



OSU Education Abroad  
Division of International Programs  
Oregon State University  
University Plaza, Suite 290  
1600 SW Western Blvd., Corvallis, Oregon 97333  
T 541-737-6469 | F 541-737-6226 | oregonstate.edu/international

## *Study Abroad Travel Under U.S. State Department and CDC Warnings*

Based on a host of international safety and health concerns, Oregon State University (OSU) may determine to suspend previously approved education abroad programs. If either the U.S. Department of State issues a travel warning or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issues a Warning Level 3 for a particular country or region within a country, OSU will evaluate whether to suspend education abroad programs. Additional factors considered in this evaluation include other security and risk information. The Vice Provost for International Programs (or, in the absence of a Vice Provost, the OSU Provost) with the recommendation from IP leadership, OSU Risk and Office of General Counsel, will make the final decision regarding suspending or cancelling a program. If a Department of State Warning or CDC Warning is issued after a program has commenced, the VP of International Programs, in consultation with the Office of General Counsel, Risk Management, International Programs Leadership, and the Office of the Provost, will determine if students should return home, or be allowed to stay in-country, after careful consideration of all factors and an assessment of all risks.

**No undergraduate students will be approved for participation in a suspended education abroad program.** Graduate students may petition for participation in suspended programs, and their petitions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as described below.

### ***Graduate Student Petition Process:***

OSU *may* grant a *graduate* student permission to participate in an education abroad program at a site that has been suspended for undergraduate students. However, students who travel to areas with travel warnings do assume additional risk. A graduate student may file a petition to participate in a suspended program through the OSU Global Opportunities (OSU GO) Office in the Division of International Programs. All petitions must be accompanied by a signed *Major Advisor's Statement of Support*. Petition packets may be obtained from the OSU GO office or website. Petitions are submitted to the OSU GO Director, and evaluated by the OSU GO Director, the International Programs Senior Director, the OSU Chief Risk Officer and the student's major advisor.

Factors that are considered in this petition process include, but are not limited to:

- Department of State travel warnings
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warnings
- Other security and risk information
- Ability to obtain travel insurance coverage to country site, including evacuation, medical assistance, etc.

If a program becomes suspended after a graduate student applies and is accepted, the student will be notified and required to complete the petition process as quickly as possible.



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## *Petition Guidelines to Study Abroad at a Suspended Site* *(Graduate Students Only)*

Oregon State University (OSU) recommends against traveling to a suspended site due to a U.S. State Department travel warning or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Warning Level 3. If you decide to request travel to a suspended site, you will need to complete and submit a petition to the OSU Global Opportunities (GO) Office.

1. Before deciding whether or not to prepare a petition, check the U.S. Department of State website ([http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_1764.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html)) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website (<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>) and carefully read the current travel warning/advisory, public announcements, and consular information sheet for the country in which you seek to study.
2. Consult well in advance with your college-designated International Program Coordinator. If you choose to move forward with a petition, contact the OSU Global Opportunities (OSU GO) Director. Please be aware that in order to receive OSU resident credit for your study abroad program, your petition must be approved.
3. The complete petition consists of:
  - a. Both the OSU GO online application and any program specific applications including official transcripts, letters of recommendation, and academic planning form.
  - b. A statement of purpose (you must have sound academic reasons for selecting this program and indicate why another non-suspended location is not an option).
  - c. A signed form documenting support from your major advisor for your proposed education abroad program (attached).
  - d. The *Waiver, Release and Assumption of Risk Form: Travel to Suspended Region/Sight* signed by you before a Notary Public (attached).
  - e. A Risk Assessment (<http://risk.oregonstate.edu/risk-assessment-tool>)
  - f. Completed International Travel Registration with the agreement to purchase supplemental travel insurance ([http://risk.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/international\\_travel\\_registration\\_august\\_2014.pdf](http://risk.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/international_travel_registration_august_2014.pdf))
4. The complete petition packet will be reviewed by the OSU GO Director, the International Programs Senior Director, and the Chief Risk Officer.
5. The petition is due by February 1 for programs starting in Summer or Fall terms, or by October 1 for programs starting in Winter or Spring terms. Please note that if a program becomes suspended after a graduate student applies and is accepted, the student will be notified and required to complete the petition process as quickly as possible.
6. Submitting a petition is not a guarantee of approval for participation in an education abroad program. The OSU GO Director will communicate the final petition decision to the student.



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### *Major Advisor's Statement of Support*

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Education abroad program: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Program (City, Country): \_\_\_\_\_

Application for: \_\_\_\_ Summer, \_\_\_\_ Fall, \_\_\_\_ Winter, \_\_\_\_ Spring, \_\_\_\_ Year

#### **TO THE MAJOR ADVISOR:**

The above-named student is petitioning to study abroad in a site where there is currently a U.S. State Department issued travel warning or a Centers for Disease Controls and Prevention Warning Level 3. As a result, OSU has suspended education abroad programs in this region. OSU does not recommend that students attend programs in countries under a severe travel warning of this nature. Any student who seeks to study abroad for OSU resident credit despite the warning must petition International Programs for a waiver to this restriction. All petitions must include a statement of support from the student's major advisor. After meeting with the student to discuss his/her academic plans for the proposed education abroad program, please complete and sign this form and return it to the student for submission to the OSU Global Opportunities Director in University Plaza, Suite 280. For more information about the current situation in this region, please review the US Department of State website at:

<http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html>

- 1) Please describe how this experience is integral to this student's academic program in this specific location, and why a non-suspended location will not suffice:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) Will you approve major/minor credit for the courses satisfactorily taken by this student on the proposed education abroad program?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Do you have any further background information, concerns or additional comments regarding this student's plans to study abroad? Please use the space below to comment:



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- 4) Please share how the student's risk assessment plan indicates how they will manage the present or possible risks for this site (Refer to risk assessment tool through the Office of Risk Management at (<http://risk.oregonstate.edu/risk-assessment-tool>)?)

Name & Title of Major Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*

Signature of College Dean: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_