

PRACTICAL EXPERTISE WEBINARS



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THE
FORUM
ON EDUCATION
ABROAD

Incorporating the U.S. Department of State New Travel Advisories and Alerts into Your Risk Management Strategies

co-sponsored by OSAC

PRACTICAL
EXPERTISE
WEBINARS





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Overseas Security
Advisory Council

JENNA KLYM

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM OFFICER

OSAC is a **Public-Private Partnership** with nearly 5,000 American organizations as constituents. These organizations include: **companies, educational institutions, religious groups, and non-governmental organizations.**

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Located in the U.S. Department of State, OSAC is housed in the **Bureau of Diplomatic Security.**

OSAC is the liaison between the U.S. government and U.S. organizations abroad on issues of security.

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with OSAC's team of
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Emergency Duty Officer
for after-hour
emergencies

Security Reports on
global security
incidents and trends

Global Security Networks
for you and your
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The OSAC website includes:
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OSAC Event announcements,
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BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS
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HELPING U.S. STUDENTS ABROAD

ELIZABETH FINAN
OVERSEAS CITIZENS SERVICES
FEBRUARY 8, 2018

U.S. Department of State • Bureau of Consular Affairs



Who We Are: Domestic and Abroad



Before You Go – 4 Things

Follow our Traveler's Checklist to:

1. Get Informed
2. Get Required Documents
3. Get Enrolled (STEP)
4. Get Insured

travel.state.gov/travelerschecklist

United States Department of State
TRAVELER'S CHECKLIST

Before traveling abroad, make sure to:

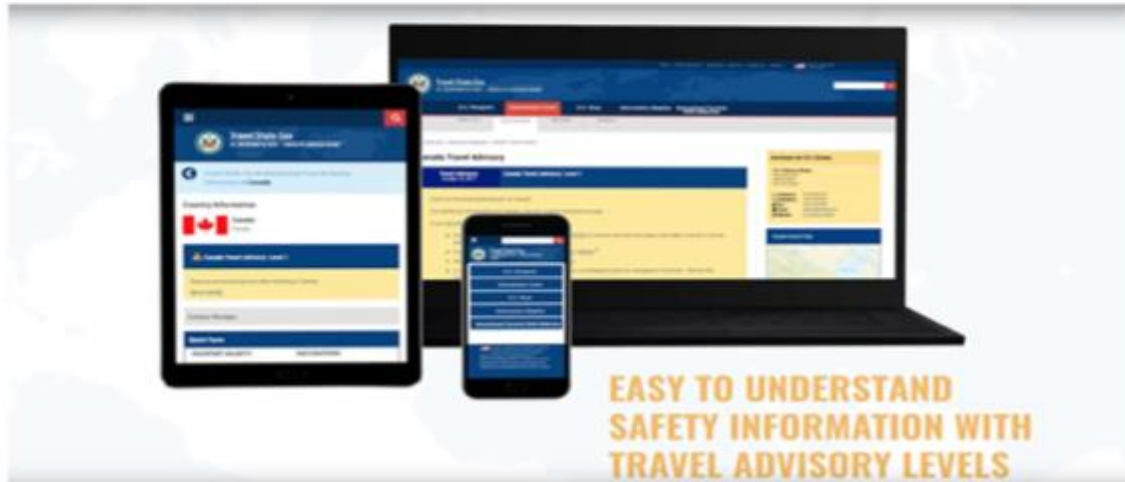
-  **GET INFORMED** about where you are going, at travel.state.gov/destination.
-  **GET REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**, such as your passport and visas.
-  **GET ENROLLED** in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) for security and emergency alerts.
-  **GET INSURED** for medical, evacuation, and other unexpected expenses.


travel.state.gov/travelerschecklist



Our Information

LIVE! Improved Consular Safety and Security Messaging



We have made it easier for you to get clear, timely, and reliable safety and security information about every country in the world and access it at home or on the go via our mobile-friendly website, travel.state.gov.

Take Us with You Whenever You Go Abroad

The mission of the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs is to protect the lives and serve the interests of U.S. citizens abroad. We provide information to help you assess for yourself the risks of international travel and what steps to take to ensure your safety when you decide to go abroad.

Before You Go

You can now access all of our safety and security information on one country page. So before you travel, check our Travel Advisory and Alerts for your destination(s) at travel.state.gov/destination. Be sure to read further country-specific details on the same page that could affect your travel, such as entry/exit requirements, local laws and customs, health conditions, transportation, and other relevant

Learn more about our new products



VIEW ALL TRAVEL ADVISORIES



TAKE US WITH YOU!
DOWNLOAD OUR CARD.

Enroll in STEP

travel.state.gov/travelsafely



Country Page with Travel Advisory – Level 1

Home | Travel Advisories | Newsroom | About Us | Contact Us | Careers | Find U.S. Embassies & Consulates

Travel.State.Gov
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE — BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS

Congressional Liaison | Special Issuance Agency | U.S. Passports | **International Travel** | U.S. Visas | Intercountry Adoption | International Parental Child Abduction

Before You Go | Country Information | While Abroad

Travel.State.Gov > International Travel > Country Information > Canada

Country Information

Canada
Canada
Last Updated: August 28, 2017

Travel Advisory
January 10, 2018

Canada – Level 1: Exercise normal precautions

Exercise normal precautions in Canada.

Read the Safety and Security section on the [country information page](#).

If you

... [READ MORE]

Embassy Messages | Alerts

No current Alerts.

[View Local Security Messages Archive](#)

Quick Facts

Travel Advisory Levels

- 1** Exercise normal precautions
- 2** Exercise increased caution
- 3** Reconsider travel
- 4** Do not travel

Assistance for U.S. Citizens

U.S. Embassy Ottawa
490 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 1G8, Canada

Travel Advisory Levels:

- Level 1** – Exercise Normal Precautions
- Level 2** – Exercise Increased Caution
- Level 3** – Reconsider Travel
- Level 4** – Do Not Travel

Top two lines of the Travel Advisory

Travel Advisory – Level 2

Country Information



Tanzania
United Republic of Tanzania
Last Updated: December 4, 2017

Travel Advisory
January 10, 2018

Tanzania – Level 2: Exercise increased caution

Exercise increased caution in Tanzania due to **crime, terrorism, and targeting of LGBTI persons**.

Violent crime, such as assault, sexual assault, express kidnapping, mugging, and carjacking, is common. Local police may lack the resources to respond effectively to serious crime.

Terrorist groups continue plotting possible attacks in Tanzania. Terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting embassies, police stations, mosques, and other places frequented by Westerners.

Members of the LGBTI community have been arrested, targeted, harassed, and/or charged with unrelated offenses.

Read the Safety and Security section on the [country information page](#).

If you decide to travel to Tanzania:

- Always carry a copy of your U.S. passport and visa (if applicable). Keep original documents in a secure location.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not leave your food or drink unattended.
- Stay alert in locations frequented by Westerners.
- Avoid public displays of affection, in particular for same-sex couples.
- Monitor local media for breaking events and be prepared to adjust your plans.
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive Alerts and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Follow the Department of State on [Facebook](#)^{CF} and [Twitter](#)^{CF}.
- Review the [Crime and Safety Report](#)^{CF} for Tanzania.
- U.S. citizens who travel abroad should always have a contingency plan for emergency situations. Review the [Traveler's Checklist](#).

Risk Indicators:

- C – Crime
- T – Terrorism
- U – Civil Unrest
- H – Health
- N – Natural Disaster
- E – Time-limited Event
- O – Other

C T O



Brief summary, explanation of Travel Advisory and risk indicators

Advice for if the traveler decides to visit the country

Travel Advisory – Level 2 with Level 4

Country Information



Jamaica

Jamaica

Last Updated: June 29, 2016

Travel Advisory
January 10, 2018

Jamaica – Level 2: Exercise increased caution



Exercise increased caution in Jamaica due to **crime**. Some areas have increased risk. Read the entire Travel Advisory.

Do not travel to:

- Some areas of Kingston due to **crime**.
- Some areas of Montego Bay due to **crime**.
- Spanish Town due to **crime**.

Guidance on areas that are Level 4

Violent crime, such as home invasions, armed robberies, sexual assaults, and kidnappings, occur frequently, even at all-inclusive resorts. Local police lack the resources to respond effectively to serious criminal offenses. U.S. government personnel are prohibited from driving outside of Kingston at night.

Read the Safety and Security section on the [country information page](#).

If you decide to travel to Jamaica:

- Avoid walking or driving at night.
- Avoid public buses.
- Avoid secluded places or situations, even in resorts.
- Do not physically resist any robbery attempt.
- Be aware of your surroundings and keep a low profile.
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive Alerts and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Follow the Department of State on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Review the [Crime and Safety Report](#) for Jamaica.
- U.S. citizens who travel abroad should always have a contingency plan for emergency situations. Review the [Traveler's Checklist](#).

Kingston

Violence and shootings occur regularly in some areas of Kingston. U.S. government personnel are prohibited from traveling to the following areas: downtown Kingston, which is defined as the areas between Mountain View Avenue and Hagley Park Road, and south of Half Way Tree and Old Hope Roads, and includes Trench Town, Tivoli Gardens, and Arnett Gardens; Standpipe, Grants Pen, and Cassava Piece.

Visit our website for [Travel to High-Risk Areas](#).



Travel Advisory – Level 3

Country Information



Niger
Republic of Niger
Last Updated: April 10, 2017

Travel Advisory
January 10, 2018

Niger – Level 3: Reconsider travel



Reconsider travel to Niger due to **crime and terrorism**.

Violent crime, such as armed robbery, is common.

Terrorist groups continue plotting kidnappings and possible attacks in Niger. Terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting foreign and local government facilities and areas frequented by Westerners. Terrorists operate in the areas bordering Mali, Libya, and throughout northern Niger. Avoid travel to Niger's border regions, particularly the Malian border area, Diffa region, and the Lake Chad region. Mali-based extremist groups have crossed the border and carried out multiple lethal attacks on Nigerien security forces.

The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in remote and rural areas as U.S. government employees must obtain special authorization to travel outside of the capital, Niamey, due to security concerns. Outside of Niamey, all U.S. Embassy personnel are required to travel only during daylight hours in a minimum two-vehicle convoy accompanied by armed Nigerien government security escorts.

Read the Safety and Security section on the [country information page](#).

If you decide to travel to Niger:

- Visit our website for [Travel to High-Risk Areas](#).
- Stay at hotels with armed Nigerien security presence.
- Do not physically resist any robbery attempt.
- Use caution when walking or driving at night.
- Keep a low profile.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Monitor local media for breaking events and be prepared to adjust your plans.
- Stay alert in locations frequented by Westerners.
- Make contingency plans to leave the country.
- Have evacuation plans that do not rely on U.S. government assistance.
- Keep travel documents up to date and easily accessible.
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive Alerts and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Follow the Department of State on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Review the [Crime and Safety Report](#) for Niger.
- U.S. citizens who travel abroad should always have a contingency plan for emergency situations. Review the [Traveler's Checklist](#).



Travel Advisory – Level 4

Country Information



Syria
Syrian Arab Republic
Last Updated: September 12, 2017

Travel Advisory
January 10, 2018

Syria – Level 4: Do not travel



Do not travel to Syria due to **terrorism, civil unrest, and armed conflict.**

No part of Syria is safe from violence. Kidnappings, the use of chemical warfare, shelling, and aerial bombardment have significantly raised the risk of death or serious injury. The destruction of infrastructure, housing, medical facilities, schools, and power and water utilities has also increased hardships inside the country.

The U.S. Embassy in Damascus suspended its operations in February 2012. The U.S. government does not have diplomatic or consular relations with Syria. The Czech Republic serves as the protecting power for U.S. citizens in Syria. The range of consular services that the Czech Republic provides to U.S. citizens is extremely limited, and the U.S. government is unable to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Syria. U.S. citizens in Syria who seek consular services should try to quickly and safely leave the country and contact a U.S. embassy or consulate in a neighboring country, if at all possible.

The U.S. government particularly warns private U.S. citizens against traveling to Syria to engage in armed conflict. U.S. citizens who undertake such activity face extreme personal risks, including kidnapping, injury, or death. The U.S. government does not support this activity, and our ability to provide consular assistance to individuals who are injured or kidnapped, or to the families of individuals who die in the conflict, is extremely limited.

Fighting on behalf of or providing other forms of support to designated terrorist organizations, including ISIS and al-Nusrah Front, can constitute the provision of material support for terrorism, which is a crime under U.S. law that can result in penalties including prison time and large fines.

Due to risks to civil aviation operating within or in the vicinity of Syria, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) and/or a Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR). For more information U.S. Citizens should consult the [Federal Aviation Administration's Prohibitions, Restrictions and Notices](#)¹².

Read the Safety and Security section on the [country information page](#).

If you decide to travel to Syria:

- Visit our website on [Travel to High Risk Areas](#).
- Draft a will and designate appropriate insurance beneficiaries and/or power of attorney.
- Discuss a plan with loved ones regarding care/custody of children, pets, property, belongings, non-liquid assets (collections, artwork, etc.), funeral wishes, etc.
- Share important documents, login information, and points of contact with loved ones so that they can manage your affairs, if you are unable to return as planned to the United States. Leave DNA samples with your medical provider in case it is necessary for your family to access them. [Find a suggested list of such documents here](#)¹⁷.
- Establish your own personal security plan in coordination with your employer or host organization, or consider consulting with a professional security organization.
- Develop a communication plan with family and/or your employer or host organization so that they can monitor your safety and location as you travel through high-risk areas. This plan should specify who you would contact first, and how they should share the information.
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive Alerts and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Follow the Department of State on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Review the [Crime and Safety Report](#)¹² for Syria.
- U.S. citizens who travel abroad should always have a contingency plan for emergency situations. Review the [Traveler's Checklist](#).



Travel Advisory Map



Alerts

What are the changes?



Mobile-friendly



Improved format



Standard language

Example:

Health Alert - U. S. Embassy Bridgetown (January 10, 2018)

Location: South Coast of Barbados between Hastings and St. Lawrence Gap

Event: There is an overflow of raw sewage due to mechanical failure on the island's south coast that is affecting the water quality at certain beaches between the Hastings and St. Lawrence gap areas. Sewage has periodically bubbled up onto the streets, and there are reports that the overflow is reaching the beach areas.

Actions to Take:

- Avoid water activities in the affected areas (south coast between St. Lawrence gap and Hastings.).
- Beware of sewage on the streets. If you come into contact with sewage, wash your hands, shoes, and any clothing that may have come into contact with the effluence.
- If you become seriously ill, seek medical attention.

Assistance:

- [U.S. Embassy to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean](#)
+(246) 227-4000
- BridgetownACS@state.gov
- State Department -- Consular Affairs
888-407-4747 or 202-501-4444
- [Barbados Country Information](#)
- Enroll in [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security updates
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Sign up – [STEP.state.gov](https://step.state.gov)



State Department Assistance

- Emergency Passports
- Medical Emergencies
- Arrests
- Victim Assistance
- Welfare & Whereabouts
- Repatriation
- Deaths & Estates
- Crisis Response
- Citizenship Documentation
- Notarial Services
- Voting Assistance
- Federal Programs
- International Parental Child Abduction
- Intercountry Adoption



State Department Resources

Overseas Emergencies

- Nearest U.S. embassy or consulate:
travel.state.gov/destination
- Overseas Citizens Services
Washington, D.C.:

888-407-4747
+1 202-501-4444

Online

Consular Affairs:

travel.state.gov

STEP.state.gov

careers.state.gov/ca

OSAC: *OSAC.gov*

ECA: *studyabroad.state.gov*
exchanges.state.gov



@TravelGov



Adjusting MIT's International Travel Risk Policy Country Warning Level Methodology to U.S. State Department Changes

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Travel Advisory Impact on MIT

- MIT's International Travel Risk Policy Country Warning Levels became obsolete on January 10, 2018.
- Requires adjusting policy to the new system in order to produce Country Warning Levels.
- Opportunity to study whether an international assistance provider based methodology would be feasible as opposed to defaulting to a DOS-based methodology.

MIT Travel Context

- Less “traditional” study abroad to centers for individuals and groups (typically the January break for annual programs or one-off groups to Western Europe).
- More individual or small group to businesses and research locations or cooperating universities for the Technical Internship Program (MISTI), Public Service, Service Learning, Global Teaching Initiatives.
- Travel Cycle & Estimated Student Numbers Abroad
 - January: 300-400 travelers
 - Spring Break: 300-400 travelers
 - Summer: 1100-1300 travelers
 - Spring / Fall Semesters : 200- 300

MIT Travel – Some Locations

- Frequent Student Travel Abroad Locations
 - Western Europe
 - Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia
 - Russia, Kazakhstan
 - India
 - China, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Mongolia
 - Mexico, Brazil, Chile, El Salvador
 - South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda
- High Risk Locations this past year (senior level approval)
 - Ethiopia, Mali, Burkina Faso
 - Iraq, Lebanon
 - Haiti
 - Pakistan

MIT's "Legacy" System

- MIT provides three levels of ratings*
 - Moderate
 - High
 - Extreme

*OFAC Sanctions are noted but not placed on the ratings scale.
- Review DOS Travel Warnings
 - Look for trigger conditions or terms; phrases to determine whether the country meets at least one condition and assign a rating to a country or sub-region
- MIT policy makes no distinction between undergraduate and graduate students.
- Students sign an International Travel Risk Acknowledgment Form for all countries as of April 2017. Previously policy only required for TW countries – although departments may have used an internal form for other locations.

MIT's "Legacy" System Rating Conditions

Level	Conditions
Extreme (Student Travel Prohibited unless a policy waiver approved by Chancellor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS personnel and/or their families have been ordered to leave and/or services are not available at US Embassies or Consulates. • The DoS, CDC and/or WHO have determined that there is a very serious health risk and therefore prohibit travel and/or require quarantine before or upon re-entry to the U.S.
High (Student Travel Prohibited unless a policy waiver approved by Chancellor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoS personnel and/or their family are authorized to leave • US citizens are urged to delay all but essential travel • Only emergency or intermittent services are available at U.S. embassies or consulates, and even they may not be available. • DoS, CDC and/or WHO find there is a serious health risk and inadequate medical care, and urge a delay of all but essential travel.
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full services are available at US embassies or consulates but US citizens are urged to delay all but essential travel based on specific events/risks. • DoS, CDC and/or WHO find there is a serious health risk and urge delay in all but essential travel but do not find inadequate health care.

Countries not meeting conditions were not listed and thus open to travel.

Proposed Interim* Rating Conditions

Level	Conditions
Extreme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Department Travel Advisory Level 4: DO NOT TRAVEL.
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Department Travel Advisory Level 3: RECONSIDER TRAVEL.
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Department Travel Advisory Level 2: EXERCISE INCREASED CAUTION
No rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Department Travel Advisory Level 1: EXERCISE NORMAL PRECAUTIONS

1. DOS Levels aligned to MIT rating tiers (Quick Fix):
2. Students continue to apply to travel to a HIGH or EXTREME rated country or area (sub-region) via a High Risk Policy Waiver Application.

**A working group is studying an alternative assessment methodology based on international assistance provider travel security ratings. Conditions may be needed to raise to a higher level based on additional concerns.*

Legacy v DOS-based Rating Method

Country	System	Legacy	Interim
Bangladesh		High	Moderate High: Dhaka, SE regions
China		No rating	Moderate
El Salvador		Moderate	High
India		No rating	Moderate, High
Israel, West Bank, Gaza		Moderate, High, Extreme	Moderate, High, Extreme
Mexico		Moderate, High	Moderate, High, Extreme
North Korea		Extreme	Extreme
Russia		No rating	High, Extreme
South Africa		No rating	Moderate
Turkey		Moderate, High	High, Extreme

International Assistance Provider-based Conditions (under review)

Level	Conditions
Extreme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provider rating of Extreme.• U.S. Government does not have direct diplomatic relations with foreign government
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provider rating of High.• Foreign government may close internal borders preventing U.S. Citizens from accessing assistance or exiting.• CDC Level 3: Avoid Non Essential Travel
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provider rating of medium.
No rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provider ratings lower than medium (low or insignificant)

1. Base on international assistance provider travel security ratings (country or area)
 - DOS ratings are factored into assistance provider methodology
2. Students will need to apply to travel to a HIGH or EXTREME rated country or area (sub-region) via a High Risk Policy Waiver Application.

Legacy v Provider-based Rating Method

Country	System	Legacy	Interim
Bangladesh		High	Moderate High: Dhaka, SE regions
China		No rating	Moderate: Xinjiang Uighur AR
El Salvador		Moderate	High
India		No rating	Moderate, High
Israel, West Bank*, Gaza		Moderate, High, Extreme	Moderate, High*, Extreme
Mexico		Moderate, High	Moderate, High
North Korea*		Extreme	Extreme* (provider medium)
Russia		No rating	Moderate, High
South Africa		No rating	Moderate
Turkey		Moderate, High	Moderate, High

* Condition applied to elevate

Remarks to using Provider-based ratings

- ◆ Provider ratings geared towards broader community of international travelers
- ◆ Ratings and risk updates available via provider app
 - ✓ MIT encourages travelers to download assistance provider app in pre-departure sessions.
 - ✓ We recommend downloading STEP also.
 - ✓ Easy monitoring of changes / updates for Travel Risk Safety Manager.
- ◆ Provider available 24/7 for all travelers to contact for advice, information, assistance.
- ◆ Possibility to integrate with Travel Registry System
- ◆ Bandwidth to review changes in a timely fashion and publicize on the Country Warning Level page (MIT = 1 person – monitoring effort, timely)
- ◆ Remains to be seen if the Academic Council would adopt this change.



KALAMAZOO
COLLEGE

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What We Did....

Travel Alert:

Shared with students, along with specific advice regarding behavior and personal safety;

Typically did not impact program management; sometimes made adjustments (excursions) and requirements for student reporting.

What We Did....

Travel Warning:

Impacted program management and short-and-long term decision making.

Response: Travel Warning

- **Followed up with conversations with colleagues in OSAC;**
- **Conversations and reports with on-site staff;**
- **Conversations with other institutions;**
- **If continuing program, student signs agreement they have read travel warning and understand additional security measures and possible responses.**

Questions (Travel Warning)

Can we reasonably assure student safety if they behave reasonably?

What are the trigger points?

Infrastructure for support? Can we evacuate if situation gets worse?

Our approach now....

Travel Advisory	How we respond
Level 1	Yes – but emphasize the details on DNT areas
Level 2	Yes – but emphasize the details on DNT areas
Level 3	No (possible exceptions)
Level 4	Probably never

Level 2

Country	Level	Reason	Additional info
Spain	2	Terrorism (T)	No travel restrictions listed
Mexico	2 overall	Crime C	Several individual states listed as level 3 or 4
Israel	2 overall	T, U, O	Do not travel: Gaza (4?) Reconsider Travel: West Bank (3?)
Kenya	2 overall	C, T	Do not travel: Kenya-Somalia border (4?)

Level 3

Country	Level	Reason	Additional info
Cuba	3	Health (H)	Reference to attacks on US Embassy employees
Turkey	3	T, O	Terrorism, arbitrary detention

Institutional process for student petition, additionally:

OSAC analyst information;

Conversations and reports with on-site staff or partners;

Conversations with other institutions;

If approved, student signs agreement they have read travel advisory and understand additional security measures and possible responses.

And we can't neglect Level 1 !

Country	Level	Reason	Additional info
Ecuador	1	Crime (C)	<u>Do Not Travel</u> to northern border of Colombia (crime).
Costa Rica	1	Crime (C) Natural Disaster (N)	<u>Do Not Travel</u> to Poas Volcanic National Park (N); Level 2 in certain neighborhoods of four cities.

Next Three Months

- Include Travel Advisory information in Health and Safety orientation for students and faculty (follow up with link and encourage the State Department app);
- Explain to students how to inform themselves about in-country travel and K may not be able to assist if they travel to areas designated as “do not travel” - even if Level 1 or 2 country;
- Share with our partners on-site;
- Emphasis on STEP enrollment;
- Consider resources for our international students;
- Reminding EVERYONE about what we work with the most on study abroad (it’s health emergencies!)
- Educating campus about the new TA system
 - Including info on current country designations

During the Summer

- How do we know when things change?
 - Subscribe to feeds
 - STEP registration
- How does the information become part of our risk assessment?
 - C,T,H,O, U, E
 - Different levels within countries
 - Specific restrictions based on travel advisory information
 - Student waivers

Questions?

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THE
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