Conducting Global Research:
Promoting Travel Health & Safety

Resources and Support for students, faculty and staff

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Agenda

- What is the OGSS?
- Who we serve
- What we do
- What we don't do
- Where to learn more

Julie with Patrick Eccles (GLO) visiting SIME Clinic (a GeoBlue Networked facility) in Cumbaya, Ecuador with our local provider (Pachaysana Institute)

Beth Osterlund, Asst. Director at The New Graduate Student Resource Fair, Oct 2023
The Office of Global Safety and Security (OGSS) supports the health, safety and security of students and employees who travel abroad for university purposes.
What We Do

- Travel Tracking (students / groups)
- Desktop Risk Assessments
- Site Reviews
- Leadership to the Profession
- Trip Leader Training & Support
- Insurance Coverages
  - Medical and non-medical
- Emergency Incident Response

Julie with Diego Arispe-Bazán in Anthropology & Patrick Eccle in Buffett to assess a new study abroad program in Ecuador

Julie moderates a panel on Duty of Care During Non-Medical Evacuations at the U.S. Dept. of State’s Annual Brief
**Int’l Travel Registry (ITR)**

**Users**
1. All university-sponsored graduate & undergraduate travel abroad
2. Faculty & staff taking students on a trip abroad
3. Faculty & staff traveling to an OFAC-sanctioned country*

**Do Not Register**
- Domestic travel
- Vacation travel
- Int’l students going “home”
- Global Learning Office travel
- Employees
  - not traveling with students
  - not going to OFAC countries

*Belarus, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Syria, and certain regions of Ukraine
Nirvik Sinha, Neuroscience PhD attending Hebrew University in Israel in a visiting doctoral fellow program

Daniella Raillard Arias; Anthropology PhD student conducting research in Peru

Global Brigades, a medical mission undergraduate RSO in Honduras, Summer 2023

Kevin and Connor, undergraduate swimmers at the World University Games in China, Summer 2023

Peter Kouassi, undergrad in Mali on a McCormick Research travel grant
Samantha Nissen, Buffett Institute, provided support to sponsored Travelers to COP27 in Egypt

Dr. Mamoudou Maiga, FSM / McCormick, has many research projects in Mali

Art History graduate students in the Bahamas, led by Krista Thompson
In this next section, you will learn how to:

1. Get travel health advice / access vaccines
2. Obtain proof of [International] insurance
3. Manage a health need abroad
4. Explore risk or security concerns
5. Learn about high-risk location special reqs.
6. Get support for taking students along
If you are going to have a problem, it will likely be health-related

- Plan to manage pre-existing conditions
- Assure adequate supply of prescription medications
- Take OTC medications for routine symptoms / first aid
- Ensure you are up-to-date on routine immunizations (See list next page)
The CDC recommends being up-to-date on routine immunization for any international travel.

Some travel vaccines require 3 months to be fully effective.

Routine vaccines should be covered by your medical insurance; some travel vaccines cost extra.

Routine vaccinations:
- COVID-19
- Chickenpox (Varicella)
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Influenza
- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)
- Measles, mumps, Rubella (MMR)
- Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap)
- Meningococcal
- Pneumococcal
- Polio
- Rotavirus
- Shingles (Zoster)
Northwestern "benefits-eligible" employees are automatically covered by GeoBlue when traveling on "University business"

- No deductible, co-pay or co-insurance
- Spouse/partner and dependents (under 26) are covered when traveling with employee
- A one-time registration is recommended – no travel dates or destinations are required
- Contact OGSS for assistance with "proof of insurance" requirements (i.e. visa applications)

Visit GeoBlue for Employees for more information
How to Register (Employees & Students)

Go to the App store and download the GeoBlue App for free.

Register initially with your NU email and employee Access Code: QHG9999NWBTY or student certificate ID#.

Then log in with your username and password & "Enable Touch or Facial ID".

Find a destination or use GPS.

Find destination-specific resources such as 911 Abroad (under News & Safety).
• Go to nearest hospital/treating facility, preferably a GeoBlue networked hospital
• Contact GeoBlue at (610) 254-8771 to take over case management and arrange direct pay
• Contact NUPD 24/7 line (847) 491-3456 for assistance
• Specialized Services include:
  • Medical evacuation
  • Medical repatriation
  • Non-medical / Political and Natural Disaster (PEND) evacuation as determined by provider
How We Help: Examples

An undergraduate who broke her ankle while exiting a motorcycle taxi prepares for surgery in Uganda, Summer 2023

900 students were required to cancel or postpone travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some were unable to get out - OGSS supported 18 graduate students "stuck abroad" for up to 12 months.
Safety Risks for Travelers

- Petty crime
  - pick-pocketing, purse snatching
- Violent crime
  - robbery / burglary, home invasion
- Civil unrest/public protests
- Harassment
  - gender, race, ethnicity, religion, etc.
- Sexual misconduct
  - Field work, labs, social settings, etc.
- Natural disasters
- Vehicular accidents
  - Car / motorcycle/ moped)
- Behavioral problem / arrest
- Hiking/falling from trails
- Terrorism
- Swimming accidents / drowning
- Animal bites
- Kidnapping
- Alcohol-related illness or injury
Go to travel.state.gov

Carefully review the Travel Advisory and Embassy Messages for your destination; pay attention to the safety & security section

Enroll in STEP to receive alerts from local embassies / consulates
Enroll in the Smart Travel Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive messages from U.S. Embassies while traveling.

Non-U.S. citizens are also eligible for travel alerts / messaging.
Specific Risks for Academics

- Field work remote areas (Greenland)
  - Prepare for harsh conditions / accidents

- Survey research (UAE)
  - Determine laws and customs in authoritarian countries

- Surveillance (Pakistan / China)
  - Expect to be followed / monitored

- Sexual harassment
  - Seek information and advice from prior travelers
How We Help: Examples

Julie Friend from OGSS with Medill in Karachi, Pakistan

V.S. Subrahmanian of McCormick in Liev, Ukraine

Andrew Dillon of Kellogg in Bamako, Mali
Two Special Requirements: High-risk locations

Disclosures for High Risk Destinations

Crisis24, Northwestern’s political, security and natural disaster evacuation (PEND) provider requires disclosure of planned travel to 23 countries it considers high-risk to determine whether or not PEND services will be covered in the case of a serious, non-medical emergency. In 2023, the following countries need pre-approval from Crisis24: Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia (Tigray region only), Haiti, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria (Borno, Yobe, Bauchi, Gombe, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Zamfara, and northern Adamawa states only), North Korea, Pakistan, Palestinian Territories, Republic of South Sudan, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen.

If traveling to one of these destinations, faculty and staff must complete this travel disclosure form and email it to globalsafety@northwestern.edu at least 5 business days before departure. Students are required to register their travel in the International Travel Registry at least 14 days before departure. Student disclosures of planned travel to high-risk countries (as determined by Crisis24) are managed through the International Travel Registry.

- 23 High-risk locations (defined by insurance provider) require Political Environment Natural Disaster (PEND) pre-travel disclosures
- Need to complete a one—age form
- Contact OGSS or see our Evacuation for more information

Per federal regulations and the Office of Research: Register with OGSS for travel to sanctioned destinations: Belarus, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Syria, and certain regions of Ukraine
Undergraduate Travel Policies
Graduate Student Travel Policies
Faculty and Staff Travel Policies
Checklist for Group Travel Abroad
Group Trip Enrollment

Faculty and Staff Travel Policies

In general, Northwestern does not regulate the international travel of its faculty or staff, but staff travel typically requires permission from one's supervisor. Employment-related travel is permissible when it applies to activities related to the University's mission and/or the traveler's employment such as research or teaching, recruitment, admissions testing, fundraising, or other purpose as identified by the unit director, dean or department chair. Some destinations deemed high-risk by Northwestern's evacuation provider require advance disclosure to OGIS.

Northwestern also strongly recommends that all travel for university purposes be booked through a preferred provider. Advantages associated with these services include direct billing via chart string, discounted air and hotel fares and traveler assistance when plans change.

Read more information on the following subjects:
- Advising / Sponsoring Student Travel
- Emergencies / Incident Reporting
- Export Controls / International Compliance
- High-Risk Destinations
- International Health Insurance
- Professional Development Opportunities
- Traveling Abroad with Students
- Travel Safety and Security Information

Incident Reporting
If you receive information about an emergency abroad involving a student, staff or faculty member, contact the Northwestern Police at (847) 491-3466. On-call staff will coordinate a response with the unit and department sponsoring travel.

Supporting Students Who Travel Abroad

University Requirements include:

Travel Registry – including graduate students you fund or support

Trip Leader Training – for those who accompany students abroad
What We Don’t Do

- Domestic travel (US & its territories)
- Resolve travel hiccups (we are not travel agents)
- Assist with obtaining necessary visas
- Give medical advice
- Provide advice or support for personal travel
Final Thoughts / Be Prepared [Emergencies]

➔ Local medical / emergency phone
➔ NU department, school or unit contacts
➔ Host / Provider emergency contacts
➔ Travelers’ phone/email
➔ GeoBlue: (610) 254-8771
➔ NUPD 24/7: (847) 491-3456

PLEASE TELL YOUR FAMILY ABOUT OGSS: WE CAN HELP IN AN EMERGENCY
1-hr Trip Leader Training (Remote)
• Feb 21 @ 11 am
• March 5 @ 2 pm
(See Events page for more dates)

1-hr First Responder Training (Remote)
• March 7 @ 11 am

Sign-up on OGSS’s Events page

Colleagues who want on our Email list can contact globalsafety@northwestern.edu