Background

The University of Cincinnati understands the need for enrolled students to travel as a part of their academic and extracurricular activities. Because the university is committed to becoming a more international institution in all of its many activities, including teaching, research, and service, it is understood that such travel will frequently be international to both traditional as well as more remote locations. All travel entails some degree of risk, but travel to some locations may involve more risk than others. This policy establishes guidelines and expectations that students must follow while on university-sanctioned or funded travel and has been adopted to better safeguard UC's undergraduate, graduate, and professional students with regards to insurance coverage, evacuation, and emergency services, and to avoid personal and institutional liability for noncompliance with applicable law, including export control laws, Title IV, and related laws.

Definitions

Group travel – for purposes of this policy group travel is defined as three or more students.

Registered university student organization – a group of University of Cincinnati students who unite to promote or celebrate a common interest and are registered with the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development as a UC student organization.

Travel monitor – a faculty or staff member or designated student organization member responsible for obtaining contact and other relevant information for each student traveler, providing the appropriate offices with such information and arranging a pre-travel planning meeting to discuss emergency procedures. Travel monitors are required...
for all student travel beyond 100 miles of the UC campus of departure or overnight group travel as described in this policy. Travel monitor is not required to travel with student(s).

Policy

Students, faculty and staff will have six months from the effective date of this policy to comply with the rules and procedures noted herein.

Scope

This policy applies to all student travel beyond 100 miles of the UC campus of departure or overnight group travel undertaken by enrolled students for academic credit as part of a student's course of study or degree program, as well as to travel with no associated credit but officially sponsored by the university, including the following:

- Sanctioned by a registered university student organization, club sport, or department
- Required team or group travel
- Fully or partially funded by the University of Cincinnati
- Required for a course or class (academic credit issued)

This policy does not cover student travel to athletic and other events as a spectator unless the travel is sponsored by the university, student organization or for academic credit. Nor does this policy apply to NCAA student athletics travel, which is regulated under NCAA rules and regulations.

General Rules and Expectations

Students participating in travel officially sponsored by the university are required to comply with the standards set forth in the University of Cincinnati Student Code of Conduct and with applicable university policies, procedures, rules and regulations.

Travel sponsored by a student organization must be consistent with the organization's mission and constitution. Travel should be planned so as not to create any interference with academic responsibilities.

Each student must complete and submit the Student Travel Authorization Form and obtain all required signatures prior to commencing travel.

Students traveling outside of the United States are required to register with UC International and agree to abide by its rules and regulations, which include reading and understanding all aspects of this policy related to international travel (see below).

To comply with federal regulations university-funded student travel associated with academic credit must be processed as a financial aid award via the E160. The awarding
department may process the E160 as a non-financial aid award only when student travel is not related to course or class work that results in academic credit.

Any university funding provided to a student traveling as an employee must be processed in accordance with the Travel Expenses Policy (2.1.6) and reimbursed through Accounts Payable.

**Travel Monitor**

All overnight group travel covered by this policy must be monitored by a faculty or staff member of the sponsoring unit or by a student organization representative.

The travel monitor is required to obtain itinerary details and contact information from each student traveler using the Student Travel Group Contact Information Form for domestic travel, or via the forms provided by UC International for international travel. Other forms are permitted if they provide, as a minimum, the same information. The travel monitor is required to leave a copy of the itinerary and contact information with the faculty or staff advisor or with the sponsoring department. The travel monitor is also required to arrange a pre-travel meeting with the student travelers to plan how they will handle emergency situations.

**Rules and Expectations for Students Traveling Internationally**

Students traveling abroad on university-administered and university-approved programs or for academic credit, and students participating in university-sponsored non-credit international programs, may travel to all locations that are not on the U.S. State Department List of Current Travel Warnings.

Students are required to complete five (5) forms, which must be returned to UC International Programs (see Forms, below):

1. Education Abroad Emergency Information Form
2. Health Insurance Form
3. Student Health/Emergency Treatment Authorization Form
4. International Student ID Card (ISIC) Form (or show evidence of comparable emergency and travel insurance coverage)
5. Education Abroad Program Agreement Form, including the Statement of Responsibility and Authorization to Participate in the University of Cincinnati Education Abroad Program and Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Release of Liability and Indemnification.

Students who plan to travel abroad are expected to consult the U.S. State Department List of Current Travel Warnings and to explore other sources of information in arriving at their own judgment with respect to the level of risk involved with said travel. Students who are travelling to countries which are sanctioned or embargoed by the U.S. Treasury Department Office of Foreign Asset Control must clear their travel plans with the Office
of General Counsel to ensure that any required approvals or licenses are in place prior to departure.

Students who intend to take equipment or software abroad should visit the institution’s Export Controls website (see Related Links) to familiarize themselves with U.S. export control laws and regulations and determine if they are in compliance. Students are also encouraged to contact the Export Control Team at (513) 558-ISEC or via e-mail.

Students who wish to travel to countries that appear on the US State Department List of Current Travel Warnings must request an exemption by appeal to the International Travel Oversight Committee (ITOC) (see Forms). The ITOC decisions are final.

If the ITOC approves an exemption for a student under 18 years of age, then the university may require that student's parents to sign if the university determines for each such student that, under the totality of the circumstances, the student's travel could present a threat to the safety or health of that student or others.

If a student chooses to go to a location on the Travel Warning List without an exemption from the policy, they may not participate in a university-sponsored program, receive support from the university, or receive credits (including transfer credits) from the overseas program.

Students may request exemption from the requirement to purchase the International Student ID Card (ISIC) card for supplemental emergency and travel insurance by providing UC International Programs with evidence of comparable coverage.

Emergency Procedures

Students and travel monitors will be familiar with UC’s Student Related Critical Incidents Response Policy (4.1.1), and will follow procedures outlined in that document in case of an emergency while traveling.

UC International will be the first source of information to be consulted in case of a health emergency, natural disaster, or civil unrest in an international location that requires assistance or evacuation.

Noncompliance

A traveler's failure to comply with this policy may jeopardize the university's ability to provide emergency services, could jeopardize the receipt of academic credit or degree, and could result in substantial penalties under applicable law. In addition, a faculty or staff member’s failure to comply with this policy could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination. A student’s failure to comply with this policy could result in a disciplinary process as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct, regardless of any action by other authorities including city or state police, or local, state, or federal courts.
Procedures and Resources

1. **Travel Authorization Form.** All student travelers must complete a Travel Authorization form (see Forms) as per Policy 2.1.6 if the travel is university sponsored or approved. If students are traveling as a group, a list of all student travelers may be used to complete the form. The individual who approves the Travel Authorization shall forward a copy of any Travel Authorization form that involves international travel to UC International at ML 0640.

2. **Student Travel Decision Tree.** If the Student Travel policy applies to a student’s travel, use the Decision Tree to decide which forms and procedures are required.

3. **Travel Advisories and Restrictions.** U.S. State Department travel warnings, Treasury Department travel restrictions and other resource information may be found at the website of UC International. No person shall be required to travel to a location on the list of Current Travel Warnings.

4. **Insurance.** International Student ID Card (ISIC) Form (or show evidence of comparable emergency and travel insurance coverage) (see Forms).

5. **Export Control Regulations.** Student travelers who intend to take equipment or software abroad must check with the UC Information Security website regarding Export Controls (see Related Links) to ensure that they are in compliance with Federal export control regulations.

6. **Financial Aid Forms.** Appropriate financial aid forms must be completed.

7. **Travel Monitor Guide.**

*Organizational units may institute policies more, but not less, restrictive than this policy (1.10.2) if desired.*

**Related links:**

Centers for Disease Control Travelers' Health  
Emergency Contact Information Card Template (Sample)  
Financial Aid  
OFAC Sanctions Programs  
Student Code of Conduct  
Student Related Critical Incidents Response Policy  
Student Travel Decision Tree  
Student Travel Resources and FAQ (in development)  
Travel Expenses Policy  
UC Export Controls  
UC International  
U.S. Department of Education
Forms (for travel associated with academic credit):

Student Travel Authorization Form  (individual travelers)
Student Travel Group Authorization & Contact Form
Student Travel Group Budget Form
Student Travel Monitor Guide
UC International Orientation Guide & Forms contains forms:
  • Education Abroad Emergency Information Form
  • Education Abroad Program Agreement: Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Release of Liability, and Indemnification Form
  • Health Insurance Form
  • International Student ID Card (ISIC) Form
  • Statement of Responsibility and Authorization to Participate in the University of Cincinnati Education Abroad Program
  • Student Health/Emergency Treatment Authorization Form
  • Time Away Form
UC International Travel Exemption Form  (link forthcoming)

Forms (for non-academic credit travel):

Student Travel Authorization Form  (individual travelers)
Student Travel Group Authorization & Contact Form
Student Travel Monitor Guide
UC International Orientation Guide & Forms contains forms:
  • Education Abroad Emergency Information Form
  • Education Abroad Program Agreement: Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Release of Liability, and Indemnification Form
  • Health Insurance Form
  • International Student ID Card (ISIC) Form
  • Statement of Responsibility and Authorization to Participate in the University of Cincinnati Education Abroad Program
  • Student Health/Emergency Treatment Authorization Form
  • Time Away Form
UC International Travel Exemption Form  (link forthcoming)

Phone Contacts:

Department of Student Life  556-5250
Export Control Team  558-4732
Financial Aid  556-1000
Office of General Counsel  556-3483
Office of Risk Management and Insurance  584-5042
Sponsored Research Services  556-1470
Student Activities and Leadership Development 556-6115
UC International 556-4278
Organizational/academic unit