

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

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. Therefore, the University strongly encourages and promotes participation in UMW education abroad programs and international travel before, during and after UMW education abroad programs, as well as 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 short-term immersion trips organized by UMW faculty and staff or by UMW-recognized 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 for which the U.S. Department of State has issued a Travel Warning.

Travel Warnings, which can be found on the U.S. Department of State's website (http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.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 Travel Warning 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, although it is more likely that in such cases, a Travel Alert will be issued instead.

Unlike Travel Warnings, *Travel Alerts are issued in order to disseminate information about short-term conditions, either transnational or within a particular country, that pose significant risks to the security of Americans.* Natural disasters, terrorist attacks, coups, anniversaries of terrorist events, election-related demonstrations or violence, and high-profile events such as international conferences or regional sports events are examples of conditions that might generate a Travel Alert. (To view recent Travel Alerts for any given country, go to the same webpage as above, and click on "Select Country/Area." For countries on the Travel Warning 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.)

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 Travel Warning, s/he:

- (1) will not be registered as a UMW student;
- (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 HTH Worldwide 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.

If a University of Mary Washington faculty or staff member with responsibility for University of Mary Washington students nevertheless chooses, against the advice of the U.S. Department of State and the University of Mary Washington, to undertake international travel to any country for which the U.S. Department of State has issued a Travel Warning, s/he:

- (1) will not have access to university financial support, resources, or facilities;
- (2) will be ineligible for enrollment in the UMW's HTH Worldwide 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.

In the event you have any questions about UMW's Policy Regarding Adherence to U.S. Department of State Travel Warnings, please do not hesitate to contact the Center for International Education. Our primary concern in this regard is the safety and well-being of all UMW students and faculty engaged in UMW-related education abroad and/or international travel.