

**Updated February 27, 2020**

To: UVA Students Traveling Abroad for University Related Purposes – J-Term and Spring 2020

From: Dudley J. Doane, Director & Catarina Krizancic, Health, Safety & Security Manager

Re: Health, Safety, and Security Abroad

Over 1,000 UVA students and Graduate Medical Education (GME) trainees are expected to pursue travel outside the U.S. for university related purposes during J-Term 2020 or the spring 2020 semester. Activities may include study, research, service, internships, training, athletic competitions, performances, and in many cases, a combination of these activities. 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 education abroad 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 communications plan that includes the services of an evacuation assistance provider. We subscribe to security intelligence services which furnish us with regular and emergency updates on health, safety, and security conditions around the world. We are also members of the Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), a division of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security in the U.S. Department of State, and PULSE, a professional association focused on health, safety, and security in university operations outside the U.S. UVA students and GME trainees who travel outside the borders of the United States are subject to the [University's Policy on Student International Travel](#). All students and GME trainees, along with the faculty and staff who advise them, are expected to comply with the requirements of the policy, which include registration of the travel and enrollment for international health and emergency assistance insurance for use during the time abroad for university related purposes. The ISO recommends that travelers also consider trip insurance that can be tapped in the event that travel to or from the education abroad destination is interrupted or in the event that a change in itinerary is required.

**UPDATE REGARDING COVID-19: The International Studies Office has been closely monitoring the worldwide outbreak of coronavirus (COVID19) since its emergence in Wuhan, China in late 2019 and working with University leadership and the Virginia Department of Health to develop appropriate guidance and support for UVA programs and students departing from and returning to Charlottesville. As per the Policy on Student International Travel, U.S. Centers for Disease Control advisories of level 3 and Department of State advisories of level 3 or 4 automatically result in a restriction of student travel to the advised destinations. In addition, University Travel Restrictions can be issued for areas of concern. Current University policy and contact information can be found on the dedicated [UVA Emergency Management webpage for COVID19](#).**

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/](http://www.state.gov/travel/); the U.S. Department of State has urged all international travelers to review its [Worldwide Caution](#) (last renewed Jan. 15, 2019). U.S. Department of State Travel Advisories, Centers for Disease Control Travel Notices, U.S. Department of Treasury Sanctioned Countries, and University Travel Restrictions 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](#).

**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. Make sure that you have contact information for emergency assistance in your destination(s) – local equivalent(s) of 911, your international health and**

emergency insurance provider (generally [CISI](#)), your program/university/local host, and the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. The OSAC (Overseas Security Advisory Council, U.S. Dept. of State) Emergency Duty Officer can be reached at +1 202 309 5056.

You and your family are welcome to direct questions to the International Studies Office ([ISO](#)). 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 host 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.