




Academic Affairs
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Memorandum

TO: FAU Faculty and Staff

FROM: Diane E. Alperin 
Interim University Provost and Chief Academic Officer

DATE: July 19, 2011

SUBJECT: FAU Safety and Security Policies on International Study and Travel (Supersedes 8/23/06 memorandum)

Florida Atlantic University (FAU) strongly supports international education activities through undergraduate and graduate study abroad and exchange programs, faculty research and teaching abroad, and other forms of international institutional cooperation. FAU study abroad programming and international agreements are managed by the Office of International Programs (OIP) on behalf of the institution's nine colleges. Faculty research and teaching abroad are supported by departments and colleges and are assisted by OIP when these activities occur under the auspices of an international agreement.

FAU strives to make overseas learning and academic work experiences accessible to all who are interested. At the same time, safety and security is of the highest concern. Potential risks and hazards are often associated with international travel for educational purposes. In order to ensure the safety and well-being of FAU students, faculty, and employees, FAU has adopted and reaffirms at this time the following safety and security policies for official FAU-sponsored international activities:

Student Overseas Study Programs. Students on FAU-sponsored study abroad and exchange programs receive information on safety and security concerns prior to departure. FAU faculty-led study abroad programs file contingency plans with OIP for emergency situations. Students also sign a waiver of liability acknowledging the risks inherent in overseas travel and study. FAU normally does not sponsor study abroad and exchange programs to locations where the U.S. State Department has issued a Travel Warning. However, a program organizer may request an exemption from this restriction by petitioning the FAU Study Abroad Safety and Security Committee (See *Study Abroad and International Travel Guidelines for Locations Subject to U.S. State Department Travel Warnings* at [this website: http://www.fau.edu/goabroad/Safety_and_Security_Policies_for_International_Study_and_Travel.php](http://www.fau.edu/goabroad/Safety_and_Security_Policies_for_International_Study_and_Travel.php))

If FAU students are interested in studying at an institution that is located in a U.S. State Department Travel Warning area, they may choose to directly enroll in the overseas institution. In such instances, students may be able to transfer credits back to FAU after the study abroad experience.

Faculty and Staff Activities Abroad. FAU encourages faculty and staff to take advantage of research and teaching opportunities in international locations. If any official FAU activities (i.e. research or other educational opportunities that are sponsored, endorsed or funded by FAU) will occur in a location where there is a U.S. State Department Travel Warning, the involved faculty and staff members will be required to sign a waiver acknowledging that the travel is voluntary and that they are aware of the safety and security concerns associated with their travel plans. Individuals planning to participate in these activities under the auspices of FAU should consult their appropriate divisional office and the Provost's Office for guidance on, and approval of, any such international travel.

The FAU OIP website (www.fau.edu/goabroad) has additional information on safety and security concerns for international travel and study, as well as available international medical and travel insurance. Students, staff and faculty are encouraged to refer to this information as they plan for a possible experience overseas.