

APPROVAL POLICY UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL (STUDENTS)

Approved by PLU President's Council July 21, 2022

PLU is committed to supporting students in activities that advance their global education such as study away, research, and community-engaged learning opportunities abroad. A key dimension of this commitment is to provide for their safety when engaged in University-sponsored international travel. To this end, the policy outlined below replaces the COVID-related Interim Policy on PLU-sponsored travel to countries with travel advisories that was approved by the PLU International Travel Risk Assessment and Advisory Task Force (ITRAATF) on May 20, 2021.

As of April 14, 2022, the US State Department announced that, “Given the increases in international travel, the availability of effective COVID-19 mitigation measures, and recently announced changes to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) COVID-19 Travel Health Notice (THN) process, it [sic] has reassessed how COVID-19 considerations factor into [sic] Travel Advisory levels for U.S. citizens”. It stated, moreover, that moving forward, “State Department Travel Advisory levels will no longer automatically correlate with the CDC COVID-19 THN level. However, if the CDC raises a country’s COVID-19 THN to a Level 4, the State Department’s Travel Advisory for that country will also be raised to a Level 4: Do Not Travel due to COVID-19.”

Therefore, effective July 21, 2022, PLU will limit all student* travel to any country or location designated as Level 3 or 4 Travel Advisory by the U.S. Department of State (USDOS). Pending further notice, PLU’s International Travel Risk Assessment and Advisory Task Force (ITRAATF) may approve student travel to any country or location designated as Level 3 or 4 Travel Advisory by USDOS based on a comprehensive risk assessment and review of multiple current indicators, including standard points of reference, to determine advisability of travel and ways to mitigate risk if approved. To secure approval, students must submit a request for consideration to wang.center@plu.edu (ATT’N: ITRAATF) at least 6 weeks prior to departure. The university, in its sole discretion, may deny approval for international travel.

*Includes but is not limited to undergraduate and graduate students participating in curricular and co-curricular activities, group and individual, international travel.