

THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC

# International Travel Safety Tips and Resources

---

Office of Risk, Safety and Transportation Programs

**Global Safety Program**

American University

Fall 2019

# About the Program

The Global Safety Program fosters the learning experience beyond the classroom by supporting the safety and security of students, faculty, and staff while traveling abroad. We accomplish this by following three organizing principles:

- **Education:** Providing information, training and resources to the traveler about relating to the area being visited abroad.
- **Assessment and Response:** Monitoring the global environment for critical incidents and/or emergencies; coordinating communication and response when needed
- **Protection:** Securing adequate insurance coverage for all community members while traveling internationally.



# AU Travel Risk Review

---

- Travel Risk is assessed for traveler safety based on destination
- Emergency contact information and itinerary provides AU officials with the ability to contact traveler in the event of a critical incident abroad
- Assists with AU, State Department and travel insurance carrier notifications
- High risk locations require Risk Management approval

# Prepare - Smart Traveler Enrollment Program

---

## U.S. Department of State Sponsored Program

- Receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans
- Help the U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency
- Help family and friends get in touch with you in the event of an emergency
- <https://step.state.gov/step/>



# Prepare – AlertTraveler App

---

## Terra Dotta Commercial University-Sponsored Affiliation App for Smart Phones

- Provides you with country and city intelligence to help you make informed decisions while traveling
- Safety and security alerts to let you know of any events that could potentially impact your travel
- An instant check-in option for communication with university administrators

## Registering for AlertTraveler

- Download the AlertTraveler app (IOS or Android)
  - Register for AlertTraveler on AU Abroad website



**Alert**Traveler

# Travel Safety Tips

---

- Be aware of your surroundings
- Take all briefings seriously
- Be aware that cues and clues may be different from what you are used to
- Be culturally aware and respect local customs
- Stay together, use the buddy system, and use approved transportation
- Important to take 2 copies of all important travel documents (e.g., passport, trip itinerary)
  - Leave a set of copies at home with someone you trust

# Travel Safety Tips

---

- Avoid demonstrations, protests or areas experiencing civil unrest
- Know alcohol consumption laws
- Keep emergency cash on hand
- Obey local laws
- Carry local emergency contact numbers
- Familiarize yourself with international dialing information
- Make sure your host institution/family know a way to contact you

# Be Aware of the Cyber Security Risks

---

- You are at risk when connected to a public hotspot. Use updated 5G/4G/3G technology Wi-Fi devices. In this way, you can create a hotspot or connect your laptop to a cellular network, which contributes to device security.
- Consult your wireless provider to understand the costs associated with service abroad. Consider changing plans if necessary.
- Disable Bluetooth whenever possible to minimize risk of unwanted connection to your device.
- Avoid using public charging stations for your devices.
- Use two-factor authentication when possible.
- Understand international charges for roaming and data usage. You may want to restrict data usage to limit costs.
- Use passwords. These are more difficult to hack or compromise. Consider using pattern-based or fingerprint-based passcodes.
- Update your device and ensure anti-malware and virus protection is up to date.
- Install device locator software on laptops, tablets and phones.
- Use VPN to connect to AU networks.
- Understand Export Control Laws. For example, Your destination country may regulate the use of encryption. Check country-specific information before arriving with an encrypted device.
- Remove all PII from devices. Consider using an alternative device specifically for international travel thus limiting information and data contained on daily-use devices.

# Export Control Law Compliance

---

All students, staff and faculty must comply with the policy relating to **Export Controls**.

The AU Policy on **Export Controls** states in part:

- Export control laws, implemented both by the Department of Commerce through its Export Administration Regulations (EAR) and the Department of State through its International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), have been in existence for many years. In addition, the U.S. Treasury Department through the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), prohibits or restricts certain activities with embargoed countries, sanctioned entities, and sanctioned individuals. Together they comprise the body of laws and regulations referred to in this policy as export controls. (See Appendix A) Institutions of higher education are required to comply with these laws and regulations. Criminal sanctions, including fines, penalties and/or prison sentences for individuals; as well as fines, penalties, and desist orders for future institutional activities or authorizations, can apply in cases of violation. It is the responsibility of all faculty members, staff and students to safeguard data, equipment, and/or technology covered by these federal laws.
- Source: University Policy: Policy on Export Controls
  - <https://www.american.edu/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=3890477&ga=2.101646913.1586861799.1563820908-445062916.1561638655>

# Insurance Information

---

- When traveling abroad, you are automatically enrolled in the university insurance program
- Insurances **do not** extend to the following circumstances:
  - Any routine or non-emergency medical care
  - Travel outside of host country during trip
  - Arriving early or staying after the trip
  - Loss of tuition due to an emergency
  - Spouse or Dependent traveling with you (if applicable)

**In the event of a medical emergency  
call ACE/CHUBB's Travel Assistance  
Services immediately**

**24-Hour Access  
1-855-327-1414 Toll-Free  
1-630-694-9764 Direct Dial**

# Resources: On-Campus

---

## Abroad at AU

- [auabroad.american.edu](http://auabroad.american.edu)

## Health Promotion and Advocacy (HPAC)

- (202) 885-3276
- [hpac@american.edu](mailto:hpac@american.edu)

## Dean of Students

- (202) 885-3300
- [dos@american.edu](mailto:dos@american.edu)

## University Police

- Emergency: (202) 885-3636
- Non-Emergency: (202) 885-2527
- [police@american.edu](mailto:police@american.edu)

# Resources: Off-Campus

---

- U.S. Department of State:  
Tips for Student's Studying Abroad
  - <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations/students.html>
- Safety Handbook (Center for Global Education)
  - <http://www.studentsabroad.com/handbook/introduction.php?country=General>
- Federal Bureau of Investigation:  
Safety and Security for U.S. Students  
Traveling Abroad
  - <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/student-travel-brochure-pdf.pdf/view>

# Questions?

---

## **Matthew Verderosa**

Director, Emergency Preparedness & Global Safety  
American University

**E-mail:** [Mattv@american.edu](mailto:Mattv@american.edu)

**Office:** (202) 885-2504

**Mobile:** (202) 480-5579

## **Kevin Taub**

Assistant Director, Global Safety

**E-mail:** [taub@American.edu](mailto:taub@American.edu)

**Office:** (202) 885-2722

**Mobile:** (202) 641-0655

**AUPolice:** (202) 885-3636 (emergency)