

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT STUDIES INSTITUTE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

While participating in the GESI program, students represent not only themselves, but also GESI, Northwestern University, Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD) and ThinkImpact, and the United States.

GESI's on-the-ground partner organizations, FSD (Bolivia, India, Nicaragua, and Uganda) and ThinkImpact (South Africa), have developed behavior policies based on student safety and what is considered acceptable conduct in each host country. GESI takes student behavior seriously; failure to comply with these policies may result in dismissal from the program at student's expense.

The following is a general set of expectations based on the behavior codes of GESI's on-the-ground partners, FSD and ThinkImpact. Upon acceptance to the GESI program, students must sign a code of conduct specific to the partner organization operating in the student's host country.

1. Students must show respect for the people and culture of their host country at all times, with an awareness that acceptable behaviors in the United States may not be considered appropriate in the host country. This includes adhering to local standards of behavior, dress, and protocol.
2. Students will strive to integrate into their host communities and local societies, spending time with community members and using the local language whenever possible.
3. Students will only use alcohol when it is socially appropriate, culturally respectable, and safe. South Africa students are prohibited from alcohol use at any time within their host communities. Students must be aware of the risks associated with engaging in sexual intercourse in their host countries, particularly those concerning HIV/AIDS. Students will never take part in any illegal activity, including use, purchase, and/or handling of illicit drugs.
4. Students will behave professionally with their co-workers, community partners, other GESI participants, and staff from FSD or ThinkImpact. Participants will resolve any differences through openness and respectful dialogue, avoiding gossip, rumors or personalization of any conflicts.
5. As a development worker, GESI students will embrace a grassroots, community-based approach to development, working to meet the needs and wishes of as many community members as possible, by the most sustainable means possible.
6. *South Africa students only.* Students will inform their ThinkImpact Advisor of their whereabouts at all times when planning to part from the larger group. After dusk, students agree not to go anywhere alone; they must travel in a group of more than two during the evening or nighttime hours.
7. Travel Policies:

Students at FSD sites (Bolivia, India, Nicaragua, and Uganda): Students must avoid travel that will negatively impact their integration into the host community, family and organization, or prevent them from fulfilling work responsibilities. Students should not initiate travel to areas designated by FSD as "high risk" and may not travel outside of the country. Students should limit their travel during the program and are encouraged to stay within their host communities; participant must notify the FSD site team and host family of all plans to travel outside of the host community agreeing to sign a Release Form for travel and other activities not supported by FSD or GESI.

Students at ThinkImpact sites (South Africa): Students are not permitted to travel outside of the host community during GESI, aside from excursions that are part of the program. For student safety, participants may not travel on public transportation or with any non-ThinkImpact affiliated driver.