

Study Abroad Student Policy Regarding U.S. Department of State

Travel Warnings, Alerts, and Advisories

Kansas State University

K-State University has numerous officially approved study abroad programs spanning the globe. The University has selected these programs, in part, based on the knowledgeable and seasoned program personnel they have stationed in-country; the sound and proven program infrastructures they have in place; and the due care and attention they devote to enhancing the safety and security of our students. In spite of our confidence in the measures our foreign partners take to enhance student safety and security, from time to time the University finds it appropriate to advise students to decline participation in an officially recognized study abroad program or destination due to political unrest, social instability, contagious disease control, military operations, or terrorism concerns within the host country.

Circumstances under which K-State May Advise Students to Decline Participation in an Officially Recognized Study Abroad Program or Destination

K-State University, in its discretion, may advise students to decline participation in an officially approved study abroad program or destination for any of the following reasons:

1. The U.S. Department of State has issued a Travel Warning, Alert, or Advisory that specifically directs Americans to leave the country in which the program is located or to forego travel to that country.
2. The U.S. Department of State has issued either: (1) Travel Warning, Alert, or Advisory that urges Americans traveling to or within the country in which the program is located to consider carefully the risks of such travel and remain vigilant with respect to their personal safety and security if they choose to travel to or within that country, or within a specific region of that country that the Department of State has determined poses particularized risks for American travelers; or (2) U.S. Department of State has issued a Travel Warning, Alert, or Advisory outlining significant risks to the safety and security of Americans traveling to or within the country in which the program is located.
3. Based on all relevant information, K-State in its discretion, deems it appropriate to advise students to decline participation in an officially recognized study abroad program or destination. In reaching such a decision, K-State will consider several factors which may include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) the recommendations of K-State faculty who are experts in the sociopolitical dynamics of the country or region in which the program is located, (2) the recommendations of private security firms with personnel stationed in-country, (3) the decisions of K-State's peer institutions on whether or not to advise students to decline participation in programs located within the country or region.

Written Appeals to Study Abroad in Areas Where a U.S. Department of State Travel Warning, Alert, or Advisory Is in Place

Appeals to participate in a study abroad program in an area that is considered by the U.S. Department of State to be under a Travel Warning, Alert, or Advisory, must be submitted to the Study Abroad Program (304 Fairchild Hall) in writing. Written appeals to participate in a study abroad program located in an area that is considered by the U.S. Department of State to be under a Travel Warning, Alert, or Advisory should consist of two parts:

1. Students must present a compelling academic rationale for study in the selected subject country, outlining how study in only that country will advance their academic goals and aid them in the pursuit of their K-State degree, and detailing why a study program in another country will not advance adequately the academic goals they have outlined.
2. Students must articulate what steps they have taken to inform themselves of the safety and security risks that study in the selected country may pose and demonstrate that they have considered such risks in a thoughtful and deliberative manner.

K-State personnel will evaluate written appeals.

Signed Student Assumption of Risk and Release of Claims form as Precondition to Participation

Students must read and print the current U.S. Department of State Travel Warning, Alert, or Advisory for the selected country; initial it; and attach it to the completed *Student Assumption of Risk and Release of Claims* form. The student must submit the signed form and the initialed attachment to the Study Abroad Program.

Possible Academic and Financial Loss

It is important for the student to understand and appreciate the risks involved in participation and to be willing to assume individual responsibility for those risks, and, for academic reasons, the student has made the choice to participate in spite of such knowledge of those risks. Furthermore, any student who participates in an officially recognized study abroad program or destination that K-State has advised against due to safety concerns, shall bear solely and entirely any financial loss or loss of academic credit that may result in the event that the situation in-country deteriorates and either K-State or the U.S. State Department's evaluation of the situation in-country changes and either K-State or the U.S. State Department requires that all Americans leave immediately. Likewise, should a student choose to leave the program or destination for any reason prior to the completion of his or her studies, the student shall bear solely and entirely any financial loss or loss of academic credit that may result.

