



Campus Administrative

Policy Title: International Travel Policy for Students

Policy Number:	7015	Functional Area:	Student Affairs
Effective:	June 7, 2024		
Approved By:	Roderick Nairn, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, CU Anschutz Michelle Marks, Chancellor, CU Denver		
Applies To:	CU Anschutz and CU Denver		

A. INTRODUCTION

This policy supports education and experiences abroad by balancing the value of participation in activities internationally with the potential risks to the welfare and safety of students. This policy establishes the minimum requirements to mitigate and manage risks associated with university-affiliated international travel by students.

“International” or “abroad” is defined to include U.S. territories as well as any country outside of the United States.

“Student” is defined as any participant in a university-related activity abroad who is not employed by the university as a trip leader. “Student” may include, but is not limited to, an enrolled student, member of a student organization, member of either campus Wellness Center, medical resident or fellow, alumnus, or program guest.

“University-related activity abroad” includes, but is not limited to, any activity supported by the university by use of university funds or financial aid; any activity related to academic credit, experiential learning, or service learning; or any activity receiving support from a university employee such as organization, coordination, or supervision of activities abroad.

“Appeal” refers to the process of petitioning for formal review and approval to travel to locations or participate in programs with higher risk or to bring unaffiliated travelers on the program, which would otherwise be prohibited under this policy.

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C. POLICY STATEMENT

The university facilitates student international travel and education abroad to foster interpersonal, academic, and career development, as well as cross-cultural understanding while encouraging sound health, safety, and security measures that minimize risks to the traveler and institution.

[Policy 1035: Oversight of University-related International Travel](#) outlines the oversight responsibility of the Office of International Affairs (OIA) “for all international travel taken under the auspices of the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus,” and designates the Office of Global Education (OGE), a unit within the Office of International Affairs, “responsible for direct oversight of all university-related student international travel.” Further, it charges the International Risk Management Committee (IRMC) to assist OIA with the execution of its international risk management responsibilities.

As such, the IRMC will assess the health and safety risk profile of a given destination through the utilization of third-party risk resources, government risk rating systems, and global education best practices. This procedure will identify those destinations that do not require travel appeals for student international travel, identify destinations requiring a travel appeal, and identify destinations designated as “do not travel” for student international travel. The Office of Global Education’s website will provide details.

Therefore, all students, faculty, or staff involved with individual students or groups of students traveling internationally under the auspices of the university must register with

the Office of Global Education. OGE will provide specific guidance, timelines, and processes. For international destinations or programs requiring travel appeals, the process of obtaining formal review and a decision by senior leadership on permissible travel during travel suspensions or too high risk destinations can take several months. Students, and faculty leading student international travel, will be advised by OGE to plan accordingly.

This policy applies to any student traveling internationally under the auspices of the university through the use of funds, group affiliation (e.g., through student organizations registered with and recognized by the Student Life & Campus Community office, community service or service learning groups, faculty-led travel or adventure travel), to fulfill academic requirements, or for other experiences. These experiences include but are not limited to, study, service learning, research, internship, clinical rotation, practicum, capstone project, other experiential learning, or sports.

All classes of students fall under this policy, including but not limited to, non-degree, undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, medical student, medical residents and fellows. This policy does not apply to student international travel for solely personal purposes such as vacation or non-university work-related activity that has no affiliation with the university.

D. TRAVEL APPROVALS

The university, in its sole discretion, may deny approval for student international travel due to risk or university policy. In addition, travelers may be required to submit an appeal to travel to locations or participate in programs that pose a specific health, safety, or security concern as indicated by authorities such as the contracted travel assistance provider, the U.S. Department of State (USDOS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), non-U.S. government authorities (e.g., Australian or Canadian authorities, or international travel assistance provider), and the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus authorities.

E. REVOCATION, SUSPENSION OR MODIFICATION OF TRAVEL APPROVALS

When a significant health or safety concern arises (e.g., natural disaster, political disturbance, deteriorating security environment, disease outbreak, etc.), OIA and the IRMC will review student travel currently in progress and make recommendations to senior leadership who will determine if such activity may continue considering the circumstances. The university, in its sole discretion, may withdraw approval for or insist on modifications of international travel at any time. The provost at CU Denver, or the Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic & Student Affairs at CU Anschutz, or their designees, have final decision-making authority on university-related international travel for students.

F. ADDITIONS OR MODIFICATIONS TO APPROVED TRIPS OR PROGRAMS

If an approved international travel experience modifies or adds a new activity or academic track that materially changes its risk profile, the applicant must provide an explanation for further review of how any perceived risks will be mitigated. The applicant should consult with the Office of Global Education to determine which parts of the application require additional review.

G. PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS

1. If the university cancels a program before departure or while the program is in progress for reasons beyond its control, including but not limited to, political unrest, danger to participants' health or safety, natural disasters, or changes to the risk profile, participants may personally incur financial losses in the form of lost fees and tuition, or additional travel expenses in connection with program cancellation. Students may or may not receive academic credit if a program is canceled.
2. The University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus does not assume responsibility for financial risks associated with participation in a university-related activity abroad, including cancellation of a program. Students, staff, and faculty are encouraged to consider supplemental insurance options, such as trip insurance, to cover potential personal financial losses if programs or activities are canceled. Supplemental insurance is also helpful if a traveler needs to cancel participation in a program or return early due to unforeseen personal emergencies. Such insurance is not required by the university and must be purchased on an individual basis.

H. UNAFFILIATED GUESTS ON GROUP TRAVEL

The university does not support accompanying unaffiliated travelers on official university programs. The university does not permit unaffiliated travelers to accompany the group on any international programs or activities during the entire duration of the program or activity. “Unaffiliated travelers” refers to family members, friends, and other individuals not associated with the particular program. Exceptions may be requested through a prescribed appeal process with the IRMC, that must be requested and approved in advance of travel.

I. PRE-DEPARTURE REQUIREMENTS

Listed here are the minimum requirements for student international travel. There are international experiences organized by the university that may have additional requirements. Contact the Office of Global Education for requirements, timeline, and process based on the type of travel.

Minimum Requirements:

- Have travel approved by academic department or unit head (e.g., chair/dean, Global Education Advisory Committee, Director of Experiential Learning Center, Director of Student Life, Director of Wellness & Recreation Center).
- Register with the Office of Global Education, to include emergency contact information, contact information while abroad, etc.
- Register with the university’s travel assistance provider, currently International SOS.
- Purchase international medical and evacuation insurance as recommended by the Office of Global Education.
- Sign Student Release and Waiver detailing academic, financial, behavioral, travel risk, and health-related responsibilities while abroad.
- Complete the pre-departure orientation, which may be completed online for some travelers.
- If necessary, obtain a successful travel appeal for high risk destinations.
- Submit an Emergency Action Plan (EAP). This is required for group travel and highly recommended for all travelers.
- Provide proof of international medical malpractice coverage if conducting any clinical care activities internationally.

Recommendations:

- Address any personal health and safety concerns (e.g., meet with primary care doctor or visit immunization clinic, Student & Community Counseling Center, or other support service).
- Contact Disability Resources & Services if any accommodation would be required.
- U.S. citizens should register with the U.S. Department of State’s Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP).

- Review online information about destination(s) via U.S. Department of State, Center for Disease Control, World Health Organization, travel assistance provider (International SOS), and insurance provider websites.
- Contact travel assistance provider for detailed security and health information about destination(s) and itinerary.

J. IN-COUNTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Students are not permitted to drive motor vehicles (including but not limited to electric or gas-powered scooters, motorbikes, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, and cars) while participating in a university related opportunity abroad. A traveler returning to one's home country may appeal this restriction to the IRMC.
- Faculty and staff are not permitted to drive students in motor vehicles (including but not limited to electric or gas-powered scooters, motorbikes, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, and cars) while participating in a university related opportunity abroad.
- At all times carry an electronic and hard copy of the EAP which includes international medical and evacuation insurance information and the closest medical facility.
- Uphold the Student Code of Conduct - Students traveling under the auspices of the university are expected to uphold the Student Code of Conduct.
 - A student may be dismissed from the abroad experience for conduct that is disruptive to the program experience, including but not limited to safety concerns, reputation, or academic integrity of the program, the student, other participants, or the university. Should a student be dismissed, the student may not be reimbursed for the program fee, may suffer academic consequences, and is responsible for all expenses related to immediate departure from the country. The student is responsible for any direct damage caused to university property, or property owned and maintained by the university's partners or contractors.
- Fully participate in required program activities.
- Adhere to university policies/procedures.
- Obey laws of host country and U.S. as applicable.

Recommendations:

- Apprise university contact of any changes to itinerary, address and contact information while abroad. Changes should be submitted as soon as possible and at a minimum within 24 hours of the change taking effect.
- Download the International SOS app to receive health and security alerts in country.

K. CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATING POLICY/TRAVEL IN VIOLATION OF THIS POLICY

Individual students who have not obtained travel permission (or whose travel program administrators have not obtained travel permission for group travel) will be referred to the Dean of Students office and/or other appropriate offices for potential policy violations. Consequences may include, but not be limited to, conduct sanctions; not receiving institutional funds including financial aid, grant funding, or payment of expenses for related international travel activities; repayment of any spent funds; and/or assessment of a fee.

Employees who knowingly facilitate undisclosed or unapproved or non-reviewed university-sponsored student international travel may be subject to discipline under university policies and procedures.

Students and employees who choose to travel in knowing violation of this policy are acting outside the control and responsibility of the university.

Notes

1. History:

- July 1, 2012: Adopted by Provost
- November 2, 2018: Modified to reflect a Campus-wide effort to recast and revitalize Campus policy sites into a standardized and more coherent set of chaptered policy statements organized around the several operational divisions of the university. Article Links, University branding, and formatting updated by the Provost's Office.
- April 1, 2020: Language changes were required to be consistent with the USDOS travel advisory levels. Addressed non-academic student international travel (e.g., for conferences or Alternative Breaks). Also, Health and Wellness Center now facilitates "Adventure Travel." Definition of "Student" was expanded to include these new types of travel. "International" and "abroad" definitions now cover U.S. territories where emergency services may not be commensurate with those found in the continental U.S.
- April 1, 2021: Revised
- June 7, 2024: Revised to include sections on Pre-Departure Requirements and In-Country Requirements

2. Cross References/Appendix: N/A

3. Responsible Office: Office of International Affairs