



Association of International Education Administrators
Leaders in International Higher Education

LISTSERV SUMMARY REGARDING TRAVEL TO HAITI

Original Post: On 8/14/2012 11:56 AM, Kucko, Jane wrote:

Dear Colleagues,

I've read the previous list serve discussion on travel to countries with DOS travel warnings and alerts. Have you had any undergraduate students and faculty at your institution travel to Haiti? Do you have any particular advice (including "don't go")?

We are considering a program that is located about 50 miles north of Port-au-Prince.

Thank you in advance for any comments.

Jane Kucko, Director

Center for International Studies: TCU Abroad

Texas Christian University

Response 1: Raymond F. Zeuschner

Cal Poly

We are prohibited from any official travel to Haiti as our insurance deems it "high hazard." We had a well-intentioned group of students travel there over Spring break to help in re-building. When asked by them, we were somewhat discouraging as every gallon of gas they used to travel took away a gallon of gas the existing agencies in Haiti could have used. Every meal our students ate was one less meal for a Haitian to eat. They decided they wanted to go anyway.

Other than that, we have no travel at this time.

Response 2: Rodolfo Hernandez Guerrero, Ph.D.

Director of International Education, UT Dallas

At UT Dallas, any member of our community intending to travel to a country with a DOS travel warning needs to submit a petition to the Advisory Council on International Education to evaluate the particularities of the specific program / visit, i.e. length, local emergency procedures, endorsement for the corresponding academic unit, host (provider), local networking, language proficiency, etc. If the petition is approved, the traveler receives UT Dallas 24/7 contact info for any emergency and must register in International SOS. For this particular destination, I would request to register in DOS as well. Bottom line: to ensure 1) the legitimacy of the program, 2) the institution is ready for any emergency in this destination, and 3) your traveler(s) has/have the attributes (skills) for a potential successful program.

Response 3: Christina Sanchez

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We have had students go the past two years during spring break for a faculty-led short-term service-learning program. It is a program done in partnership with other institutions. I believe we have been pleased with the opportunity thus far.

Response 4: Naymond H. Keathley

Naymond H. Keathley, PhD
Jo Murphy Chair and Interim Director
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We do not have a program in Haiti at present. We will not send students to a country for which the U.S. Department of State has issued a travel warning.

Response 5: Pamela Cranston

Pamela Cranston, Ph.D.
Vice Provost for International Programs
Johns Hopkins University
265 Garland Hall
Email: pcranston@jhu.edu
Phone: 410-516-8993 or 8770

Jane, Hopkins has a group of nursing students that go to Haiti every year. I am copying Rachel Bremen on this message. She could give you additional information, if you like.

Response 6: Thomas Bogenschield

Thomas Bogenschield, Ph.D.
Director, Global Education Office
Vanderbilt University
Suite 115, 310 24th Avenue South
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Haiti is definitely on the 'don't go' list, but here at Vanderbilt we rather routinely allow people to go from the medical side of the university. The thinking is that if the crime/political situation is

manageable, the real threat is health issues. And we know that our medical folks know much more about that threat than we do, and that they take relevant precautions. That said, we likely wouldn't let a group of undergrads go...

Response 7: Ms. Daniela Ascarelli

Assistant Vice Provost for International Programs
Director, Drexel Study Abroad

Drexel sends students to Haiti as part of their Public Health and Nursing curriculum—at this point these are primarily graduate students so perhaps not the same population that you are thinking of.

Response 8: Ray Bromley, Ph.D.

Vice Provost for International Education,
and Professor of Geography & Planning, Sci Lib G-40,
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Since the earthquake, we have officially and successfully sent two student study abroad groups to Haiti, in one case around 20 students for a week (1 credit), and in the other six students for six weeks (6 credits). In both cases they were closely monitored and supervised by our partner organization there --- an educational NGO with accommodation and facilities, run by one of our alums and by her two siblings. I visited myself and “did due diligence” checking that the security and hygiene situation for our students would be adequate, and I was very impressed by the thoughtful, conscientious management behavior of our Haitian partners. The first group to go included 4 staff “chaperones”, two of them of Haitian origin. The second group went without faculty/staff.

We also had a case shortly after the earthquake where a student group organized to go, and I had to warn colleagues and our media folks not to announce or celebrate till after their return ... saying, in effect, that students can go of their own free will, but that they are not going under the auspices of the university, or to do academic work assignments designated by the university. The group went and came back, without problems.

Quite a lot of the interested students are of Haitian descent, and so there are problems when they want to break away and go to visit relatives in other parts of the country. Clear plans and explicit waiver statements are crucial to defining what's OK and what's not OK.

On other scores, cholera is a worry, but I think road accidents are an even bigger concern. The international aid NGO community worries about kidnappings.