

Pizarts Dance Gap Year

Risk Management

Pizarts Dance Gap Year is committed to the highest standards in safety, quality, and integrity. We manage risk in a multitude of ways, utilizing exposure to controlled/managed risk as a means of furthering our students' personal growth and transformation. Through the use of effective evaluation, education and training, good communication, and implementation of emergency response protocols, our risk management approach provides a foundation for ensuring the safety of each and every Pizarts Dance Gap Year participant.

Student Eligibility & Behavior

An important way in which we manage risk is through our admissions process. All of our students must meet the physical, emotional, mental, and behavioral needs of our programs in order to be considered for admission and to remain on a program for its duration.

Students must be in good physical condition, emotionally stable, and willing to adapt their behaviors to shifting and differing expectations of the various partners, cultures, environments, and countries that they engage with. Students must understand that while some instructions may not make sense to them at the time, these instructions and restrictions are put in place based on assessed risks and contextual expectations. All students must have the social, cognitive, emotional, and physical capacity to comprehend, engage, and mitigate risk appropriately while on our programs.

Pizarts Dance Gap Year is not a therapeutic program; while a little nervousness or apprehension is natural, this program is not the correct fit for students with significant emotional, behavioral, or cognitive issues. These requirements are not intended to be exclusionary, but to honestly identify the basic and fundamental elements of participation – integrally tied to safety and risk management considerations. Students who cannot meet the expectations of a Pizarts Dance Gap Year program will be denied admission.

Our complete Essential Eligibility Criteria, Code of Conduct and Policy of Inclusion & Diversity is available on [Dance Gap Year/About page](#).

Communication

Pizarts Dance Gap Year places high value on the need for effective communication with and between student groups. All ambassadors are equipped with the necessary tools to contact local authorities in the event of an emergency. Each Pizarts Dance

Gap Year participant is asked to carry a copy of their passport/state ID, emergency contact phone list with the numbers of emergency response and resource personnel.

All Pizarts Dance Gap Year participants travelling abroad are registered with the US Department of State 'Smart Traveller Enrollment Program' (STEP) so that they can be informed of any travel warning or advisory and can be best supported in the event of an emergency. In addition, Pizarts Dance Gap Year personnel receive daily security updates and monitor both international and local media where our participants are traveling, remaining in close contact with partners on the ground.

Staff & Participant Training

Pizarts Dance Gap Year staff members and partners hold a wealth of experience in risk management and implementation of safety protocols. This experience enables our staff to view safety from multiple perspectives, and develop and implement those practices that help minimize the risks participants are exposed to. Additionally, Pizarts Dance Gap Year requires ambassadors on-site to go through a mentor and safety training, seasonal conference calls, and bi-weekly check-ins, in order to ensure a practical understanding of mentorship and expectations aligning with Pizarts Dance Gap Year protocols.

Partner Selection

While Pizarts Dance Gap Year works with the best of skills-based teaching organizations worldwide, we carefully evaluate selected partners for "standards of best practice" and for their effective implementation of risk management approaches. Each partner is vetted to evaluate the safety of the working and living environment, and works with Pizarts Dance Gap Year to coordinate risk management efforts each year.

Health & Safety Management in the Field

Pizarts Dance Gap Year helps ensure the safety and care of its participants by providing a variety of types of insurance coverage through several external organizations. We ensure that each participant has access to a full range of travel medical insurance as well as emergency evacuation services. When medical or safety questions arise, our participants have 24/7 access to top quality medical and safety consultative services.

Risk Management Education

As a core part of the curriculum, Pizarts Dance Gap Year teaches its participants the skills of risk management in order to promote responsible decision-making regarding their safety and that of their fellow participants. Teaching participants how to effectively take responsibility for themselves and for each other is one of the most important steps in controlling risk. Risk is an inherent part of life, whether traveling to distant corners of the world, or crossing the street in one's hometown. Risk can never be prevented but it can be managed, and learning to manage risk is an important life skill, which Pizarts Dance Gap Year aspires to maintain at the forefront of its practice.