



# ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

December 11, 2018

Dear Parent or Guardian of a May Term Travel Course Student,

I am writing to provide you with some information related to the upcoming May Term travel of your student.

## Student/Faculty Safety and Department of State Travel Warnings

Illinois Wesleyan University (IWU) holds student and faculty safety to be of primary importance. Each Travel Course has a Travel Course Leader (TCL) and an Assistant. Nevertheless, travel has inherent risks. **IWU strongly encourages you to consider enrolling in the State Department STEP (Smart Traveler Enrollment Program):**

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

This helps in the case of any issues that may arise while travelling. Also, as you plan your trip and while your student is away, it can be useful to monitor the status of travel warnings from the State Department on areas around the world, which are available at:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages.html>

## May Term Emergency Information

Should an emergency arise, we will inform students and parents of any itinerary changes as soon as details become available. We will also post that information on our website:

<https://www.iwu.edu/mellon-center/mayterm/student-resources.html>

Should an emergency arise with an individual student or faculty member, the Travel Course Leader or Assistant will immediately contact the University. The University will notify family members of the situation as soon as possible. With this in mind, **IWU strongly urges that each student travelling have at least one parent or legal guardian who has a valid passport for the timeframe of the travel course.**

## Travel Insurance

IWU cannot control unexpected events that can lead you to decide to cancel travel plans very near to the date of departure such as a call to jury duty, a sudden illness or death in the family, an airline strike, etc. IWU does not reimburse expenses incurred if you decide to cancel your travel. However, there are steps that you can take.



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**IWU suggests that you investigate whether and to what extent your homeowners' policy may cover you and your family, and, although IWU does not require additional travel insurance, we urge you to consider purchasing additional coverage.**

Some travel insurance agencies with which IWU regularly works are:

[www.travelguard.com](http://www.travelguard.com), [www.travelexinsurance.com](http://www.travelexinsurance.com), and [www.travelinsure.com](http://www.travelinsure.com)

IWU does not endorse any of these programs, this information is provided for your information only. Please note that IWU cannot answer questions concerning specific insurance coverage. Please call the travel insurance providers directly with all questions. If, once you have considered your options, you decide to purchase travel insurance, we recommend that you pay careful attention to the payment schedule, as some carriers may require immediate payment in order for you to receive complete coverage.

### Communication with your Student While Abroad

Cellular phones make regular communication across the globe easier than ever, and can be invaluable should any emergencies arise. Nevertheless, access to wireless networks varies by carrier, plan, phone and especially by country. **IWU strongly urges you to contact your cellular carrier in order to confirm that your student traveler will have cellular and/or data access while traveling.** IWU cannot answer questions as they are unique to each carrier/plan/phone, etc., but we urge you to look into this in advance of departure and make any changes that you deem appropriate.

I hope that this information proves useful to you as your student prepares to travel for May Term.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Sullivan  
Associate Dean of Curricular and Faculty Development