The safety and security of our program participants is of paramount importance, and our UW staff makes every effort to ensure that students are well-informed about safety issues in specific program sites. We have therefore included safety information for Kenya and important links to further safety information in the waiver form below.

Waiver for countries with U.S. Department of State Travel Warning Issued: Kenya

I understand that the U.S. Department of State has issued a travel warning for the country in which I wish to study. I understand that many U.S. universities do not allow their students to travel alone or on organized group programs to countries with a State Department travel warning in place and that many also do not allow individuals to use financial aid when studying in such a country, even on their own.

I understand that it is my responsibility to research news articles related to safety issues in Kenya before applying to study abroad. I understand that a good source for these articles is OSAC (http://www.osac.gov) but that other sources are also available.

I certify that I have THOROUGHLY read ALL of the information provided at the following sites and that I have directed any and all of my questions related to this information to the Office of International Education at UW Oshkosh. I understand that I should monitor these sites during the months leading up to my study abroad experience:

- **U.S. Department of State**
  [http://nairobi.usembassy.gov/emergency-messages-for-u.s.-citizens.html](http://nairobi.usembassy.gov/emergency-messages-for-u.s.-citizens.html) (recent embassy notices)
  [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_5859.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_5859.html) (travel warning) and

- **Canada**
  Canadians are advised to exercise a high degree of caution because of the potential of terrorist actions against Western interests throughout Kenya.

- **Australia**
  Australia has four levels of travel warning at the state and local levels: 1) exercise normal safety precautions, 2) exercise a high degree of caution, 3) reconsider your need to travel and 4) do not travel. Kenya is listed at level two “due to the high risk of terrorist attack, civil unrest and high crime levels in the country”. Within Kenya, Australia lists Kibera, Mathare, Kasirani and Eastleigh neighborhoods outside of Nairobi at level three; lists the border regions with Somalia, South Sudan and Ethiopia at level 4; and lists Isiolo and Moyale cities and the connecting A2 highway at level four. The Australian government cautions, among many other things, that “Kenya has been a target for terrorist attacks and we continue to receive reports that terrorists may be planning further attacks against a range of targets in Kenya, including Kenyan and Western interests. Security has been tightened by Kenyan authorities in response and we recommend Australians exercise a high degree of caution at this time, including in Nairobi and Mombasa.” and that “Violent crime against Westerners, including armed carjacking, kidnapping for ransom and home invasions, occurs frequently in and around Nairobi.

- **The U.K.**
  Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advises against all but essential travel to within 60km of the Kenya-
Waiver for countries with U.S. Department of State Travel Warning Issued

Kenya (continued)

Somali border; to Kiwayu and coastal areas north of Pate Island; to Garissa District; to the Eastleigh area of Nairobi; and to low income areas of Nairobi, including all township or slum areas.


I understand that violent and sometimes fatal criminal attacks, including armed carjackings, home invasions/burglaries, and kidnappings can occur at any time and in any location, most particularly in Nairobi, and that U.S. citizens, including U.S. Embassy employees, have been victims of such crimes within the past year.

I understand that the U.S. government continues to receive information about potential terrorist threats aimed at U.S. interests in Kenya and that terrorist acts can include suicide operations, bombings, kidnappings, attacks on civil aviation, and attacks on maritime vessels in or near Kenyan ports.

I know that Kenya initiated military action against al-Shabaab by crossing into Somalia in 2011, and that, in response to the Kenyan intervention, al-Shabaab and its sympathizers have conducted retaliatory attacks against civilian and government targets in Kenya.

I affirm that I have read about the risks involved in traveling to Kenya and have reviewed the personal safety precautions (through the links listed above) which each individual will be expected to exercise. I understand that taking safety precautions only reduces risk; it does not eliminate risk.

I understand and acknowledge that my participation in a study abroad program located in a country with an issued U.S. Department of State Travel Warning is voluntary. Without reservation or limitation, I assume all risks associated with my participation in said program. I understand that there are always many unpredictable and serious risks associated with travel and study abroad, and that such risks are common in countries for which a Travel Warning has been issued. These risks can and do have many underpinnings, and I acknowledge that while the University may give me information on risks present in Kenya, it is my responsibility to further research and understand these risks.

Given the range of risks generally associated with travel and study abroad, and the likelihood that some or all of these risks are pertinent to an academic program located in a country with a U.S. Department of State Travel Warning, I hereby acknowledge that I assume all responsibility for my personal health, safety and welfare as a consequence of my voluntary participation in the program named below.

I further acknowledge that no person at UW Oshkosh has or can offer me any guarantees regarding my personal health, safety and welfare, and that I have not been provided with any assurances about local conditions in the country to which I will travel that I construe as such assurances.

I agree to attend ALL mandatory pre-travel orientations and academic classes. I understand that failure to attend these sessions will cause me to be administratively withdrawn from the program and that I will be responsible for full program costs (whether already paid or not) as stated in the withdrawal and refund schedule.

I agree to enroll in the U.S. Department of State Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) in order to receive the most up-to-date security information and to make it easier for the Embassy to contact me in case of emergency.

After reviewing this document and all other resources mentioned within this document, return this signed waiver to the OIE along with your study abroad application. If you have additional questions or concerns that have not been addressed, contact the OIE by email at oie@uwosh.edu, by phone at 920-424-0775 (to set up an appointment), or by stopping by Dempsey 202 BEFORE you sign this waiver.

_______________________________________    Date______________________________
Signature

___________________________________________________ __________________________
Print name