

IWU Policy on International Travel

Illinois Wesleyan University (IWU) believes that international awareness is necessary for anybody who wants to lead a satisfying and successful life in the global community of today, and IWU offers a wide range of opportunities to help our students, staff, and faculty develop that awareness.

At the same time, IWU is committed to providing safeguarding the health and well-being of those engaged in University-sponsored international travel. For purposes of this policy, “University-sponsored” international travel shall include: (i) travel funded, directly or indirectly, with University funds, including study abroad; (ii) travel by Registered Student Organizations or other recognized campus entities; and/or (iii) travel undertaken as part of an employee’s duties. All decisions regarding University-sponsored international travel are made with reference to data from a number of sources. In addition to the U.S. State Department country information sheets and advisory messages (www.travel.state.gov), IWU relies on information from our insurance provider, the Office of Financial Assets Control (OFAC), our study abroad partners, NAFSA: Association of International Educators, and travel advice issued by foreign governments. In making individual decisions concerning participation in any University-sponsored international travel, whether for academic credit or not, participants and their families should carefully review information on the State Department website listed above.

To help guide citizens as they plan their travels, the U.S. Department of State issues a **Travel Advisory** for each country of the world; within each country, certain regions or locations may also be given advisories. Multiple factors are used to determine the Travel Advisory level for each country, including crime, terrorist activity, civil unrest, health, and current events. The advisories themselves follow a consistent format and are intended to help U.S. citizens find and use important security information. Travel Advisories apply up to **four standard levels of advice**, give a description of the risks, and provide clear actions U.S. citizens should take to help ensure their safety:

- **Level 4** advisories indicate U.S. citizens should not travel to the specified country or region within that country. During an emergency, the U.S. government may have very limited ability to provide assistance.
- **Level 3** advisories recommend travelers reconsider travel to the specified country or region, postponing all but essential travel.
- **Level 2** advisories indicate that travelers should exercise increased caution when traveling.
- **Level 1** advisories mean that travelers should exercise normal precautions. This is the lowest advisory level for safety and security risk.

Travel Alerts are issued by U.S. embassies and consulates abroad to inform U.S. citizens of specific, generally short-term, safety and security concerns in a country. Natural disasters, terrorist attacks, election-related demonstrations or violence, and high-profile events such as international conferences or regional sports events are examples of conditions that might generate a Travel Alert.

IWU community members who wish to travel abroad on University business should pay special heed to all Travel Advisories and Travel Alerts; should be aware that there are specific risks that may be involved in international travel; and should weigh these potential risks as they consider whether or not to travel.

IWU's policy with respect to University-sponsored travel to locations for which a Level 3 or Level 4 Travel Advisory has been issued is as follows:

1. University-sponsored international travel to or activity in locations with a Level 4 advisory is prohibited. University sponsored international travel to or activity in locations with a Level 3 advisory, is prohibited; but may, under certain conditions, be allowed with the approval of the Provost. IWU also prohibits participation in an affiliated third-party study abroad program in a location with a Level 3 or Level 4 advisory. Individuals may appeal to the Provost (or his/her designee) for an exception to this policy for locations with a Level 3 advisory. If the appeal is granted, the participant shall be required to complete a special waiver and, if under the age of 18, to obtain consent from their parents or guardians.
2. As permitted under University policy, students may transfer credit to IWU from approved non-IWU study abroad programs. However, if before the start of the program, the U.S. Department of State issues a Level 3 or Level 4 advisory for the location in which a student plans to study, travel there will be prohibited and no credit will be granted. The student is responsible for determining whether a Level 3 or Level 4 advisory has been issued for the location in which a student plans to study.
3. IWU community members participate in University-sponsored travel for reasons other than study abroad (e.g., research, conference attendance, international athletic competition, volunteerism). If before travel occurs, the U.S. Department of State issues a Level 3 or Level 4 advisory for the location to which travel is planned, travel there will be prohibited and no University funds will be provided.
4. The University also reserves the right to take the following actions, in its sole discretion, in the event a Level 3 or Level 4 Travel Advisory is issued or changed before, during, or after an IWU community member arrives in the affected location:
 - Suspend all IWU programs in the location.
 - Require the completion of a special waiver and, if under the age of 18, consent from parents or guardians in order to remain in the location.
 - Withdraw credit for study in the location on any non-IWU programs.
 - Decline to provide funding or process financial aid for activities in the location.
 - Require students, faculty, and staff to depart the location.

All decisions described above shall be made by the Provost, in consultation with the Director of the International Office and legal counsel. Please contact the International Office if you have questions or concerns about this policy update.