



# Department of Geosciences

## Code of Conduct in the Field

An important part of the research and teaching mission of the Department of Geosciences is conducted away from Campus, often in remote and isolated locales: the “Field”, for short.

Many of us, students and instructors alike, find field work rewarding in ways different from the satisfaction that we may get from “regular” laboratory, classroom or office work. Unusual, sometimes unpredictable, non-campus settings, the great outdoors, the camaraderie of a ship’s crew or field party: all are aspects that may make field work *seem* out of the ordinary. None of these should detract from the fact that field work is, quite simply, *work*. Or *class*, as the case may be.

Wherever field research or instruction are conducted, for whatever purpose, and in whosever company, field safety is every bit as important as lab safety, in every aspect. Similarly, Princeton University’s *Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities* apply while traveling and in the field every bit as much as on campus.

Fieldwork is also a *privilege*, for students as well as instructors. Since the Department grants the right for students, employees, and faculty to travel and conduct, join, or lead, field work, it can also take it away.

Our *Code of Conduct in the Field* is meant to supplement our *Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities* for the particular circumstances under which field work and education are conducted. By extension it applies to all travel, and thus also to conference travel and attendance.

Faculty and students crafted it as a *compact* for our community. Each time you, student or instructor, sign it, you have read and understood it, you agree to abide by it, to be bound by it, to live up to it.

The Department will collect and monitor feedback on your experiences in the field. We will do so by a questionnaire that will ask specific questions, including on your experience with the conduct of supervisors, peers, and supervisees, so that we can follow up as appropriate.

*The Code of Conduct is a list of preparations that you, students and instructors, must make prior to travel. It is a bill of rights that clarifies what you, leaders and attendees, can expect from each other. Teachers and participants in field expeditions will use the Code as guidelines in preparing for field work with adequate time and consideration for each of the listed items. These preparations are separate from—but equal in importance to—the scientific preparation that all will make for their field work.*

Blair Schoene  
*Director of Graduate Studies*

Bess B. Ward  
*Department Chair*

Adam C. Maloof  
*Director of Undergraduate Studies*

Frederik J. Simons  
*Associate Chair*

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As I, \_\_\_\_\_, am about to conduct field work in \_\_\_\_\_, for the period of \_\_\_\_\_, I affirm that I have read and understood Princeton University's *Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities* as published on <https://rrr.princeton.edu/university>. In addition, I affirm that:

- I have had the opportunity to discuss any issues with trip organizers and fellow travelers. In order to prepare for my trip, I have been made aware in advance of **training options** in which I could partake to increase my comfort level and experience.
- I have been given and have **reviewed the itinerary**. I have been made aware of country- and culture-specific issues which may affect my personal comfort and safety. Judging them to be reasonable before departure, I assume the risks inherent in field work conducted in remote locations.
- I have a right to **first-aid materials and supplies**, and to expect fellow travelers (including myself) trained in how to use them. Examples of adequate training include, but are not limited to: First Responder and CPR Training certificates, Outdoor & Wilderness Guide certificates, etc.
- I have a right to **personal space, free from bullying or harassment**. I cannot be compelled into situations where a power imbalance could cause harm or unreasonable discomfort, as may arise in situations involving only *two* persons. I can give input and feedback on group assignments.
- I have a right to **personal care**. While I understand that hygienic facilities may be below Campus standards, I have a right to sanitation, resting and sleeping arrangements that make the best of local circumstance. I am comfortable with the field-site specific constraints as communicated to me.
- I have a right to **adequate nourishment**, and at no point should I be forced or feel compelled to partake in the consumption of alcohol, for which alternatives must always be available. I have had the opportunity to communicate and make arrangements for dietary restrictions.
- I have been given the means to contact and **notify a campus advocate** in case unwelcome situations arise. My campus advocates have the power and the means to extricate me from such situations as expediently as possible. I received and reviewed the enclosed additional materials.
- I have a right to **be heard, file a complaint, and receive assistance**, about any aspect of my field experience that I deem transgressive of any of the *Rights, Rules & Responsibilities*, or this *Code of Conduct in the Field*. I have received and reviewed the enclosed additional materials with details.

I am signing and dating this document without coercion and filing it with the Department of Geosciences where it shall remain on file for the indefinite future, accompanied by my post-trip survey.

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## Mechanisms for Contact and Reporting

If you have witnessed or have been a victim of a violation of local laws, contact local law enforcement. To discuss whether the **Code of Conduct in the Field** (including *Rules, Rights, and Responsibilities*; e.g., *Discrimination or Harassment and Title IX policies*) is being met, or to report a violation thereof, engage the field leader, another member of the field party, the Chair, Associate Chair, the Director of Graduate Studies, or the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

For this particular trip to \_\_\_\_\_, for the period of \_\_\_\_\_,  
the Department of Geosciences Campus contact is: \_\_\_\_\_.

The persons above are *not* confidential resources, and may be mandated to report incidents. If you are not comfortable reporting to any of the above points of contact, do not hesitate to contact the support services at Princeton University, listed below.

## Princeton University Confidential Resources

Confidential Resources are support and advocacy services on Campus that are available for consultation and reporting. Information shared with Confidential Resources (including information about whether an individual has received services) will only be disclosed to the Title IX Coordinator or any other person with the individuals express written permission, unless there is an imminent threat of serious harm to the individual or to others, or a legal obligation to reveal such information.

Sexual Harassment/Assault Advising, Resources and Education (SHARE):  
McCosh Health Center, Washington Road, Princeton, NJ 08544  
609-258-3310, [share@princeton.edu](mailto:share@princeton.edu)  
<https://share.princeton.edu>

Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS)  
McCosh Health Center, Washington Road, Princeton, NJ 08544  
609-258-3141  
<https://uhs.princeton.edu/counseling-psychological-services>

Medical Services at University Health Services (UHS)  
McCosh Health Center, Washington Road, Princeton, NJ 08544  
609-258-3141  
<https://uhs.princeton.edu>

Ombuds Office  
179 Nassau Street Suite D, Princeton, NJ 08544  
609-258-1775, [ombuds@princeton.edu](mailto:ombuds@princeton.edu)  
<https://ombuds.princeton.edu>

Office of Religious Life Chaplains  
Murray-Dodge Hall, Princeton, NJ 08544  
609-258-3047, [orl@princeton.edu](mailto:orl@princeton.edu)  
<https://religiouslife.princeton.edu>