

Austin College Travel Policy for Countries on the State Department Warning List

Austin College strongly encourages its students, faculty and staff who are contemplating travel abroad for educational or other purposes to plan well in advance and to take precautions to ensure a safe trip. All travelers should familiarize themselves with political, health, crime, and other safety-related conditions prevailing in any country and specific locations within the country (or countries) to be visited. A review of these conditions should be performed by viewing web-based information provided by the U.S. Department of State (<http://travel.state.gov/>) as well as information provided by various other cognizant agencies and governments.

The following provisions apply to all Austin College students, faculty and staff who intend to study abroad or participate in any travel abroad sponsored or funded by the College, or in connection with a trip abroad by a recognized College organization or institution affiliated with the College:

All Austin College students have primary responsibility for their own safety when traveling internationally, whether or not their travel abroad is funded or sponsored by the College or is accorded credit by the College. Before departure, all students traveling abroad to participate in an internship, perform service, undertake research, study abroad, embark on a Global Outreach Fellowship, or participate in a recognized student organization or athletic trip abroad, as individuals or in groups, must complete a [Liability Release Form](#), [General Power of Attorney](#) and a [Study Abroad Commitment Form](#) (if applicable).

Countries, or areas within a country, placed on the [U.S. State Department Travel Warning List](#) fall into one of four levels of severity. Austin College will not grant or award credit, funding, support or otherwise sponsor any international academic or co-curricular project in any country, or area within a country, for which the U.S. State Department has issued the more severe warnings of level 3 or 4.

Level 1 – Exercise Normal Precautions: This is the lowest advisory level for safety and security risk. There is some risk in any international travel. Conditions in other countries may differ from those in the United States and may change at any time.

Level 2 – Exercise Increased Caution: Be aware of heightened risks to safety and security. The Department of State provides additional advice for travelers in these areas in the Travel Advisory. Conditions in any country may change at any time.

Level 3 – Reconsider Travel: Avoid travel due to serious risks to safety and security. The Department of State provides additional advice for travelers in these areas in the Travel Advisory. Conditions in any country may change at any time.

Level 4 – Do Not Travel: This is the highest advisory level due to greater likelihood of life-threatening risks. During an emergency, the U.S. government may have very limited ability to provide assistance. The Department of State advises that U.S. citizens not travel to the country or to leave as soon as it is safe to do so. The Department of State provides additional advice for travelers in these areas in the Travel Advisory. Conditions in any country may change at any time.

CDC Travel Guidelines

Countries, or areas within a country, placed on the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\) and Prevention Travel Warning List](#) fall into one of three levels of severity. Austin College will not grant or award credit, funding, support or otherwise sponsor any international academic or co-curricular project in any country, or area within a country, for which the CDC has issued the more severe warning level of 3.

Level 1 – Practice usual precautions for this destination, as described in the Travel Health Notice and/or on the destination page. This includes being up-to-date on all recommended vaccines, medications, and practicing appropriate mosquito avoidance.

Level 2 – Practice enhanced precautions for this destination. The Travel Health Notice describes additional precautions added, or defines a specific at-risk population.

Level 3 – Avoid nonessential travel to this destination. The outbreak is of high risk to travelers and no precautions are available to protect against the identified increased risk.

The CDC has a separate system for indicating [travel risk due to COVID-19](#) situations in other countries. Austin College will not grant or award credit, funding, support or otherwise sponsor any international academic or co-curricular project in any country, or area within a country, for which the CDC has assessed the COVID-19 travel risk at levels 3 or 4.

Level 1: Low level of COVID 19 – All travelers should wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet/2 meters from people who are not from your travel group, avoid crowds, wash their hands often or use hand sanitizer, and watch their health for signs of illness.

Level 2: Moderate level of COVID-19 – Travelers at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should avoid all nonessential travel to these destinations.

Level 3: High level of COVID-19 – Travelers should avoid all nonessential travel to these destinations.

Level 4: Very High level of COVID-19 – Travelers should avoid all travel to these destinations.