

Travel Warning Policy

Oberlin College and Conservatory recognize that our students are engaged global citizens wishing to learn from and participate in diverse cultures around the world. We also recognize that some countries have been designated by the U.S. Department of State as potentially dangerous for Americans. These countries are specified by the issuance of a “Travel Warning” and can be found on the U.S. Department of State’s website (<http://travel.state.gov/>). Risk of political instability, terrorism, civil unrest, disease and other factors must be taken seriously by our staff, faculty, students and their families. Maintaining the safety of Oberlin students and faculty during their international learning experiences is a priority for Oberlin College and Conservatory. In order to ensure the safety of our students and faculty while studying in diverse locations, all students, faculty and staff are required to adhere to the following policy with regard to the locations of study.

Oberlin students are not permitted to receive academic credit or use College or Conservatory funding for activities in countries that are subject to a Travel Warning issued by the U.S. State Department.

- 1) Excepted from this policy are certain semester-long Oberlin Affiliated Programs with which the College has a long-established relationship and has reviewed the safety and security procedures for those program. For a listing of these programs, please visit the website www.oberlin.edu/studyaway.
- 2) For students or faculty planning to travel to a country with a State Department Travel Warning for any college-sponsored activity in which either Oberlin College credit is earned, Oberlin funding is used, or transfer credit is applied toward a degree, a waiver of this policy may be requested by submitting the following:
 - a.) Plans for safety and security in response to the specific language of the Travel Warning;
 - b.) The ground travel itinerary within the Travel Warning destination;
 - c.) Programmatic or other supports available to the students while in the Travel Warning destination, and
 - d.) The specific academic justification for studying in the Travel Warning destination.

Petitions to waive the Travel Warning restriction will be read carefully by a committee comprised of the a representative from the Office of Dean of Students, Dean of College of Arts and Sciences or Dean of the Conservatory, Office of Study Away, Off Campus Studies Committee and Winter Term Committee. Decisions will be based on careful evaluation of the petition’s response to the specific language of the Travel Warning.

Waivers apply to the specific program or project and not to the country as whole.

If a waiver is granted, participants will be required to sign a special waiver prior to departing on the program.

In the event a Travel Warning is issued while a student or faculty member is participating in a program already underway for which Oberlin has agreed to consider either awarding or transferring credit or has provided funding, the Travel Warning Committee will evaluate the situation on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the committee listed above.

Procedures for requesting a Waiver:

- 1.) Meet with Assistant Director of Programs for International Study to discuss concerns related to Travel Warning and procedures for requesting a waiver.
- 2.) Submit Request to Waive Travel Warning Restriction using the following deadlines:
 - Study Away Fall Semester or Full Year– March 1 of previous academic year
 - Study Away Spring Semester – October 1 of same academic year
 - Winter Term Projects – October 21 (last day before Fall Break)
- 3.) Answer any additional questions or concerns requested by the deadline specified in the request.
- 4.) Acknowledge understanding that the Waiver may be revisited or revoked at any time if the circumstances outlined in the Travel Warning or in the Request to Waive Travel Warning Restriction change.