Meredith College Policy on Restricted Travel Areas

In January 2018, the U.S. Department of State assigned new safety and security advisory levels to help travelers assess the risks of travel to international destinations. Travel advisories for each country are located at http://travel.state.gov.

U.S. State Department travel advisory levels are as follows:

- Level 1: Exercise normal precautions
- Level 2: Exercise increased caution
- Level 3: Reconsider travel
- Level 4: Do not travel

Students wishing to study abroad, participate in college-affiliated travel, or engage in independent travel during college-affiliated international experiences must adhere to the following policy:

Travel to a location considered a Restricted Travel Area requires a petition for special approval from the Office of International Programs and International Programs Committee.

“Restricted Travel Area” is defined as any location for which:

- the U.S. Department of State (DOS) has issued an overall Level 3 Travel Advisory,
- the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a Warning Level 3,
- or Meredith College has restricted travel

Students wishing to petition for Restricted Travel Area approval must initiate a meeting with the Director of International Programs at least two months in advance to discuss their plans and begin the petition process.

In some cases, the U.S. Department of State will assign a country an overall Level 1 or Level 2 advisory, but designate specific Level 3 or Level 4 areas of higher risk within or adjacent to the country. Students traveling to these countries must: a) discuss the risks in advance with the Office of International Programs; b) agree not to travel within any Level 3 or Level 4 area; and c) sign a special waiver indicating their understanding and acceptance of these risks.

Study abroad, college-affiliated travel, or independent travel during the course of a college-affiliated program will not be permitted in any location designated as an overall Level 4 by the U.S. Department of State.

Group Travel

Faculty/staff planning a study abroad program or college-affiliated group experience to a Restricted Travel Area must discuss their plans with the Director of International Programs and initiate a petition on behalf of their group.

Petition Approval

Following review of the documents submitted, petitions will be accepted or denied by the Office of International Programs and International Programs Committee, in consultation with the Provost, Vice President for Business and Finance, on-site partners, insurance carriers, peer institutions, and legal counsel as needed, based on the materials submitted, and on the specifics of the U.S. DOS Travel Advisory and/or CDC Warning, including but not limited to geographic regions named in the Advisory or Warning, level of threat involved, and severity of warning.

The U.S. Department of State reviews and updates travel advisory levels every six months or as circumstances arise. In the event that a previously approved destination becomes a Restricted Travel Area, the Office of International Programs and International Programs Committee will conduct a risk assessment and determine an appropriate response based on consultations with the Provost, Vice President for Business and Finance, on-site partners, insurance carriers, peer institutions, and legal counsel as needed. Decisions will be made based on information gathered, and on the specifics of the U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory and/or CDC Warning, including but not limited to geographic regions named in the Advisory or Warning, level of threat involved, and severity of warning.