

November 28, 2016

To: UVA Students with Plans to Travel Abroad for University Related Purposes
From: Dudley J. Doane, Director
Re: Health, Safety, and Security

In a few weeks, you will depart for your education abroad experience – for study, research, service, an internship or a combination of these activities. In light of recent civil unrest and terrorist attacks, the emergence of health challenges such as the Zika and Chikungunya viruses, and the ongoing possibility of natural disasters in locations where UVA students travel, we want to assure you that the University monitors health, safety, and security conditions where our students travel for University related purposes. Our exchange university partners and the provider organizations that offer programs open to UVA students also monitor those conditions. If risks are identified, students are advised on how to respond and directed to support services.

UVA has an emergency and communication plan that includes the services of an evacuation assistance provider and security intelligence services which furnish us with regular and emergency updates. We are also members of the Overseas Security Advisory Council, a division of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security in the U.S. Department of State.

In these weeks pre-departure, please stay well informed of events in your destination(s) and the surrounding region(s) and encourage family members and others interested in your time abroad to do the same. This will help you prepare for your sojourn and begin the engagement with your new environment. U.S. Embassy web sites are good sources of information as is www.state.gov/travel/; the U.S. Department of State has urged all international travelers to review its [Worldwide Caution](#). U.S. government and UVA Travel Alerts, Notices, and Warnings can be accessed at <http://iso.virginia.edu/travel-alerts-notice-warnings>. This is also a good time for you and your family to review the ISO's [Health & Safety Abroad web page](#), the [Education Abroad Handbook](#), and the University's [Policy on Student International Travel](#). If you are traveling to an area where insect-borne illnesses are found, review the [document on protection against insects](#) available through UVA's Elson Student Health International Travel Clinic and [CDC resources](#).

While you are abroad it is important to practice situational awareness, maintain a low profile, communicate proactively, and attend to updates from your hosts, local authorities, and the nearest U.S. Consulate.

You and your family are welcome to direct questions to the International Studies Office. Please note that in the event of an emergency, the ISO can be reached 24/7 at +1 434 982 3010. Those of you enrolling at one of our exchange partner universities or in a program offered by an organization such as IES or SIT should feel free to direct your questions to the receiving university or study abroad organization.

Your time abroad is likely to be both exciting and challenging – a unique opportunity to learn more about the world and yourself. Good preparation pre-departure and mindful behaviors while you are abroad will help you gain the most from it.