

STUDENT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TO COUNTRIES WITH A US DEPARTMENT OF STATE TRAVEL ADVISORY

PLU encourages safe, culturally respectful global travel by PLU students, faculty and staff and wants to provide all of the necessary information to make those travels as successful as possible. To this end, the University has established the following travel policy for students related to travel, research and other university-related activities (music, sports, etc.) to countries under a US Department of State Travel Advisory.

As of January 10, 2018, the US State Department revised its travel advisory system “to provide U.S. citizens with clear, timely, and reliable safety and security information worldwide.” Under the new system, every country will have a Travel Advisory, providing levels of advice ranging from 1 to 4:

- **Level 1 - Exercise Normal Precautions:** This is the lowest advisory level for safety and security risk. There is some risk in any international travel. Conditions in other countries may differ from those in the United States and may change at any time.
- **Level 2 - Exercise Increased Caution:** Be aware of heightened risks to safety and security. The Department of State provides additional advice for travelers in these areas in the Travel Advisory. Conditions in any country may change at any time.
- **Level 3 - Reconsider Travel:** Avoid travel due to serious risks to safety and security. The Department of State provides additional advice for travelers in these areas in the Travel Advisory. Conditions in any country may change at any time.
- **Level 4 - Do Not Travel:** This is the highest advisory level due to greater likelihood of life-threatening risks. During an emergency, the U.S. government may have very limited ability to provide assistance. The Department of State advises that U.S. citizens not travel to the country or leave as soon as it is safe to do so. The Department of State provides additional advice for travelers in these areas in the Travel Advisory. Conditions in any country may change at any time.

The detailed Travel Advisories provides clear reasons for the level assigned, using established risk indicators, and offer specific advice to U.S. citizens who choose to travel there:

- **C - Crime:** Widespread violent or organized crime is present in areas of the country. Local law enforcement may have limited ability to respond to serious crimes.
- **T - Terrorism:** Terrorist attacks have occurred and/or specific threats against civilians, groups, or other targets may exist.
- **U - Civil Unrest:** Political, economic, religious, and/or ethnic instability exists and may cause violence, major disruptions, and/or safety risks.
- **H - Health:** Health risks, including current disease outbreaks or a crisis that disrupts a country’s medical infrastructure, are present. The issuance of a Centers for Disease Control Travel Notice may be a factor.
- **N - Natural Disaster:** A natural disaster, or its aftermath, poses danger.
- **E - Time-limited Event:** A short-term event, such as an election, sporting event, or other incident that may pose a safety risk.
- **O - Other:** There are potential risks not covered by previous risk indicators. Read the country’s Travel Advisory for details.

For more information, see: [Worldwide Caution](#) from the U.S. State Department.

While PLU students are encouraged to study and conduct research abroad as well as engage in other university activities (music, sports, etc.), the following rules and conditions, apply to such travel:

1. Students may participate in a credit-bearing study abroad or international internship program in countries with an overall Travel Advisory Level 1 (*Exercise Normal Precautions*) or 2 (*Exercise Increased Caution*). For a complete and updated list of U.S. State Department Advisory, see: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>
2. Certain areas within these countries may be designated within the Travel Advisory as either Level 3 (*Reconsider Travel*) or 4 (*Do Not Travel*) locations, as such; students will not be allowed to travel to or reside in these areas.
3. Students may not travel to countries with a U.S. State Department advisory level 3 and 4. For a complete and updated list of U.S. State Department Advisory, see: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>
4. Should the advisory notice change a destination to a higher risk level while a student is studying or conducting research on PLU program, or representing the university in other kinds of activities (music, sports, etc.), the Wang Center, in consultation with the Provost, the Director of Risk Management and Insurance and on-the-ground partners, will outline a course of action that safeguards student health and wellbeing.
5. Students shall take precautions with respect to their personal safety. Students must recognize that the University, and even the U.S. Department of State, may be unable to help in the event the student encounters difficulties abroad.
6. In cases where the CDC modifies a travel advisory to a *Warning Level 3* (red) while in country, students may be requested to monitor their health upon return, or be subject to screening at the port of entry, a process that may include voluntary or involuntary isolation or quarantine of the traveler. Further, a student may not be permitted to return to campus until they have completed appropriate health monitoring and/or screening to determine that they are not infected with the disease in question. The monitoring and screening required will be decided on a case-by-case basis by the Executive Director of the Wang Center and the Provost in consultation with appropriate public health officials.
7. Students must attend all mandatory study away orientations, which include important information about health and safety issues related to international and off-campus travel. Failure to attend mandatory study away orientations may result in dismissal from the program.
8. Pacific Lutheran University reserves the right to cancel a program/class at any time. Should circumstances require that PLU cancel a program/class, students will be notified immediately. See Cancellation and Refund section for more details.
9. Regarding independent travel, PLU acknowledges that students often maximize their time away with personal travel before, during and after the study away program. Such travel is permitted provided students adhere to and recognize the following policies:
 - Students may not travel to destinations with a U.S. State Department advisory level 3 and 4. For a complete and updated list of U.S. State Department Advisory, see: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>
 - Students may not travel to destinations that are under a trade block.

Travel to approved destinations before the program start date, including early arrival, is considered personal travel.

10. Students who desire to travel abroad on an independent program (not a Wang Center) program that is funded by PLU, used to meet a PLU degree requirement and/or for PLU credit must

comply with this policy and submit required documentation as outlined on the Independent International Travel web page (<https://www.plu.edu/administrative-services/insurance/independent-international-travel/>) no later than the last day of the term before the proposed independent travel.