

Safety Handbook for UCEAP Egypt Students

The following information will be shared with your parents.

The UCEAP program in Egypt will give you a top educational experience that cannot be matched. UCEAP and AUC will do their best to help you remain safe and enjoy Egypt.

Living and studying in another country may require you to change lifestyle preferences and habits in respect of local cultural expectations and to minimize security risks. Choices in dress, living arrangements, transportation, entertainment, and companionship may have a direct impact on how the local community views and treats you. Living and traveling in an unfamiliar environment and having a limited understanding of local language and culture are some of the factors that can put you at risk anywhere in the world. However, you have an important role in being responsible for your own safety and security, starting with informed preparation before the program and throughout the program. Be aware of your surroundings, make responsible decisions, and ask for help when necessary.

In addition to this document, all UCEAP Egypt students are required, and responsible, to read the [UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad](#) and the [Egypt Program Guide](#), which contain valuable information about the program, health and safety, and UCEAP policies. Both guides are available online through the UCEAP website, 'Participants' portal.

Emergency Contact Information



← Carry local contact information with you at all times

← Store information in your cell phone

← Keep a hard copy in your wallet

How to call Cairo from the U.S. (approximate time difference: add 9 hours to Pacific Time)

Dial:

The international access code: 011, country code: 20, city code: 2 and the local telephone number

How to call the U.S. from Cairo:

Dial:

The international access code: 00, country code: 1, the U.S. city code, and the local telephone number

UCEAP in Egypt

UC Study Center Director, UCSB Professor Nancy Gallagher – AUC Hostel in Zamalek - 16 Mohamed el Thakeb Street (off Al Maraashii Street).

Telephone: (011-20-2) 2-737-9040.

Cell phone calling within Cairo: 01519350830

Cell phone calling from the U.S.: 011 20 2 1519350830

Email address: Gallagher@history.ucsb.edu

Email address for the UCEAP Study Center in Cairo: eapcairo@aucegypt.edu

UCEAP in California

1+ 805-893-4762 (24/7 emergency line)

UCEAP Program-specific contacts

Regional Director, Melody Knutson

mknutson@eap.ucop.edu

Tel. 1 + 805-893-4756

Program Specialist, Michelle Bobro

mbobro@eap.ucop.edu

Tel. 1 + 805-893-3246

AUC Emergency Contacts

Dr. Mahmoud Zouk, Executive Director for Public Safety

Calling within Cairo: 0-16-6699796

Email: mahmoudzouk@aucegypt.edu

Mrs. Amal Saleh, Director of International Student Affairs

24/7 emergency phone line for international students

Calling within Cairo: 0-10-0066907

Email: amsalah@aucegypt.edu

Your Contact Details While in Egypt

Provide UCEAP, and your families in the U.S., with updated local contact details immediately upon arrival. University of California must have a reliable way of contacting all UCEAP students while they are abroad.

It is your responsibility to purchase a cellular phone either in Egypt within the first week of arrival or in the U.S. before departure (make sure it will work in Egypt). The former UC Study Center Director, said that it is very easy to get SIM card in Egypt and cell phones too. Vodafone and Mobinil offer deals on basic phones that most of our students got for about LE 150 (~\$26). He suggested your getting them from an authorized dealer instead of the street vendors. There is a Vodafone store on campus. You must log on to your MyEAP account to enter your local contact information (see below). Keep cell phones charged, turned on and with you at all times to allow UCEAP officials and/or family to reach you in the event of an emergency. UCEAP and AUC officials will use students' cell phone numbers to broadcast text messages with instructions during emergency situations.

1. Logon to your MyEAP account, choose 'contact information' and complete the section 'Address Abroad While Participating in EAP'
2. Contact Professor Nancy Gallagher and give her your cell phone and landline numbers.
3. Have a communication plan in place with your family in California. If the phone lines and cell phones are clogged, many times text messages can still get through and Internet connections may work to send e-mail. If you anticipate that the media will cover a local situation, communicate with your family in California to minimize anxiety.

Introduction

Everything about living in Egypt is fluid currently. There is political uncertainty surrounding the makeup of a post-Mubarak government. Although many Egyptians are not especially worried overall, some keep food stocked and extra cash at home in case banks close again or protests/strike stop supplies or deliveries. Egyptians are extremely welcoming and caring.

Post-Arrival Orientations

All UCEAP students are required to attend the AUC orientation, which the Office of International Student Affairs (ISA) holds at the beginning of each semester. During orientation, AUC officials discuss everything from dress code to avoiding street harassment and to dealing with it if it happens.

AUC officials also distribute an emergency card to carry in your wallets at all times to make sure you have access to AUC key emergency phone numbers.

The orientation will give you a sense of the political and social conditions in Egypt. AUC's Cairo trips/tours orient students to the streets and neighborhoods of interest in Cairo.

All students are required to attend the official UCEAP on-site orientation.

Housing

All UCEAP students are required to stay at the New Cairo campus or the Zamalek residences. During the first two weeks of checking in, the housekeeping team is available 24/7 to help you. At the Zamalek residence, each semester the reception desk receives a list of students who will be staying in the residence. You are expected to follow all AUC **housing policies and regulations**.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

UCEAP strongly encourages you and expects you to report safety concerns or incidents to the UC Study Center Director. We rely on you to exercise personal responsibility and demonstrate both an awareness of the world around you and a willingness to adjust your behavior to enhance your personal safety and well-being.

AUC's trained security team works in close cooperation with the Egyptian government to safeguard the campus and residences. All entrances are monitored and secured. Access is controlled via ID checks, metal detectors and bag searches.

Political Situation

While Cairo has not yet returned to pre-revolution levels of security, the overall security situation appears to be tending toward increased stability. Sporadic unrest and an unpredictable political landscape will be normal for at least the remainder of 2011. Opposition groups in Egypt have largely accepted the legitimacy of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF), the interim military government formed after the ouster of Mubarak.

AUC's location on the outskirts of Cairo offers a degree of protection from violence in the unlikely event of a political upheaval.



Advice

- Exercise caution during your travels around Cairo, specifically near Tahrir Square.
- Maintain a low profile.
- Avoid large gatherings.
- Pay close attention to your personal security at all times.

Demonstrations

There are frequent demonstrations centering on Tahrir Square, usually on Fridays. Demonstrations may turn violent very quickly and students should stay away from them. Follow the news on the television and radio closely and stay away from large gatherings of people (especially Tahrir Square and the Israeli Embassy on Al-Gamia' Bridge, Giza). Respect any advice or instructions from the local security authorities, AUC Security, and the UCEAP Study Center Director.

Demonstrations by ultra-conservative Salafist activities present increased concerns but most of their demonstrations have been small. Sectarian violence has increased and students should check with AUC authorities before attending religious gatherings.



Advice

- Stay away from demonstrations and limit exposure to protest venues. These include prominent intersections, government buildings, police stations, and religious sites.
- If violence erupts or is imminent, leave the area. If this is not feasible or safe, seek shelter in large buildings such as hotels, churches, museums, or shops. Wait until the crowds have dissipated before going back outside. Contact the Study Center Director or AUC authorities by cell phone, explain your whereabouts, and ask for instructions on what to do.
- Stay in contact with the UCEAP Study Center Director.

Terrorism

The overall terrorism threat in Egypt is moderate. The threat of attacks in the Sinai Peninsula, however, is high. Security is tight throughout the country, especially in resort areas. A heavy security presence is apparent throughout the country. U.S. citizens do not appear to have been targeted in any attacks in the Sinai or elsewhere. As some of these attacks have occurred during local holiday weekends, Egyptian security forces step up their presence at these times. Take extra caution at these and all times and respect any advice or instruction from the local security authorities. Remain alert to your surroundings at all times.

Crime

In many areas, the crime rate is low but is increasing due to a lack of full police deployment on the streets. While incidents of violence are rare, purse-snatching, pick-pocketing and petty theft occur.



Advice

- Do not leave valuables such as cash, jewelry, and electronic items unsecured in your room or unattended in public places.
- Remain aware of your surroundings and be cautious going anywhere with a stranger alone.
- Alcohol and drugs can lead to being less alert, less in control and less aware of the environment. If you are going to drink, know your limit. Remember that drinks served in bars overseas are often stronger than those in the U.S.
- Pay close attention to your personal security at all times.

Travel within Egypt and the Region

Tourist areas throughout Egypt are potential targets for terrorists and other extremists.

Avoid travel in the region at this time because the security situation remains extremely fluid.



Advice

- Treat all border areas with extreme caution. At this time, travel to Libya, Yemen, Bahrain and Syria is not recommended due to heavy regime crackdowns, violence, and military operations. UCEAP policy does not allow travel to Gaza or the West Bank whether or not borders are open.
- Pay close attention to your personal security at all times.
- Signout through MyEAP any time you will be away from Cairo. Report your whereabouts to your family and the UCEAP Study Center Directors.
- Follow the **UCEAP Student Travel Policy**.

LOCAL LAWS AND CUSTOMS

Local laws reflect the fact that Egypt is predominantly an Islamic country. Respect local traditions, customs, laws and religion at all times. Be aware of your actions to ensure that they do not offend other cultures or religious beliefs.

Dress

Egypt is a conservative society; dress modestly. Women's clothes should cover their upper legs and arms. Men should cover their chests. Shorts are generally frowned upon except in resorts. Generally, comfortable, loose fitting clothes are best for men and women. Women should plan on wearing a scarf over their hair when visiting mosques and conservative neighborhoods.



Advice

- Use common sense: Pants are preferred to shorts, and long-sleeved shirts (and t-shirts) are preferred to tank tops.
- You will be given some cultural information regarding etiquette, suggested dress code, safety advice, and other information during AUC's required orientation.

Drinking

Drinking in the street and anywhere other than a licensed restaurant or bar is not allowed and can lead to arrest.



Advice

- If you choose to drink, do so moderately.
- Pay close attention to your personal security at all times.

Sexual Harassment

Unescorted women are vulnerable to sexual harassment and verbal abuse. This is usually only an annoyance; actual sexual assaults are extremely rare. Some Egyptian men routinely follow western women.



Advice

- If you are followed enter a hotel or store until the harasser leaves.
- If you are touched or threatened by harassers, yell and seek help immediately. Verbal harassment is generally best ignored, but if a harasser will not leave, screaming and creating a scene will generally frighten him away.
- Strangers who approach you and try to make conversation are best ignored; politely trying to extricate yourself from the situation usually only encourages more harassment.
- Group travel is the best way to avoid uncomfortable confrontations.
- Avoid direct eye contact with Egyptian men.
- Sit next to a woman or alone on public transport.
- Be conservative in dress and behavior.

FIRE SAFETY

All public areas and rooms at AUC's New Cairo are fitted with smoke detectors and alarms. Fire hoses and extinguishers are well placed and easily accessible. Fire exits are well marked and clean. Fire evacuation drills take place. All buildings are equipped with automatic sprinkler systems.

All public areas and rooms at the AUC Zamalek dorms are fitted with smoke detectors and alarms. Fire extinguishers and hoses are well placed and easily accessible. Fire exits are well marked. The building is equipped with emergency sprinkler systems. Fire evacuation drills are not practiced.



Advice

- Read about fire safety and prevention in the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.

UCEAP General Contingency Plans

UCEAP makes reasonable efforts to provide a safe environment abroad and to counsel students on potential risks and necessary precautions. You and your family also play a role in minimizing potential dangers, and UCEAP expects you to participate actively in minimizing your risks while abroad.

When a worldwide event occurs, UCEAP follows its own standard protocols. We will activate the UCEAP contingency plan protocols, which will remain fluid and flexible depending on the situation. Emergencies can result from natural hazards such as earthquakes, epidemics, fires, droughts, and floods or from any number of man-made threats – food or water shortages, environmental and technological disasters, acute financial/economic distress, civil unrest, and armed conflict. Contingency planning helps UCEAP ensure that response is coordinated, expeditious and efficient.

UCEAP contingency planning follows a multi-level response. The foundations of this emergency response are the local Cairo Study Center plan, the AUC emergency response, and your cooperation during an emergency.

Your situational awareness will allow you to recognize, or anticipate a potential threat at an early stage and take measures to avoid it. It is important for all students to know how to react/ behave during a security incident and that UCEAP has contingency plans in place, which include an evacuation should the security situation in Egypt and surrounding area deteriorate. Decisions made during a crisis will vary depending on the nature of the event. See more information below.

Safe Evacuation Plan

Depending on the situation in Cairo and/or the region, UCEAP will restrict student movement (shelter in place) on a temporary basis. Students will be required to report welfare to the Study Center Director on a pre-determined basis. Depending on the threat to the program, students may be relocated to a pre-agreed safe haven. At any time, as a precaution, if the situation becomes serious, all students will be relocated or safely evacuated to minimize exposure. **UCEAP reserves the right to terminate and/or suspend the Program at any time it deems the safety or welfare of students is at risk.** Key for a secure stay is the student's responsibility in his/her wellbeing. Students must respond to the Study Center Director's instructions, calls, and messages.

There are times in which it is obvious that the University of California must consider getting students and faculty out (e.g., serious terrorist threat, insurrection, civil disorder, natural even, or other serious hazard to your safety). Occasionally, there are other signs of hazard, such a gradual, almost imperceptible decline in services, shortages in goods or services, restriction of flights, decreased internal security, etc. UCEAP monitors local conditions around the clock and continuously reassesses signs of deterioration.

The University of California security provider (iJET Intelligent Risk Systems) and UCEAP officials will make a determination after considering the fundamental factors in conducting a safe and efficient evacuation of students and faculty from a destabilized environment abroad. Factors include UCEAP's contingency plan, continuous and comprehensive analysis of potential security threats, and timely decision-making concerning the situation and possible evacuation. If UCEAP orders an evacuation anywhere in the world, students will be assembled at a secure location and then moved to the embarkation point on a schedule calculated to minimize any security exposure. UCEAP insurance will cover an ordered evacuation.

PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS

Why prepare?

Wherever you live, an emergency or crisis can strike without warning. Planning and preparation can greatly reduce the impact an emergency can have. Throughout the world, people have plans and prepare for natural disasters and other emergencies.

What you can do

- ➔ Become actively involved in preparedness (planning and mitigation).
- ➔ Provide emergency contact information to those who will need it.
- ➔ Take personal responsibility for your own safety and wellbeing.
- ➔ Prepare now for a sudden emergency.
- ➔ Have a plan - know what to do before, during, and after an emergency.
- ➔ Avoid passing on unsubstantiated information and rumors.

Basic personal protective measures

Simple steps you can take to help prepare for any emergency.

- ➔ Be sure that the UCEAP Study Center Director has your correct local address, residence phone number, cell phone number, and emergency notification information. If you expect to stay somewhere other than your residence in an emergency, be sure the Director knows how to reach you. Update your local contact information on MyEAP for use by UCEAP officials.
- ➔ Develop a personal emergency plan with your family/roommate.
- ➔ Make sure you have adequate supplies (granola bars, pre-cooked cans, water).
- ➔ Have sufficient cash in hand.
- ➔ Check the batteries in your portable radios, smoke detectors, cell phones and flashlights and keep extra batteries on hand, or purchase a crank-type, self-powered radio and flashlights.

If Demonstrations Occur

Should a riot or other civil disturbance develop in the community, or on or near the AUC campus, or the residences, AUC's and UCEAP's officials will make every effort to minimize the impact. They will collect information regarding the severity of the problem, continue to monitor the situation as events unfold, and inform AUC community members as soon as factual information is available.

Simple steps that you must follow:

- ➔ Avoid the areas of disturbance.
- ➔ Avoid provoking or obstructing the demonstrators.
- ➔ If caught in a demonstration, if it is safe to do so, leave the vicinity of where the disturbance is occurring. Seek a safe shelter. Do not participate in a demonstration.
- ➔ If you are instructed to evacuate your location, and it is safe to do so, secure your belongings and keep your cell phone charged and powered on, as notification will be sent through text messages.
- ➔ Stand by for periodic updates.
- ➔ If AUC and/or UCEAP officials direct you to shelter-in-place, comply quickly and calmly with instructions. Remain indoors. Although rarely called for, shelter-in-place events can occur. When they do happen, they are temporary. The goal is to protect you. Understand a shelter-in-place order is not given lightly. Your responsible cooperation will make the incident go as smoothly as possible.
- ➔ Keep your cell phones charged and powered-on. Keep listening to the radio or the television until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate. UCEAP officials may call for evacuation in specific areas at greatest risk and you are expected to comply quickly and calmly.

As a UCEAP student, you are responsible for. . .

- following UCEAP and AUC officials' instructions
- being a responsible and informed traveler and UCEAP participant
- observing UCEAP, AUC and local country laws and policies
- knowing the risks of your travel destinations and how to prevent problems
- reading all UCEAP and AUC materials
- being familiar with destination health and safety information on travel.state.gov, www.cdc.gov
- providing your local contact information to, and sharing travel itineraries with UCEAP and your family
- notifying the UCEAP Study Center Director of all independent travels before they start, and your travel dates and contact information
- reporting concerns, crimes against you, etc., to AUC and the UCEAP Study Center Director immediately
- your well-being at all times.

U.S. Embassy Resources

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/USEmbassyCairo>

Website: <http://egypt.usembassy.gov/consular/travpubl.html>

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