

## PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

**Coral Reef Biology & Ecology Program  
RIMS, Roatan Island, Honduras  
BIO 2850: Coral Reef Biology & Ecology  
BIO 3850: Coral Reef Biology & Ecology  
December 27, 2015 - January 16, 2016**

### **Additional Program Policies, Requirements, & Recommendations**

Purchase College State University of New York Winter session 2016 21-day visit to Honduras (the Program) is guided by special rules and policies necessary for a successful course and study tour experience for all involved. These rules and policies are in some instances required by Purchase College, State University of New York (Purchase) and in other instances by the captain and operators of the boat at the Roatan Institute of Marine Sciences (RIMS). In addition to the Verification of Program Policies Form and the Agreement and Release for Study Abroad form, it is an absolute requirement that all students participating in this program **read** and **sign** this agreement.

**Return one copy to the Office of International Programs and Services (OIPS). Keep one copy with you during your time in Honduras. Failure to return a signed copy to OIPS will result in your being dis-enrolled from the course and program.**

I, the undersigned, understand that the Program may not in all circumstances be able to make any provisions for special dietary needs, including vegetarian, vegan and/or kosher preferences. I am prepared to make the necessary adjustments and to partake, without requiring special dispensation or attention, of the established meals and menus provided to me by the Program and knowing that they are the best arrangements that can be procured considering the circumstances and the basic requirements of student travel.

I understand that for three weeks I will be sharing a modest cabin with two to three other students. Although comfortable, the cabins do not have air conditioning. I will be provided with daily necessities and basic services such as food, water, electricity, and sanitation. I agree to put up with the minor—and sometimes not so minor—inconveniences that might occur. I will keep an open mind and agree to stay positive.

I will also refrain from purchasing, handling, or consuming illegal drugs (including but not limited to marijuana and cocaine) and from participating in any activity where illegal drugs may be present. I understand that penalties for such offenses are particularly high, especially with regards to foreigners directly or indirectly engaged in them.

I understand that some required course components will take place in the water. I certify that I am a competent swimmer and have basic knowledge of water safety, and that I am physically able and willing to engage in snorkeling or scuba diving in the ocean and from boats. I understand that it is my responsibility to inform the professor/program director (or captain and dive master) of any concerns that I have about my swimming ability or about water safety. I understand that at times I will be required to wear a personal flotation device (PFD).

I understand that some of the activities will take place in an open-water natural environment where there are potential risks which are difficult or impossible to control. I feel comfortable that I have been sufficiently informed as to these potential risks and, if I participate in water activities, I am willing to voluntarily assume those risks. If I have questions regarding these risks or safety precautions, I will ask my professor/program director.

I understand that while on board the boat (per International Maritime Law) the captain/skipper will have complete and absolute authority and will relay his rules and commands directly or through the professor/program director, the dive master, or other official program or boat staff.

I understand that diving certification is required for scuba diving, and that scuba diving is **optional** that I must show proof of diving certification, and that I must be determined to be qualified to do scuba diving by the professor/program director, scuba instructor, and / or dive master. I participate in scuba diving at my own risk and, I must agree to follow

the "Official AKR/RIMS" document of rules, policies, and guidelines (see attached) and follow the instructions of the professor/program director, scuba instructor, and the dive master.

Finally, I fully understand that the professor/program director has the sole authority to decide disciplinary matters and to dispense discipline at all times during the program. I acknowledge that the professor/program director can take whatever measures s/he deems appropriate to resolve disputes among the students, including the reassignment of beds and rooms, as well as the imposition of curfews and the restriction of student activities to certain hours, should the need arise. I also understand that the professor/program director has the authority to send students home at any point during the program if health, discipline, or other major reasons were to merit such drastic measures and I agree to abide by his decision without question. I also understand that neither the professor/program director nor Purchase College, State University of New York shall be responsible for me in the event that I should break/violate any laws.

### **ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS**

In consideration of being permitted to participate in the **Coral Reef Biology and Ecology Program** ("the Program") the undersigned, being of sound mind and body and being of lawful age, seeks to voluntarily and at his/her own risk participate in the Purchase College, State University of New York travel to Honduras between the dates of **December 27, 2015 - January 16, 2016**.

In consideration thereof, the undersigned does hereby covenant and agree with the College.

THAT THE UNDERSIGNED FOR HERSELF/HIMSELF, her/his heirs, executors, administrators, agents and/or assigns does hereby forever exonerate, release, acquit and discharge the College, the State University of New York and the State of New York, their officers, employees, agents and/or assigns from all fines, claims, demands, damages, actions, suits, judgments, debts, liabilities, injuries and causes of action of every nature, including death, which the undersigned has, or may have, or which the undersigned's heirs, executors, administrators, agents and/or assigns has, or may have against the College, the State University of New York and the State of New York, their officers, employees, agents and/or assigns, for all fines, claims, demands, damages, actions, suits, judgments, debts, liabilities, injuries and causes of action of every nature, including death, known or unknown caused by or arising out of that certain sequence of events relating to the Event between the dates of **December 27, 2015 - January 16, 2016**.

The undersigned further agrees to protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the College, the State University of New York and the State of New York, their officers, employees, agents and/or assigns from and against any and all fines, claims, demands, damages, actions, suits, judgments, debts, liabilities, injuries and causes of action of every nature, including death, which may occur or be alleged to have occurred to all persons and property of the undersigned, their heirs, executors, administrators, agents and/or assigns, so far as the same arises out of the Event between the dates of **December 27, 2015 - January 16, 2016**, and does not arise from the intentional acts of the College, the State University of New York, and the State of New York, their officers, employees, agents and/or assigns, and from and against all reasonable costs, counsel and other legal fees, expenses and liabilities incurred in and about any such claim, the investigation thereof, or the defense of any action or proceeding brought thereon, and from and against any orders judgments and/or decrees which may be entered therein.

I the undersigned have read this release and understand all of its terms. I execute it voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance.

**I, the undersigned, have read, understood, and agree to abide by the above rules, terms and policies, and have read, understood and agree to the Assumption of Risk and Release of Claims:**

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Your name, printed

Your signature

Date

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Parent /Guardian's Signature (required if student is under 18)

Date