

What is the Student Safety Abroad Program?

UBC's Student Safety Abroad Program is designed to provide students with the necessary resources to support a safe experience abroad. The Program is based on the requirements outlined in [UBC's Student Safety Abroad Policy 69](#).

The program is designed to provide the following to students traveling abroad:

- Offering advice for assessing and mitigating risks
- Making it easier for UBC to assist you if you encounter critical incidents
- If you're intending to go to locations with increased travel warnings, offering a clear and simple process for adjudicating your travel proposals and providing you with the tools to prepare you for regional hazards.

How does the policy affect me as a student?

The policy applies to you if you are traveling outside of Canada for university activity – this includes conferences, research, volunteering, service learning, varsity sports, and studying abroad.

In most cases, you will be travelling to regions where all you will need to do is register your travel details, emergency contacts, and review pre-departure materials to prepare you for a safe journey.

If you're traveling to a location with an increased travel warning, you will need to get permission to travel and undertake additional preparation for risks associated with your location.

Student Safety Abroad Registry

The [Student Safety Abroad Registry](#) is a mandatory component of your experience abroad. By taking **10 – 15 minutes** to fill out the form, our team will be able to act quickly to support you in the case of an emergency.

Here's what you need to do to complete the safety requirements:

- 1. Start entering your travel details in the [Student Safety Abroad Registry](#) including:**
 - Passport identification information
 - Emergency contacts
 - Type of travel and UBC contact (program director, supervisor etc).
 - Insurance provider and policy number
 - Contact information abroad **(If you're not sure of your local address or phone number you can enter this shortly after your arrival. Remember to set a reminder to complete this step on your phone or computer)**

2. **If needed, update your [Third Party Authorization on SSC](#).** In matters of personal wellbeing, UBC may need to speak to your emergency contacts. The system will prompt you to select what type of information you want to authorize.
3. **If you're a Canadian Citizen, register your trip with [ROCA \(Registry of Canadians Abroad\)](#).** If you are not a Canadian Citizen please register with your government's travel registry or local consulate.

Travel Insurance

You are required to have travel and medical insurance while travelling abroad on university activities. Not all travel and medical insurance plans are equal. You are responsible for assessing your own international health coverage needs and plans that are available to ensure you have sufficient coverage while away. UBC students who have paid their student fees and did not opt out of the AMS/GSS insurance coverage have international [travel insurance](#) already. Please visit www.studentcare.net to learn about your coverage.

Some things to remember:

- Familiarize yourself with the plan before you leave
- Review travel and medical insurance policies before choosing a plan to ensure that the plan will cover all of your needs while abroad
- Be sure to bring proper documentation (e.g. insurance cards) with you when travelling abroad
- Make sure you know the correct number to call if you need to contact your insurance provider from abroad

High Risk Travel - Authorization process

Start your trip off right by determining the level of advisory for your proposed location of travel. Depending on the level, you will need to obtain different authorizations and complete different tasks to be prepared to travel safely.

UBC follows the travel advisories issued by the [Government of Canada](#). The [Government of Canada Country Travel Reports and Advisories page can](#) help you determine the advisory level for your proposed location of travel.

If you are thinking of traveling to a region with increased travel advisories, you should start planning at least eight weeks prior to your departure. We recommend that you review the "Get Started" [page](#) of the Student Safety Abroad website and contact the Student Safety Abroad Advisor at safety.abroad@ubc.ca as soon as possible.

If you're planning to travel to a Level 3: "AVOID NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL" or Level 4: "AVOID ALL TRAVEL" region, you will need to meet with the Student Safety Abroad Advisor to review how you plan to mitigate those risks. The advisor will work with you in completing a Safety Planning Record, which includes conducting additional research on risks associated with your destination. This will be used to seek permission to travel from your department head and in some cases from your faculty's dean. For your travel to be approved, it will need to be assessed as necessary for your academic progression.

We also want to share some resources that we recommend you review to help you travel safely:

1. [International SOS](#) is a medical and travel security assistance service provided to University of British Columbia students travelling abroad. The company provides the following services:
 - a website to find extensive health and security information about your destination that you can access before you leave and at your destination
 - an email and mobile app service that will send messages to you with the latest news about developing security or health threats in the region you are visiting
 - doctors and security experts you can call while you are away to get professional medical or security advice over the phone. **(Please note if you have an acute illness or injury that requires the care of a physician, you must call your own travel insurance provider first).**
 - when necessary, help with emergency medical care that goes beyond the coverage provided by your travel insurance provider.

UBC Students can access the University's membership number by contacting the Student Safety Abroad Advisor at safety.abroad@ubc.ca

2. Safetyabroad.ubc.ca: Get resources, go through learning modules, access the emergency contact card and find out what to do in an emergency while you're abroad.

If you are not sure what to do in the event of an emergency while abroad, please call **UBC Campus Security at +1-604-822-2222**. They are available 24/7, accept collect calls and can direct you to a member of the Student Safety Abroad team to provide you with support while abroad.