COVID-19 Higher Risk Destinations – Required Petition Process

NOTE: this risk management plan and its review by the International Travel Oversight Committee (ITOC) is one step in possible authorization for CSU-related travel. Final approval is determined by your academic college and documented via this Travel Exception Authorization.

An important part of planning to travel in these complex times is educating yourself on the known risks and travel restrictions around the world. CSU has developed a petition process to help students educate themselves and to prepare for things that are both within and beyond an individual’s control.

All students traveling to countries included on CSU’s COVID-19 Higher Risk Destinations list are required to complete this petition for travel authorization. This petition will be reviewed by the CSU International Travel Oversight Committee (ITOC). To submit a travel petition, complete the attached form and send it to CSU’s International Risk Manager at derek.smallwood@colostate.edu. If you do not submit your petition by the date assigned, your travel cannot be authorized by CSU. This means that you will not be able to use CSU financial aid or other CSU financial resources, or transfer credits back to CSU.

Refer to the resources below as you are completing this petition process. Know that the information and procedures you cite in this document may change rapidly. It is important you continuously monitor these resources as well as other updates specific to your program and destination.

- The Department of State (find your destination page) https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html
- International Air Transport Association https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/world.php
- The COVID-19 response page on the U.S. Embassy website for your host country
- Additionally, individuals are encouraged to contact their host university/organization/collaborators, etc. to help answer the questions included below.

Further information, including FAQs related to CSU Education Abroad and COVID-19, can be found here: https://international.colostate.edu/csu-monitoring-coronavirus/. If you have any questions about this process please email derek.smallwood@colostate.edu.

Thank you,
CSU Education Abroad

Updated 11.20.2020
Part 1: COVID-19 Higher Risk Travel Petition Questions

Arrival Questions

1. Is this travel essential to your academic goals and/or your post-graduation plans? Can it be deferred to a later term?
2. Are commercial flights widely available to your destination?
3. What is your passport expiration date? Your passport needs to be valid at least 6+ months beyond your return date. Due to the pandemic, processing passport applications is severely delayed.
4. What health measures are you currently taking to mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19 prior to departure?
5. What health measures will you take to mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19? Consider the health measures put in place by your:
   a. Host country,
   b. Host institution/organization,
   c. Housing
6. What are the arrival, visa, and quarantine procedures locally for travelers from the U.S? Please include procedures upon arrival as well as upon return to the U.S. Also research potential restrictions in any layover cities. If there is a quarantine period, how will you gain access to food, housing, etc.?
7. List the level that your host country is ranked by the Department of State (e.g. “Level 3 Reconsider Travel”). Other than COVID-19, what risks are specifically listed? How might these risks impact your studies and/or be exacerbated due to COVID-19?
8. List the level that your host country is ranked by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (e.g. “Level 3 High Risk”). Other than COVID-19, what risks are specifically listed? How might these risks impact your studies and/or be exacerbated due to COVID-19?

In Country Questions

9. What will day-to-day life in your host country look like?
   a. Are curfews or other mobility restrictions currently in place?
   b. Are restaurants, cultural sites, etc. open?
   c. Will you have reliable and relatively safe access to groceries, emergency services, etc.?
   d. What about transportation both within your host city but also to multiple international airports? Are buses, trains etc. widely available with mitigation measures in place?
10. Will your international health insurance cover COVID-19 related sickness and treatment? What about evacuation? Note that most insurance policies have pandemic exclusions for security evacuations. Find more information at the Education Abroad International Insurance page.
11. How robust is the health infrastructure and your support network in your host country, should you get sick? Be sure to address:
   a. If testing is widely available?
   b. If you were to need treatment or care, what would your support structure and response plan look like? Consider any language barriers, as applicable.
c. If you were to test positive for COVID-19, how would your housing situation, academic plans, etc. change?

d. Are there reports of the healthcare system reaching capacity?

Planning Ahead Questions

12. What are the instances in which you would have to leave the country? Please list and describe all instances. This can include, but is not limited to, your host country OR the U.S. dramatically restricts outbound or inbound travel, the healthcare system is at capacity, a family emergency at home, your host institution moves entirely to remote instruction, etc.

13. Have you spoken with your personal emergency contact(s) about your plans to participate in this program and the associated risks? Will you have their support in the event of an emergency?

14. What are your support structures to maintain academic continuity as well as physical and mental support should an outbreak occur while you are abroad?

15. Please address your understanding of the financial ramifications listed below. Know that CSU is unable to reimburse students for these expenses.
   a. Last minute cancellation of your program.
   b. Cancellation while in country. Consider the additional costs of a last-minute flight, additional housing costs (e.g. any non-recoverable costs from housing abroad, hotel costs as you travel home, etc.).
   c. Any associated costs back home if you must return early or quarantine separately.

Nature of Work (required for graduate students. Undergraduates compete only if specifically relevant)

16. Explain the nature of your work/research and any precautions you’re taking in light of the risks posed by COVID-19. For example, if your research involves interviewing people, how are you adjusting your process to appropriately maintain social distance? If you are being hosted by another institution, what information have you received from that institution regarding protective measures? If you will be working in a field setting, what information have you received from the field location regarding protective measures?