

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**

**Please respond to *all* of the following questions. Provide the source of the information, including any website links. If you do not have information on a 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. Travel dates
2. Provide a detailed summary of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), US Department of State, and OSAC recommendations for travel in the destination country, and describe your plans to address each risk factor identified in the reports?

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. In detail, describe your familiarity with the host country and any relevant experiences you’ve had that will prepare you for travel to the country. Include 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 the locations and duration of any field trips, excursions, and/or independent travel that you plan to take during your study abroad? Included both planned and tentative trips.
4. Detail the on-site support that will be available to you. (e.g., you will have access to 24/7 emergency contacts, there are in-country staff assigned to assist you during your stay, etc.)

**Compelling Academic Purpose**

1. What is the compelling academic reason why this travel must take place at this location, at this time, despite the current risks?
2. Could this coursework be completed at another location that poses less risk?

**Considerations related to COVID-19**

1. Does the host country require travelers to quarantine upon arrival or if positive for COVID-19?
2. Does the host country have a government-mandated or designated facility where you would be expected to quarantine or will you be allowed to remain in 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.
3. 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.
4. Is there a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for entry into the host country or for entry into public spaces?
5. How accessible is COVID-19 testing in your host country?
6. Is your host university offering courses in-person, hybrid, or online?

**Financial and Academic Considerations**

1. Have you considered the possible academic and financial loss should your studies be disrupted? (e.g., no/limited refund for housing or program fees if program is suspended early, additional costs associated with last minute travel home, etc.). Please provide a statement acknowledging this risk and your understanding of the possible academic or financial loss that could incur in the event that your program is disrupted due to a health or safety concern.
2. Detail the refund policies for your program.

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