Student International Travel Safety
INT-04

About This Policy

Effective Dates:
08-15-2006

Last Updated:
01-06-2023

Responsible University Administrator:
Vice President for International Affairs

Policy Contact:
Graduate Student Travel
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Undergraduate Student Travel
Jennifer Engel
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Scope

University units, administrators, and faculty member who are involved in organizing student travel; undergraduate or graduate/professional students who travel overseas on a university-sponsored instructional program or who travel individually using funding from IU.

Policy Statement

Indiana University regularly monitors international information relevant to the safety of IU students since their safety and security is of the utmost importance. In evaluating the safety of travel abroad on university-sponsored programs, IU gives primary consideration to Travel Advisories issued by the U.S. Department of State (DoS) and the Travel Health Notices issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Guidelines

The following policy applies to IU students:

For University-sponsored or organized instructional programs, including faculty-led instruction and other sponsored course work, for undergraduate and graduate/professional students:

*Indiana University will not offer or support study abroad programs in, or travel through, countries under State Department Level 3 or 4 Travel Advisories. The same prohibition applies to any region of a country where the State Department Travel Advisory specifies “do not travel” (Level 4) to that region. No exemptions will be considered for State Department Level 4 countries or State Department Level 4 regions. For countries or regions under a State Department Level 3 Advisory, requests for exemptions based on "special circumstances" are evaluated on a program-by-program basis through a process established by the Safety and Responsibility Committee of the system-wide Overseas Study Advisory Council (OSAC). For more information see: https://overseas.iu.edu/policies/safety-responsibility/ta-exemptions.html. Exemption requests should be submitted at least two months prior to anticipated departure.*
Travel to countries experiencing serious outbreaks of infectious disease may be prohibited. The Office for Overseas Study (OVST) will consult with the Office of the Chief Health Officer (OCHO) regarding any program traveling to a destination with a CDC Level 3 Travel Health Notice.

Undergraduate and graduate/professional students who travel to countries or areas under a Level 3 State Department Travel Advisory as part of a program that has been granted a request for exemption must sign a waiver. Waivers must be submitted to the head of the department administering the program.

For individual travel by undergraduate and graduate/professional students who plan to use funding from Indiana University to pursue research, study or other University-related business:

The University will not provide funding for a student to travel to a country under a U.S. Department of State Level 4 Travel Advisory. The same prohibition applies to a region of a country where the State Department Travel Advisory specifies “do not travel” (Level 4) to that region.

Undergraduate and graduate/professional students who travel to countries or areas under a State Department Level 3 Travel Advisory must sign a waiver that should be submitted to the department head to be kept in the student’s file.

Travel to countries experiencing serious outbreaks of infectious disease may be prohibited. The Office for Overseas Study (OVST) will consult with the Office of the Chief Health Officer (OCHO) regarding student travel to a destination with a CDC Level 3 Travel Health Notice.

| DoS 1: Exercise Normal Precaution | Travel supported subject to normal safety/security preparations | Travel supported | IU funds may be used |
| DoS 2: Exercise Increased Caution | Travel supported subject to safety/security preparations commensurate with the travel advisory | Travel supported | IU funds may be used |
| DoS 3: Reconsider Travel (includes designated areas in countries otherwise at Levels 1 and 2); and/or CDC Level 3 Travel Health Notice | Travel not supported, unless an OSAC exemption is obtained OCHO consultation required | Travel not supported | IU funds may be used, but student must sign waiver |
| Dos 4: Do not Travel (includes designated areas in countries otherwise at Levels 1-3) | Travel not supported, no exemption available | Travel not supported | No IU funds may be used, no exemption available |

NOTE: Please see special requirements for students traveling to Cuba

Information on Travel Warnings

It is the responsibility of the sponsoring unit (e.g. Center, Department, Institute, or School) at Indiana University to comply with and enforce this policy. Current information on travel warnings for individual countries is available at:

US Department of State:
https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/
Indiana University units that regularly send graduate students abroad may also obtain automatic email distributions of U.S. Department of State Travel Advisories by registering at:
Providing Contact Information while Overseas

While traveling abroad on university-sponsored or -funded programs, graduate/professional students are strongly advised to provide information about their travel itinerary and contact information in the destination country to their sponsoring unit at IU. This should include hotel and personal addresses, mobile and office telephone numbers, email information, and an alternative contact with an institution or individual in the country. Such information is necessary if emergencies arise either with family members in the United States or with events in the country of residence.

In addition, graduate/professional students are advised to register upon arrival in their country of destination with the U.S. Embassy. This can be done on-line at: https://step.state.gov/. Registration is especially critical where the destination country is one in which a Level 3 Travel Advisory is in effect. In the event that issues affecting the safety of U.S. citizens unexpectedly arise, the U.S. Embassy needs up-to-date contact information for visitors in order to disseminate safety information, evacuation orders, or other updated travel warnings.

Additional Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Student Travel</td>
<td>Jennifer Engel</td>
<td>812-855-9304</td>
<td><a href="mailto:engeljl@iu.edu">engeljl@iu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Student Travel</td>
<td>Hannah Buxbaum</td>
<td>812-855-8669</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ovpia@iu.edu">ovpia@iu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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History

This policy was established in August 2006.

Policy contacts and links updated 6-19-17.

Policy updated due to revision of U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory system January 2018.

In November 2020, this policy was temporarily suspended per Department of State pandemic guidelines. It was reinstated in October 2022.

Policy updated to articulate the role of the Office of the Chief Health Officer and update terminology related to CDC travel health notices in January 2023.

Previous Versions:

Effective Dates: 08/15/2006 - 02/14/2018

Effective Dates: 02/14/2018 - 01/06/2023

Related Information

U.S. Department of State, Current Travel Advisories
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Travelers' Health Information
U.S. Department of State, Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)
Student Travel to Cuba
Protect IU's Information on Communicable Diseases
IU Overseas Study Emergency Notification Protocol Statement

Related Forms

Waiver for undergraduate student travelers – Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability Form
Waiver for graduate student individual travelers – Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability Form