

Carnegie Mellon University

Study Abroad

Safety and Security Threshold for the Funding of Study/Travel Abroad

Guiding Principle. As a global institution, Carnegie Mellon values intercultural experiences gained when students participate in education abroad; however, international travel does have risk. Office of International Education (OIE) staff balance the benefits of these experiences with specific risk factors when advising and funding individual and group study/travel abroad.

Funding Decisions. Annually, CMU invests thousands of dollars to support students and student groups to participate in interesting educational and experiential time abroad; these funds are managed by OIE and other offices. We encourage students to discuss their travel plans early and thoroughly with their families and campus advisors.

With respect to such funding allocations, the OIE staff regularly consults and shares relevant information from the US Department of State Travel and other specialized resources to help students and their families/advisors make well-informed decisions with respect to health and safety issues abroad.

US Department of State Travel Advisory

US Department of State Travel Advisory Level	OIE Travel Recommendation	Availability of Funding for Travel
1 - Exercise normal precautions	Travel supported	Carnegie Mellon funds may be used
2 - Exercise increased caution	Travel supported	Carnegie Mellon funds may be used
3 - Reconsider travel	Travel not recommended	Carnegie Mellon funds may not be used unless specifically approved by OIE after risk assessment*
4 - Do not travel	Travel not supported	Carnegie Mellon funds may not be used

***Level 3 Advisory Level.** Funding may be considered if the trip will be to a region that is specifically excluded from the Level 3 Advisory and the risk assessment indicates the level of risk impact is low. The risk assessment will include a review of the State Department Travel Advisory, information from the State Department's Overseas Security Advisory Council, independent security advice and any other appropriate governmental information. OIE will review information, consult experts and assess the situation before making a determination about the ability to provide institutional funding.

As a long-standing practice, OIE does not provide funding to individuals or groups when the overseas plan involves travel to countries or regions that are deemed to be high-risk due to safety/security concerns, as shown above. While OIE reviews safety/security information from various sources, we rely heavily but not exclusively on the U.S. State Department's Travel Advisories, using the guidelines above for Travel Advisory levels that are issued due to factors other than COVID-19 (conflict/unrest, natural disaster, terrorism, etc.).

Funding support, unfortunately, will be rescinded or withdrawn by OIE and other CMU departments if a country or region receives a Level 3 or 4 US Department of State Travel Advisory rating due to safety/security concerns, presuming the student travel has not yet occurred. When a Level 3 or 4 Advisory that would impact funding is found to be applicable, the OIE decision will be communicated to the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, the Office of Student Leadership, Involvement, and Civic Engagement, the Undergraduate Research Office, and other known sources of study abroad/international travel funding.

OIE staff also consider various factors with regard to health and safety with respect to COVID-19. A Level 3 or Level 4 Travel Advisory that is solely due to COVID-19 risks does not automatically rule out travel or funding opportunities; however, individuals need to carefully weigh their personal travel risks, considering their own health situation and any underlying risk factors, and realize COVID-19 risks and restrictions may limit travel and funding options.

The following CMU departments and offices adhere to OIE's threshold standards related to funding decisions when making their funding decisions:

- CIT Dean's Office
- Undergraduate Research Office

Contact Information. Students and faculty or staff advisors are encouraged to discuss general and specific questions or concerns related to safety and security while abroad with the following OIE staff:

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