

Pandemic-Period Permissible Travel Guidelines Fall 2021 and Wintersession 2022

Revised July 21, 2021, and effective for travel on or after August 23, 2021

Policy Statement

For as long as the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic persists, the University will implement travel guidelines that seek to safeguard the University community's health and safety and contribute to combatting the pandemic globally. While the University recognizes the positive impact of vaccinations and other disease control measures in the United States and some other countries, some level of restrictions on travel remains necessary due to the evolving nature of the pandemic, including country, state and other locality-specific requirements and restrictions.

Quick Links

[Definitions](#)

[Travel Registration](#)

[International Travel](#)

[Domestic Travel](#)

[Group Travel](#)

[Personal Travel](#)

When they become effective, these requirements and guidelines supersede all previous guidance regarding permissible University-sanctioned travel during the pandemic. The details of substantive changes from the summer travel guidelines are listed below for ease of reference.

These requirements and guidelines are in effect until revised, replaced, or entirely lifted. We expect that they will be reviewed in late September for any possible revisions for Wintersession and again in mid-November for the spring 2022 term.

I. Summary of Key Substantive Provisions

Permissible University-sanctioned Travel, effective August 23, 2021

	Domestic	International		
		Applies to fully vaccinated travelers.		
	All travelers must be in compliance with University vaccination policies.	U.S. State Department Level 1/2 Advisory	U.S. State Department Level 3 Advisory	U.S. State Department Level 4 Advisory
Undergraduates	No restrictions on feasible travel.	Suspended*	Suspended*	Suspended*
Graduate students		No restrictions with self-certification of critical purpose and feasibility.	For critical purpose, with dual approval from department chair and GS&S	Suspended
Faculty / researchers			Feasible travel for critical purpose, with approval from chair, program director, or dean	Feasible travel for critical purpose, with approval from chair, program director, or dean
Staff			Feasible travel for critical purpose, with approval from cabinet officer	Feasible travel for critical purpose, with approval from cabinet officer

*Participants in University-approved Study Abroad are permitted to travel to/from their program location ONLY.

1. The concept of “University-sponsored” has been replaced with “University-sanctioned,” to make clearer the circumstances under which the University has an obligation to regulate travel. [A full definition is provided below.](#)
2. **Travelers may only engage in University-sanctioned domestic travel if they are in compliance with University policies on COVID-19 vaccinations.** Otherwise, **domestic travel** is permitted for all University affiliates, without need for approvals, provided the travel is feasible.
3. **Undergraduates** are not permitted to engage in University-sanctioned international travel, with a limited exception for those participating in an approved Study Abroad Program for the fall semester. Enrolled undergraduates may not engage in personal international travel during the fall semester without prior permission.
4. **Graduate students** may undertake University-sanctioned international travel to destinations subject to a Level 1 or 2 [travel advisory from the U.S. Department of State](#), on the basis of a self-certification in the travel registration system of critical purpose and feasibility. They may be permitted to travel to destinations under a

Level 3 travel advisory, with approval from their department chair or program director and Global Safety & Security (GS&S). Travel to locations under a Level 4 advisory is suspended.

5. **Faculty/researchers and staff** may engage in University-sanctioned international travel to destinations subject to a Level 1 or 2 [travel advisory from the U.S. Department of State](#), on the basis of a self-certification in the travel registration system of critical purpose and feasibility. They may travel to all other locations if the trip is determined to be feasible and deemed for a critical purpose by their chair, program director, dean, or cabinet officer.
6. Prospective University-sanctioned international travelers who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19, but have received an exemption from the University's vaccine requirement, must contact GS&S for further review and approval by appropriate University offices prior to their travel. Those who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, [as defined by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), do not require this additional review.

II. Definitions

Country of current residence: For University affiliates not living, working, or studying on campus, the country in which they are residing during the fall semester, regardless of their ordinary or permanent residence.

Critical purpose: A purpose for traveling that:

1. Cannot be sufficiently or effectively addressed through remote options; and,
2. Cannot be deferred until January 2022 without irreparably impeding a University affiliate's academic progress or scholarship, or causing substantial hindrance to the University's scholarship, teaching, or operations.

The person who determines if proposed travel is critical varies by the type of travel. See below in [Section IV](#) additional details.

Domestic travel: Unless otherwise specified, travel solely within the United States (including its territories) or solely within a University affiliate's country of current residence, if not the United States.

Feasible travel: A trip that meets all of the following criteria:

1. Possible for the traveler under applicable entry and exit control rules instituted by the destination country's government;
2. Does not require the traveler to quarantine in a government-controlled facility;
3. Not to a location under a local or national stay-at-home order or similar public health lockdown measure;
4. Performed via regularly scheduled commercial common-carriers such as air or rail providers (i.e., not by charter or other special conveyance); and,

5. Possible without University intervention to ensure any of the above conditions.

Group travel: For the purposes of these guidelines only, any trip on which more than two University affiliates will travel to the same destination over the same period for the same purpose.

Personal travel: Any trip that does not meet the definition of University-sanctioned travel below, regardless of length, destination, or purpose, except for daily commuting by faculty, staff (including postdocs, research staff, and library employees), and graduate students.

Travel: A journey or trip that involves:

1. Any duration of stay outside of the [metropolitan statistical area](#) in which the traveler's usual home is located (for the United States), or outside the first-level administrative division of a non-U.S. country in which the traveler's usual home is located; and/or,
2. Any overnight stay outside of the traveler's usual place of residence, including paying rent for accommodations, regardless of location.

University affiliates: All undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and staff (including postdocs, research staff, and library employees), and any persons conducting travel that is paid for by a University entity.

University-sanctioned travel: Any trip that meets one or more the following criteria:

- Supported through funds disbursed by the University or a University-affiliated entity; or,
- Regardless of funding source is:
 - related to or in support of University operations;
 - undertaken as part of a faculty, researcher, or staff member's job duties;
 - for undergraduate or graduate student research;
 - related to or results from an affiliate's participation in any program offered by or coordinated through the University; and/or,
 - undertaken by an enrolled undergraduate or graduate student and results in work that will be considered for academic credit or is otherwise related to a student's program of study.

III. General Requirements

A. ENROLLMENT OF TRAVEL AND CONTACT INFORMATION

University-sanctioned Travel

All University affiliates must register the details of University-sanctioned trips to any destination, as well as their contact information, with GS&S prior to departure. Specifically:

Pandemic-Period Permissible Travel Guidelines for Fall and Winter 2021-22

Revised July 21, 2021; Effective for travel on or after August 23, 2021

- The pre-pandemic requirement for undergraduate and graduate students to register their University-sanctioned travel remains in effect.
- This requirement now also applies to faculty members and staff.

Personal Travel

During the fall semester (i.e., from on or after August 31 until on or after December 15), undergraduate students are required to enroll the details of all approved personal international travel. This is in addition to the requirement to obtain permission from their DSL as outlined below in [Section IV.D](#).

Enrollment Procedure

Enrollment is accomplished through the “[Enroll My Trip](#)” online tool. University affiliates are responsible for ensuring the information they provide is accurate and for updating this information as their travel plans or contact details change.

B. COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC AND UNIVERSITY HEALTH GUIDELINES

While conducting University-sanctioned travel, all University affiliates must comply with University and local, state, and national government public health guidelines and requirements. This includes compliance with mask and other disease-control and physical distancing recommendations, as well as with mandatory and recommended quarantines and testing at both destination and upon return from travel. Travelers are solely responsible for determining applicable guidelines; however, GS&S and UHS can assist travelers in researching these prior to departure.

Travelers may not return to in-person, on-campus activities unless and until they have complied with any applicable [quarantine, testing, or other screening guidance from UHS](#).

IV. Permissible Travel

A. INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

University-sanctioned international travel to any location is suspended for undergraduates.

University-sanctioned international travel to [countries subject to a Level 4 travel advisory](#) from the U.S. Department of State is suspended for graduate students.

University-sanctioned international travel may be permitted for those who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 ([as defined by the CDC](#)), under the following circumstances:

- For [countries subject to a Level 1 or 2 travel advisory](#) from the U.S. Department of State:

Pandemic-Period Permissible Travel Guidelines for Fall and Winter 2021-22

Revised July 21, 2021; Effective for travel on or after August 23, 2021

- Travel by individual faculty members, researchers, staff, and graduate students after self-certifying as part of the travel registration process that their trip meets the critical purpose test and is feasible as defined above.
- For [countries subject to a Level 3 travel advisory](#) from the U.S. Department of State:
 - Feasible travel for critical purposes for individual faculty members, researchers, and staff, as determined by their department chair, program director, dean, or cabinet officer. Where such travel involves a chair, program director, dean, or cabinet officer, they may make the determination for themselves, notifying GS&S by email that they are approving their own travel.
 - Travel by individual graduate students for critical purposes, as determined by their department chair or program director, and if deemed safe and feasible by GS&S. Graduate students wishing to pursue such an approval may obtain further guidance on the request process from GS&S.
- For [countries subject to a Level 4 travel advisory](#) from the U.S. Department of State:
 - Feasible travel for critical purposes for individual faculty members, researchers, and staff, as determined by their department chair, program director, dean, or cabinet officer. Where such travel involves a chair, program director, dean, or cabinet officer, they may make the determination for themselves, notifying GS&S by email that they are approving their own travel.
- Feasible travel to or from any location for the purposes of recruitment or relocation of new employees, as determined by the VP for HR or the Dean of the Faculty and as otherwise allowed by [the University's visitor policy](#), where applicable.
- Any feasible travel necessary for a student to reach campus or return to their place of ordinary residence, where Princeton normally supports this travel as part of financial aid.

Except in cases of relocation and aid-funded student travel to/from campus, affiliates engaging in University-sanctioned international travel under these guidelines must review and acknowledge an advisement of risk. This is in addition to the registration and self-certification requirements described above, although the advisement is integrated into the “Enroll My Travel” tool for convenience.

Prospective international travelers who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 but have received an exemption to the applicable University vaccine requirement must contact Global Safety & Security for further review and approval prior to travel.

B. DOMESTIC TRAVEL

Pandemic-Period Permissible Travel Guidelines for Fall and Winter 2021-22

Revised July 21, 2021; Effective for travel on or after August 23, 2021

There are no restrictions on individual University-sanctioned domestic travel, **provided** the traveler is in compliance with University policies regarding COVID-19 vaccinations and self-certifies [as part of the travel registration process](#) that their travel is feasible, as defined above.

University-sanctioned domestic travel by any University affiliate not in compliance with University vaccination policies is prohibited.

The traveler is solely responsible for ensuring their travel is feasible. GS&S is available to consult with University affiliates in reviewing these criteria in advance of travel.

C. GROUP TRAVEL

University-sanctioned group travel involving undergraduate and/or graduate students to any international destination is suspended. Group travel to international destinations by faculty/researchers and/or staff is permitted **provided** each individual traveling is in compliance with the guidance in [Section IV.A](#) above.

University-sanctioned domestic group travel is permitted **provided** all participants are in compliance with University policies regarding COVID-19 vaccinations and the trip is feasible as defined above. Group travel organizers are solely responsible for determining the travel is feasible, and GS&S is available to assist in reviewing domestic group travel plans.

D. PERSONAL TRAVEL

There are no restrictions on personal travel by enrolled undergraduates within the United States (including U.S. territories).

From on or after August 31 until on or after December 15, 2021, enrolled undergraduate students may not engage in personal international travel unless granted an exception by their DSL for compelling individual circumstances. For students participating in an approved Study Abroad Program, personal international travel while at their program location must be approved by the Office of International Programs and GS&S.

All other University affiliates are strongly encouraged to consult and follow the latest guidance from [the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [U.S. Department of State](#) regarding their personal travel.