

## Policy Statement

### Cancellation of UW-Superior Study Abroad Programs Due to Safety, Security, or Health Risk Abroad

The University of Wisconsin at Superior sponsors a wide variety of education abroad opportunities each year. As a result, UW-S students participate in study abroad via UW-S exchange programs, short-term, faculty-led travel study courses, and externally-delivered programs. While the University considers student safety to be its highest priority, the University cannot guarantee a risk-free environment abroad. If the University learns of matters which may lead it to reasonably conclude that the safety of students or that the general security of study abroad program participants may be in jeopardy, the University may take any prudent action deemed necessary to minimize risk.

The University will be guided by and rely upon the U. S. Department of State's analyses of conditions in various countries. Therefore, the University may decide, at its sole discretion, to cancel any UW-Superior sponsored program if the U.S. Department of State issues an official Travel Warning for the study abroad location, site, or venue, or if the program's location is considered unsafe due to circumstances beyond its control: political strife, social unrest, health or safety risk, or natural catastrophe. <sup>1</sup>

The University will also exercise extreme caution with respect to countries for which the U.S. Department of State has issued an official Public Announcement and will review each situation on a case-by-case basis. Cancellation for reasons of safety may occur prior to or during the delivery of a study abroad program.

The Office of International Programs is charged with:

- a) evaluating the safety and security of all study abroad programs used by UW-S students, irrespective of the source of sponsorship;
- b) monitoring the U.S. Department of State's Public Announcements, Travel Alerts, and Travel Warnings and announcements from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for those countries in which UW-S students may study;
- c) communicating safety and security information to the relevant parties; and
- d) enforcing the study abroad cancellation policy as outlined in this Policy Statement.

The Chancellor of the University, in consultation with the Associate Dean, International Education and Programs, the Program Manager for Study Away Programs, the Coordinator of Student Health and Counseling Services, the Director of Risk Management, study abroad program faculty, and the Provost, will, in accordance with this Policy Statement, make the final determination concerning the suspension and/or cancellation of a particular study abroad program or programs.

Questions concerning this policy should be forwarded to the Associate Dean, International Education and Programs.

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<sup>1</sup> Said events may include, in no particular order: a declaration of war by the U.S. against the country where the study abroad program may occur or in an adjacent, neighboring country; declaration of war by a third country against the country of the program's location; terrorist activity in the program city, country, or region; disruption of public utilities, services; civil unrest; violence and/or rioting; a declaration of martial law in the program city; health threat involving a communicable disease or other, more general health threat; a natural disaster or other catastrophic event; a U.S. Department of State Travel Warning or other directive from the U.S. Department of State.

Policy Source References:

Georgetown University  
Iona College  
Lehigh University  
North Carolina State University - Raleigh  
Northwestern University  
School for International Training (SIT)  
The University of Iowa  
The University of North Dakota  
The University of Vermont  
The University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire  
The University of Wisconsin – River Falls  
The University of Wisconsin – Whitewater  
Virginia Tech