

Padnos International Center

**Student International Travel Advisory Appeal**

GVSU’s International Travel Advisory Policy indicates that countries with increased safety, crime, health or other risk factors may automatically trigger a review by the International Risk Assessment Committee (IRAC). In such cases, students will be notified of the option to submit an appeal for travel to a country or region that poses an increased risk. The International Risk Assessment Committee will provide a recommendation to Padnos International Center (PIC) on whether travel to that location should be approved or not.

As a rule, all countries listed by the US Department of State as Level 3: Reconsider Travel, or Level 4: Do Not Travel will automatically trigger a review by the International Risk Assessment Committee. There may be circumstances where a country is listed as a Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions, or Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution, which will require a review of the International Risk Assessment Committee. Some examples of when a Level 1 or Level 2 country may trigger a review would be a recent natural disaster that is impacting the region, heightened political conflicts, or recent outbreaks of contagious or infectious disease, just to name a few examples.

This appeal process is designed as an educational process to help prepare you for living in another country with different health and safety considerations, expectations, laws, cultural norms, and standards of living.

**APPEAL REQUIREMENTS**

**Students are required to respond to *all* of the following when preparing the appeal. We also ask the student to provide the source of their information, including any website links. If you do not have information on any particular question, please indicate that you do not know.**

1. List the following at the beginning of your proposal:
   1. Nature of proposed activities (study at a host university, travel with a group, internship, etc,)
   2. Host country
   3. Any other locations you plan to travel during the course of your study abroad
   4. Travel dates
2. Provide a detailed summary of what the Center for Disease Control (CDC), US Department of State, and OSAC recommends for travel in the destination country?

CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html>

US Department of State

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>

OSAC – Country Security Reports

<https://www.osac.gov/Content/Browse/Report?subContentTypes=Country%20Security%20Report>

1. Describe in detail your familiarity and/or experience with the host country. What relevant experiences have you had that prepare you for travel to your proposed host country? Please provide information on your professional networks, study abroad provider support, family connections, language proficiency, and other relevant resources. If you do not have experience with the host country or have limited in-country contacts, please indicate this.
2. Is the US Embassy nearest to your destination open with full services available? If the Embassy is not open or has limited services available, please provide details.
3. Describe any field trips, excursions, or independent travel that you will take during your study abroad? Please list the known locations you plan to travel or tentative site visits that may be included.

**Compelling Academic Purpose**

1. What is your academic goal for participating in this specific program?
2. What is the compelling academic reason why this travel must take place at this location, at this time, despite the current risks?
3. Could this coursework be completed at another location that poses less risk?
4. What coursework have you completed that prepares you for travel to this location?

**COVID-19 Considerations**

**Entry Requirements & Government Restrictions**

1. Does your destination country require travelers to quarantine upon arrival?

Yes No

1. Is the quarantine in a government-mandated or designated facility, a hotel, or your study abroad housing? If the quarantine is required in a government-mandated facility, provide specific details on what is known about the facilities, cost, access to meals, number of people sharing space, length of time, and conditions for getting released from quarantine.
2. If you are required to quarantine in your place of residence for study abroad, what do you anticipate will be your option for securing food during the time you are not allowed to leave your residence?
3. Are there restrictions on taking public transportation upon arrival to the host country? If so, what is your plan to getting to your housing for quarantine?
4. In recent months, has the host country imposed travel restrictions for visitors coming into the country?
5. In recent months, has the host country imposed strict lockdown or “stay at home” orders? What are/were those restrictions?
6. Does the host country have any provisions for entering the country for people who have received the COVID-19 vaccine? *Note: many countries are just now starting to*
7. Does your host country have a travel ban on US citizens entering the country? Is your host country currently allowing US students to enter for the purpose of study? If you are not a US citizen, is the host country allowing passport holders from your country to enter?
8. Commercial flights have been reduced this past year due to lower demand for air travel. Are direct flights available to your host country? If not, what countries might you have to fly through in order to reach your host country and are there any restrictions for layovers in those countries? Are flights available on a daily basis? Are there multiple carriers that travel to and from the host country?
9. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 prior to travel will not be allowed to board a flight. What are your plans if you were to test positive for COVID-19 prior to your intended return home? You will likely be required to quarantine. There may be significant expenses added to your budget if you are required to stay longer in your host country until you receive clearance to fly.

COVID-19 Cases

1. Provide a detailed overview of the number of COVID cases being reported, available hospital beds, and access to COVID testing for individuals who experience symptoms.
2. Is there a dominant variant circulating in the host country? If yes, is that dominant variant more contagious? Does it cause more severe symptoms?
3. Is COVID testing available to visitors in your host country? What will be the cost to you?

Host University

1. Is your host university offering courses in-person, hybrid, or online?
2. Has your host university successfully been offering in-person classes over the past 2 semesters? If so, have there been limitations? To what extent are in-person classes being made available? Is it 100% of courses are in-person or something else?

Submit your completed appeal to Rebecca Morrissey, [hambletr@gvsu.edu](mailto:hambletr@gvsu.edu).