



International Travel Risk Assessment Process Explanation

Pepperdine would like you and your parents to understand how we assess and monitor our international travel itineraries. We hope the following information gives you confidence in how seriously we take your wellbeing and how thoughtfully we design Educational Field Trips* and our summer special programs to provide once-in-a-lifetime experiences within carefully constructed plans.

Pepperdine's highest priority is the safety and security of the members of our community, wherever they are around the globe. The University's Travel Risk Assessment Team members have decades of experience assessing international travel and use a multifaceted process to evaluate each trip. The team includes representatives from the Department of Public Safety, the Office of Insurance and Risk, and University administration. The process for vetting Educational Field Trips involves information gathering, intelligence briefings, and group discussions, and the team draws upon various internal and external sources, including:

- Intelligence briefings from in-country security analysts who are either on the ground or who make regular visits to the destination under review;
- Risk assessment feedback from a world-renowned global security firm;
- Itinerary review by the Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) of the Bureau of Consular Affairs, US Department of State;
- Current risk ratings provided by our international travel assistance insurer;
- Local, national, and international media sources;
- Tour operators and travel agents; and
- In-house experts.

After gathering this information, the Travel Risk Assessment Team meets with the trip planners to discuss the available intelligence and walk through the transportation plans, lodging arrangements, travel guides, site visits, activities and entertainment, and communication procedures for staying in contact with trip participants and the University for the duration of the trip. Together, the group reaches a decision regarding whether to move forward with the trip as planned, modify the itinerary, postpone the trip, or cancel it entirely. After the travel risk assessment meeting, the team continues to monitor developments up to the date of departure and throughout the trip.

Please know the team may go through multiple iterations of this process as the situation in the destination country evolves and may re-evaluate the decision to proceed with the trip at any time. The University has cancelled trips—even immediately before departure or mid-way through the itinerary—if the situation in the destination country deteriorates or there are concerns for the safety of our community members. We take our responsibility of hosting students very seriously and would never risk putting students in a harmful situation.

*For our academic year participants: The Educational Field Trip is a key element in your academic program and student attendance is mandatory.