

Ohio University  
**Study Abroad Risk Assessment Committee**  
Process for reviewing study abroad programs in relation to risk  
9/2/2016

1. The Study Abroad Risk Assessment Committee (SARAC) will monitor the security situation of countries where OHIO sponsors study abroad programs. **Appropriate information sources include:**
  - International SOS
  - US Department of State
  - Overseas Security Advisory Council
  - Centers for Disease Control
  
2. **A risk assessment will be triggered by one or more of the following:**
  - Existing State Department Travel Warning
  - International SOS (ISOS) travel risk rating of high or extreme
  - Centers for Disease Control Warning Level 3

**A risk assessment may be triggered by one or more of the following:**

- Changes in State Department language that indicate increased risk to travelers
  - Sociopolitical changes in the host country that indicate increased risk to travelers
  - Physical changes in the country (e.g. seismic activity, flooding) that indicate increased risk to travelers
  - Epidemic/pandemic
  - Decisions made by other sending entities (e.g. study abroad providers, Peace Corps)
  - Recommendation by the Study Away Committee or University International Council
3. **For ongoing triggers (e.g. high or extreme risk rating), review will take place on an annual basis. If a risk assessment is triggered, the process is as follows:**
    - The Office of Global Opportunities collects detailed information regarding current risks associated with travel to the host location. Included will be documentation from the following:
      - Current US Department of State warnings, alerts and emergency messages
      - International SOS and/or other security companies
      - Overseas Security Advisory Council
      - On-site contacts
      - Centers for Disease Control
    - The following are examples of additional resources that could be utilized by committee as appropriate in conducting analyses:

- Physician
  - Regional experts from among OHIO faculty
  - NAFSA: Association of International Educators
  - Local embassy
  - Faculty or staff experts and/or host-country nationals on campus as available and appropriate
  - Colleagues at institutions with active programs in the region
  - Sources from governments of other countries
  - Written analysis is prepared evaluating potential risks and benefits of running the program. Analysis will be provided by and should include:
    - Office of Global Opportunities
      - Detailed data regarding current risks associated with travel to the host location gathered
      - Program and rank of students involved (e.g. undergraduates, graduates, medical)
      - Potential risk mitigation, including any suggestions for program modifications to minimize risk, in consultation with faculty director, International SOS, OSAC, and other resources from those listed above
    - Faculty Director
      - Logistical information, e.g. excursion sites, method of transportation, housing, addressing how it pertains to the potential risk
      - Consideration of the academic purpose of the program, including if the educational goals of the program can be achieved elsewhere
      - Feedback from on-site contacts
      - Program history and on-the-ground infrastructure
      - Value to collaborative partners and communities
4. **The committee votes on whether to recommend that the program-affiliated travel move forward or not. The committee will also vote on recommended modifications to program.**
  5. **The recommendation, along with suggested modifications, is provided to the Office of the Executive Vice President & Provost for review and a final decision.**