International Travel Policy

Washington University (WashU) is concerned with the health, safety, and security of all members of our community while traveling outside of the United States of America. The Washington University International Travel Policy has been adopted to ensure a consistent set of travel standards to be followed by all units of the university. The policy applies to all international travel that is sponsored, is funded in any part, or involves the granting of degree credits by Washington University in St. Louis.

I. Definitions

A. International Travel Oversight Committee (ITOC)

The International Travel Oversight Committee (ITOC) is advisory to the Provost and makes policy recommendations on international travel conducted by students, faculty and staff of Washington University. The ITOC is chaired by the Provost’s designee, and includes key administrators from each WashU school as well as representatives from the Chancellor’s office, Provost office, General Counsel, University Risk Management, Student Affairs, Emergency Management/Police and faculty. The ITOC convenes at least once during the fall and spring semesters to review and assess the implementation of the university’s travel policies and procedures. The ITOC Executive Body consists of a subset of the ITOC General Body (see Appendix A). The Executive Body will meet when necessary to review travel proposals, respond to international emergencies and to make determinations as to whether restrictions should be placed on travel to particular countries, or regions of countries due to circumstances described in this policy.

B. Sponsored or Supported International Travel

For the purposes of the International Travel Oversight Committee (ITOC) and this policy, university-sponsored or supported international travel will be defined as any travel that meets one or more of the following conditions:

- Funded in full or in part by Washington University, this includes university stewarded funds such as government and foundation grants that are administered by the university
- Academic credit awarded
• Organized by a university-recognized student group or university department
• Faculty/Staff member will be representing Washington University on site

C. Travel Suspension Condition

A Travel Suspension Condition is defined for any country or region for which one of the following conditions applies:

• The U.S. Department of State has issued an alert or a warning that orders departure of U.S. dependents and non-emergency personnel; recommends that U.S. citizens depart the country; advises U.S. citizens against all travel to the country; or recommends that U.S. citizens defer non-essential travel to the country;

• The emergency travel assistance organization, International SOS, has rated the country/region as “High Risk” or “Extreme Risk”;

• The ITOC Executive Body has determined, in its sole discretion, based upon information from the State Department, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, or other sources, (i) that the country or region is experiencing a serious and uncontrolled infectious disease outbreak or other serious health hazard or (ii) that other serious safety concerns exist in the country or region and that either of these warrant cancellation or suspension of university-sponsored or supported international travel to that specific location or region.

D. International Travel Registry | MyTrips

MyTrips is an online system of registering international travel and itineraries for WashU faculty, staff and students. The MyTrips international travel registry, along with related support services, will continue to be provided by our long-time partner, International SOS, the world's largest medical and travel security services firm.

E. International Travel Proposal
A document for those who are creating, organizing, or overseeing a university-sponsored or supported international travel program for international travel with students. Faculty and staff are encouraged, but not required, to submit proposals if they are traveling to a high-risk destination without students are not traveling as part of a university-sponsored or supported program. The Travel Proposal should include information related to travel preparation and orientation, academic structure, travel logistics and accommodation, local contact information, and emergency, security and health safety plans, Travel Proposals are reviewed by the ITOC Executive Body (See Appendix B).

II. INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL POLICY

For student travel guidance, please see section A. For faculty and staff members traveling independently, please see section B1 and B2. For faculty and staff traveling with students, please see section B3.

A. Student International Travel

1. Required Travel Registration

All undergraduate and graduate students traveling abroad as part of a WashU sponsored or supported international travel program are required to enter their travel information in the MyTrips International Travel Registry before they depart. If the travel is for course credit, required travel information may include, but is not limited to, travel dates and locations, flight information, local contact information, accommodations. Failure to submit the required information may result in delays or forfeiture of reimbursement on travel from the university and/or holds that may affect the awarding of academic credit. Additionally, a failure to register may result in a delay in the ability for WashU to give logistical support in the event of an emergency.

In addition to following procedures outlined by the student's respective school or college, each student traveling alone or in a group, whether led by WashU faculty or staff or not, may be required to provide a signed acknowledgment and waiver form indicating that (s)he understands the potential risks of traveling abroad but is
voluntarily choosing to travel despite those risks. Undergraduate students and any minors may also be required to provide a consent form signed by a parent or guardian.

For student registration, learn how to Create a Profile or Add a Trip at MyTrips.

2. Student Group Travel

If a student is traveling as part of a larger group, group leaders are also required to enter all itinerary, lodging, and overseas contact information in the MyTrips International Travel Registry, and to provide a copy of this information to the designated department university administrator.

If a spouse or dependent of a WashU student is traveling, the WashU student must indicate this in the appropriate section of MyTrips where prompted.

3. Travel Suspension Conditions

The university will not fund, award credit for, or otherwise sponsor or support travel by any student to or through any country or region for which a travel suspension condition applies, unless approved by the ITOC Executive Body.

If a travel suspension condition occurs while a student is in an affected country or region, the university reserves the right to end its sponsorship at that time, and to require the student to end the trip and leave the country. Such determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis by the ITOC Executive Body. If a student is permitted to travel to countries or regions for which a travel suspension condition applies, the student will be required to sign an acknowledgment and waiver form, indicating in part that (s)he has read any applicable travel warnings and understands the potential associated risks of traveling abroad but are voluntarily choosing to travel despite those risks.

B. Faculty and Staff International Travel
1. MyTrips Travel Registration – Individual Registration

All faculty and staff must register their university-sponsored or supported international travel in the WashU MyTrips International Travel Registry.

If you are registering yourself, please complete your individual registration by completing a profile on MyTrips and Adding a Trip. If a spouse or dependent of a WashU faculty/staff is traveling, the WashU traveler should indicate this in the appropriate section of MyTrips where prompted.

2. Travel Suspension Conditions

Faculty and staff are strongly cautioned against, but not prohibited from, traveling to or remaining in countries or regions for which a travel suspension condition applies. However, no one may be required by a faculty member, advisor, or supervisor to travel to or through any country or region for which a travel suspension condition applies prior to departure.

Faculty or staff traveling with university funding to pursue research, study or other university-related business in a country for which a travel suspension condition applies are required to notify their dean (or designate), chair, or supervisor and to provide all travel, lodging and contact information by entering their travel into the International Travel Registry no less than 3 weeks prior to departure. The ITOC Executive Body will make a recommendation to the relevant dean and/or the university provost whether to fund, award credit for, or otherwise sponsor or support travel of faculty and staff to countries or regions for which a travel suspension condition exists, taking into account the distinct educational and research objectives of the employee.

Travel on university funds to countries or regions for which a mandatory evacuation has been issued prior to departure will be authorized by exception through the petition process.

3. Faculty and Staff Leading Student Trips
A faculty or staff member who is leading a group which includes any students is required to:

- Submit a Travel Proposal to the ITOC Executive Body for approval at least 6 weeks prior to travel (See Travel Proposal – Appendix B)

- Enter all itinerary, lodging, and overseas contact information in the MyTrips International Travel Registry (all students must register, and all faculty/staff must register)

- Secure from all students a signed waiver acknowledging possible risks, when requested by the ITOC Executive Body;

- Secure from each minor student a signed parent/guardian consent form;

Failure to submit the required information may result in delays or forfeiture of reimbursement on travel from the university and/or holds that may affect the awarding of academic credit. Additionally, a failure to register may result in a delay in the ability for WashU to give logistical support in the event of an emergency.

In the event that a travel suspension condition is issued prior to departure, the faculty or staff member who is leading a group must provide the ITOC Executive Body and the applicable deans or designated administrator of the school or college where the students are registered an outline of the proposed itinerary with the following information:

- An explanation of the academic relevance of the program for the students and faculty despite the travel warning;
- Discussion of the location and environment of the proposed travel, including any health/security/safety issues;
- Description of the on-site health/security/safety support resources and services; and
- Specific plans for group orientation prior to departure and on arrival to mitigate risk.

The following resources are available on the Global Engagement website at https://global.wustl.edu/resources/

- ISOS Emergency Travel Assistance Service Plan Information
- MyTrips International Travel Registry Details
- International Health Insurance Information
- Travel Proposal (Appendix B) (link needed for Travel Proposal)

(Originally drafted in 2011. Reviewed and Approved by the ITOC Executive Committee in April 2018.)

Appendix A: ITOC Executive Board Members

**Benjamin O. Akande, Chair**
Senior Advisor to the Chancellor, Director Africa Initiative

**Dedric Carter, Outgoing Chair**
Associate Provost, Vice Chancellor for Operations & Technology Transfer

**Ty Davisson**
Director of Emergency Management & Business Continuity

**Keith Klein**
Director of Insurance & Risk Management

**Teresa Sarai**
Assistant Dean for International Relations, School of Engineering & Applied Science

**Deanna Wendler Modde, Advisory to the ITOC Executive Board**
Assistant Vice Chancellor, Associate General Counsel