



**Association of International Education Administrators**  
*Leaders in International Higher Education*

**Summary of Replies to Issue Related to Faculty/Student Travel to Countries Under Active DOS Travel Warnings or Alerts.**

**1. University of South Alabama**

Policy differs by category:

1. Faculty and staff - reviewed by OIE and forwarded to department heads with OIE recommendations - decision at the department, dean and VP levels.
2. Students - reviewed by OIE, risk management and university counsel and recommendation made by OIE.

We review all security issues through our 24/7 emergency assistance and security services provider for detailed timely on the ground information. That information is shared with the academic units and travelers. Voluntary informed consent releases may be provided to the traveler if it is allowed.

Policies for international travel are at:

<http://www.southalabama.edu/travel/intltravelpolicy08162010.pdf>

**2. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**

At Rutgers we evaluate travel risks and our current practice is to differentiate between Undergraduate, Graduate Students.

As a general rule Rutgers does not send undergraduate students to countries with an active state department warning, however upon review by the Universities Crisis Management Team, we have made case by case exceptions where the academic value and the ability of the Program Directors to put in place Emergency Crisis Management plans than can mitigate many though not all the risks. Recent notable exceptions were programs in Israel and in Kenya.

For Graduate Student who travel abroad in connection with research and other studies, our practices have been to provide them access to information and resources on Risks so they are in a position to make informed decisions on the Risks they might be assuming. In addition they make those decisions in consultation with their Department Chair and or Faculty Adviser. The Department of Risk Management acts as an additional resource.

[www.aieaworld.org](http://www.aieaworld.org)

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We require all students traveling abroad to obtain International Medical Health Insurance and International SOS program to provide them with the resources and support to help manage risks and problems that may emerge.

However at Rutgers we have been developing a new policy for all student international travel, which is in the final stages of approval. (Draft policy, approval form, and crisis action plan are attached: Rutgers #1, #2 & #3)

This policy will NOT apply to our study abroad academic programs who have staff that are well trained to manage study abroad programs (currently in 33 countries) and address the various risk management issues that always arrive.

We have seen exponential growth over the last three years where individual departments outside of study abroad are undertaking foreign travel trips for many purposes including experiential learning etc. who may not have the experience or training of the Study Abroad Office.

**3. Michigan State University-- Julie Friend, J.D. – Chair, NAFSA KC Health and Safety Subcommittee; and International Analyst for Travel Health, Safety & Security Office of Study Abroad/International Studies and Programs**

In June the NAFSA Health and Safety Subcommittee produced a survey report about Travel Warning policies/review procedures at U.S. Colleagues and Universities, which was compiled by our newly appointed (NAFSA) Education Abroad Knowledge Community (EA KC) Health and Safety Subcommittee Vice Chair, Stacey Tsantir (University of Minnesota).

See: <http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=26736>

Also, last year I wrote an article on this subject for *NAFSA's International Educator*, see: [Travel Warnings: Developing Effective Response Procedures.](#)

I gave a talk on this with several colleagues at the recent Forum on Education Abroad's Health, Safety and Security Institute, where you can get to the powerpoints and handouts at <http://forumea.org/Sessions.cfm>.

**4. University of Florida**

We do not have a pre-defined form (purposely really), because we want them to come up with their own proposal and address the things they deem necessary. The committee members are faculty members from different colleges, a representative from General Counsel, and two program

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directors. Our students do sign an additional waiver when they study in a country with a travel warning. (Student waiver form is attached: UF #4)

**5. University of Texas at Dallas:**

Programs need to be evaluated and approved by the University Advisory Council on International Education. Petitions are submitted to the Director of International Education, who forwards them to the ACIE. If ACIE approves the program, students and faculty are subject to the institutional protocol for international education.

**6. University of Kentucky**

Copy of UK's Policy on Travel to countries under DOS Warning and Administrative Regulation is attached: UK # 5.

**7. University of Kansas**

So far, we just have a policy not to support UG study in countries where Travel Warnings have been issued. We're about to impanel a faculty committee to review this policy and perhaps make recommendations for changes to our Provost.

**8. California Polytechnic State University**

We just had a conversation yesterday (with our President's Office) about how to handle requests for exemption from our system-wide ban on any sponsored travel to any country on "the list." They would like criteria so it would be easier to judge whether or not a request for an exemption rose to a level of significance or appropriateness for our campus president to ask his (in this case) boss, the system Chancellor for an exemption...we are looking at developing a "route sheet" to at least have some dept. heads, or deans, or SIO (me), sign off that this request rises to a level that it is worth the president's time and resources to ask the chancellor for an exemption. I hope you get some good responses and can share them as this hits us right where we are.

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