

**Case Study: “Innocents Abroad”
New Challenges for International Study
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11:00 AM—12:30 PM**

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George Herbert College is an accredited undergraduate college. The college is anxious to establish study-abroad opportunities for its students. The college established a four-week summer program that held its first session from July 1–30, 2009. Both the college parties want, and expect, this summer program to become an annual event. The program is located at a University in a developing country. Students and faculty are required to obtain advance visas to enter the country.

A week before the program started, the host country issued a proclamation announcing a H1N1 outbreak that had resulted in 112 deaths the preceding week. The proclamation announced that all universities and schools would be closed for the next two weeks. The U.S. school immediately contacted its counterparts in the host country and was advised that the proclamation was an “over reaction” and that the U.S. program should proceed. The U.S. embassy in the host country posted a notice on its website discouraging travel to the host country but did not issue a travel advisory. News reports showed health officials in HazMat suits from the host country entering airplanes originating in the U.S. and taking the temperatures of all passengers. If any passenger is identified as having a fever, all passengers in the plane are quarantined in a local hotel for a week. Some reports indicted that children have been separated from their parents in different quarantine facilities. After considering all this information, the U.S. school elects to continue the program.

One U.S. student is in a wheelchair. The U.S. administrators were advised that student housing and the academic facilities were designed to accommodate students in wheelchairs. The U.S. school requested, and received photos from the host school that show the accommodations. When the student arrives, the elevators in the classroom building are broken, and the student in the wheel chair has to be carried by other students to the third-floor classroom.

A male student in the program is enjoying the bars of the host country more than the classroom experience. The student’s alcohol consumption results in him missing class or attending class while inebriated. The program administrator ultimately removes him from the program for excessive class absences. When advised of this, the student does not attend class, but refuses to vacate the student-housing saying, “I paid for it, and I am staying.”

Questions for Discussion

1. Assume that you are an administrator of the program for the American college. In light of the closing of the schools as a result of the H1N1 proclamation, should you have elected to continue the program?
2. What factors should you have considered in making the decision to continue, and what alternatives should you have considered?
3. How would you address the situation involving the student in the wheel chair, and the non functional elevators?
4. How would you deal with the student who refuses to leave the student housing after being dismissed from the program? Are there ways to prevent the reoccurrence of this problem?