Petition for Independent Graduate / Professional Student International Travel During the Pandemic

During the pandemic, all travelers must present a compelling reason to travel to an international destination with a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) COVID-specific Travel Health Notice (THN) Level 1-4.


Students who wish to undertake university-related international travel must complete this petition and receive approval from their home school as well as their Northwestern funding source, if different than the home school. Exceptions will be considered for travel that is critical to the completion of the course of study, and the work cannot be postponed or conducted remotely. The goal of this enhanced procedure is to promote decisions and practices that can mitigate the traveler’s exposure to COVID-19.

*No student is required to travel abroad at this time; any participation in travel during the pandemic is strictly voluntary and the traveler assumes responsibility for travel during this trip.

*The traveler understands that the university may be limited in its ability to provide assistance and resources in the event of a crisis, including the possibility of being stuck in the host country due to newly imposed travel restrictions or a positive COVID-19 diagnosis.

*The university retains the right to withdraw approval and/or require the traveler to leave a high-risk location at any time.

**Traveler Information**

- **Name and email address**: 
  your name and email address

- **Northwestern department and school**: 
  your NU department and school

- **Faculty supervisor’s name and email address**: 
  your faculty supervisor and their email address

- **Travel funding source, if applicable. If funded in part or in full by Northwestern, list a contact person for your funding.**
  If you are receiving funding, please list. Add a contact name if funding is from NU.

- **International destination (city / country)**: 
  city/country

- **Proposed travel dates**: 
  For example, March 1-June 30, 2021

**Travel Preparation**

I have reviewed the following resources concerning my travel destination during the planning stages and will continue to review these resources up to my departure including Northwestern’s Travel Guidelines, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance and the U.S. Department of State Travel Advisories, also review the U.S. Embassy’s web page for your destination country linked in the Travel Advisory.

https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list
https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
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- Unknown
- Level 1: Low
- Level 2: Moderate
- Level 3: High
- Level 4: Very High

Necessity of Travel

What is the purpose of your trip? *

Describe what you plan to do on your trip

Explain in detail why this travel is critical to the completion of your course of study, and the work cannot be postponed or conducted remotely. *

Have you confirmed with a host entity or institution that you will be able to conduct your activities as planned (if applicable)? *

- Yes
- No
- N/A

Travel Logistics

From which city/country will you be traveling to your destination? *

List your departure city AND country

Is your destination accepting visitors originating from this country? *

- Yes
- No

What are the COVID-related entry requirements for your destination? *

List the current requirements.

Self-quarantine/Isolation

Will a self-quarantine period be required upon arrival? *

- Yes
- No
If so, what are the quarantine arrangements and additional costs associated with housing and meals? *

List quarantine arrangements and additional costs.

Are you prepared to isolate for 10 days (or more) and care for yourself in your destination if you become ill with COVID, or have been exposed to a contact that has been diagnosed with COVID?

☐ Yes
☐ No

If so, what are your isolation arrangements and additional costs associated with housing and meals?

List isolation arrangements and additional costs.

16. Do you have adequate funding to cover costs associated with a COVID quarantine or isolation period? *

☐ Yes
☐ No

COVID Prevention

What is your COVID-19 vaccination status?

☐ I am fully vaccinated.
☐ I anticipate receiving my vaccine doses before I travel
☐ I am not vaccinated
☐ Other: Example: The vaccine will not be available to me before I travel.

Are you willing to commit to routine COVID-19 mitigation practices, such as wearing a face covering at all times, practicing social distancing, engaging in frequent hand washing/sanitizing, limiting gatherings as directed by a host institution and/or government, participating in symptoms reporting or surveillance testing (if required), staying at home if ill, and following guidelines from designated local health authorities?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Are you able to obtain personal protective equipment (PPE), such as a mask, face shield, hand sanitizer, etc., to take along on your trip?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Should you need to replace or replenish PPE while abroad, is it available in your destination?

☐ Yes
☐ No
20. What other risks factors have you considered associated with your travel or destination and how will you mitigate those factors? (Examples might include anti-foreign sentiment, pre-existing health issues, political instability, impact on local vulnerable population etc.).

Be specific about potential risk factors and mitigation strategies.

Health care

How will you obtain COVID testing in your destination country? Is there out-of-pocket cost? (Note that GeoBlue does not cover asymptomatic testing costs.)

Add information on COVID testing in destination.

Identify the nearest hospital or clinic where you can receive medical care, if needed?

Identify medical resources you will use abroad.

Do you understand how to access care through GeoBlue's medical assistance and insurance plan? If not, please email globalsafety@northwestern.edu with questions or request a virtual appointment.

Yes

No

Change in Condition

If there is a sudden change in conditions and international borders suddenly close, what arrangements will you make? *

Discuss your arrangements.

Will you be able to complete your research/study/work remotely, if conditions warrant? *

Yes

No

Are you prepared to financially manage any last-minute change of plans involving transportation and accommodations?

Yes

No

Have you discussed reimbursement policies with an adviser, professor or supervisor to accommodate the need to quarantine, isolate or return home? (Note that reimbursement of personal expenditures may not be available.)

Yes

No

Upon your return, are you able to quarantine at the length required by Northwestern or the state/country health authority of your U.S. residence without disrupting your Northwestern responsibilities?

Yes

No

Additional Information

20. What other risks factors have you considered associated with your travel or destination and how will you mitigate those factors? (Examples might include anti-foreign sentiment, pre-existing health issues, political instability, impact on local vulnerable population etc.).

Be specific about potential risk factors and mitigation strategies.
Is there any additional information about your trip you would like to provide?

Your opportunity to share any additional information you think the committee should know about your trip.

Instructions for submitting petition

Submit your petition and then email beth.osterlund@northwestern.edu to confirm your submission. She will forward your petition to your school, funding source (if applicable) and the Provost's Office Travel Policy Committee and inform you of the decision.

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