizens. This is particularly true at dusk during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, when adherence to traffic regulations is lax, and from July to September when Moroccans resident abroad return from Europe by car in large numbers. Congested streets are characteristic of urban driving. Drivers should also exercise extreme caution when driving at night due to poor lighting systems along roads. Traffic signals do not always function, and are sometimes difficult to see. Modern freeways link the cities of Tangier, Rabat, Fez, Casablanca, and Marrakesh. Two-lane highways link other major cities.

Secondary routes in rural areas are often narrow and poorly paved. Roads through the Rif and Atlas mountains are steep, narrow, windy, and dangerous. Maximum caution should be exercised when driving in the mountains. Pedestrians, scooters, and animal-drawn conveyances are common on all roadways, including the freeways, and driving at night should be avoided, if possible. During the rainy season (November - March) flash flooding is frequent and sometimes severe, washing away roads and vehicles in rural areas. Often Moroccan police officers pull over drivers for inspection within the city and on highways. Confiscation of a driver's license is possible if a violator is unable or unwilling to settle a fine at the time of a traffic stop.

In the event of a traffic accident, including accidents involving injuries, the parties are required to remain at the scene and not move their vehicles until the police have arrived and documented all necessary information. The police emergency services telephone number is 190.

While public buses and taxis are inexpensive, drivers typically exhibit poor driving habits, and buses are frequently overcrowded. The train system has a good safety record. Trains, while sometimes crowded, are comfortable and generally on time.

Please refer to our [Road Safety](#) page for more information. You may also visit the web site of the Moroccan Ministry of Transportation.

**AVIATION SAFETY OVERSIGHT:** The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has assessed the Government of Morocco's Civil Aviation Authority as being in compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) aviation safety standards for oversight of Morocco's air carrier operations. For more information, travelers may visit the FAA web site.

**CHILDREN'S ISSUES:** For information see our Office of Children's Issues web pages on [intercountry adoption](#) and [international parental child abduction](#).

**REGISTRATION / EMBASSY LOCATION:** Americans living or traveling in Morocco are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate through the [State Department's travel registration web site](#) so that they can obtain updated information on travel and security within Morocco. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the embassy or consulate to contact them in case of emergency. The U.S. Embassy in Rabat is located (at 2 Avenue Mohamed AL Fassi (formerly Avenue de Marrakech) in the capital city of Rabat, telephone (212) (537) 76-22-65. For emergency services after-hours, please call the Duty Officer cell phone at (212) (661)13-19-39. Please visit the Embassy web site for information on the services provided.

The U.S. Consulate is located at 8 Boulevard Moulay Youssef. The Consular Section's American Citizens Services hotline is (212) (522) 26-71-51 and the fax number is (212) (522) 29-77-01. For any ACS related question, please contact the Consular Section via email or visit the Consulate web site for information on all consular services and other assistance offered in Casablanca.

\* \* \*

This replaces the Country Specific Information for Morocco dated August 20, 2008 without substantive changes.

# Morocco--Project Center Information

## Dates

The following dates should be used when making your travel arrangements to Morocco:

**Arrival:** Monday, August 23, 2010, arrive in Casablanca by 7:00 PM  
**Departure:** After Saturday, October 16, 2010 from Casablanca

Your mailing address for UPS, FedEx, DHL (does not deliver to Ifrane), and ChronoPost, etc. will be:

Student's Name  
C/O  
Office of International Programs  
Al Akhawayn University  
P.O. Box 104  
Avenue Hassan II  
Ifrane 53000  
Morocco

## Telephone:

We recommend that you purchase a cell phone that will work in Morocco, and you will be given an opportunity to purchase a Morocco cell phone from students who were at the Project Center last year.

*Kalimat*, a service offered by Ittissalat Al Maghreb (IAM), is a prepaid calling card that can be used to call outside or inside Morocco from any telephone. *Kalimat* cards are sold in increments of 25DH, 50DH, 100DH, or 200DH at the AUI Campus Store, but you cannot buy more than one per day. From your room on campus, dial \*2881 in order to access the *Kalimat* service. Call the help desk (Ext: 666) to activate your dorm account and to use the card from the phone in your dorm. For any additional information on how to use the card from the phone in your dorm, you can contact the ITS department at 2404.

Consistent with WPI's Residence Hall policy there are no pets allowed in project center housing. Violation of this policy can result in your termination from a residential project center.

## Health Center

### Infirmiry and Medical Staff

AUI's doctors, Dr. Mounia ASLAF and Dr. Mohamed OUCHANI, rotate shifts and are available in the infirmiry in Building 26. The clinic is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 9:00 p.m. to 12:00 noon.

For emergencies and after hours care, dial for men 555 and for women 3333.

### If you are sick

If you are sick, please inform your WPI advisor immediately. If your sickness is severe, be sure to get in touch with the OIP at ext. 2010. The housing personnel will be happy to help you with translating in the infirmiry as the doctors speak passable but limited English. Do not wait to report your illness to your Hall Director at night when you have been ill during the day!

## Medical Emergencies

### Closest Hospital for emergencies

Going Global at WPI Handbook  
9/9/2010

Use and adaptation welcome, but please acknowledge WPI and  
Natalie Mello and tell us of your use ([nmello@wpi.edu](mailto:nmello@wpi.edu))

**Clinique ATLAS in Fes**

Route de Sefrou, VN  
+212 535 64 01 23

**Clinique La Capitale in Rabat**

46, Avenue Abderrahmane Anequay.  
+ 212 537 66 11 82

**Azrou Center For local Community Services**

Boulevard prince My Abdellah, quartier EIKAchla  
53 100 Azrou.  
Tel: + 212 535 56 14 73

**Emergencies**

AUI partners with the Clinic ATLAS in FES and Clinic La Capitale in Rabat for emergency treatment of students who require further analyses or immediate hospitalization. All students who are treated at the Clinic must have been referred by AUI medical staff. Contact your WPI advisor before taking these steps.

Total coverage ("prise en charge") of 100% by health insurance is given in the following cases: Illness requiring immediate hospitalization, or Injuries caused by accidents that may or may not require hospitalization. Campus policy dictates that "...only an AUI doctor, or the housing officer in his/her absence, determines what an emergency is and whether the student should go to the clinic ATLAS or the clinic La Capitale; and only an AUI doctor, or the housing officer in his/her absence, can call the ambulance to take the student to the hospital." NB: If a student is too ill to leave his/her room, the Housing Office will send a stretcher to bring the student to the Health Center. The doctor cannot go to the rooms. All necessary precautions are taken during cold weather.

**Closest Dental emergency provider**

LARAQUI ; H; Nouzha Spouse Tlemçani  
Dental Surgeon  
(Chirurgien Dentiste)  
Parodontologie-Esthetique Dentaire  
Lauréate de Boston University USA  
Address:  
36, Bd Mohammed V  
Résidence Tlemçani (Imm. Nouveau magasin au Derby)  
FES  
Tel: (212) (0) 535.93.24.93

**Closest Mental Health provider**

Counselors are available at AUI at [counselor@aui.ma](mailto:counselor@aui.ma)

**Dr. Jalal Toufig, M.D.**

Psychiatrist with international reputation  
Available Friday p.m. and Saturday a.m  
Counsels and provides medication.

# Al Akhawayn University

Al Akhawayn University is located in the resort community of Ifrane, nestled in the Middle Atlas Mountains. The region is known for its beautiful forests, mountains, lakes and waterfalls. Located just 60 kilometers from the historically rich imperial cities of Fes and Meknes, Ifrane is easily accessible by bus and *grand taxi*.

The architecture of the campus complements the distinctive building style of Ifrane with high-pitched tile roofs designed to move the large quantities of heavy, wet snow each winter. The campus covers approximately 50 hectares of rolling wooded terrain and is about 1600 meters (5000ft) above sea level.

Founded in 1993 by Royal Dahir (decree bearing law), Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane (AUI) opened its doors to students in January 1995 on a completely modern and networked campus. The University is coeducational, residential and primarily undergraduate but has rapidly growing graduate programs. The outlook is international and tolerance is promoted and expected of students, staff, and faculty belonging to over 25 nationalities who live and work together.

With nearly 1200 students enrolled, the majority are full time and live on campus or five minutes walking distance at a residence in the center of Ifrane. The student population has been in all 10 years balanced approximately at 50% female and 50% male. There is an increasingly international character to the student body with over 160 students of 28 nationalities on campus in study abroad and exchange programs in regular semester, or attending the intensive Arabic and North African Studies summer program.

Al Akhawayn University offers seven undergraduate degrees from among the three schools: Science and Engineering, Business Administration, and Humanities and Social Sciences. Six graduate degrees are offered in addition to executive education and special programs for continuing education. All courses are delivered in English. Academic life is rigorous but highly personalized: the student faculty ratio is 11 students for each full time faculty member. All faculty members have offices and maintain a minimum of 9 office hours per week for easy access by students. Because the average class size is 17, students have ample opportunity to question, respond, and interact with the professor and classmates. The faculty is composed of over 100 highly qualified professionals, most with PhDs or doctorates. Highly international, about half of full-time faculty members are Moroccan and the other half are international representing over 15 nationalities.

## Information about Morocco

The Kingdom of Morocco is a country in northwest Africa. It has a long coastline on the Atlantic Ocean that reaches past the Strait of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean Sea. It borders Algeria to the east (though the Algerian border is closed), Mauritania, and the Atlantic Ocean to its south and west. The full Arabic name of the country translates to The Western Kingdom. Al-Maghreb (meaning The West) is commonly used in Arabic.

Morocco has a population of approximately 31,689,265 and covers an area of 710 850 square Kilometers. Morocco is divided into 16 regions 72 provinces and 17 *wilayas*: The country is a Constitutional monarchy with a legal system based on Islamic law and French and Spanish civil law. Most Moroccans are Sunni Muslims (98.8%) of Arab, Berber, or mixed Arab-Berber stock. There are small Christian (1.1%) and Jewish (0.2%) communities. The official language of Morocco is Arabic but French is widely spoken, as is Spanish in the Northeast, along with Berber

dialects.

### **Money, Banks and Currency Exchange**

The basic unit of currency in Morocco is the *Dirham* (DH). There are currently approximately 8.2 DH to \$1 U.S. but as with all currencies, there are fluctuations. Check online for the most recent exchange rate.

The Dirham is divided into 100 *Centimes*. Coins in circulation come in denominations of 1, 2, 5 and 10 Dirhams and 5, 10, 20 and 50 centimes. Bills come in denominations of 20, 50, 100 and 200 Dirhams.

### **Banking**

There are 2 banks now in Ifrane, the “Banque Populaire” and the “BMCE” located in the town center, both with ATM machines. (There is also an ATM machine in the AUI Post Office.) Both banks can handle foreign currency buying but not selling. It can cash traveler’s checks and cashier’s checks from a foreign currency. It is possible to get a cash advance with your VISA or MASTERCARD credit or debit card in the bank at the counter. All international currency transactions have a cost.

We recommend that you use an ATM card to get money from your banking account as ATM machines are widely available in Morocco and will almost always give you the best exchange rate over.

### **Credit Cards and Bank Machines**

There are ATMs in Ifrane and around Morocco that will dispense cash. There is also an ATM on campus at the AUI Post Office. However, these machines can only dispense cash in Dirhams. Make sure you have international privileges on your credit card and the appropriate PIN number. Bank ATM cards usually have a transaction fee. Make sure you understand the fees associated with your credit card for cash transactions.

**Note however that credit cards are **not** widely accepted in small establishments in Morocco**, such as when you go to eat at the *Marché* in Ifrane. However, you can use a *MasterCard* or *Visa* card in places such as hotels, gas stations, travel agencies and some large shops in main cities like Rabat, Casablanca, Marrakech, Agadir, Tangier, Fes and Meknes.

### **Traveler’s Checks**

Traveler’s checks are a safe means of carrying currency. But they come at a cost. Traveler’s checks must be changed at a bank and there is a transaction fee per check. Not all banks will provide this service. Traveler’s checks have both a fee to buy the check and one to cash the check. In Morocco, traveler’s checks can only be cashed at a bank. If you decide to bring Traveler’s checks think carefully of the denomination of the check before you buy. Again, your advisors recommend simply using your ATM or credit cards to draw cash.

Please be informed that the Moroccan Dirham is a controlled currency. It is illegal to import or export Dirhams. Upon leaving Morocco, you can reconvert only up to 50% of the Dirhams for which you must produce exchange receipts at the bank of the airport. As you change money, keep your exchange receipts.

### **Time**

The time zone in Morocco is GMT (Greenwich Mean Time). GMT has traditionally been in effect year round in Morocco.

Morocco is 4 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time in the U.S.A. and 1 hour behind of European

Standard Time (most of Continental Europe, except England and Portugal).

### **Language**

Most Moroccans speak the Moroccan dialect called *Darija*, while the classical Arabic called *Fus'ha* is the official language. French is the second language and is widely used in commerce especially in central and southern Morocco. In northern cities like Tangier and Tetuan, Spanish is common. There are also three regional dialects of Berber in Morocco, but these are spoken less frequently. One of these Berber dialects, *Tamazight*, is used in Ifrane and throughout the Middle Atlas Mountains.

### **Local Weights and Measures**

Morocco uses the Metric system. Distance is measured in kilometers (1 mile = 1.6 km). Meat, fruit and vegetables are sold in kilograms. (2.2 pounds = 1 kilogram). Merchants at the *Marché* in Ifrane are very trustworthy, and will show appreciation for return visits to their *souk*. A few words of Arabic, indicating the vegetable you want or the number indicating the quantity are greeted with big smiles and *shukran bissefs*. Unfortunately, in other *medinas*, among a handful of merchants, you want to bargain vigorously and count your change carefully!

### **Electricity**

Electricity in Morocco is the same as in Europe - 220 Volts at 50 cycles. If you bring any personal electrical equipment, make sure you have an international voltage regulator/transformer. Voltage transformers are available in Ifrane. The electrical sockets in Morocco take round pins like those in France, not the flat pins of the U.S.A. Plug adapters are available in Ifrane but you may want bring some international plug adapters.

### **Online Sources of information about Morocco**

#### **General Information**

<http://maghreb.net/countries/morocco/>  
<http://www.mbendi.co.za/cymocy.htm>  
<http://www.travelnotes.org/Africa/morocco.htm>  
[http://www.mincom.gov.ma/english/e\\_page.html](http://www.mincom.gov.ma/english/e_page.html)

#### **For Travelers**

<http://tayara.com/club/mrocbd1.htm>  
<http://i-cias.com/index.htm>

#### **Transportation inside Morocco**

<http://www.ctm.ma/> (The national bus schedule)  
<http://www.oncf.ma> (The train schedule)

#### **Current News Sources in English**

<http://www.moroccotimes.com>  
<http://www.morocco-today.com/>  
<http://www.arabicnews.com>

#### **Languages of Morocco**

<http://www.sil.org/ethnologue/countries/Moro.html>

#### **Moroccan Music**

<http://almashriq.hiof.no/base/music.html#songs>  
[http://www.maroc.net/maghreb\\_music/](http://www.maroc.net/maghreb_music/)

#### **Images of Morocco**

<http://geogweb.berkeley.edu/GeoImages/Miller/millerone.html>

#### **Arabic and Middle Eastern Resource links**

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Use and adaptation welcome, but please acknowledge WPI and  
Natalie Mello and tell us of your use ([nmello@wpi.edu](mailto:nmello@wpi.edu))

<http://wings.buffalo.edu/sa/muslim/umma/lang.html>

[http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African\\_Studies/Country\\_Specific/menu\\_Moroc\\_doc.html](http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/Country_Specific/menu_Moroc_doc.html)

### Arabic Sites

These sites that explain Islamic art, architecture including calligraphy <http://islamicart.com/>

<http://www.sakkal.com/ArtArabicCalligraphy.html>

### Learning Arabic online

<http://i-cias.com/babel/arabic/index.htm>

## See the Morocco Project Center, myWPI website for additional references.

### Guidebooks

There is no single guidebook that will provide you with all of your needs. Of the guidebooks, perhaps the best all around is titled **Morocco** and is part of the Knopf guide series. It has useful general information and history numerous pictures and illustrations. It does not have much information on places to stay and therefore **The Rough Guide** or the **Lonely Planet Guide to Morocco** are useful and reasonably accurate.

### Housing at Al Akhawayn University

All students will be housed on campus or the Ifrane residency in a double room and provided with the following: a wardrobe, a desk, a chair, and a twin size bed. All exchange students are issued a mattress pad and a set of sheets, a pillow and blanket (ask housing if you need more blankets). The suite bathroom is equipped with a shower. **Towels are not provided. You need to bring your own towels or purchase them in Morocco.**

Please note that numbering of floors is according to the European system, i.e. the “ground floor” is followed by the 1st floor.

### Room Check-in

At check-in you will be given a key to your room. The keys to the desk and wardrobe can be obtained from the housing office. Before asking for the keys, you need note the number on the lock. In case you lose the key to your room, report the loss to the Housing Services immediately. **The replacement cost of a new lock and key is 500Dhs.**

For a map of the campus (so that you can find your residence hall!), see:

<http://www.aui.ma/DSA/dsa-campusmap.htm>

There is no rhyme nor reasoning to the numbering system at Al Akhawayn and your Moroccan classmates joke about it all the time; so print out this map and keep it in your wallet.

### Room Check-out

You must contact a Housing staff member to check-out and this should be scheduled approximately 48 hours in advance of leaving campus (Ask the OIP for the departure clearance handout). **(Your WPI on-site advisor will coordinate the check-out.)** If you are leaving on a weekend, schedule check-out by Wednesday at the latest. The Housing Officer will inspect the room for damages for which you will be billed by WPI.

### Maintenance and Cleaning

Student rooms are cleaned once every two weeks free of charge. If you need additional cleaning, this service may be purchased, at the Business Office for 25Dhs. Give the receipt to the Housing officer in Building 26.

Maintenance problems such as electricity, plumbing and woodwork, should be reported to your Hall Director or to the Housing Services in Building 26. The emergency numbers for weekends and nighttime are 555 for men, 3333 for women.

## Restaurant Service at Al Akhawayn University

The university offers 3 self-service restaurants and a coffee shop for the AUI community. All payments at AUI are made with your “cash wallet,” that is, your AUI I.D. Card, on which WPI will place funds adequate to cover your meals while you are on campus. If you buy expensive sweatshirts or other items at the AUI store, you may have to put additional funds into your card. **Do not lose you I.D. Card as you will need it for meals!**

### **The Moroccan and International Restaurant**

This restaurant serves a variety of Moroccan *tajines* every day and *couscous* is also available on Fridays. In addition to Moroccan specialties, the Moroccan and International restaurant offers a variety of international cuisine.

Hours of Operation (**may vary during Ramadan**)

#### **Monday – Friday**

Breakfast: From 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Lunch: From 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Dinner: From 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

#### **Saturday**

Breakfast: From 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Lunch: From 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

#### **Sunday**

Breakfast: From 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Dinner: From 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

### **The Grill**

You can order the meat or sausages of your choice and it is grilled in front of you. It's fresh and hot, and available with salads, fries and various other accompaniments.

### **The Pizzeria**

Besides pizzas, this restaurant also features an Italian daily special.

Opening Hours:

#### **Monday – Friday**

Lunch: From 11:30 a.m. to 02:30 p.m.

Dinner: From 06:30 a.m. to 09:00 p.m.

#### **Saturday and Sunday**

Dinner: From 06:30 p.m. to 09:00 p.m.

### **The Café**

The café is place for socializing and billard games where you can also find a variety of hot and cold drinks, pastries and sandwiches.

Opening Hours:

Everyday from 08:00 a.m. to Midnight

### **The Campus Store**

The Campus Store has a small selection of groceries and snacks like cereals, different types of pastas and canned food, ice cream and chocolate other snacks. It also has office supplies - pens and pencils, erasers, highlighters, floppy disks and blank CDs.

Opening Hours (may vary during Ramadan):  
Monday to Thursday: From 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Friday: From 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday: From 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### **Activities**

The primary objective of the AUI Student Activities Office is to encourage extra-curricular and recreational opportunities for students. It develops entertainment programs for the benefit of the AUI community and empowers students to become involved in the AUI and local community. **We encourage you to check out AUI student clubs and events and to participate in these activities as it is an excellent way of meeting your Moroccan classmates.**

### **Clubs**

There are currently over 40 active student organizations at AUI. These clubs range from humanitarian, leadership and cultural organizations to dance, language, business, computer science, theater and other groups. Students initiate and organize the activities within their respective clubs while faculty and staff act as club advisors.

### **Athletic Facilities**

AUI has some of the best athletic facilities in the country. The sporting complex includes a soccer field and a track that are used for varsity and intramural team sports. There is also a multi-purpose room (used for aerobics, salsa, martial arts, etc.), an indoor gymnasium, a weight room, an Olympic size swimming pool, and three outdoor tennis courts. There are sometimes classes in step aerobics, belly dancing, salsa, yoga and other recreational activities that you might enjoy (ask at the gym). **Both men and women need a swimming cap to enter the pool.**

The Office of Student Activities provides a wide range of sports equipment and games such as basketballs, ping-pong paddles and tennis rackets. You are welcome to check out this equipment

### **Other Events**

#### **Movies**

Films are shown every week. They are either played on the large screen in the auditorium in Building 4 or broadcast in the residence halls through the Room Run program.

#### **Parties**

Professional DJs are hired for campus parties. Sometimes held in the open-air, the music usually starts at around 9:00 p.m but the action really starts only around 11 p.m. or midnight.

### **Library**

The English resources of the Al Akhawayn University library are among the best in Morocco and the region. The number of titles in print is 70,000 and growing. The subscription to electronic collections has grown rapidly such that there are over 1 million full-text articles in over 4500 journals. His Majesty, Mohamed VI, honored the library by lending it his name, an unprecedented distinction in the Moroccan academy. The library now has a wireless internet system. See the library catalog at: <http://www.aui.ma/library/>

Opening Hours (**may vary during Ramadan**):  
Monday – Thursday: From 08:00 a.m. to Midnight  
Friday: From 08:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday: From 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday: From 12:00 a.m. to Midnight

Please note that the Library opening hours may change during holidays or be extended during

exam periods. You should be informed of changes over e-mail. Also, be prepared to be asked to leave the library 15-30 minutes before its official closing time.

### **Laundry Service**

There is a laundry room on the ground floor of Building 35 and Building 39 with token-operated washers and dryers. **Tickets for tokens are sold in the campus store at 7 DH each.**

#### Opening Hours

During Weekdays except Tuesday: From 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

On Weekends: From 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The laundry room attendants will sometimes move your wet clothes to the dryers and sometimes will fold the dry clothes for you. It takes around 30 minutes to wash a load of clothes and 45 minutes to dry a load. Heavy cotton clothes or towels will require at least two dryer cycles in order to fully dry. Each cycle in each machine costs one token. Therefore, you probably need between 3 or 4 tokens (tickets) to wash and dry a 5-kilo load of clothes.

Because of the limited number of washers and dryers, you may have to wait until the day after you dropped your clothes off to pick them up.

**Do not tip the Laundry room attendants or any other staff person at AUI.** What they do appreciate, however, is a greeting and a friendly good-bye in Arabic.

### **Postal Services**

The University has a Post Office located in Building 33. Other Services include: send or receive money orders, send registered and/or rapid rail, telegrams, and the sale of telephone cards

#### Opening Hours

Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

Lunch Break: from 12.30 to 13.00

The employees assigned are from Barid Al Maghreb (the Moroccan National Postal System).

### **Timing for overseas mail:**

Letters usually take:

To and from the U.S.: 4 to 14 days.

To and from Europe: 3 to 10 days.

Packages can take:

To and from the U.S.:

By Airmail: 20 days to 1 month

By Ship: Up to 2 months

To and From Europe: 15 days

### **ChronoPost**

ChronoPost is the express service offered by Barid Al Maghreb at AUI Post Office. It is less expensive than DHL, FedEx and UPS services and is just as reliable. **See you mailing address at the beginning of the Morocco—Project Center section.**

### **Express Courier Services**

DHL, FedEx and UPS are all now reasonably fast (3 to 4 days minimum) and reliable courier services to Morocco. The university has a contract with UPS office in Casablanca and therefore UPS mail is delivered to AUI. FedEx is delivered directly to the Office of International Programs. However, DHL is based in Fes and does not deliver to Ifrane. You should be notified and need to go to Fes to pick up your mail from DHL. The nearest DHL office is in Fes. FedEx and UPS offices

are in Casablanca.

### Telephone

Apart from the *Téléboutique* in the Post Office, there are public telephones with lines that call off campus in the restaurant, Building 4 and Building 35. These phones are accessible between 6:00 a.m. and midnight. Please note that these telephones only take pre-paid cards that can be purchased at the university's post office or campus store.

*Kalimat*, a service offered by *Ittisalat Al Maghreb* (IAM), is a prepaid calling card that can be used to call outside or inside Morocco from any telephone. *Kalimat* Cards are sold in increments of 25DH, 50DH, 100DH or 200DH at the university post office. They are also available at the campus store, but you cannot buy more than one a day.

From your room on campus, there is a special code that must be dialed in order to access the *Kalimat* service: \*2881. Call the help desk (Ext: 666) to activate your dorm account and have the ability to use the card from the phone in your dorm. For any additional information on how to use the card from the phone in your dorm, you can contact Laila Hamdani from the ITS department at 2404.

### Fax

Fax services are available at the Business Office and costs 5Dhs/page in Morocco, 20Dhs/page to Europe and 40Dhs/page to the USA. To receive faxes, you can communicate the fax N° for the OIP: +212-(0)535 86 21 48.

### What to Bring

#### Personal Documents to Bring

Bring copies of your health and immunization records if you have not already submitted them with your application. If you are under special medical treatment, bring the prescription medicines that you use clearly marked in the containers from your pharmacy. Almost all common drugs are available in Morocco but they will likely be manufactured for the European market. The brand names may be unfamiliar. Bring your favorite occasional medicines for allergies, or other mild ailments. Solutions and cleaners for contact lenses are hard to get so bring a three months supply with you. Distilled water is available in pharmacies if you have soft lenses.

#### Personal items to bring

**You should bring towels as they are not supplied in the dormitories.** Also, lower end hotels in Morocco may not supply towels so you might need one when traveling. All personal hygiene products are locally available: Q-tips, many kinds of shampoo, deodorant, etc. Toilet paper is supplied in the bathrooms every two weeks. More can be purchased in the Campus Store.

#### Packing and Getting your Things to Morocco

Packing your clothing into a suitcase or a backpack has proved sufficient for previous exchange and study abroad students. The backpack makes traveling around Morocco much easier. It is not recommended to ship personal effects or clothes by post because it takes too long. When sent by ship, packages can take up to 2 months to arrive.

### Clothing

#### On-Campus Dress

The dress on campus is casual like most North American and European universities. You will find many female students who dress in modern, international styles alongside others who wear more conservative clothes and head scarves. Clothing is usually clean and neat, not torn or grungy.

**Note:** No one ever goes barefoot although sandals of every kind are worn in warm weather.

Weather in Morocco during A Term can range from 100 degrees in Erfoud (Sahara), Marrakesh, or Fes in August to near freezing in Ifrane during nights in October. As we will discuss at greater

length below, casual dress is acceptable on campus, but WPI students must dress conservatively when off campus. (Note also that on Al Akhawayn Campus, as in much of Europe, shorts for men or women are not considered “cool.”)

### **Off-Campus Clothing**

Morocco is changing rapidly and in Casablanca and Rabat, there are Moroccan women who wear the latest European fashions. While the most female students adopt certain fashions on campus, they know what is appropriate off campus and in more conservative environments.

**The rule of thumb is that if you dress conservatively off campus you will attract far less attention to yourself. Wearing more conservative clothing will make you feel more comfortable and you will be less of a target for unwanted attention.**

If you wear tight, revealing or short clothing, there is a good chance of getting more attention than you would like including sexual harassment.

Ifrane will be in the 70s during the day in September and 50s at night, but since you are up in the mountainous Middle Atlas you can have an occasional hail or snow storm in late September or early October.

Buildings in around Morocco are not well heated – even restaurants and coffee shops. So students should bring a few warm clothes. You will need a light coat, hat, and thin gloves

There really won't be many occasions to wear very formal clothes, but you should have something besides jeans and t-shirts to wear if invited to dinner at a friend's home.

### **Arriving and Getting to Ifrane**

Most international flights usually arrive into Casablanca. Your advisors will meet you in Casablanca at the airport Mohammed V. (There is also an airport in Fes, which is 50 Km from Ifrane.)

An AUI van will take WPI students from Casablanca to Ifrane.

There are trains and *Grand Taxi* (equivalent of airport limos) from the airport. One could take a train to Fes and a *Grand Taxi* to Ifrane, but again, most likely, the AUI van will pick WPI students up in Casablanca and take them directly to Ifrane.

### **Information Technology Services**

#### **Connecting to the Internet**

Computer labs are available on campus for completing assignments and searching the Internet. You can also access the internet from your dorm room so you might want to bring your laptop with you. This is a good idea as all the computer keyboards in Morocco are AZERTY or 'French'. This means that they have a few different key positions and it will take some time and effort to adjust your typing. Make sure you have an appropriate international voltage converter/power supply for your laptop. You may want to consider adding Skype or ooVoo to your laptop to communicate back to the United States, but you will need to open an account before you leave for Morocco. As is understandable, internet capacities in a developing nation are limited and most students find that it is best to computer call home late at night.

To connect to the university local area network and thus to the internet you must have an Ethernet card installed in your computer. A modem will not allow you to connect to the AUI local area network.

Network cards and cables are not available for sale on campus or from ITS (although they can be obtained at the *Marché*. To connect your computer to the AUI local area network you will also need an RJ 45 (Ethernet) cable which is available in Ifrane. The Library and some parts of campus have wireless access.

For further information and technical assistance, contact the ITS Help Desk extension: 666.

### **The Phone System**

AUI has a sophisticated phone system which can operate both analogue and digital phones. Over 1200 connections are available in campus offices, dorms, and the library. This allows an external caller to reach his/her AUI correspondent without going through an operator, simply by dialing: +212 535 86- followed by the desired extension number.

### **Satellite Television**

The University has several satellite dishes allowing reception of 19 international television channels including BBC World, CNN, Eurosport, RTM, TF1, TV5, MBC1, MBC2, MBC3, MBC4,, M6, Al Jazeera, Al Arabiya, MTV, and others. The last channel called the Room Run channel is reserved for internal showing of films and events on campus. Recent and classic Hollywood films are shown in Building 4 and again on Room Run each week.

### **Internet, Electronic Mail, & Telephone Security Information**

All members of the Al Akhawayn community have access to the internet and are provided with their own e-mail accounts. All students are issued e-mail accounts that must be checked regularly because important announcements and information are posted frequently. **While you will undoubtedly continue to use your WPI email account, check your AUI account at least once a day as you will receive important communications from the university or from your teachers or from new friends via your AUI email address.**

### **Telephone System Security**

Every phone call, even internal, is logged for accounting purposes. Access to the phone system is a privilege and can be revoked in case of misconduct. If you have a problem with your phone extension, please notify Housing Services, which will report it to ITS. There is no telephone directory of students because of previous misuse.

### **Restaurant Cash Wallet/ID Card**

Cash is not accepted on AUI campus. Cash cards are used for on all campus purchases. This money is intended to be used on meals at the restaurant. The card can be used for other purchases on campus, the copy center and the library for fines. Adequate funds for meals at Al Akhawayn will be added to your cash card from your program expenses, but should you want to make additional expenditures on items at the AUI bookstore or restaurant, you may have to put additional cash on your card.

### **Individual Responsibility for Budgeting**

Cash is not used on campus except at the Post Office. You must carefully manage the amount on your card. Make sure you place additional funds on your card to cover other purchases.

### **Health Insurance**

Al Akhawayn University has an agreement with Assurance RMA Al Watanya which is a medical and vehicle assistance organization. Please note here that all reimbursements made by these companies are in Dirhams.

### **Reimbursement Rates**

Reimbursement up to 100% of emergency surgical and hospitalization expenses; Reimbursement Going Global at WPI Handbook 9/9/2010 Use and adaptation welcome, but please acknowledge WPI and Natalie Mello and tell us of your use ([nmello@wpi.edu](mailto:nmello@wpi.edu))

up to 80% of medical, pharmaceutical and hospitalization expenses.

### **Annual Reimbursement Ceiling:**

The upper limit of reimbursement per person, per illness and per year is 40,000.00 DHS.

### **Health and Immunization Records**

Students must complete health forms at AUI to be kept on file in the doctor's office.

### **Religious Services**

For Muslims there is a mosque on campus that is open for prayer. The Imam or his assistant is always on duty.

For Christians, AUI has provided an apartment in the off-campus housing for religious services and special events. There is an ecumenical service on Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m. organized by the Rev. Karen Smith (K.Smith@au.ma). Rides to church services are provided. Please look for announcements on campus and check your e-mail. There are Roman Catholic churches in Azrou and in all major cities, but these services are in French. The only English language Roman Catholic Church is in Casablanca.

For Jews, meetings can be arranged if there is interest. A Hebrew study group exists on campus if there is significant student interest. A Torah was donated by the Maimonides Foundation who held a conference at AUI in 1997. There are synagogues in both Fes and Meknes. Get in touch with the OIPD for a contact in Fes.

## **Culture Shock**

For almost anyone, adjusting to a new society is an exciting but sometimes challenging process. The resulting adjustments are often referred to as "Culture Shock" and can be difficult to deal with. Keep in mind that this is a perfectly normal reaction for someone who is taken from his/her familiar environment and placed in a foreign setting. You are not alone in experiencing these adjustments. While everyone responds differently, there are typically three stages most people go through in adjusting to a new culture.

*1st phase:* You will probably go through an initial period of excitement and exhilaration. During this phase you will frequently do and observe things that are new to you, giving you a sense of adventure. You will constantly be reminded that you are in a different culture and that you are many miles from home.

*2nd phase:* Before long, as you get into the daily routine of living in Morocco, this sense of adventure and excitement starts to wear off. You may find that life on campus can be quite ordinary, and you will certainly get tired of the "college food" on campus. During this second phase, you may start missing your friends and family at home and a mom-cooked meal. Rather than enjoying all of your new experiences, you may find yourself disgruntled or disappointed with the country and its people. During this adjustment phase, you may have to work hard to keep a positive attitude and to keep up with your daily routines. It is helpful to know that for most people the second phase doesn't last very long.

*3rd phase:* Hopefully, the second phase will soon give way to the third phase, which is characterized by a more realistic adjustment to Moroccan culture. Once the values and characteristics of the people become more comprehensible and seem more familiar to you, day-to-day life will become easier. It is during this that you will immerse yourself in the culture in ways that would never be possible if you were here only as a tourist for a couple of weeks. Take advantage of the opportunity!

If you find that you are having problems with culture shock, speak to the Director of the Office of International Programs, the Counselors, your professors, or the staff of AUI. All of these groups are very willing to listen. Our hope is that during your stay here you will acquire a degree of cultural competency that is part of the adaptation process.

An important note to students who have spent time in other countries and experienced culture shock before: it can happen again! It is generally less difficult, but being in a new country like Morocco, even after visiting another North African one, provides a new culture and new behaviors to adapt to.

## SOME LAST MINUTE REMINDERS FOR MOROCCO

**Be sure to pack these important numbers and the emergency numbers on your IGSD card in your CARRY-ON LUGGAGE!**

Professor Hansen's cell phone in Morocco: **+0641162686**. (From U.S.: 011-212-641162686)

Professor El-Korchi's cell phone in Morocco: **+0672916164**. (From U.S.:011-212-672916164)

In the U.S. to call Morocco (as illustrated above), dial 011 (international access code), then 212 (the country code) and the number you want to dial.

In Morocco, dial 00 to get the international line then 1 for the US country code and then the area code and number you want to dial in the States. To my knowledge, all EU countries require 001 to access the country code of another nation. (There are special instructions for calling at AUI, which you will learn when you arrive.)

**Profs. El-Korchi and Hansen will meet you as you exit customs. Tell your parents that once everyone has landed, we will notify Natalie Mello and she will notify your parents of your arrival in Casablanca.**

**Here are a couple of numbers that you would only need as extreme-case backups.**

In Casablanca we are staying at the Grand Ole:

**Hotel Excelsior: 0522-20-02-63**

2, Rue Nolly

Try Google Earth and see if you can find it! Notice that it is right across from the Old Medina.

**The Office of International Programs at Al Akhawayn University:**

**+1-212-535-86-2065 (Meryem Inabi)**

**+1-212-535-86-2905 (Amy Fishburn)**

**U.S. Embassy in Rabat**

2 Avenue de Marrakech

Telephone: **(212)(537) 76-22-65**.

<http://www.usembassy.ma>

For emergency services after-hours

call the Duty Officer cell phone at **+212 (661)-13-19-39**

### **Pack Light**

Good advice for any trip is to pack light! Nothing can get a trip off to a bad start as much as having to lug an overweight suitcase to the airport and to the train. Remember that from Casablanca we travel by either van or train to Ifrane. We strongly advise you to pack as light as possible. Common advice is to only bring clothes that can be mixed and matched and easily laundered and bring clothes that are patterned or colored that won't show dirt specks.

### **Suggested Packing List for Items to Take Aboard the Airplane Passport**

Prof. Hansen will have a photocopy of your passport's first page and you should have another photocopy with your valuable items in your carry-on luggage. You might also want to photocopy your tickets (if you do not have electronic tickets). A photocopy greatly simplifies replacing such items.

### **All airline tickets**

**Money & money belt (ATM & credit cards, cash, & traveler's cks, with records kept at home)** ATM machines are widely available in Morocco. Plan to change money at the airport in Casablanca at an exchange window or ATM machine; rates are always better in the country you are visiting than in the United States. Most credit cards also give you the best exchange rate for the month.

**Sunscreen, sunglasses, and/or a broad-rimmed sun hat or cap.** You're going to the Sahara after all! Casablanca, of course, is somewhat cooler, but there may well be intense sun when you arrive and you definitely want suntan lotion for face and arms.

**First-aid kit and toiletries** (Band-Aids, antiseptic and Hydrocortisone creams Pepto Bismol, Imodium, aspirin, etc.)

Most important thing here, in your advisors' opinion, is something to combat traveler's diarrhea. Excitement and airline food can upset the stomach, and sooner or later everyone will encounter a Moroccan bug that our stomachs cannot deal with.

### **Antiseptic hand-wipes or lotion**

One of the best ways to avoid travelers' diarrhea is to have anti-septic hand-wipes or lotion. Clean your hands every time you sit down to eat. In a foreign country your body is not used to germs that other people leave behind on handrails, door handles, airline seats, money, in brief, any place they touch. Cleaning your hands before eating minimizes the transmission of germs to your mouth! Our experience has been that after a couple of weeks, one's body becomes accustomed to (inoculates itself?) the new types of bacteria and such measures become less crucial.

### **Tissue packets and/or roll of toilet paper**

Simply pack a small roll of toilet paper or tissues in cases of emergency.

### **Extra medication, if necessary (with the prescription)**

If you take special medication, take the prescription in case any questions are raised about special medicines at customs or you need a refill.

### **Spare pair of prescription glasses or contact lenses**

If you wear glasses or contacts, this is a crucial item you need for back-up!

### **In brief, place in your Carry-on Luggage:**

Anything you're not willing to lose--passport, cash, computer, cameras, prescription drugs, irreplaceable items, the phone numbers above. (You might want to take your computer out of its computer case and put it in your carry-on bag, which also contains one-day essentials. Or alternatively, use your computer case as your carry-on bag—packed to the gills.) If you have room, pack essentials to get you through the first 24 hours after arrival (tooth paste & brush, underwear, etc.), in the event your checked luggage is delayed or lost. Also, when you check your bags, make sure that the bag tags you are given match your destination. Many find it useful to tie a brightly, uniquely colored ribbon around bag handles to distinguish them from others at luggage pick-up.

**Tag your bags for Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane (see address at beginning of Morocco-Project Center Information section).** If the airline demands that you check a carry-on at the gate, **take the time to remove all valuables and important information** prior to doing so. In addition to using luggage tags, we recommend that you put a piece of paper inside your luggage with your name and Al Akhawayn University (Ifrane) and mark it c/o Amy Fishburn, Tel: + 212 535 86 2905, in case the luggage tags are inadvertently ripped off during transport.

**Coming through Customs:** Remember you are in Morocco on a Tourist Visa. You are not “officially” students at Al Akhawayn, as you are “officially” students of Professor Hansen, who is responsible for your final grades. You do not have, nor do you need a Student Visa. When asked by Customs what is your purpose in Morocco, simply say “tourist.” (This is an educational tourism of sorts.) If asked, tell them you will be visiting Rabat, Fes, Meknes, Ifrane, Marrakech, Erfoud, etc.

## **Dress and Customs in Morocco**

### **Morocco Attire**

While Casablanca and Rabat and Al Akhawayn University are quite cosmopolitan, you will see all sorts of loose casual Western dress, we want to always give the best impression possible in appearance. Remember you represent WPI, and on the other hand, you will not be pestered continually by street hawkers of cheap merchandise if you do not stand out as a tourist. Older folks in Morocco and residents of villages will appreciate it very much if you dress modestly and with respect. Above all that means long pants essential for women and recommended for men. You should wear something that is neat, yet comfortable for travel. Shorts, short skirts/dresses and skimpy, tight tops are not appropriate. Long skirts (below the knees) or pants are both appropriate. In the larger cities in Morocco, you will see women dressed in everything from the latest trendy clothing including miniskirts and tank tops to women completely covered in a *burka*. As a foreigner, dress is extremely important, and especially for women, conservative dress will help reduce the amount of unwanted attention you receive. In rural areas and villages, sensitive clothing is essential as a form of respect to local customs.

### **Greetings**

Your guide book and phrase books, not to mention the Arabic language texts you will use at Al Akhawayn, all have simply greetings that will win you much respect and appreciation when you use them with airline stewardesses, customs officers, hotel personnel, or merchants. As you meet people on the train in your cabin or at Al Akhawayn, you will discover that when Moroccans greet each other they take their time and converse about their families, friends, and other general topics. Handshakes are the customary greeting between individuals of the same sex. Once a relationship has developed, it is common to kiss on both cheeks, starting with the left cheek while shaking hands, men with men and women with women. In any greeting that does take place between men and women, the woman must extend her hand first. If she does not, a man should bow his head in greeting. Say good-bye to each person individually when leaving. You will find this is a very enjoyable custom and will want to introduce it among your friends back home when you return.

### **Gift Giving Etiquette**

You will make some wonderful friends among your classmates at AUJ. **We strongly suggest that you pack a couple of WPI t-shirts or something typical of New England to give to Moroccan friends you will make!** If you are invited to a Moroccan’s home bring sweet pastries, nuts, figs, dates or flowers to the hostess. A small gift for the children is seen as a token of affection. Gifts are not opened when received (which is, incidentally, also the custom in Thailand).

## Dining Etiquette

If you are invited to a Moroccan home, you should remove your shoes before or upon entering the house, and shake everyone's hand individually. Food is generally served at a knee-high round table from a communal bowl. This includes serving *tajines* and *couscous*. Some families serve little salad plates surrounding the main dish in the center. Utensils such as forks, spoons, knives are not common in more traditional homes or rural areas. Do not begin eating until the host blesses the food by saying "bishmiallah" (*bismillah ar rahman ar rahmin*) or begins to eat. Eat from the section of the bowl that is in front of you. Never reach across the bowl to get something from the other side. As an honored guest, choice cuts will be put in front of you. Scoop the food with a piece of bread or the thumb and first two fingers of the right hand. *Try to* eat and drink only with the right hand. But when you are eating and your right hand is greasy, use the left hand to drink water or soda if offered. Water is often served from a communal glass. If you want your own glass, ask for a soft drink. Expect to be urged to take more food off the communal plate. Providing an abundance of food is a sign of hospitality.

## Taking Pictures

In Morocco it is considered rude to take pictures of strangers without asking for permission. People in costume will be found performing throughout big cities; they will expect a few *dirhams* if you take their picture. If it is not someone trying to raise money, get their attention and show your camera indicating you're asking to take a picture. A few *dirhams* will also be appreciated in these situations, although some will refuse to take money and others will refuse to allow a picture. It doesn't hurt to take a bag of hard candies to give to children you want to photograph. If you are with a family or visiting rural folk, they will much appreciate an effort to get pictures back to them. Taking photographs of anything that could be perceived as being of military or security interest may result in problems with authorities. As a general rule, do not photograph diplomatic missions, government buildings, borders or other sensitive facilities and, when in doubt, ask for permission from the appropriate Moroccan authorities.

## Proselytizing

Islam is the state religion of Morocco. The Moroccan government does not interfere with public worship by the country's Christian or Jewish minorities. However, while being allowed to practice freely, some activities, such as proselytizing or encouraging conversion to the other faiths, both considered to be legally incompatible with Islam, are prohibited. It is illegal for a Muslim to convert to another religion. In the past, tourists have been detained or arrested and expelled for discussing or trying to engage Moroccans in debate about religions other than Islam.

## Tipping

In Morocco, there is no general tip like in the US. If you are happy with the service, however, 5-10 DH would be appreciated by waiters.

**We will receive additional advice about proper behavior at the AUI orientation. Please pay special attention to these instructions as we want to give our hosts the best possible impression of WPI. We need not stress how important it is that we, as Americans, in this very troubled world, conscientiously respect the customs and values of Muslim and other peoples we encounter in our great adventure.**

**Any questions?! See ya in Dar el-Beida!**

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## Section 4 – Transition Issues

### Experiences in Transition

*adapted from an article by Janet Bennett, Intercultural Communication Institute, Portland OR*

#### Culture Surprise

Culture surprise are the reactions which occur shortly after arrival in a different culture when we see things that are different than we are used to. It usually occurs within the first few days after arrival as we become aware of superficial differences: modes of dress, signs in a different language, nonverbal behaviors.

#### Culture Stress

Culture stress manifests itself in the fatigue that occurs when we practice new behaviors in a different culture. This occurs as we respond to the behavior of the new culture and try to fit in by doing our own shopping, understanding comments made about us in the local language, learning to navigate public transportation and other attempts to adjust to the new culture.

#### Culture Shock

Culture shock is a state of loss and disorientation precipitated by a change in our environment that requires adjustment. It results from confronting values different from our own and from the loss of a familiar network and environment. It is a normal healthy reaction to the stress of living in a different culture. Everyone who has spent time living in another culture experiences some form of culture shock.

#### Symptoms of Culture Shock

Symptoms can be both physical and psychological, and can include: headaches, stomach aches, dizziness, rashes, nausea, irritability, insomnia or excessive sleepiness, depression, loneliness, withdrawal paranoia, anger, aggression, hatred, fear, crying, complaining, self-doubt, boredom, helplessness, confusion, and feelings of inadequacy. This list is not exhaustive.

#### Prescription for Culture Shock

*adapted from an article by Bruce LaBrack, Summer Institute for Intercultural Communication*

1. Understand the symptoms and recognize the signs of culture stress.
2. Realize that some degree of discomfort and stress is natural in a cross-cultural experience.
3. Recognize that your reactions are largely emotional and not easily subject to rational management.
4. Gather information *before* you go so at least the differences will be anticipated. Knowledge is power.
5. Look for the logical reasons behind host culture patterns. Discover why things are done the way they are.
6. Relax your grip on your normal culture and try to cheerfully adapt to new rules and roles.
7. Don't give in to the temptation to disparage what you do not like or understand. It probably won't change.
8. Identify a support network among peers, team members, other students and faculty advisor. Use this network, but do not rely on it exclusively.
9. Understand that this is a passing phase of what will be, in retrospect, a time of great learning and personal growth.
10. Give yourself quiet time, some private space, and don't be too hard on yourself.

## **In preparation to return home**

“In a sense, it is the coming back, the return, which gives meaning to the going forth. We really don't know where we've been until we come back to where we were - only where we were may not be as it was because of who we've become, which, after all is why we left.” - Bernard, *Northern Exposure*

## **Reentry Challenges and Suggestions**

adapted from articles by Dr. Bruce LaBrack, School of International Studies, University of the Pacific

There are lots of reasons to look forward to going home, but there are also a number of psychological, social and cultural aspects that prove difficult - often because they are unanticipated. Re-entry into your home culture can be both as challenging and frustrating as living overseas, mostly because our attitude toward going home is that it should be a simple matter of getting resettled, resuming earlier routines, and reestablishing your relationships. Research has shown that re-entry has its own set of special social and psychological adjustments which can be facilitated by being aware of the process and following some advice from those who have already returned.

Interviewing students who have been through the experience of off-campus study generated the following list of issues and suggestions. Their advice is to take the process seriously by being realistic and thinking about it and your possible reactions.

### **Prepare for the adjustment process and allow enough time**

The more you think about what is to come, and know how returning home is both similar to and different from going away, the easier the transition will be. Anticipating is useful. The process of re-entry will take time, just like adjusting to the new culture did. Give yourself time to relax and reflect on what is going on around you, how you are reacting to it, and what you might like to change.

### **Overcoming boredom**

After all the newness and stimulation of your time away, a return to family, friends, and old routines (however nice and comforting) can seem very dull. It is natural to miss the excitement and challenges which characterize project work off-campus, but it is up to you to find ways to overcome such negative reactions - remember a bored person is also boring.

### **“No one wants to hear”**

One thing you can count on upon your return: no one will be as interested in hearing about your adventures as you will be in sharing those experiences. This is not a rejection of you or your achievements, but simply the fact that once others have heard the highlights, any further interest on their part is probably unlikely because they have no frame of reference for your experiences. Be realistic in your expectations of how fascinating your journey is going to be for everyone else. Be brief.

### **Cultivate sensitivity and interest**

Showing an interest in what others have been doing while you have been gone is the surest way to reestablish your rapport. Much frustration can be avoided if you become as good a listener as a talker.

### **You can't explain**

Even when given a chance to explain all the things you saw, felt and experienced while off-campus, it is likely to be at least a bit frustrating to relay them coherently. It is very difficult to

convey this kind of experience to people who do not have similar frames of reference, no matter how sympathetic they are as listeners. You can tell people about your trip, but you may fail to make them understand exactly how or why you felt a particular way. It's okay.

### **Reverse homesickness**

Just as you probably missed home for a time after leaving campus, it is just as natural to experience some "reverse" homesickness for the people, places and things that you grew accustomed to while away from WPI. Feelings of loss are an integral part of returning from an off-campus sojourn and must be anticipated and accepted as a natural result of study away.

### **Beware of comparisons**

Making comparisons between cultures is natural, particularly after residence abroad; however, the tendency to be an "instant expert" is to be avoided at all costs.

### **Relationships have changed**

It is inevitable that when you return you will notice that some relationships with friends and family will have changed. Just as you have altered some of your ideas and attitudes while away, the people at home are likely to have experienced some changes as well. These changes may be positive or negative, and may seem even trivial to you, but expecting no change is unrealistic. The best preparation is flexibility, openness, minimal preconceptions, and tempered optimism.

### **Feelings of alienation**

Sometimes the reality of being back home is not as natural or enjoyable as the place you had imagined. When real daily life is more demanding than you remembered, it is natural to feel some alienation, see faults you never noticed before, or even become quite critical of everyone and everything for a time. Mental comparisons are fine, but keep them to yourself until you regain both your cultural balance and a balanced perspective.

### **Remain flexible**

Keeping as many options open as possible is an essential aspect of a successful return home. Attempting to re-socialize totally into old patterns and networks can be difficult, but remaining isolated and aloof is counterproductive.

### **Loss/compartmentalization of experience**

Being home, along with the pressures of schoolwork, family and friends, often combine to make returnees worried that somehow that will "lose" the experience; somehow becoming compartmentalized like souvenirs only occasionally taken out and looked at. You do not have to let that happen. Maintain your contacts. Talk to people who have experiences similar to yours. Practice your skills. Remember your hard work and the fun you had while off-campus. There are lots of people on campus who have gone through their own re-entry and have had experiences similar to yours. Seek out other returned students from other sites, and look into becoming involved with the Global Ambassadors.

**APPENDIX A - WPI OFF-CAMPUS STUDY TRAVEL INFORMATION FORM**

**WPI Off-Campus Study Travel Information Form**

**You must attach a copy of your travel itinerary provided by your travel agent or airline, in addition to completing this form. No handwritten itineraries will be accepted.**

All students intending to complete a project at a WPI project site are asked to provide the IGSD with information about their travel arrangements. This will notify the faculty advisor, on-site coordinator and IGSD staff of your expected arrival date and time and alert them if a problem arises. *For some sites* this information is needed in order to arrange to have students met at the airport.

\*\*\*\*\*

***You must bring your passport into the IGSD to be scanned, unless you are participating in a project program within the U.S.***

Name:	Site:	Term:
Arrival Date on site:	Arriving from (city):	
Mode of travel (air, train, bus, car):		
If traveling by air:		
Airline:	Flight Number:	Airport Destination:
Departure time:	Arrival time:	
Scheduled return date:		
Airline:	Flight Number:	Airport Destination:
Departure time:	Arrival time:	
If you plan to travel independently either before or after the program, please tell us your tentative plans:		

**London Project Center Only**  
**Bus Transportation:**      \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**                      \_\_\_\_\_ **No**

**(PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU CHECK ONE OF THESE OPTIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION FROM HEATHROW AIRPORT TO IES)**

**APPENDIX B - OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS' HEALTH UPDATE AND RECORDS RELEASE FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Project Site \_\_\_\_\_ Term \_\_\_\_\_

All students traveling off-campus to participate in a WPI program are required to carry medical insurance that is valid at the program site for the entire length of the program. Please verify this with your insurance company and list the name of your carrier and your policy number.

Carrier \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any medical conditions that could affect you while off-campus of which you would like to make the IGSD aware? (i.e. epilepsy, diabetes, depressive episodes, etc.) Also, please list any changes in your health not noted on your medical records on file with WPI Health Services.

Are you allergic to any medications? If so, please list them.

List any prescription medicines you are currently taking.

**When traveling off-campus it is a good idea to take a supply of your prescription medications sufficient to last for the length of the trip. Prescription medicines should always be kept in the original containers with the prescription label to avoid problems with customs. It is also important to take along a copy of the prescription from your physician, clearly written, in generic terms, and with an indication of the condition being treated.**

In the event of an emergency, please contact:

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Student \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Student \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize WPI health services to release my medical records to the Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division in the event of a medical emergency while studying off-campus. *I hereby acknowledge that it is my responsibility to contact my health insurance provider to determine that I am covered while at an off-campus project site.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX C - ATC TEAM FORM**  
**(One Per Team)**

After you have turned in this completed form to the IGSD, at least one member of your group (although we suggest the entire group come so that the entire group takes equal responsibility for the equipment) is required to go to the ATC and reserve a laptop BEFORE pick-up on the specified date.

Project Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Pickup person: \_\_\_\_\_

Return person: \_\_\_\_\_

names of  
team members: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you can not pick up and return this PC within the specified dates, then you will need to make alternative arrangements: the ATC can *not* accommodate you.

**Dates:**

**Pick up on or after: 8/18/2010**  
**Return on or before: 10/22/2010**

**Pick-up Person**

**Return Person**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX D - ONSITE TRAVEL FORM**

Name	Cell phone number
Destination	
Date & time of departure	Date & time of return

**Mode of Transportation – Roundtrip**

Train                       Bus                       Air                       Car

Departing from the Site Information			
Time of Departure			
Number of flight/train/bus		Airline/train/bus carrier	
Departing from (name of airport, station, terminal)			
<i>* Connection Information if applicable:</i>			
Number of flight/train/bus		Airline/train/bus carrier	
Departing from	time	Arriving to	time
Number of flight/train/bus		Airline/train/bus carrier	
Departing from	time	Arriving to	time

Returning to the Site Information			
Returning from:			
Time of Departure			
Number of flight/train/bus		Airline/train/bus carrier	
Departing from (name of airport, station, terminal)			
<i>* Connection Information if applicable:</i>			
Number of flight/train/bus		Airline/train/bus carrier	
Departing from	time	Arriving to	time
Number of flight/train/bus		Airline/train/bus carrier	
Departing from	time	Arriving to	time

Lodging (please call advisor with any changes to your reservations)			
Name of hotel	Name of hotel		
Address	Address		
City and country	City and country		
Phone number	Phone number		

List other students who are traveling with you on this exact itinerary:

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Check this box if you are staying on site in WPI provided housing for the entire weekend.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Every student or group of students must turn this form into an advisor before 12:00 noon every Friday – in other words, every student must be accounted for,*