ISDSI Orientation Checklist

Homestay

- Make the most of the homestay—it is only 5 weeks and is the best chance you have to dive into Thai culture
- If there are any problems, tell an ISDSI staff member ASAP. We cannot respond to issues we don’t know about.
- Please return home on time and let your family know if you are going to be late.
- Now is not the time to go hang out with friends—you should spend time with the host family as much as is possible.
- Do not stay overnight at another families house unless it is an emergency. You must call an ISDSI staff person to let us know.
- Please be attentive to computer, light and air conditioner use while with the family.
- If you smoke, be discreet and not in the house.

Guidelines for participation

Our goal is the make this a rewarding and productive semester. These are some of the issues that have come up in the past, and some of the common expectations that we have found will help facilitate a positive learning environment and experience.

- Students will treat others with respect, tolerance and understanding.
- Harassment or offensive behavior is not tolerated.
- If you smoke, be discreet.

SEPARATION FROM THE PROGRAM

Occasionally student behavior can result in separation from the program. The following are grounds for separation:

- Any behavior with is unsafe for the student or the group, or creates an unsafe situation for the student or the group.
- Repeated and ongoing culturally offensive behavior.
- Breaking local laws or other illegal activities, including drug use.
- Driving (motorcycle or car).
- Chronic late to class or activities, or skipping activities or class without contacting us in advance.
- Excessive drinking that interferes with program activities.
- Not following ISDSI staff directions and guidance, especially with regard to safety and cultural norms.

Generally a verbal warning first, followed by a written warning and/or contract if necessary, and then dismissal from the program. However, you can be immediately dismissed if the situation warrants it. Dismissal from the program may in some cases result being expelled from your home institution (college or university)

Safety

- Carry your emergency card and cell phone with you.
- Chiang Mai generally safe, but be aware, since you don’t yet have “street smarts” in this context—be cautious.
Specific issues:

- Sexual assault or crime (call director / designated person, get help)
- Don’t accept drinks @ bars & clubs from strangers
- Don’t go out alone at night—go in groups
- Listen if we say “go now” while on a field visit or excursion
- Watch traffic and crossing the street—they drive on the left and ALL your reflexes will be the opposite of what they need to be.
- If riding—not driving—a motorcycle you must wear a helmet
- Drunk driving is common—take public transportation if in doubt
- If you ride a bicycle, you must wear a helmet

Health

- Call us if you get sick and need to see a doctor.
- Counseling is available in English.
- Eating disorders, substance abuse, etc. can flare up under stress—be willing to ask for help.
- You don’t have your normal support systems here—be willing to ask for help.

We want to help you have a successful semester. If you are struggling, or see another student having a hard time, please talk with an instructor! If we are not told about a situation, we can’t help.

I have participated in the Program Orientation, and understand the above policies and guidelines.

__________________________________ (Name/Date)