

Conducting Global Research: Promoting Travel Health & Safety

Resources and Support for students, faculty and staff

February 21, 2024

Julie Anne Friend, JD
Director

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



Overview

The Office of Global Safety and Security (OGSS) supports the health, safety and security of students and employees who travel abroad for university purposes



BUFFETT INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS

EMERGENCY MESSAGES (3)

GLOBAL SAFETY AND SECURITY

Search this site



Emergencies Abroad ▾

Travel Policies ▾

Travel Registry ▾

Health & Safety ▾

Resources ▾

About Us ▾



Office of Global Safety and Security

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



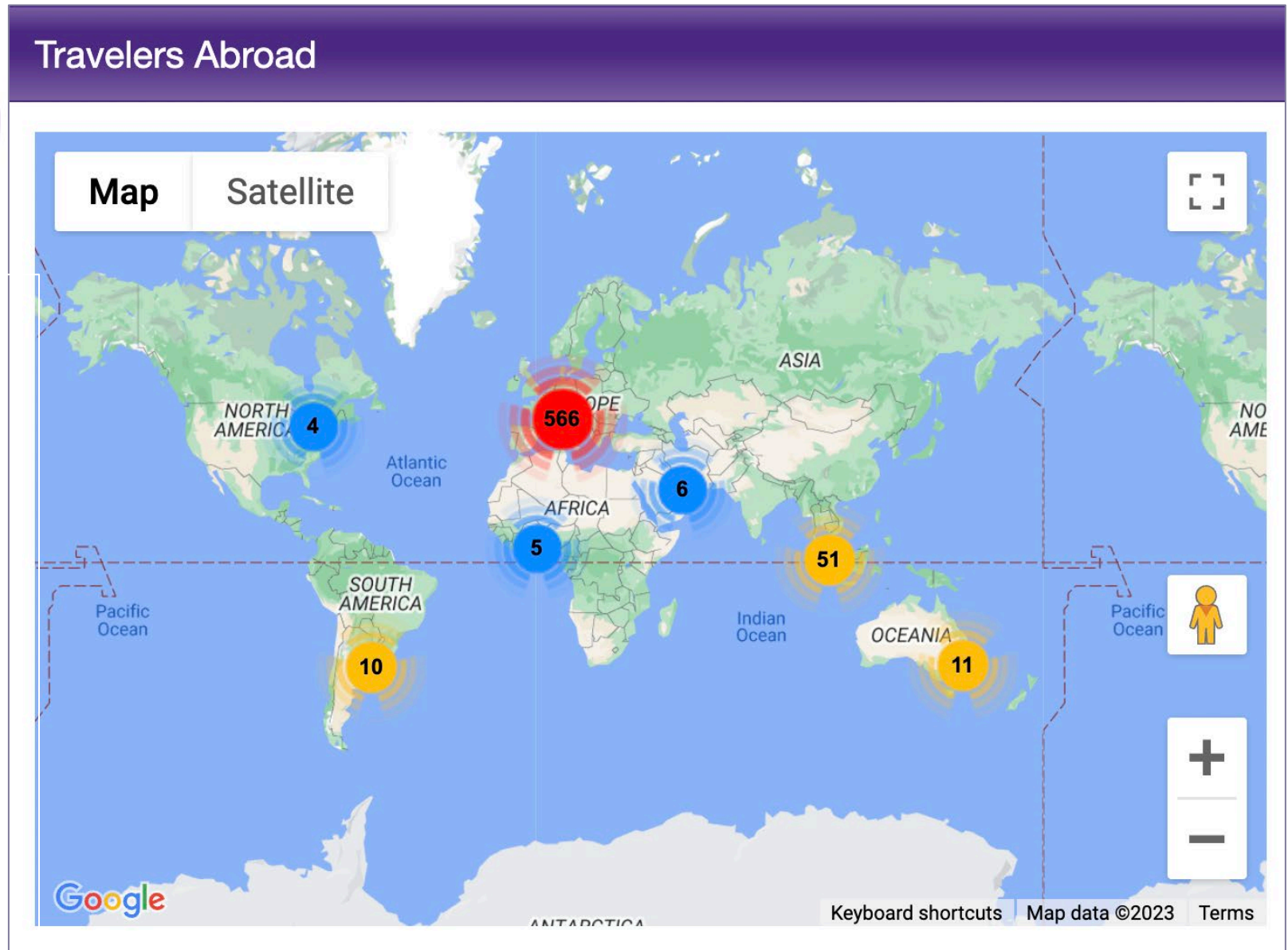
Int'l Travel Registry (ITR)

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



Fall Quarter, 2023

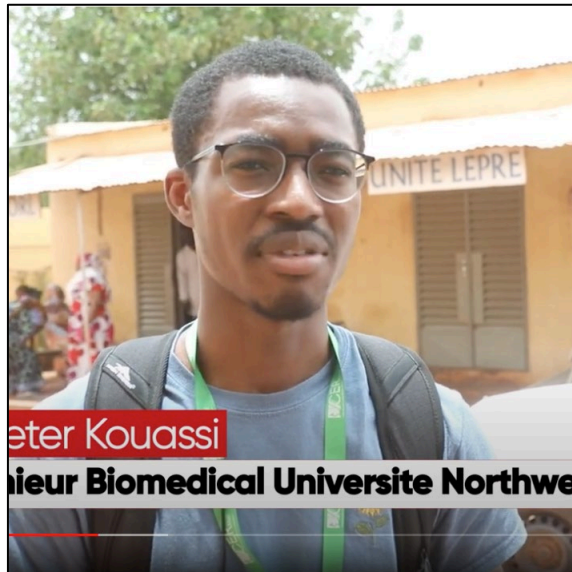
*Belarus, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Syria, and certain regions of Ukraine

Students We Served



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



Peter Kouassi
Mieur Biomedical Universite Northwe

Nirvik Sinha, Neuroscience
PhD attending Hebrew
University in Israel in a
visiting doctoral fellow
program



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



Daniella Raillard Arias;
Anthropology PhD student
conducting research in Peru



Faculty / Staff We Served



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



Samantha Nissen, Buffett Institute, provided support to sponsored Travelers to COP27 in Egypt



Art History graduate students in the Bahamas, led by Krista Thompson

Preparing for Travel: Employees

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



Travel Health Advice

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)

Travelers' Health

Increase in respiratory illnesses globally, 2023

CDC is monitoring respiratory illness around the world. Some countries have reported elevated levels of respiratory illness activity. Respiratory illnesses that are circulating include [influenza](#), [COVID-19](#), [respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\) infection](#), and [Mycoplasma pneumoniae](#) infection.

Actions you can take to help protect yourself and others when traveling include: [vaccination](#), [masking](#), physical distancing, and [washing hands regularly](#). If sick, do not travel and get [tested](#). See more [information about vaccination](#).



Routine Vaccines

It's important to be up to date on recommended routine vaccines prior to travel, including Flu, RSV and COVID-19.

[Learn more](#)

Destinations



Where are you going?

-- Select One --

Go

[View all destinations](#)

Travel Vaccines

Passport Health Travel Clinic

1718 Sherman Avenue, Suite 211
Evanston

NorthShore Travel Center

Glenbrook Hospital
2150 Pfingsten Road, Suite 3000
Glenview

Northwestern Medicine Travel Clinic

676 N. Saint Clair Street (Suite 900)
Chicago

- 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)

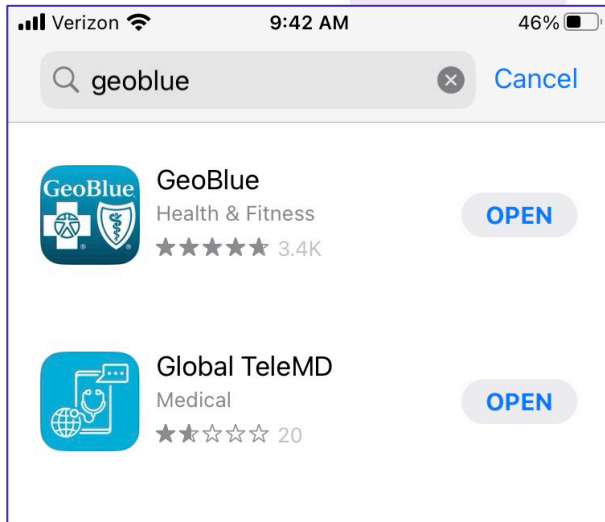
GeoBlue for Employees

- 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)

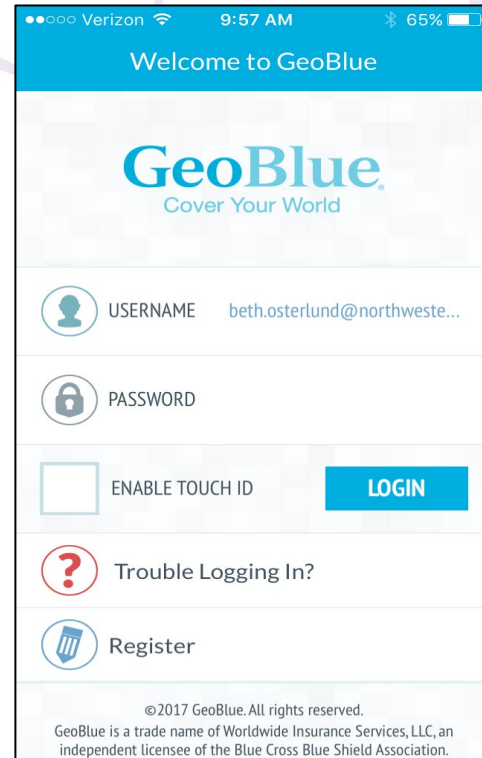
The screenshot shows the 'GeoBlue for Employees' page on the website of the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs. The page is titled 'GLOBAL SAFETY AND SECURITY' and includes a search bar. The main navigation menu includes 'Emergencies Abroad', 'Travel Policies', 'Travel Registry', 'Health, Safety and Security', 'Resources', and 'About Us'. The 'Health, Safety and Security' section is active, showing a breadcrumb trail: HOME > HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY > TRAVEL HEALTH > GEOBLUE GLOBAL HEALTH INSURANCE > GEOBLUE FOR EMPLOYEES. The page content is divided into a left sidebar and a main content area. The sidebar lists various travel health topics, with 'GeoBlue for Employees' highlighted. The main content area features the title 'GeoBlue for Employees' and a detailed explanation of the insurance plan, including a note that Northwestern faculty and staff traveling internationally on university business are automatically covered. It also mentions that a one-time registration is necessary to maximize benefits and access provider details. A list of links for 'Eligibility', 'Duration', 'Registration/Pre-travel Preparations', 'Highlights', 'Limitations', and 'Care and Claims' is provided. Below this, an 'Eligibility' section states that the plan covers 'benefits-eligible' employees, including post-docs and fellows, and any spouse/partner/fiancé or unmarried dependents who may be accompanying such employees traveling on university business or business sojourn. A right-hand sidebar contains 'GeoBlue Employee Plan Resources' with links to the registration page, COVID-19 coverage flyer, member guide, and business traveler certificate of coverage.

Visit [GeoBlue for Employees](#) for more information

How to Register (Employees & Students)

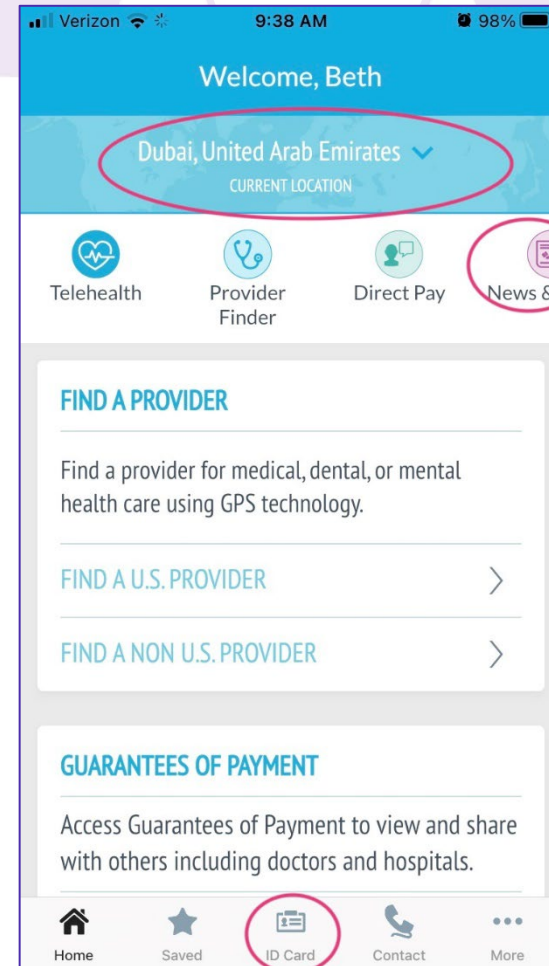


Go to the App store and download the GeoBlue App for free

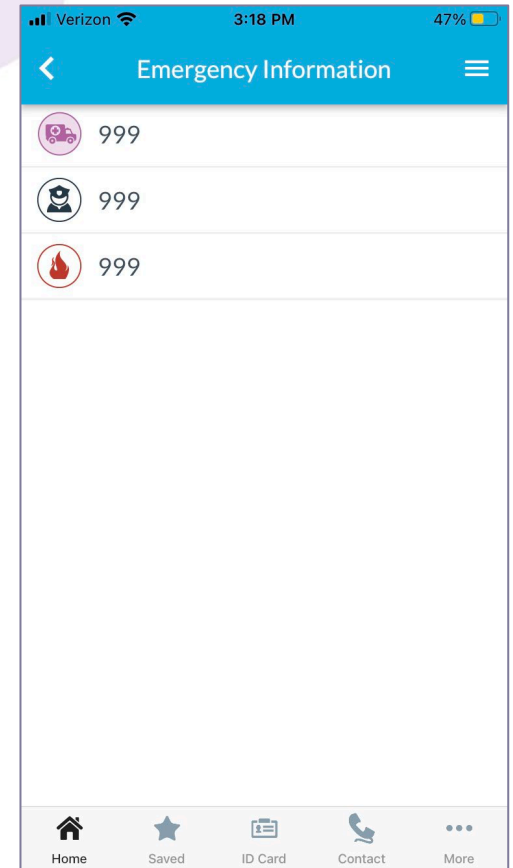


Register initially with your NU email and employee Access Code: QHG9999NWBTY or student certificate ID#

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



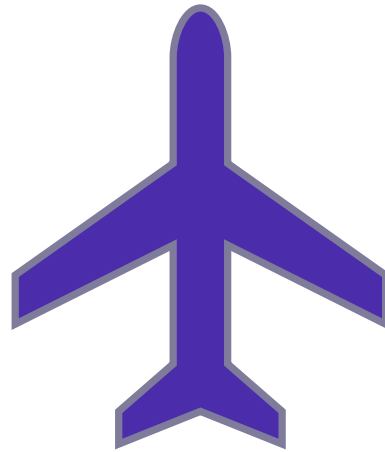
Add a destination or use GPS



Find destination-specific resources such as 911 Abroad (under News & Safety)

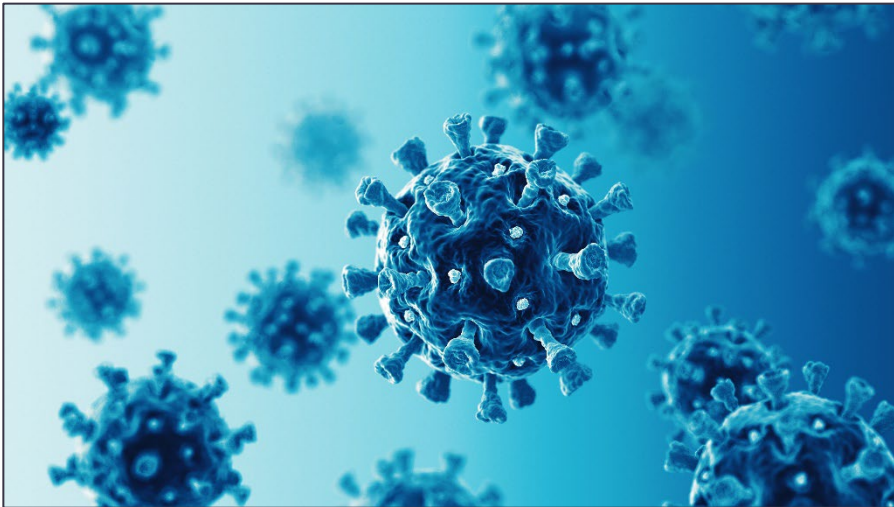
Emergencies Abroad

- **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

U.S. DOS Travel Advisory System

- 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

The screenshot displays the official U.S. State Department Travel Advisory System website. At the top, there is a red banner with the text "Russia Travel Advisory" and "Do Not Travel and Leave Immediately". Below this, the website header includes the U.S. State Department logo and navigation links for "U.S. Passports", "International Travel", "U.S. Visas", "Intercountry Adoption", "International Parental Child Abduction", and "Records and Authorizations".

The main content area is titled "Travel Advisories" and features a search bar labeled "Learn about your destination" with a search icon. Below the search bar is a table listing various travel advisories. The table has three columns: "Advisory", "Level", and "Date Updated".

Advisory	Level	Date Updated
Lithuania Travel Advisory	Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions	October 4, 2022
North Macedonia Travel Advisory	Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions	October 4, 2022
North Korea Travel Advisory	Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions	October 5, 2022
Oman Travel Advisory	Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions	October 5, 2022
Somalia Travel Advisory	Level 4: Do Not Travel	October 5, 2022
Sri Lanka Travel Advisory	Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions	October 5, 2022
Sudan Travel Advisory	Level 4: Do Not Travel	October 5, 2022
Tanzania Travel Advisory	Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions	October 5, 2022
Togo Travel Advisory	Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions	October 5, 2022
Tunisia Travel Advisory	Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions	October 5, 2022
Ukraine Travel Advisory	Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions	October 5, 2022
United Kingdom Travel Advisory	Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions	October 5, 2022
United States Travel Advisory	Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions	October 5, 2022
United States Virgin Islands Travel Advisory	Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions	October 5, 2022
Uruguay Travel Advisory	Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions	October 5, 2022
Venezuela Travel Advisory	Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution	October 5, 2022
Vietnam Travel Advisory	Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions	October 5, 2022
Yemen Travel Advisory	Level 4: Do Not Travel	October 5, 2022
Zambia Travel Advisory	Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions	October 5, 2022
Zimbabwe Travel Advisory	Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions	October 5, 2022

On the right side of the page, there is a sidebar with a section titled "Take 60 Seconds for Safer Travel" which includes a video player and a map. Below this, there is a "Travel Advisory Levels" section with four numbered items: 1. Exercise normal precautions (blue), 2. Exercise increased caution (yellow), 3. Reconsider travel (orange), and 4. Do not travel (red). At the bottom of the sidebar, there is a blue button labeled "TRAVEL ADVISORIES AND ALERTS: THE DETAILS" and a section titled "Enroll in STEP" with a blue suitcase icon and a checkmark, indicating enrollment in the State Department's Travel Emergency Preparedness (STEP) program.



Create Account

Log In

TRAVELING?
Enroll a trip and get Alerts



STAYING AT HOME?
Get Travel Advisories



FREQUENT TRAVELER?
Create an account



What is STEP?

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Benefits of Enrolling in STEP

- ✔ Receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans.
- ✔ Help the U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency.
- ✔ Help family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.

Stay Informed, Stay Connected, Stay Safe!

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program

Create Organization/Group Account
Subscribe or Unsubscribe
FAQ
Contact Us
Privacy
Paperwork Reduction Act

Stay Connected



(51)

Travel.State.Gov

Travel.State.Gov
U.S. Embassies & Consulates
Country Information
Latest Travel Advisories

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

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

Camping safari training, Tarangire National Park in Tanzania



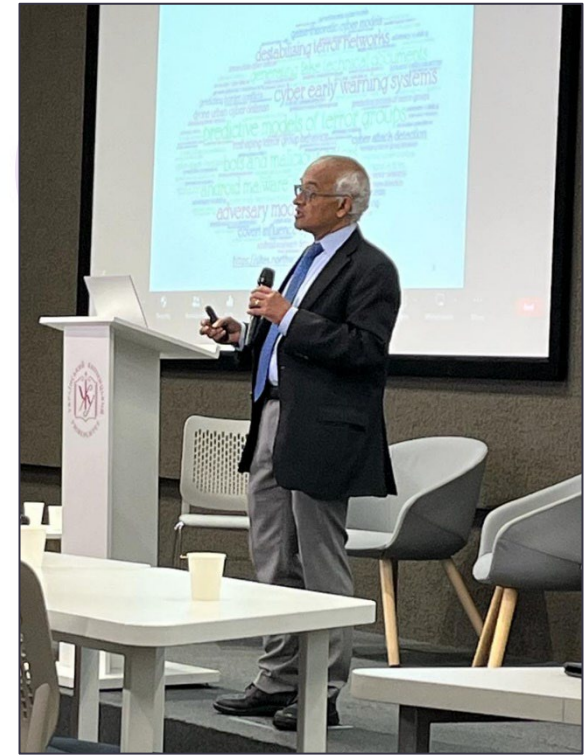
Laura Larocca, EPS graduate student in Greenland

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 OGSS.

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) 491-3456. 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



Professor Jesus Escobar & Art History Students in Spain



Upcoming Events

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



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