

GTE Immersion Travel Application

Perkins School of Theology
Global Theological Education Program

Please Complete the Online Enrollment before submitting these forms

PARTICIPANT NAME (EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT!) _____

SMU ID _____

ACADEMIC PROGRAM (circle one) MDIV, MTS, MSM, CMM, Other _____

NAME OF IMMERSION _____

INSTRUCTOR _____

Immersion courses are upper level electives and have pre-requisites as specified by the division in which the course is offered. Students must have completed 18 hours of course work before enrolling in an immersion course. Enrollment priority will be given to those in their final year of academic work, graduating seniors, and those who need a particular immersion course to fulfill degree requirements. This form must be accompanied by:

- Emergency Contacts form
- Release and Waiver form
- Emergency Medical Treatment Consent form *NOTARIZED!*
- Requirements for Travel form *SIGNED!*
- Copy of passport valid until 6 months after the end of the immersion for which you are applying.
- \$200.00 non-refundable enrollment fee. Make checks out to *Perkins School of Theology, Global Theological Education*. Note the immersion course on the check.

Note on Costs: For Perkins School of Theology Students enrolled in the MDIV program and taking their first immersion course the costs of these courses will be a \$200.00 immersion course fee plus tuition.

- Students who withdraw their GTE travel application *before* academic registration will be liable for all expenses paid on their behalf by the GTE program.
- Students who withdraw from the GTE immersion course *after* academic registration or who fail to complete the course will be assessed a \$500.00 cancellation fee.
- For non-MDIV students and participants the cost will vary according to the course. *Limited travel stipends are available to Perkins students by application to the GTE director*. Cost is subject to change. See individual course descriptions for complete costs. Students applying for travel stipends will not be required to make a final commitment until stipends are announced.
- *All participants desiring single accommodations will be assessed an extra fee.*

NO APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT ALL ACCOMPANYING FORMS AND THE ENROLLMENT FEE.

Confirmation

Name (Exactly as it appears on your Student ID) _____

Home Phone _____ Daytime Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

SMU Email address _____ (All correspondence will use your SMU email address. You must check this address regularly or you will miss important information.)

I confirm that I: a: have completed the online application form, b: understand that I am responsible for academic registration and paying tuition and fees for this course, c: have enclosed all the required forms listed above with a \$200.00 non-refundable enrollment fee, d: am responsible for all costs incurred by the GTE program on my behalf, e: have completed or will complete all course pre-requisites for this course by the start of the immersion course..

Student Signature _____

Policy on participation of non-degree and auditing students in immersion programs

1. Perkins cultural immersion programs are intended for adults who are able to fully and independently participate in all aspects of the immersion program.
2. All participants in immersion programs are responsible for fulfilling the guidelines for participation. (This includes providing proof of international health insurance.)
3. A non-degree or auditing student may participate in the immersion experiences only if:
 - a. There are available places after all degree students have enrolled.
 - b. She or he registers for the course as an auditor or non-degree student, pays the necessary fees or tuition, and as an *auditor or non-degree student agrees to fully participate with the group in all academic and non-academic activities.*
4. There are no travel stipends available for non-students.
5. Spouses and friends of participants are *not* guaranteed a shared room or other facilities with their spouse or friend, and are not advised to share luggage. In many cases the housing on the immersion experience will be dormitory style, or will otherwise be segregated by gender.

I understand and agree to all the conditions for participation listed above.

Name of non-degree/audit student _____

Signature _____

This form must be signed in the presence a Notary Public

SMU/ Perkins School of Theology Global Theological Education Program

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT CONSENT AND INFORMATION FORM

A program of study abroad can create emotional and physical stress as one attempts to meet the demands of living in a new and different environment for an extended period of time. So that SMU can help you make your experience a positive one, please be candid in your answers to the following questions:

1. Please identify all known dietary restrictions, allergies to foods, drugs, insect bites, dust, etc., and the nature of your reaction. If none, please put N/A.

2. Please identify any current medications you are taking and the reason for their use. If none, please put N/A.

3. Do you have any reason to believe that change of diet, carrying luggage, or strenuous travel overseas might present hardship to you? yes no If yes, please explain.

4. Optional: Will you require any special disability accommodations? yes no If yes, please explain.

5. In case of emergency, the following person should be contacted:

Name:_____ Relationship: Day Phone:

_____ Night Phone:.

Due to the foreign and potentially remote nature of the Global Theological Education Programs, access to hospital and medical facilities may be limited. Please sign below to provide consent for emergency medical treatment. Please note that those faculty and staff accompanying GTE groups are not trained medical professionals and may not be able to help if a serious accident or illness occurs. We highly recommend that a student consult a physician before going overseas. He/she can best advise you as to any need for vaccinations, medications, and any restrictions on your activity.

Student must sign and have notarized if 18 years of age or older:

I hereby authorize SMU/Perkins School of Theology to arrange, at my expense, any and all necessary emergency medical care required for me while I am participating in an international program in _____, during^_____, 20___. This authorization (check one) does does not authorize blood or blood products to be provided to me.

By (student): _____ Date: _____

Printed Name:_____ S. S. #: _____

Notary completes below:

State of _____

County of _____

This document was acknowledged before me on the ___ day of _____, 20__ by _____ (applicant).

NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF.

Print name: _____

SEAL

Release and Waiver to Southern Methodist University

Whereas, _____ (hereinafter called "Student") is
(print name of student)

a student currently enrolled at Southern Methodist University (hereinafter called "SMU"); and

whereas, SMU offers its students various opportunities to live, study, and travel in foreign countries in structured educational programs for which the Student may receive college credit towards a degree offered at SMU; and

whereas, Student desires to participate in the Perkins School of Theology Global Theological Education Program which will be run by SMU in _____,
(name of Program location)

from _____, 20__ to _____, 20__

(hereinafter called "Program"); and whereas, SMU desires to allow Student to participate in the Program, but only if a portion of the consideration in exchange for arranging such a Program and allowing such participation is the signing by Student of a Release of Liability to SMU and parties related to SMU.

Now, therefore, for and in consideration of SMU's arranging the Program and allowing Student to participate in the Program, Student understands and voluntarily and knowingly agrees as follows:

1. Student is participating in the Program of his/her own free will and is not required by any degree program provided by SMU to participate in the Program.
2. Student is aware that there are certain risks and dangers which accompany international travel, including, but not limited to, those risks associated with the unpredictability of terrorist acts against citizens of the United States of America and others around the world, and Student acknowledges and assumes all such risks, including, but not limited to, loss or damage to personal property, injury or fatality due to (1) travel to and from the Program; (2) the condition of facilities where the Program will occur which are not under the control and maintenance of SMU; (3) physical exertion; (4) emotional or psychological stress; (5) inclement weather; and (6) suffering illness or accident in an area where there may not be easy access to medical facilities, among others. I agree to advise the Program instructor at any point when I question my ability to participate in any activity related to the Program.
3. Though arrangements for travel may be made in conjunction with the Program, Student understands and acknowledges that he/she is solely and ultimately responsible for the selection of his/her travel arrangements to and from the location of the Program and assumes all risks relative to acceptance of such transportation.
4. Student understands and agrees that aspects of the Program include opportunities for activities over which SMU cannot exercise control, or provide the same protection for Student as it does in an on-campus setting.
5. Student is solely responsible for acquiring his/her own insurance which Student believes is necessary to cover him/her throughout the duration of the Program from departure date to return date. Student acknowledges and understands that he/she may not be covered by any insurance policy owned by SMU.

6. Student has fully investigated the nature of the Program, including whether participants will be subjected to physical and emotional stresses, and Student assumes all risks of participation.

7. Student represents that since being accepted into the Program, Student has advised the" Program Director of any physical or mental disabilities and/or needs which may affect Student's ability to participate fully in the Program and has received reasonable accommodation if needed.

8. Student signs this Release and Waiver with the intent of binding himself/herself, his/her spouse (if applicable), his/her heirs, legal representatives, and assigns.

9. STUDENT ASSUMES ALL RISKS AND AGREES FOREVER TO RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, DEFEND AND HOLD HARMLESS SMU, ITS TRUSTEES, BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND CORPORATELY, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, AND REPRESENTATIVES AGAINST ALL LIABILITIES, CLAIMS, SUITS, OR DEMANDS FOR INJURIES TO HIMSELF/HERSELF, ANY OTHER PERSON AND/OR PROPERTY RESULTING FROM OR GROWING OUT OF HIS/HER PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM, AS DESCRIBED ABOVE, AND/OR TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE DESTINATION OF THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING ANY ACTS OR OMISSIONS CONSTITUTING NEGLIGENCE BY SMU, OR ANY OF ITS TRUSTEES, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, OR REPRESENTATIVES. STUDENT HEREBY COVENANTS AND AGREES IN FURTHERANCE OF HIS/HER OBLIGATION UNDER THE TERMS OF THIS RELEASE AND WAIVER AS ACCEPTED, TO DEFEND THE PARTIES RELEASED HEREIN BY AND THROUGH COUNSEL CHOSEN BY SMU.

10. The terms of this Release and Waiver are to be governed by and construed under the laws of the State of Texas and shall be deemed to have been fully performed in Dallas County, Texas. Student agrees that exclusive venue for any dispute arising between SMU and Student involving this Release and Waiver in any way shall be in Dallas County, Texas.

I am eighteen (18) years of age or older and competent to sign this Release and Waiver.

Witness my signature at _____, on this ___ day of _____, 20__.

City

State

Student's Signature

Telephone

Student's Printed Name

SS#

Address / City / State / Zip Code

I have read and understand the information below: Student name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Requirements for Travel

A. Preparing for Travel Abroad

Students are responsible for knowing and as appropriate adhering to the information found in the “Preparing to Travel Abroad” document in the registration package. All GTE sponsored programs will *require* a day-long orientation prior to departure, with the date announced at registration.

B. Costs:

The cost of each immersion is stated in the immersion description. **Participants agree to be responsible for all of the stated costs.**

C. Passport and Visa

All participants are required to possess a valid passport valid for at 6 months from the time of travel. See <http://travel.state.gov/passport/> for details. If a visa is required for the country in which the immersion experience takes place, or for any country through which the participant will transit, **the participant is responsible for applying for such visas.** Information is available at http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/brochures/brochures_1229.html#.

D. Insurance

All participants are required to have and prove possession of medical insurance which covers accident, injury, or illness outside the United States.

Student enrolled in Perkins degree programs re provided international medical insurance coverage through the University, but must complete enrollment in the HTH program when requested to do so.

Students are not insured against travel costs due to missed or delayed flights, or cancellation of participation in the immersion. Participants are encouraged to seek travel insurance for these risks.

Participants who are not enrolled in Perkins degree programs must purchase medical travel insurance and provide proof of insurance to the GTE director before travel.

E. Health and Fitness

The GTE program seeks to make available immersion experience options for students with special dietary, health, or fitness requirements. Because some placements will be outside the U.S. it cannot be guaranteed that *all* placements will have adequate facilities for those who are disabled. Many immersions require that students be able to walk long distances or engage in strenuous physical activity. **Students and participants are responsible for insuring that they are physically able to participate in the immersion for which they are enrolling.**

Participants are personally responsible for both finding out what immunizations are necessary for the immersion and for obtaining these immunizations in consultation with a physician. Information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx>.

F. Diet

Students with special dietary needs, including vegetarians, must notify the GTE director and course instructor in advance, in writing. Not all dietary needs can be accommodated on some immersion courses.

G. Waiver and Consent

All participants must complete University required documents releasing SMU from liability for injury, accident or loss on the immersion.

H. Emergency Medical Treatment Consent Form

All participants must provide a notarized form allowing SMU or its representatives to authorized emergency medical treatment should the student be unable to do so.

I. Communication

Not all immersion courses will provide ready access to international telephone, fax, or email contact with the United States. **The GTE program is not responsible for insuring that participants have access to international communication during the immersion.**

Preparing to Travel Abroad for GTE

1. Passports – Applications are available online, and can be turned in at many locations in the Metroplex, or by mail. See <http://travel.state.gov/passport/> for details. Allow for at least 6 weeks or longer. Expedited service is available for an additional fee, and applications must be presented in person at the INS office in Houston. You MUST provide all the documentation required, and exactly the documentation required or your passport application will be delayed. Do not even think about waiting to apply. Do it NOW. *You will absolutely require a passport*, even for travel to Mexico. If you already have a passport check its current expiration date. You WILL NOT be allowed into Jordan, Israel, or Thailand if your current passport expires within 6 months of your entry date. If you must renew your passport; do it NOW.
2. Visas - http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/brochures/brochures_1229.html#t has information for all countries.
3. U.S. Govt - Registration with US Embassies abroad and US Govt. Alerts: http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/registration/registration_4789.html
4. Immunizations - <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/content/vaccinations.aspx>
5. Non-U.S. Passport holders. You may need to apply for visas in advance of your visit. You may be restricted from entering and leaving the U.S. with your current student visa. U.S. Permanent Residence and/or marriage to a U.S. citizen DO NOT insure that you can re-enter the U.S. after leaving. Please inform the GTE office if you plan to enroll in one of the immersion trips and you are traveling on a non U.S. Passport.
6. Getting cash: The most cost efficient way to get local currency is to use the debit card from your U.S. bank in local ATM machines. U.S. credit cards may also be used in local ATM's, but there is often a fee per transaction and finance charges accrue immediately. It is useful to bring up to \$100.00 in U.S. currency. Make sure you know the PIN for your debit or credit card. Local banks will not recognize U.S. debit cards and may charge high fees if you wish to get cash with your credit card. Local banks are also unlikely to be particularly efficient, and will have restricted hours. Traveler's checks are not necessary, but if you bring them make sure they are in small denominations (\$20.00). Many merchants simply cannot change large amounts of money.
7. Buying souvenirs and gifts:
 - a. Our local contact people can advise you about reasonable prices. Remember that in the countries we visit bargaining is normal practice. Normally offering half the stated price is a good place to begin. Remember that bargaining is a social activity, a way that people get to know each other, a way for the merchant to inform the customer of the superiority of the goods, and a form of entertainment. Don't rush or be rushed. Remember that a bargain is when you pay less than what it is worth to you – regardless of how much profit the merchant makes.
 - b. Not everything for sale outside the U.S. is allowed inside the U.S. In particular fresh foods, items made from parts of endangered species, drugs and herbal medicines, and most weapons are not allowed. You can check the U.S. Customs website for specific restrictions. <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov/xp/cgov/travel/vacation/kbyg/>
 - c. Be certain that you know the exchange rate. It is useful to make a note card with exchange rate conversions for a range of amounts. <http://www.xe.com/ucc/> has current exchange rates and conversions.

- d. Remember that we are traveling extensively with our luggage. Do not buy more than you can personally carry. Some merchants will ship things for a fee.
8. **Physical Fitness:** Both of our immersions will involve some walking, sometimes in warm weather. If you cannot walk a distance of 2 to 3 miles in a day you should consider a program of exercise to prepare for the immersion. If you have special physical needs inform the GTE director immediately so that we can determine whether these can be met. Please be aware that outside the U.S. there is no assurance of handicapped access to public buildings.
9. **Food and Drink:** All the food and drink provided as part of the immersion experience will be safe and healthy. You should try it all but of course you may not like it all. Apart from meals provided by our immersion hosts you should eat only cooked food, raw fruit which can be peeled, preserved or dried fruits (which you should rinse off), or packaged snacks. Drink only bottled drinks and bottled water, or boiled drinks such as coffee and tea. If you are a vegetarian, or have other special food needs, you **MUST** inform the GTE director upon application. Special food needs cannot be accommodated on all immersions.
10. **Stimulants:** The American dependence on caffeinated coffee is not universally shared, and not all coffee is equal in that regard. Conversely you cannot assume that decaffeinated coffee will be available.
 - a. If you are an early riser who simply must have a cup of coffee in the morning you might consider bringing some instant coffee and a portable water heater, as well as an appropriate cup. If you simply must have a cup of decaf in the evening you had better bring it along. Coffee is usually served and paid for by the cup outside the U.S. There is no universal standard for how it will be served. Learned to be flexible about milk and sugar.
 - b. The use and availability of alcoholic beverages varies widely by culture. In the company of Muslims or Buddhists you should not order or consume alcohol unless they specifically offer beer or wine for you as a gesture of hospitality. You should always feel free to refuse alcoholic beverages. Moderation is the watchword in other cases.
11. **Personal Hygiene:** It is a good idea to wash your hands before eating – always. A small container of water-free disinfecting hand soap, or “handy-wipes” will be useful. You may wish to bring a roll of toilette paper or tissues, but do not go overboard. These things will be provided or are locally available. In Bethlehem and Israel the desert climate requires particular attention to disposal of paper products. Make sure you read the information in your room. It is wise to bring a small, light, bath towel and a wash cloth.
12. **Health:**
 - a. If you have any health condition that requires medication or regular treatment you **MUST** bring everything you need with you, and you must inform the GTE director.
 - b. If you might possibly need decongestants, antihistamines, anti-inflammatory drugs (aspirin, IB-profen), analgesics (Tylenol), steroids (hydrocortisone), or any other non-prescription drug you should bring these as well. You should assume that they will not be available, or will be available only by prescription, or will be very expensive.
 - c. Bear in mind that if you must see a doctor you will be sent to one who has excellent qualifications. However, standards of practice and treatment do vary according to the culture. Open mindedness, flexibility, and trust will be crucial. All participants in GTE programs are required to carry international health insurance through AIG. This will be purchased on their behalf at the time of registration.

- d. You must have a valid vaccination for: Tetanus-diphtheria, Vaccinations for typhoid, hepatitis (A and B), yellow fever, cholera, and polio may be necessary depending on the area you are visiting.
- e. Mosquito borne malaria and dengue fever are found in some parts of the world. However, anti-malarial prophylactics are *not* necessary for travel in the places we will visit. The best prevention for dengue fever is to avoid exposure to mosquitoes. It is highly advisable to bring loose long sleeve shirts/blouses, long loose trousers, socks, and a hat or scarf for early morning and evening wear when the mosquitoes are most prevalent, as well as for sleeping. Mosquito repellants containing DEET are also effective. You may be provided with “vape” type mosquito repellant devices. These release repellant from small paper tablets through heat, and are generally effective and safe. It may be useful to use a ceiling fan, even in air conditioned rooms. Non-DEET insect repellants have no proven value against mosquitos.

13. Clothing:

- a. Tropical Countries – Clothing should be cool and comfortable, easy to wash and dry. Seminary students generally dress in a way appropriate to their professional aspirations and the requirements of modesty while on campus. You should plan on wearing modest skirts and blouses (women) or light weight slacks and short sleeved dress shirts (men). Dark colored slacks and skirts are less likely to show dirt and mud. Keeping white and light colored fabrics clean in a rainy environment is hard if you are traveling. Reserve shorts and t-shirts for when you are a tourist. Christians dress nicely for worship and some of the clothing commonly worn here at Perkins for both classes and worship would not be appropriate.
- b. Temperate Climates – You may be in weather below freezing for several days in a row or more. You may also find that buildings are not kept as warm as you are used to. It is advisable to bring clothes that can be worn in layers, and a light waterproof coat as an outer layer may be very useful. You should bring a small umbrella. Remember that adult Europeans often dress better in public than is the norm in the United States.
- c. Work Clothes – If your immersion involves some degree of work, such as is found in Taize, then be certain to bring at least one pair of trousers and shirt that can get grubby.
- d. Below the equator – Remember that in the southern hemisphere it is cold during our summer and hot during our winter. Please check the weather online for the place you are visiting to get an idea what clothes to pack.

14. Luggage: Each person should bring no more than he or she can personally carry. Generally this means that you should restrict yourself to one suitcase (definitely on rollers) and one carry-on (preferably a backpack that can be used as a day pack.) Detailed packing lists will be provided at the Pre-immersion Orientation on November 21st.

15. Electrical Appliances:

- a. Outside the U.S. 220 volts is the norm. You will need plug adapters for the countries you plan to visit. Malaysia-Singapore uses both British type plugs in two or three varieties (three large flat pins, three large round pins, two pins) Germany uses northern European style plugs (two round pins, sometimes protruding from a round base that has strips of metal for the ground.)

- b. You will need to make sure that your electrical apparatus work with 220 volts. Many if not most computer, phone, and digital camera chargers are dual voltage. Check before you by a transformer to convert 220v to 110v. .
16. Security: There are no particular security precautions necessary, apart from those you should consider whenever traveling abroad.
 - a. Do NOT carry all your cash, credit cards, passport, and other papers in one place. It is advisable to keep your passport, some cash, credit / debit cards on your person at all times. You should keep a copy of the front pages of your passport, some cash, and a credit / debit card in your luggage, perhaps under the lining. Also leave photocopies of passport pages with a relative in the U.S. who can be easily contacted.
 - b. You should carry your passport / cards / cash where you can see them. NOT in a backpack you are wearing and NOT in a purse slung over your shoulder behind your back and NOT all in a wallet in your rear pocket.
 - c. You should always stay with the group. You will be told when groups of two or three may venture out on their own. NEVER alone.
 - d. Being unfriendly to strangers doesn't make you more secure, but neither should you befriend or follow them.
17. Cell Phones: Some U.S. cell phones can be used in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. These are normally Tri-band GSM phones. T-Mobile and AT&T have such phones. If you have such a phone you can ask that its overseas capabilities be switched on. Be aware that either placing or receiving calls outside the U.S. is very expensive – usually from \$1.00 to \$8.00 a minute.
18. Phone Cards: Phone cards with heavily discounted rates for overseas calls are widely available in the countries we visit. If you have access to a phone (payphone or hotel phone, or even a cell phone, this is the best way to keep in touch.) Do not count on being in regular telephone contact with anyone. Group leaders will have cell phones for emergencies.
19. Fax and Email: Our hosts will have limited fax and email capabilities available. You should plan to be out of touch and focused on the immersion experience while you are outside the U.S. If you must absolutely use your own laptop and have dial-up email contact then you must make all arrangements for plug adapters, international dial-up numbers, and you must find a phone.
20. Language: Unless you know the local language you'll have to try English. But there are ways of overcoming language deficiencies.
 - a. Try universal brand names when you need to buy something. "Duracell" or "Eveready" means battery in almost every language. Same with "Coke."
 - b. Pointing politely works. Just remember never to point at a person – something which is offensive in many cultures. Avoiding pointing with your forefinger. Use your entire hand (palm down) or thumb.
 - c. A little bit of charades is both entertaining and effective. Try acting out washing hair for shampoo, etc.
 - d. Certain words are so modern and rooted in a single language that they are universal, or people generally know the English word. So don't be afraid to try. Don't be ashamed to fail.

- e. Learn to say “please” and “thank you” in the local language – that will carry you a long way.
 - f. Speaking English louder and slower doesn’t help, (unless they ask) and is annoying..
21. Where am I? It is worthwhile to buy or download a map of the area in which you will be traveling and keep it with you. This will help keep you oriented.
 22. Photography: Photographing people who you do not know may be problematic, although photographing persons in a crowd, or in a tourist area, is not objectionable. If you want to photograph an individual ask permission first. In the countries we will visit government buildings, border crossings, police stations, military facilities (vehicles and personnel also), as well as important components of the infrastructure such as electrical power generators, and telephone exchanges, should NOT be photographed.
 23. Further Information: Try the embassy of the nation you are visiting online, or the U.S. state department, which also has links to useful information.

Basic Packing List

The things you pack should fit in one suitcase (with rollers) and one carry on bag – preferably something that can also be used as a day pack and overnight bag. Details will be provided at orientation.

LIST:

Day pack / carry-on bag

Passport

Cash

Credit card Debit card and PIN for getting cash in ATM machines (Do NOT keep these together)

All needed medications in original RX container

Antibacterial liquid hand soap or wipes

All needed toiletries, including shampoo and soap. If you need a hair dryer bring a small, dual voltage, travel dryer.

Camera and film/batteries/memory cards/charger

Waterproof Jacket/windbreaker

Bible

Notebook

Pen

Casual comfortable clothes (dress in layers)

One set of clothes for dress occasions

Comfortable walking shoes

Nutritious snacks

Pajamas

Washcloth

Towel (not too bulky)

PACKING for SECURITY:

Carry-On Rules (as of Oct 23, 2006 and changing often)

- a. You may not carry any sharp objects or tools in your carry-on luggage.
- b. You will need to remove laptop computers and video cameras from carry on bags so that they go through x-ray separately.
- c. Any liquids, including medications, can be carried only in amounts of 3 oz or less. They must be packed together in a clear zip lock bag or other clear container. You will need to remove this from your backpack or carry on suitcase so that it goes through X-ray separately. Certain flammable liquids (nail polish, nail polish remover, shaving lotion) may not be carried on at all, and should be packed in your suitcase.

Checked Luggage Rules

- a. Your checked luggage cannot exceed 50 lbs per bag. And you can only bring one bag on these immersion trips.
- b. You cannot lock your checked luggage. When you check it in you give tacit permission for it to be fully inspected in your absence. If it is opened by a TSA employee there will be a notice left in the suitcase.
- c. It is advisable to pack items in your checked luggage in smaller, preferably see through, bags. This makes it less likely that an inspection will leave the suitcase in a mess.

How to write an Immersion Journal

(Robert Hunt)

Your journal for the cross cultural immersion experience is a special type of journal. It is intended to encourage you to be observant of a culture different from your own, and to be conscious of your own reactions to your experience of that culture. The following method will help you do both.

1. From your first arrival begin to note what you are seeing and hearing. In your notes avoid interpretive descriptions. For example “I saw two men gesturing and speaking loudly” is better than “I saw two men arguing.” Or “The table was set with many different dishes, including what looked like roast pork” rather than “The table was set with a feast.” Or “There was a man singing slowly and softly” rather than “the man was singing a sad song.”
2. Later make a note of your personal guesses about the meaning of what you have seen. Note these with question marks so you know to check with others.
3. Then make a note of your emotional reaction to what you have seen and experienced. Did things make you sad, happy, relieved, anxious, angry, irritated? How did you feel about people you saw or met? Attracted, repelled, warm, cold?
4. Then ask yourself *why* you had these feelings. How did they relate to and reveal your expectations and preconceptions? How did they relate to your self-image as a person, as a Christian, and as an American and your expectations of how others would react to you?
5. Finally, make a note of what have you learned and how are you changing. I suggest that you wait three days after your first day in the new culture to make any notes on what you are learning. Give yourself time to process the experiences a little.

Things to observe and describe:

1. the climate,
2. geographical features
3. the physical structure of the community (houses, roads, shops, transport, size of towns, cities, villages and constituent parts)
4. the people (height, build, skin color, hair, other facial features)
5. economic features and structures (what is being sold, what kind of markets are seen, prices, what is being produced, how are people employed)
6. religious structures and activities,
7. educational institutions and activities
8. other social institutions
9. social interactions: the ways that people greet one another, interact in different settings, behave in public places like busses, in the street, or in shops, and behave in private places like their homes.

Application for Travel Stipends for Immersion Courses.

Immersion Course Name _____

Name of Student _____ Academic Program _____

Phone Contact(s) _____

Address _____

Email _____

Read the Following Carefully:

1. The GTE program grants only travel stipends. All financial aid requests related to tuition, fees, and other expenses must be referred to the admissions office.
2. The distribution of travel stipends will be based solely on need and available financial resources in the GTE travel stipend fund.
3. A STUDENT APPLYING FOR TRAVEL STIPENDS MUST PROVIDE THE GTE DIRECTOR:
 - a. This page with the information above filled out completely. Students are urged to make a copy of this sheet before turning in the original.
 - b. A letter stating the reasons for pursuing an immersion experience.
 - c. A copy of his or her FAFSA student aid reports. If no FAFSA is available the student must submit a letter stating his or her family income, total number of dependents, total savings, and total outstanding student loans.
 - d. A letter with the name of the student's home church or current church appointment, and permission for the GTE program to approach that body for a contribution to the Travel Stipend fund.
4. Applications for Travel Stipends are due 90 days before the immersion experience begins.
5. NO APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL IT IS COMPLETE.
6. The GTE director will be responsible for determining the travel grant amount for each student, in consultation with the registrar if necessary. Decisions by the GTE director will be final and not subject to appeal.