Dear Graduate Student,

CSU is continuing to monitor and respond to the evolving situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time CSU is limiting all non-essential travel. This is a difficult decision but an important one, as it reduces the risk of exposure within our community.

Please review the guidance for what constitutes essential travel closely. If you believe that your itinerary falls within these parameters, speak to your faculty advisor, who will need to seek approval from your department head. If the department head approves the travel, they will make a recommendation to the dean who will make the final determination. This process and required forms are detailed on this Travel Exception Authorization page. You will be required to provide the Office of International Programs documentation of this approval. This will then initiate a travel petition to be reviewed by the International Travel Oversight Committee (ITOC).

If you are planning to travel for research purposes the OVPR has helpful information listed here: https://www.research.colostate.edu/return-to-research/

If you are scheduled to depart in the coming weeks, it is advisable to begin this process immediately. If your departure date is over 1.5 months away, and you can delay in solidifying your plans without burden, you may want to wait as long as possible before beginning this petition process. This is an ever-evolving situation, and CSU guidance may look different in the future.

We cannot predict what the coming weeks and months will bring. It is advisable to explore deferring your travel to the latest possible date and/or assess if going abroad in the current global climate is feasible and/or aligns with your personal risk tolerance. If you need assistance is navigating next steps, contact derek.smallwood@colostate.edu. In the meantime, here are some additional considerations:

- The CDC currently lists most international destinations at Level 3: Avoid Non-Essential Travel. Similarly, the U.S. State Department lists most destinations as Level 3: Reconsider Travel and Level 4: Do Not Travel. Many countries have imposed travel restrictions and border closures. The CDC has published thresholds on when their advisories may change. Given the ongoing challenges with the pandemic, we cannot predict when international travel will widely reopen.
- Even if your itinerary meets the conditions for approval please consider the assessments above and if this is the best time for you to go abroad. In addition to consulting with your departmental supervisors it is advisable to confer with other stakeholders relevant to your travel (e.g. your host university or partners, funding organization, etc.).
- Note that if you need to apply for a U.S passport or visa for your host country, that could also cause significant challenges, as many services are limited at this time.
- Review the CDC and Department of State guidance specific to your destination.

Updated 9.2.2020
The CSU International Travel Oversight Committee (ITOC) has specific guidelines to assess when CSU might ask students to return to the U.S. or withdraw travel authorizations. See more information on COVID-19 and Education Abroad website. If the risk assessment specific to your destination increases we will work with you through next steps.

Your well-being is important to CSU. While we want you to have an international experience, now may not be that time, and we need to remain flexible in this evolving situation.

All the best,
CSU Education Abroad