

TERMS AND CONDITIONS – 2009 SUMMER PROGRAMS

- ❖ **How to Apply**
- ❖ **“Without Airfare” or “With Airfare” options**
- ❖ **Program Fees Description**
 - **What Program Fees Include**
 - **What Program Fees do not Include**
- ❖ **Additional Airfare / Airline Information**
 - **Making your own / customizing your airline arrangements**
 - **International flights & Airline tickets**
 - **Changes in Itineraries & Programs**
 - **Additional Information**
 - **Passports**
- ❖ **Enrollment Deadlines**
- ❖ **Payment Deadlines**
- ❖ **Withdrawal Dates / Refund Policy**
- ❖ **Trip Insurance Options**
 - **Basic Insurance (included in \$95 fee)**
 - **Trip Cancellation / Interruption Insurance (optional)**

How to apply

The fastest way to reserve your/ your child’s space on the chosen program is to use our online option for application and payment. Go to www.educulture.org and click the How to apply link. Complete the PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FORM and pay the \$95 non-refundable application fee.

Alternatively, you may complete the application form found under 2009 Application Procedures and mail it with a \$95 check made payable to ECI.

**EduCulture International (ECI)
P.O. Box 2692
Berkeley, CA 94702**

“Without Airfare” OR “With Airfare” Options

All ECI summer programs are priced “Without Airfare” or “With Airfare” from SFO and a designated East Coast departure city.

“Without Airfare” Option

ECI Students selecting “Without Airfare” option are responsible for booking their own international flights. These flights must reasonably coincide with the Group Travel Plans and all travel plans must be emailed to ECI no later than March 6, 2009. Please note that any necessary Meet & Greet Services required for students selecting “Without Airfare” option will incur additional costs as noted in Program Materials. Please refer to Program Fees for more information.

“With Airfare” Option

ECI Students selecting “With Airfare” option are booked onto our chaperoned group flights, which depart from both San Francisco International Airport (SFO) and an East Coast departure point. ECI group flights have many advantages, including: all booking arrangements are handled through ECI, students are on chaperoned flights, students get the chance to meet their travel partners earlier, and ECI books flights in advance which many times costs less than individual bookings. Also, ECI Students booked on group flights sometimes have the ability, depending on airline restrictions, to make *slight* customized changes at additional cost. **The absolute deadline date for ECI to consider any customized changes to group flights is 60 days prior to trip departure.** Please see Important Note below when considering Airfare Options.

IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE:

Fees With Airfare **include** BASE Airline Fare **but do not include** airline/airport-related fees, government taxes and fuel surcharges, currently estimated at \$440 but subject to possible increase or decrease depending on the level of charges subsequently imposed from these sources. Final amounts will be confirmed by the airlines approximately 30 days prior to departure.

Program Fees Description

ECI’s non-refundable Application Fee of \$95 includes the following:

- Pre-departure orientation & educational materials
- Medical Expense / Emergency Assistance / Travel Delay Protection /
Baggage Delay or Loss Coverage during your trip abroad

All ECI Summer Program Fees include:

- Please refer to Airfare Options described above.
- All transportation while abroad / All accommodation / All group activities, classes, excursions, admissions
- **MEALS** as indicated below:
 - **Spain** - All meals during Homestays, Dorm Stays & Host Family Immersion Week; two meals per day during full day weekend excursions and days of travel
 - **France** - All meals during Homestays, & Host Family Immersion Week; two meals per day during dorm stays, full day weekend excursions and Paris portion
 - **Costa Rica** - All meals during Natural Wonders program; two meals per day during Expedition Costa Rica program
- Medical Expense / Emergency Assistance Insurance / Travel Delay Protection / Baggage Delay or Loss Coverage
- Three full-time chaperones per group of 30 students

ECI Summer Program Fees do not include:

- Please see Airfare options described above
- Application fee of \$95
- Spending money
- Optional activities
- University Credit Fees (should you choose this option)
- Some meals
- Optional Cancellation / Interruption Travel Insurance Plan

Additional Airfare / Airline Information

Making your own travel arrangements

(for “Without Airfare” participants or for “With Airfare” participants who have customized changes to group flights)

ECI Students choosing “Without Airfare” option, therefore making their own separate flight plans, are responsible for making their own arrangements to meet up with the chaperones and group at the initial hotel, unless they choose ECI’s **Meet**

and Greet Service, which carries an **additional fee of \$100 in Costa Rica and \$135 in Europe** per direction.

With the Meet and Greet service, an ECI representative will meet your son or daughter at the airport or any other designated arrival place. Prior to your child's departure, ECI will provide you with all necessary contact information, phone numbers, and a detailed meeting place and time. Once we have met your child, we will take him/her to meet the main group. The Meet and Greet is also available for the return trip. ECI assumes no responsibility for changes in airline schedules.

Parents must inform ECI in writing prior to March 6, 2009 if they are arranging separate airfare.

International flights and airline tickets

ECI primarily uses regularly scheduled flights on regularly scheduled airlines. Flight itinerary modifications are not cause for cancellation or refund. ECI does not assume responsibility for flight delays, long layovers, missed connections, or any related expenses. ECI representatives bring airline tickets to the airport when meeting with the group prior to departure. Individual tickets are sent to travelers who are traveling from different cities than the rest of the group. *Due to airline and bus restrictions, participants are limited to one suitcase weighing a maximum of 44 lbs. and one small carry-on item. Students & parents should check current airline policies and weigh bags prior to arrival at the airport.* **ECI is in no way responsible for any delay of, loss of, or damage to luggage or its contents.**

Changes in itineraries and programs

ECI reserves the right to make changes in itinerary sequence, fees, departure dates, accommodation, airlines, departure city, excursions, and activities. Due to holidays, some attractions or activities may be unavailable, and ECI reserves the right to substitute activities or attractions. These conditions are not grounds for cancellation or refund. If ECI cancels a trip due to insufficient enrollment or for any other reason, a full refund will be made to each traveler within 45 days.

Additional Information

ECI trips begin with the takeoff of the international flight and end upon the completion of the return flight back to the US. ECI is responsible to participants for making arrangements for all services included in the program. There is no provision for refunds for meals, accommodation, transportation including flight costs, and missed activities for reasons of absence once the program has begun.

Minor changes in programs will not be cause for refund, nor will events that occur beyond the control of ECI, including delays or overbooking by airlines or other transportation companies, last-minute changes initiated by hotels, changes in openings and closing times of museums and attractions, etc. In these instances, ECI will work on behalf of its participants to secure appropriate compensation or substitution.

Passports

ECI Students must have a valid passport and provide ECI with a copy no later than one month prior to departure. ECI Chaperones carry student passports as well as copies for the duration of their trip. As a further preventative measure, ECI highly recommends that parents keep at least one copy of their child's passport at their residence.

Enrollment deadlines

Applications are processed on a rolling basis upon receipt of completed application forms and appropriate payments.

Early enrollment is highly encouraged.

For students enrolling within 60 days of trip departure, applications will be considered on an individual space-available basis. In this case, full payment will be due at the time of application in the form of a cashier's check or money order, and the participant may be subject to air or land surcharges. If student is not accepted, a full refund will be made within 45 days of this determination. Travelers put on a waiting list will be notified by ECI within 30 days.

Payment deadlines

Please see Application Procedure-2009 Summer Programs on main "How to Apply" page of our website or in informational folder.

Participants who have not paid in full by deadlines (unless other arrangements have been made with ECI in writing) may be canceled, as hotels and airlines cannot continue to reserve space after that point. Late fees will apply for late payments.

Withdrawal Date/Refund Policy

After airline tickets are purchased and paid in full to the airline by ECI on behalf of a student, they become the property of the student, and their cost is non-

refundable. That portion of the Program Fee, once this occurs, is not included in the following refund policy:

Prior to Dec 12, 2008	All Program Fee payments less \$150
Between Dec 12, 2008 & March 6, 2009	All Program Fee payments less \$500
Between March 6 & June 5, 2009	All Program Fee payments less \$1200
After June 5, 2009	No refund

Cancellations must be received by ECI in writing by the above dates for refunds.

Any student who is unwilling to abide by ECI guidelines or who is believed to jeopardize the welfare of others will be dismissed without refund of program fees.

ECI reserves the right to cancel any program due to insufficient enrollment. In this case, all program fees would be refunded.

Trip Insurance Options

Basic Insurance (included in \$95 Application fee)

ECI's Basic Insurance covers all participants. Every participant is automatically enrolled in our Basic Insurance when they submit their initial \$95 Application fee. Basic Insurance covers:

- ❖ Medical Expense & Emergency Assistance
 - \$50,000 medical expenses incurred within one year of an injury or sickness suffered during the trip
 - emergency dental treatment by a dentist during the trip
 - evacuation and transportation as directed by a physician to the nearest adequate medical facility and/or to the insured's US residence
 - expenses for a physician recommended escort
 - 24 hour emergency medical assistance including:
 - Physician and hospital referrals, medical monitoring, guarantee of medical payments and communication with friends or family during an emergency

❖ **\$500 travel delay**

- Additional accommodation and traveling expenses up to \$100 per day (maximum \$500) when the trip is delayed 12 hours or more due to a covered reason such as: common carrier delay, lost or stolen documents, sickness, or injury.

❖ **\$1,000 baggage/travel documents/baggage delay**

- Up to \$1,000 for loss or damage to baggage, personal effects, and travel documents during the trip.
- A \$100 benefit is included for the purchase of additional clothing and personal articles when baggage is delayed more than 24 hours.

ECI's Optional Trip Cancellation / Interruption Insurance

While every ECI Student is automatically covered under our Basic Insurance, we also strongly recommend that participants purchase the Optional Trip Cancellation / Interruption Insurance, a protection of your investment. This optional insurance covers:

❖ **Trip cancellation/interruption**

- Pays up to trip cost (maximum \$10,000 per traveler) for non-refundable payments/deposits if the trip is cancelled prior to departure, or any unused land or sea arrangements and up to a one-way economy airfare to return home or rejoin the trip, if the trip is interrupted or cancelled after departure.

❖ **Covered reasons**

- Cancellation/interruption must be due to a covered reason such as injury, sickness, death, or due to other covered events, such as: air carrier delay due to strike; cancellation of arrangements by an airline, cruise line, or tour operator due to bad weather, strike, or financial insolvency; a traffic accident while en route to a departure; jury duty; destruction of a residence by a natural disaster; a documented theft of passports or visas; a terrorist act in a departure, connecting, or destination city that occurs within the 30 days before or after the scheduled departure for the trip.

Important: time-sensitive provisions

The exclusion for Pre-Existing Conditions is waived, provided premium for this policy is received no later than 15 days after the initial payment for the trip, and no insured person is disabled from travel when the premium is paid.

The Trip Cancellation/Interruption benefits for financial insolvency (bankruptcy/default) and for certain terrorist acts are included, provided premium for the policy is received no later than 15 days after the initial payment for the trip.

A cautionary health note

Travelers who lack excellent physical health, who cannot walk distances, climb stairs, or carry luggage are advised to refrain from participating in ECI's programs.

For additional information, FAQs, Application Procedures and more,
please visit us at:

www.educulture.org