



UMW POLICY REGARDING ADHERENCE TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE TRAVEL ADVISORIES

University of Mary Washington
Center for International Education (CIE)

Preparing its students to be globally competent citizens is essential to the academic mission of the University of Mary Washington (UMW). Therefore, the University strongly encourages and promotes participation in UMW education abroad programs and international travel, in order to, among other things, conduct research, engage in service learning, complete internships, compete in athletic competitions, participate in artistic performances, and participate in international long and short-term immersion trips organized by UMW faculty and staff, UMW-recognized education abroad partners, and UMW-affiliated clubs and organizations.

The University is equally committed to promoting the safety and well-being of its students, faculty and staff while they are engaged in any education abroad program or in international travel associated with education abroad. Therefore, **the University of Mary Washington strongly advises against and does not in any way support international travel to any country which the U.S. Department of State categorizes as Level 3 – Reconsider Travel or Level 4 – Do Not Travel. This policy applies to UMW students as well as faculty or staff leading any type of international travel as described above.**

Travel Advisories of Level 3 – Reconsider Travel and Level 4 – Do Not Travel, which can be found on the U.S. Department of State’s website (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>), are issued when long-term, protracted conditions make a country so dangerous or unstable that the U.S. Department of State recommends that Americans avoid the risk of travel to that country. A Level 3 or Level 4 Travel Advisory may also be issued when the U.S. Government’s ability to assist American citizens is constrained as a result of the closure of an embassy or consulate or a drawdown of its staff.

If a University of Mary Washington student nevertheless chooses, against the advice of the U.S. Department of State and the University of Mary Washington, to voluntarily undertake international travel to any country for which the U.S. Department of State has issued a Level 3 – Reconsider Travel or Level 4 – Do Not Travel Advisory, s/he:

- (1) will not be registered as a UMW student and will be traveling as a private citizen;**
- (2) if engaged in an academic program, will need to present any foreign transcript(s) received to an external credit evaluation agency in order to attempt to transfer credit;**
- (3) will not have access to university financial support, resources, or facilities;**
- (4) will be ineligible for enrollment in the UMW’s international health insurance plan, which provides coverage for accident and sickness, hospitalization, and travel assistance services as well as coverage for emergency evacuation in the event of a natural disaster or unforeseeable political unrest.**

For countries on the Level 3 – Reconsider Travel or Level 4 – Do Not Travel Advisory List, you are advised to look at the archives of Travel Alerts issued for that country over the past few years in order to gain a better understanding of how and why short-term country conditions posing “significant risks” to Americans came to be designated instead as long-term, protracted conditions making that country so dangerous or unstable as to cause the U.S. Department of State to recommend that U.S. citizens avoid the risk of travel to that country altogether.

Any questions about UMW’s Policy Regarding Adherence to U.S. Department of State Travel Advisories can be addressed to the Center for International Education (cie@umw.edu). UMW’s primary concern in this regard is the safety and well-being of all UMW students, faculty and staff engaged in UMW-related education abroad and/or academic international travel.