

Guidance on Driving for Education Abroad

CSU Guidance on Driving Abroad – Due to the acute risks involved, CSU students are strongly discouraged from driving while abroad.* Faculty and staff may drive students upon completion of a CSU background check and demonstrable need towards fulfilling the academic requirements of the program. In most cases, professional, experienced local drivers are preferred.

Exceptions – In some circumstances, it may appear useful for faculty, staff or students to drive while abroad. To apply for an exception to this guidance, contact the Office of International Programs–Education Abroad (OIP-EA), and address the concerns below.

Age Guidelines – Drivers must be 25 years or older.

Local Laws and Insurance – Any potential driver must demonstrate awareness of local driving laws, certify that both the vehicle to be driven and the driver will be properly licensed in country, and will be required to purchase comprehensive insurance.

Allowing Individuals to Drive – A foundational requirement for potentially allowing group leaders or student participants to drive abroad include a good driving record and a clean criminal record. A serious moving vehicle offense or a series of smaller infractions may result in disapproval. Faculty or staff drivers are preferred over student drivers, unless the student is more experienced with driving in that country. Students should not be driving other students abroad. Those taking responsibility for driving others while overseas elevates their personal liability and risk, and that of the University.

Consultation Resources – OIP-EA consults with Human Resources for background and motor vehicle checks, and may consult with the Office of Risk Management and Insurance, Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services, or other agencies on or off campus.

* There are several reasons for this cautious approach: 1) Driving a vehicle or riding on a motorcycle, even as a passenger, may be more dangerous abroad; indeed, traffic accidents are the most common cause of U.S citizen death overseas 2) Foreign drivers may not be aware of local traffic laws or norms, 3) Drivers abroad may not be properly insured against liability for accidents, 4) Driving overseas places both the individual and University at greater liability and risk.

Mitigating Risk and Due Diligence for Driving/Transportation Abroad:

Best practices for safer road travel and driving abroad

Driving Abroad

Seek to meet as many of these items as possible:

Obtain written confirmation of suitable driver and driver qualifications

- Locally licensed driver
- Professional driver or professionally trained driver

- Driver without major infractions
- Experienced driver – knows local area and conditions and/or has experience driving in foreign countries
- References of driver/company are positive, and preferably from other academic institutions that have contracted them for education abroad programming
- If CSU faculty or staff plans to drive students abroad, a background check is required. If CSU driver is a non-US driver's license holder, a written confirmation of license and lack of infractions is required

Vehicle Standards

Some of these standards may not be available in certain areas, but seek to meet as many of these recommendations as possible:

- Obtain written confirmation of suitable vehicle type and comprehensive insurance (not only liability insurance)
- Newer models preferred
- Seatbelts available and in working order
- Regular maintenance of vehicle confirmed
- Safety features on vehicles (e.g. trunk to hide belongings, lockable doors/windows) and an appropriate vehicle with emergency supplies (e.g. 4x4 for rural areas, extra fuel in remote areas, etc.)
- Comprehensive insurance recommended
- References of driver/company are positive, and preferably from other academic institutions that have contracted them for education abroad programming
- Prefer no 15 passenger vans due to size. If only 15 passenger vans are available, prefer seating for 12 passengers or less and no luggage or weight added to top/roof of vehicle due to tipping risk.

See important advice and guidance, including how to find driving information specific to your destination, via [Driving Overseas: Best Practices](#) and [Driving and Road Safety Abroad](#)