

Skidmore College Policy on Department of State Travel Advisories & Department of Treasury- Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) Sanctioned Countries

Skidmore College does not permit students to study abroad in destinations for which the U.S. Department of State has issued a **Level 4 (Do Not Travel)** Travel Advisory. The Level 4 Travel Advisory is issued when the U.S. Department of State recommends that Americans do not travel to a certain country, primarily because of health and/or safety concerns during an extended period of time.

Study in or travel to a destination with a **Level 3 (Reconsider Travel)** Travel Advisory is not automatically approved and will require a petition to the International Study Risk Management Team (ISRMT). Students applying to study in a country currently under OFAC sanctions must also petition ISRMT for approval.

The Department of State's Advisory system allows for a more nuanced assessment of a country. While a country may have a Level 1 (Exercise Normal Precautions) or a Level 2 (Exercise Increased Caution) Travel Advisory, there could be areas of this same country where there is a Level 3 or Level 4 Travel Advisory. **Skidmore College prohibits travel to any area of a country where a Level 4 Travel Advisory has been issued. Travel to any Level 3 area of a country is also prohibited, unless that specific area has been pre-authorized by the ISRMT.** Students found in violation of this policy by traveling to such areas, could be immediately terminated from the program and sent home at their own expense.

In the event that you are studying in or traveling to a country which has initially been issued a Level 1 or Level 2 Travel Advisory but it is changed to a Level 3 or Level 4 during any point in your off-campus study program timeframe, you may be required to depart that country.

In emergency situations Skidmore College or the program provider will determine the best course of action. Once a determination is made you will be required to adhere to the decisions reached by Skidmore or the program provider.

Since conditions in a country can change quickly, it is important that you are aware of the current travel advisories and adhere to them. In order to do so, you **must** take the following steps:

- Review the U.S. Department of State Travel Advisories for the location in which you will be studying at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>
- Enroll in the U.S. Department of State Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at <https://step.state.gov/step/>. This program will allow the following:
 - Receive updated Travel Advisories from the U.S. Department of State.
 - Receive important information from the U.S. Embassy about safety conditions in your destination country.
 - Help the U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster or civil unrest, in order to provide advice or assistance.
 - You can also elect to follow the U.S. Department of State on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).
 - International students should also register with their country's embassy or consulate.