



## COVID-19 Higher Risk Destinations – Required Petition Process

### Applicable Semesters: Summer 2021, Fall 2021 and Academic Year 2021-22

*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. Until further notice, CSU maintains a restriction on non-essential travel with final institutional approval as determined by your academic college. This request is documented via a [Travel Exception Authorization](#) and should be submitted **after** your risk management plan is reviewed.*

An important part of planning to travel in these complex times is educating yourself on the known risks and travel restrictions around the world. We are optimistic that as vaccines become more widely available, international mobility will increase. However, as the vaccine progress will not be immediate or universal, we should anticipate that these pandemic-related travel considerations will apply for the remainder of 2021. As a result, 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 submit a risk management plan for review by the International Travel Oversight Committee (ITOC). To do so, copy and paste the questions below into a Word document and send it to CSU's International Risk Manager at [derek.smallwood@colostate.edu](mailto: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 (learn about COVID-19, transportation, crime, and other risks in your destination) <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html>
- The Centers of Disease Control & Prevention (general travel guidance as well as destination specific information) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.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 (e.g. google "U.S. Embassy in [your destination]" and navigate to their COVID-19 information)
- 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](mailto:derek.smallwood@colostate.edu).

Thank you,  
CSU Education Abroad



## Part 1: COVID-19 Higher Risk Travel Petition Questions

### Pre-departure 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/from 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. Have you received or scheduled a complete vaccination against COVID-19? If you have not yet received a vaccination, ensure that your travel plans do not interfere with its administration and consider the increased risk of exposure that travel presents. What progress is your destination country making in fully vaccinating their population? (See the U.S. Embassy website for your country for information on approved vaccine(s); see [Our World in Data](#) for vaccine distribution).
5. What health measures are you *currently* taking to mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19 prior to departure?
6. 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
7. 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.?
8. 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 affect your studies and/or be exacerbated due to COVID-19 and the accompanying social and economic disruptions?
9. 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?
10. What is your "plan B" should you not be able to participate in this program (consider academics, housing, etc.)

### In Country Questions

11. 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 exposure mitigation measures in place?



12. Will your international health insurance cover COVID-19 related sickness and treatment? Note that most insurance policies include some exclusions for pandemics. Find more information at the Education Abroad [International Insurance](#) page.
13. 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

14. 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.
15. Have you spoken with your personal emergency contact(s) about your plans to participate in this program and the associated risks? How will they support you in the event of an emergency?
16. What are your support structures to maintain academic continuity as well as physical and mental support should an outbreak and/or indefinite “lockdown” occur while you are abroad?
17. Please address your understanding of the logistical and financial ramifications listed below. Know that CSU is unable to reimburse students for these expenses.
  - a. Last minute cancellation of your program.
  - b. If you test positive for COVID-19 prior to departure and need to delay travel (or if you test positive on arrival) how will this affect your arrival, class schedule, etc.
  - c. 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.).
  - d. Any associated costs back home if you must return early or quarantine separately.
  - e. Additional costs for being required to remain in country beyond your program dates. This can include, but is not limited to:
    - i. Rapid changes in entry/exit requirements requiring that you shelter in place until you are able to return home
    - ii. Not being cleared to travel per CDC [requirements](#) for entry to the U.S.

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

18. 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?