Responses for “Individual Safety Plan Questionnaire”

Instructions:

This Individual Safety Plan Proposal was written by a 2016 University of Michigan student. It serves as an example of a completed safety plan and can provide you with a reference as you complete your safety plan. If you have any questions about process, please contact umich-itoc@umich.edu

When all questions are complete and the safety plan is ready for ITOC to review, use the 'Submit' button at the bottom of the page. The completed plan will be sent to ITOC and you do not need to email the plan yourself. Please note that plan review can take up to 3 weeks.

Further information about ITOC is available online: global.umich.edu/about/international-committees

A help document with step-by-step instructions for completing a safety plan proposal in M-Compass is available here: M-Compass Help - Submit a Safety Plan for International Travel

If you need help with safety plans, please contact umich-itoc@umich.edu for assistance.

If you need technical help with M-Compass, please contact M-Global Technical Support ro.globalengagement@umich.edu

1. Campus
UM Ann Arbor

2. Name of Sponsoring School
Literature, Science & the Arts

3. Other Sponsoring School
If "Other - not listed" was selected, please list

No Response

4. U-M Administrative Contact
List the name, email, and phone number of U-M Administrative Contact.

ADMIN CONTACT, michigan-president@aiesecus.org, PHONE NUMBER

5. Accompanying Participants (if any)
Provide the names of accompanying UM faculty/staff/student travelers (if any):

None

6. Program Experience Start Date
06/27/2016

7. Program Experience End Date
08/05/2016

8. Destination Information
List the country/s, city/s, and arrival and departure date/s for each destination.

Arriving in Barranquilla: June 25, 2016.
Staying in Barranquilla the whole time.
Departing Barranquilla: August 6, 2016.

9. Program Purpose
Briefly explain the academic relevance, purpose, and an overview of planned activities of the program. For Travel Warning and Travel Restriction destinations, include the compelling and urgent reasons for engaging in this project at this time.

As of now, I am planning on majoring in Russian and either Political Science or International Studies. Although I do not know the exact route that I am going to take to get there, I do know that my purpose in life is going to be to help others, and to try and make a difference around the world. My dream is to be an ambassador. Right now, how I'm going to get from being a college student to being an ambassador is not something that I have 100% figured out. However, one thing I do know is that if I want to change the world, the first step is to start experiencing other cultures, and other ways of life. With this internship, I am hoping that I will not only gain essential work-environment skills, but more importantly, I will be able to see for the first time how other people live. Not only am I incredibly excited, but I know that this is an absolutely crucial step in my growth as a person.

At this internship, I will be working as a "communications outreach specialist". This means that I’m going to be using social media and online services to attempt to engage with, and change the mindset of the people of Barranquilla. I do not expect this to be an easy task, especially given that it is going to take some time before I am going to be able to communicate persuasively with the people of Barranquilla. Yet these challenges are only going to make my experience in Colombia that much more valuable. I have no illusions that I am going to a place where everything is going to be as easy as the place I live now. I know that there will be challenges, (all of which I have spent countless hours outlining in this proposal) but those challenges are all just stepping stones on my way to a life-changing experience. This internship is going to challenge me greatly, but will also provide me with knowledge and experience that I will not able to experience anywhere else.

10. Accommodations
List an accommodation for each city on your travel itinerary, including in-transit cities. For each entry, list the Accommodation Name, Address, Anticipated Arrival Date, and Phone # (Country + City Code)

Barranquilla, Colombia (only destination)
Host Family
Name of Host: NAME OF HOST
Address: ADDRESS
Barranquillo, Colombia
Phone number of NAME OF HOST: PHONE NUMBER

Anticipated Arrival Date: June 25

11. Accommodations Overview
Provide a brief overview of the accommodations (hotel, hostel, host family, apartment, dorm, campsite, etc), including how they were chosen and/or vetted for safety and security.

NAME OF HOST is a member of the organization (AIESEC) that is providing me with an internship. AIESEC Uninorte (AIESEC at Universidad del Norte, Colombia) is a program that provides students with volunteer/internship opportunities in other countries. AIESEC is a world-wide organization, present in over 125 countries, and is present at over 2,400 universities (including U-M). NAME OF HOST was approached by a member of AIESEC Uninorte in Colombia (Milllyjenn Blanco) last year to see if she and her family would be interested in hosting a foreign student. Due to her personal ties to the organization, she and a family were good potential candidates. They agreed, and so members at AIESEC Uninorte began the vetting process, which included ensuring that their house was in a secure area, and that the family knew all of the responsibilities of hosting a foreign student. A student was placed with them last year for the summer of 2015, and everything went over very smoothly. There were no complications, and the student felt very safe in the household, and so the family was again selected to be a host family for an incoming foreign student (myself).

12. Transportation
Describe the inter-city and intra-city transportation methods for each location on your itinerary, including transportation to and from the work/study site. Types of transportation could include walking, public bus, night bus, tax, chartered vehicle / personal driver, train, plain, etc.

Transportation to/from airport:
AIESEC Uninorte received my flight information a while ago. I have been in contact with the person in Colombia in charge of ensuring the safety of people such as myself to and from the airport (his name is NAME). I submitted a form to him that included a copy of my itinerary (listing my flight number, the airline I am flying with, and my
scheduled departure and arrival times), as well as a copy of my passport, a copy of my international insurance, and a picture of myself). From him I received instructions as to how I will be picked up at the airport, and how I will be dropped off at the airport in August. On June 26, the day of my arrival to Barranquilla, there will be 2 people waiting for me at the airport, with a sign that has my name on it at the baggage claim. One person will be my host (NAME OF HOST) and the other will be the person that I have been in contact with (NAME OF CONTACT). They will drive me back to NAME OF HOST’s home, where I'll be living for the duration of my time in Colombia. Departing, the same thing will happen, 2 members will drive me from my host-home to the airport.

Contact information:
CONTACT 1: +57 (300) number
CONTACT 2: +57 (304) number
NAME OF HOST: +57 (300) number

Transportation around Barranquilla: Upon arriving in Barranquilla, AIESEC has steps in place to help me learn how to get around Barranquilla. On the day of my arrival, my host and another member of the AIESEC organization are going to show me around Barranquilla and show me how the bus system works. This will include taking me on the bus routes that will be using every day - primarily how to get to and from work from my host home. They will also show me how to get to and from the AIESEC Uninorte office where I will be spending a lot of time, and how to get to the closest medical centers. After this initial tour around Colombia, I will have a "buddy" with me. His name is BUDDY NAME, and he will be escorting me to and from work everyday, for the first 2 weeks that I'm in Colombia. BUDDY NAME is a native of Colombia, and is very familiar with the bus system. After these initial two weeks, BUDDY NAME will still be my "buddy", but he'll no longer escort me to and from work.

Even though I will be shown exactly how to use the buses when I arrive in Barranquilla, I have been talking to some of my contacts in Barranquilla about traveling by bus, and have learned some information that will benefit me before I leave. There are two main bus systems that I will have the option to use. One is the normal public bus system, and the other is called Transmetro. With the public bus system, you pay in cash, and the buses do not have specific stations that they go to. The public bus systems simply have specific routes, and that route is posted in the front window of the bus, normally painted or written on a small wooden or plastic square. With the public bus, it's a matter of knowing where you are going and getting on the bus that has the correct route. The Transmetro is more comparable to something like the Michigan Flyer here. It has a few specific stations that it travels to, and a central trunk route that it always follows. Instead of cash, on the Transmetro you have a card that you always keep with you. If possible, I am going to attempt to take the Transmetro, but that is a decision that I'll make once I've been shown exactly how the bus systems work.

13. Embassy Addresses
Have you identified the address of nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate www.usembassy.gov for each destination?
Yes

14. Traveler STEP Enrollment
Have you enrolled in the US Department of State STEP program step.state.gov/step/, or your home country equivalent for each destination?
Yes

15. Local 911 Equivalent
Have you identified the city/country 911 Emergency Equivalent Number for Police, Fire, and Ambulance support? travel.state.gov/content/dam/students-abroad/pdfs/911_ABROAD.pdf or www.hthstudents.com/index.cfm
Yes

16. Nearest HTH Facility
Have you determined the nearest HTH facility for each site location? www.hthstudents.com/index.cfm
Yes

17. Other Medical Facility
If the nearest HTH facility is approximately more than an hour away from your work and/or living site, list the name and address of the nearest medical facility to the site/s:

There are 2 HTH facilities that are within a mile of my place of residence, and 1 that is less than 2 miles away.

18. In-Country Partner
If applicable, provide the name of your in-country partner, host organization, and/or placement agency. Please list all partners if there is more than one.

AIESEC Uninorte
19. On-site Support Resources
Describe on-site health, safety, and security support resources and services that are provided by your on-site host or others, if applicable (for example, on-site orientations, familiarization tour of area, accompaniment of staff (if so, how often?), after hours emergency number, local clinic, evacuation services, emergency protocols, etc.)

NAME OF ONSITE SUPPORT PERSON
Address: ADDRESS, Barranquilla, Colombia

As of right now, I haven't received any orientation information from Animal Salud, or any safety information. However, because this is an organization that was vetted through AIESEC, and is going to be hosting international students from all over the world, I do believe that we will be shown extensively how to operate efficiently and safely in and around our work environment.

20. My On-site Contact Information
How can the University of Michigan get a hold of you in the event of an emergency, either by cell phone, satellite phone, and/or social media? If the number is available at this time, please provide the phone number (include country code + city / area code). If applicable, please describe how and when you will obtain a working cell phone. Please note that the safety plan will need to be updated with your phone number once available. Please list other ways in which you can be reached, such as social media (e.g. email, WhatsApp, Viber, WeChat, Facebook name, Twitter name, etc.).

Right now, I do not plan on being able to use my current cell phone in Colombia. However, I am looking into buying a temporary cell phone that I will use for the duration of my stay in Colombia. This will enable me to call people in Colombia, and I will have my own Colombian number. I do not yet have this number, but if/as soon as I get a cell phone, I will contact you with that information.

Apart from a cell phone, I will have access to the internet both at my work and at home, so I will be able to check my email and my social media daily.

Emails I can be reached at: EMAIL@umich.edu - or- EMAIL@gmail.com
Social media (facebook page): https://www.facebook.com/NAME

21. Emergency on-site contact person/s and number/s
(Include country + city code) This can be a member of a partner organization/s, a personal contact, or anyone that a participant or the U-M can contact in the event of an on site emergency

NAME OF HOST - Host: +57 (301) NUMBER
Contact at AIESEC Uninorte: +57 (304) NUMBER
Manager of Animal Salud: +57 (316) NUMBER

BUDDY NAME - “Buddy”: https://www.facebook.com/BUDDY NAME

22. My plan for communicating with the U-M
Please name your primary U-M contact who will remain in the US, provide their contact information, and describe your plan for communicating with them. Please note contact should include a minimum of a check-in when you arrive on-site, at least one check-in communication during the program, and preferably weekly check-ins. If you anticipate being away from regular email or phone contact, please describe how you will overcome such challenges.

U-M contact: NAME
Justin Chaplin's phone number: (734) NUMBER
Justin Chaplin email: EMAIL@umich.edu

23. Ground Transporation - Risk Assessment
Please provide information on specific risks of ground transportation (Safety on highways, travel on mountain roads, night travel, public transportation concerns, etc.) and describe the mitigation strategies you will employ. The following resources can be helpful in identifying ground transportation risks as well as other risks referenced below, ASIRT Road Reports, OSAC Crime and Safety Reports, OSAC, US State Department Travel Warnings, US State Department Country Profiles, Australian Government Smart Traveler, Canada, United Kingdom and the University of Michigan Travel Guides and Subscriptions.

Specific risks: (general transportation risks + transportation risks factoring in: I am a woman, I am American, I am a student)

General Realities
Road Conditions
- Roads are in poor condition. This includes potholes, unmarked roads, being poorly laid out, and inadequate growth of road network to match the growth in the number of vehicles. Things that are not common in the US include wandering livestock that create hazardous conditions for drivers, and
Driver Behavior
- Drivers tend to be aggressive and reckless. This means ignoring traffic laws such as traffic lights and speed limits. Drivers often lack proper training, and pedestrians are seldom given the right of way.

General
- Traffic is heavy, speeding is a problem, and traffic laws are often unenforced.

Warning
- Rural travel can be dangerous because of guerilla activity, and night travel is not recommended at all unless you have a native guide with you.
- Bombings and kidnappings are not so uncommon that they can be written off. They do happen; bombings occur in both urban and rural areas. Kidnappings have been known to be organized by terrorist organizations.

Specific Vehicles
- Buses: Safety is not guaranteed. The buses are noisy and old. The suspension is rock hard, and therefore bus rides are very bumpy.
- Taxies: Taxies are okay, but illegal taxies can be dangerous. Illegal taxies can be identified by irregular markings and more than 1 person already in the vehicle.

Dangers to be aware of while using public transport and mitigations:

1.) The main danger is simple theft. Because public transport is so crowded and unorganized, it is a perfect place to attempt to steal things from un­expecting people –, especially tourists. Mitigation: 1. Physical preparation – I am not taking any clothing/shoes/baggage with any sort of branding that will make me a target. I learned from a friend who traveled to Brazil and was wearing a Nike backpack that ignorantly wearing this brand (or any) puts a huge target on your back. 2. Situational awareness – This will be the most important. In the U.S., people usually trust strangers (at least) to the point that they'll allow themselves to fall asleep on the bus, or let their guard down. There are times when vigilance is necessary of course, but in my experience, unless I see a particularly threatening individual, my guard is down on public transportation. In Colombia, this will never be possible. In Colombia, negative intention is everywhere. It is a completely different mindset and mentality. Theft is far more acceptable, and a way of survival for many, many people. Ignorance is the enemy. Constant vigilance is a necessity.

2.) The next danger comes from dangerous driving conditions. The lack of enforcement of traffic laws results in a blatant disregard for them. As an American used to a comparatively extremely organized road system, this will be very different. Mitigation: Even though this system will be foreign to me, it seems to me as though there is a sort of controlled chaos. What I mean by this, is that my solution cannot be to try and apply American traffic rules and nuances to Colombian traffic rules and nuances. I will not be able to use my preconceived notion of how traffic works in America to guide myself in Colombia. I will have to adapt. A new kind of awareness will be necessary when I travel.

3.) Guerilla warfare/bombings/kidnappings often occur on public transport. I'll go into more specific detail under the Political Unrest section, but it is under this section because it is a danger to be considered. If I am riding a bus that becomes the subject of Guerilla warfare, there is nothing I can do once that point is reached. The key is to not get on the bus that will be subjected to such things. Mitigation: Know which bus I am going to get on before I even leave home/work. When I first arrive in Colombia, I will have a buddy that will travel around with me for a few days and show me how to use the public transportation, and give me a native's knowledge of all the potential dangers. With their help, I will learn the bus route from my home to work and back, as well as from my home to AIESEC Uninorte, where I will be spending the majority of my free time. I will not take any other sort of transportation/any unfamiliar routes unless I have talked this choice over with someone I trust. Extensive knowledge of the bus routes will be something that I will take very seriously. I know that experience with the system is not something that I can hope to learn until I am in Colombia, but once I am there, figuring out exactly how the system works, and memorizing all of my essential information will be one of my most important tasks.

24. Health - Risk Assessment
Please provide information on health risks (Immunizations needed, diseases, water quality, on-site medical access and quality, etc.), and describe the mitigation strategies you will employ. Resources include: HTH Insurance and CDC.

Vaccinations
- According to the CDC, in order to travel to Colombia, routine vaccinations need to be up to date (these include, but aren't limited to, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, HPV, Flu, Td, etc.).
- According to the CDC, diseases that are risks to people traveling to Colombia include:
  o Hepatitis A (can be contracted through contaminated food or water in Colombia)
  o Hepatitis B (can be contracted through sexual contact, contaminated needles – recommended if having sex with a new partner, or getting a tattoo, or any medical procedures)
  o Typhoid (can be contracted through contaminated food or water in Colombia – especially if visiting rural areas, or an adventurous eater)
  o Malaria
  o Rabies (not a major risk, but should be taken if working around animals)
  o Yellow Fever (known to be spread in Barranquilla)
  o Zika (spread by mosquitos, or sexual transmission of virus from a man)
- Mitigation: I have gone to the doctor, and am in the process of receiving shots for Yellow Fever and Typhoid, and...
already have medication for Malaria. I am up to date on my Hepatitis A and B. On the recommendation of my doctor, the only shot I will not preemptively be getting is for Zika. He believed that because of my location and planned activities, I would not be at risk.

Eating/Drinking
- Unclean food/water can cause diarrhea and other diseases
- To reduce risk eat only:
  o Food that is cooked and hot, hard-boiled eggs, self-washed fruits, and veggies, pasteurized dairy products
- Do NOT eat:
  o Room temperature food, food from street vendors, raw eggs, undercooked meat/fish, unwashed/unpeeled fruits, and veggies, unpasteurized dairy products, "Bushmeat" (monkeys, bats, wild game)
- Drink ONLY:
  o Bottled water, disinfected water, ice made with bottled/disinfected water, carbonated drinks, HOT coffee/tea, pasteurized milk
  o Tap/well water, ice made with tap/well water, unpasteurized milk

Bug Bites
- Do everything possible to avoid bug bites, particularly mosquitos – mosquitos transmit Malaria and Zika
- Mitigation: Wear long sleeves, long pants. Where this is not possible, use insect repellent, sleep in an air-conditioned environment with screened rooms, if necessary use a bed net.
  o Materials for consideration:
    • A repellent that contains 20% or more DEET
    • Permethrin-treated clothing and gear

General
- Reduce exposure to germs and avoid sharing body fluids. By reducing exposure to germs (washing hands often, not touching eyes/nose/mouth, avoiding sick people, etc.) I will reduce my overall chance of getting any sort of sickness. Avoiding sharing body fluids will keep me safe from HIV infection, which is transmittable almost anywhere.

Safety Precautions:
- In the case that I do contract a disease, or find myself in need of a hospital, I will have the following information with me at all times:
  o Medical Facilities close to me:
    • Clinica del Caribe
      Address: Calle 80 No. 49C – 65, Barranquilla, Colombia
      Phone: +57-5-33-5200
    • Clincia Bautista
      Address: Carrera 38, 71-10 Esquina, Barranquilla, Colombia
      Phone: +57-5-369-6700
    • Clinica la Asuncion
      Address: Calle 70B, No. 41-93, Barranquilla, Colombia
      Phone: +57-5-336-5900
  o Emergency Numbers:
    • Local Colombian number for ambulance/police/fire: Dial: 123
    - Emergencies involving U.S. Citizens:
      • +57-1-275-2000 (U.S. Embassy at Bogota: 8am-5pm, Mon-Fri)
      • +57-1-275-4021 (U.S. Embassy at Bogota: after 5pm, weekends, and holidays)
    o U.S. Embassy
      • Address: Calle 24 Bis No. 48-50 Bogota, D.C., Colombia
      • US Ambassador: Kevin Whitaker

25. Harassment - Risk Assessment
Please provide information on the risk of harassment (nationality or dual-citizenship, gender inequality, race, religion, sexual orientation, etc.) and describe the mitigation strategies you will employ. Resources include: OSAC

Perception of wealth. The primary cause for harassment for myself specifically will be being a target for theft. As an ordinary citizen of Barranquilla, I would be at risk, and my chances are not helped by the fact that my white skin will lead people to assume that I am foreign, making me even more of a target. Theft on public transportation, violent theft (demanding to give up valuables at gunpoint or threat of a knife), drugging and theft, or "express kidnappings" (most often when a single rider hails a taxi, a criminal or group of criminals will keep the victim hostage and take them to ATMs around the city to try and extract as much money as possible, usually lasting around 48 hours) are all examples of potential harassment. All of these examples find their foundations in a perception of wealth. Mitigation: Constant vigilance (common sense). As I talked about earlier, I will not be bringing anything with me that is branded. This further goes on to include not doing anything like using electronics in public, and certainly not ever listening to headphones.
Constant vigilance and common sense go hand in hand – meaning that I will be constantly aware of my external surroundings and any potential threats, as well as moderating my internal behavior. This includes not participating in any behavior that will make me vulnerable, or make me a target.

26. Natural Disaster - Risk Assessment
Please provide information about the risk of Natural Disasters (Earthquakes, flooding, landslides, etc.) and describe the mitigation strategies you will employ.

Natural disasters in Colombia include the risk of earthquakes, volcanic activity, severe drought and wildfires (in some areas), and heavy rainfall that cause landslides that block roads in other areas. Mitigation: The most important thing will be having supplies, having a plan, and having knowledge of my environment. Things that I will be bringing with me: flashlight and extra batteries, personal documentation. Having a plan/knowing my environment will involve communication with those around me (primarily my host family). As I will not be carrying extra food and water or a fire extinguisher with me, I will have to communicate with my host family to make sure that they have these supplies on hand. Additionally, they will most likely have more knowledge and a safety plan already in place for themselves. Together, we'll figure out a plan in the event of any natural disaster.

27. Personal Safety - Risk Assessment
Please provide information about the risk to personal safety (Fear of bodily harm, terrorism, violent crime, kidnapping, theft, safety issues in housing, alcohol or substance abuse, etc.) and describe the mitigation strategies you will employ. Resources include: OSAC

- Perception of wealth
- Most common types of crime include: muggings, assaults, cell phone theft, credit card fraud, and burglaries
  - Thefts and assaults occur frequently on public buses
  - Criminals tend to use knives or firearms, and it's not uncommon for a burglary to turn violent
  - Criminals sometimes use drugs to rob – the most common drug has recently been scopolamine, which can render someone impaired or unconscious for 24+ hours. It is often administered through liquid, or powder in foods and beverages.
- In my opinion, this personal safety risk assessment is the culmination of all of the other risk assessment questions. Harassment, natural disasters, political unrest and risk activities all fall under categories of danger. The mitigation strategy that I will use for my own personal safety will be to take seriously all of the research that I have done filling out this safety plan proposal, and to remember all the things that I have learned. Constant vigilance, being aware of not only my own actions, but the actions of the people around me, being aware of potential dangers, whether they be in nature, or from a politically motivated terrorist group, or the person sitting next to me on the bus. I have researched all of these things very extensively, and now I will have to rely on my own knowledge and resourcefulness, as well as the knowledge of the people who will I will be living with for the next 6 weeks.

28. Political Unrest - Risk Assessment
Please provide information about possible political unrest (upcoming elections, history of demonstrations, political instability, etc.) and describe the mitigation strategies you will employ. Resources include: www.electionguide.org

- (Leftist) Terrorist Groups: Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) & National Liberation Army (ELN)
- Right-wing terrorist/paramilitary group: United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC)
- Organized crime group: Bandas Criminales (BACRIM)
- These groups are well organized, and carry out kidnappings, extortion, assassinations, bombings and other terrorism activities in Colombia. In 2015, activity decreased due in large part to a "unilateral ceasefire" declared by FARC. There are ongoing peace negotiations going on between both FARC and ELN, but they are tentative, and no conclusions have been reached. Kidnappings are not uncommon.
- These groups were started in the 60s in the wake of a decade of violence from 1948 to 1958. The leftists groups believe that government is not accurately representing the people of Colombia, and these groups wish to fight for more rights. The right wing group is comprised of landowners who joined together to fight guerilla groups. (AUC officially disbanded in 2006, but some small factions remain).
- They are usually targeted at Colombians, particularly high profile members of communities (social leaders, political activists, human rights campaigners and trade unionists). In summation, the terrorist groups have long used kidnapping and extortion to gain leverage over the state government. However, with the unilateral ceasefire declared by FARC, things are looking better than they have in over 50 years. They are by no means solved – but looking better. As an American tourist, I will not be a major target, as the terrorist groups seem to target influential members of Colombian society, and so the mitigation strategy I will employ in this area will be to not put myself in situations where potential terrorist activities may occur.

29. Risky Activities - Risk Assessment
Please provide information about risk associated with activities ((High altitude, physical activity, hiking in remote areas or precipitous trails, physical risks associated with the project, swimming, traveling to unstable/travel restriction areas, etc.) and describe the mitigation strategies you will employ.

High altitude - The altitude in Ann Arbor is about 840 feet above sea level, and the altitude in Barranquilla is about 80
feet above sea level. So I will not be in danger of getting altitude sickness.

Physical Activity - The height of my physical exertion will be from going to and from work, and from touring Barranquilla with my fellow interns/members of AIESEC Uninorte. I estimate that this will be equivalent to the amount that I walk around Ann Arbor, or possibly a little more. I don't think that the physical exertion itself will be a problem, however, the heat (average for June, July, and August in Barranquilla is 82 degrees Fahrenheit) will probably be my biggest enemy. This problem will be mitigated by staying hydrated, and not pushing myself past my limits.

There will be no hiking in remote areas or physical risks associated with my project that I know of. I will not be traveling to any area other than Barranquilla.

30. Other - Risk Assessment
If there are other risks associated with this trip (Project involves working with human subjects, projects or research topics that are politically sensitive or contentious among the host culture, photographing people, interviewing individuals in their homes, using expensive equipment, etc). Please describe these risks and the mitigation strategies you will employ.

My job is almost 100% going to be working at a computer, trying to communicate with the people of Barranquilla, and raise awareness about the problem of abandoned animals. The only potential risk I see here would be that something I say as a native speaker of English operating in a Spanish speaking country could inadvertently offend someone. However, seeing as I will be working with a team of 5 other students, I will almost always have other people to check over my work, so I do not anticipate this being a big problem for me.

31. Vaccinations
Have you consulted the CDC's recommendations for vaccinations for each destination on your itinerary? Please note that U-M Travel Clinic can provide vaccinations, recommendations, and Travax reports for travelers.

YES

32. Traveler HTH
Have you obtained HTH Worldwide Health Insurance*? If not, please indicate the anticipated date that you will have HTH insurance.

* To determine which HTH plan is needed, please contact your department administrator or visit www.uhs.umich.edu/tai

YES

33. Traveler Registration
Have you registered your travel in the U-M Travel Registry?

YES

34. Language Barriers
If your host country is not primarily English-speaking, explain how language barriers will be addressed (i.e. level of language proficiency of participant/s, accompanying translator, etc.)?

Colombia is a primarily Spanish speaking country. I am not fluent in Spanish, however, I took 5 years of Spanish in high school, and currently my Spanish level is intermediate. However, I do not anticipate that I will be able to fluidly understand the colloquial Spanish the moment I get there, as I have not ever been culturally immersed in Colombian dialect (accent, register, stresses, vowel reduction, etc.). In order to attempt to give myself the tools to overcome this barrier, I have been preemptively practicing Spanish daily. Tools I have been using include to practice include an application on my phone called Duolingo, reading a Spanish version of Harry Potter (which, while it doesn't help me with specific Colombian dialect, translating has helped me to get more comfortable with nuances and idioms of the Spanish language), and most importantly, I have been conversing with my Spanish speaking friends as often as possible. I have a friend who is majoring in Romance Languages (Justin LAST NAME) who I see on a daily basis, and a friend who is interning at U-M from Spain, who I see a couple times a week. While I know that these measures are only preemptive, I am taking them very seriously, as they are the best ways that I can prepare myself before I travel.

While in Colombia, I will have 3 major tools available to me to help surmount the language barrier. In Barranquilla, at Universidad del Norte (Uninorte), nightly Spanish classes will be provided, for those that need them, through the AIESEC program at Uninorte. My second tool will be that the international language of AIESEC is English. This means that in order to be a member, you must know how to speak English. Because I will be staying with the family of a member of AIESEC, and spending the majority with AIESEC members, language barriers will not be an issue the majority of the time. The last tool will be cultural immersion itself. There is no better way to learn a language than to be surrounded by it.

In short, I believe that my previously 5 years of training in Spanish, along with my current Spanish practice, will allow
me to get around Colombia well. Cultural immersion, and daily classes will help me elevate my Spanish to a hopefully near-fluent ability, and if I ever find myself in a situation where my skills are not good enough, I will most likely be accompanied by a member of AIESEC from Colombia.

35. Previous Travel Experience
List previous travel destinations including estimated time spent in each location, especially in the destinations listed on this itinerary.

Unfortunately, I haven't yet had the opportunity to travel outside of the United States. When I travel to Colombia, I won't have any previous experience to draw on, but instead, I will rely on the wealth of knowledge that I have been working on assembling for the past few months. Working on this questionnaire, being in constant contact with my hosts in Colombia, doing research on the country itself, and working on my Spanish speaking ability are all skills that I have been slowly building up over the past few months. I am not so naïve as to think that these skills are an equivalent for actual experience of having been abroad, but these skills will have to be what I rely on in intense situations. The longer that I spend in Colombia, the more I will be able to rely on myself, but at the beginning, the most important thing will be to rely on the support system that I have in place, and do everything in my power to ensure that the support system is reliable.

My support system right now consists of a "buddy" (a member of AIESEC Uninorte) who will check in with me everyday, my host family, my fellow internship members, and every other AIESEC member at Uninorte.