

Pandemic-Period Permissible Travel Guidelines Fall 2021 and Wintersession 2022

Revised October 25, 2021, and effective immediately for travel as specified

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.

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These requirements and guidelines supersede all previous guidance regarding permissible University-sanctioned travel during the pandemic.

These requirements and guidelines are in effect until revised, replaced, or entirely lifted. We expect that they will be reviewed in mid-November and updated for the spring 2022 term as necessary.

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I. Summary of Key Substantive Provisions

*Permissible University-sanctioned Travel, effective through **December 5, 2021***

	Domestic	International		
		Applies to fully vaccinated travelers.		
		<i>U.S. State Department Level 1/2 Advisory</i>	<i>U.S. State Department Level 3 Advisory</i>	<i>U.S. State Department Level 4 Advisory</i>
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
Group/course travel involving undergraduate and/or graduate students		Suspended	Suspended	Suspended
Faculty / researchers		No restrictions with self-certification of critical purpose and feasibility.	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.*

Effective immediately:

1. University units may fund international travel for prospective undergraduate and graduate students for the sole purpose of visiting campus, [under specific conditions outlined below](#).

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*Permissible University-sanctioned Travel, effective **on or after December 6, 2021***

		Domestic	International		
		All travelers <u>must</u> be in compliance with University vaccination policies.	Applies to fully vaccinated travelers.		
			<i>U.S. State Department Level 1/2 Advisory</i>	<i>U.S. State Department Level 3 Advisory</i>	<i>U.S. State Department Level 4 Advisory</i>
Undergraduates	No restrictions on feasible travel.	Suspended*	Suspended*	Suspended*	Suspended*
Graduate students		No restrictions with self-certification of critical purpose and feasibility.	Feasible travel for critical purpose, with approval from chair, program director, or dean	Suspended	Suspended
Group/course travel involving undergraduate students		Suspended	Suspended	Suspended	Suspended
Group/course travel involving graduate students		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	Suspended	Suspended
Faculty / researchers		No restrictions with self-certification of critical purpose and feasibility.	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	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	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.*

On or after December 6, 2021:

1. Graduate students may engage in University-sanctioned international travel to destinations subject to a Level 3 [travel advisory from the U.S. Department of State](#), on the basis of approval from their chair, program director, or dean that the travel is feasible and for a critical purpose. Separate Global Safety & Security (GS&S) review and approval for this type of travel will no longer be required.
2. Graduate students may also engage in group/course travel (see definition below) to international destinations subject to a Level 1, 2, or 3 [travel advisory from the U.S.](#)

[Department of State](#), on the basis of approval from the relevant chair, program director, or dean that the travel is feasible and for a critical purpose.

3. All restrictions on personal international travel by undergraduates are lifted; travel registration is not required for any personal travel.

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, including without exception any travel undertaken by two or more affiliates to the same destination as part of a University course.

Personal travel: Any trip that does not meet the definition of University-sanctioned travel below, regardless of length, destination, or purpose.

Travel: A journey or trip that involves:

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1. Any duration of stay outside of the [metropolitan statistical area](#) in which the traveler's current residence is located (for the United States), or outside the first-level administrative division of a non-U.S. country in which the traveler's current residence is located; and/or,
2. Any overnight stay outside of the traveler's physical current 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 person 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.

Personal Travel

Until on or after December 6, 2021, undergraduate students are required to enroll the details of all personal international travel. This requirement applies even if there is no obligation for the student to obtain permission 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 any mandatory or 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](#).

C. NON-COVID HIGHER RISK DESTINATIONS

Regardless of whether otherwise permitted elsewhere in these guidelines, GS&S must review and approve any University-sanctioned international travel for any reason by a graduate student to an international destination that GS&S determines is subject to a non-COVID-related higher risk for reasons of crime, political violence and/or instability, terrorism, armed conflict, and/or sanctions issues. GS&S will contact graduate students after they have registered their travel if such a separate review is required. Graduate students may consult with GS&S at any time to ascertain if a proposed international destination may be subject to this additional review.

IV. Permissible Travel

A. INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

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

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:
 - a. 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:
 - a. Feasible travel for critical purposes by individual faculty members, researchers, and staff, as determined by their department chair, program director, dean, or cabinet officer. Where such travel involves a chair,

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- 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.
- b. Through December 5, 2021, 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.
 - c. On or after December 6, 2021, feasible travel for critical purposes for individual graduate students, as determined by their department chair, program director, or dean.
- For [countries subject to a Level 4 travel advisory](#) from the U.S. Department of State:
 - a. Feasible travel for critical purposes by 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 their “in absentia” location by a graduate student approved by the Graduate School for in absentia status.
 - 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.
 - Feasible travel from their country of current residence to the University campus and returning to their current residence, for prospective undergraduate or graduate students, with the approval of the relevant department chair, program director, dean, or cabinet officer, provided the following conditions are met:
 - a. The prospective student is fully vaccinated according to guidelines in the University COVID-19 vaccination policy.
 - b. The government of the prospective student’s country of current residence does not specifically advise against travel to the United States.
 - c. If, at the conclusion of their visit to the University, the prospective student will travel directly back to their country of current residence (and not to another institution in the United States), the prospective student is not required to present a negative COVID-19 test in order to accomplish that travel home.

- d. The visit to campus is otherwise permitted under the current University visitor policy.
- e. All University, state, and federal public health measures are followed, including those regarding requirements for COVID-19 testing upon or after arrival in the United States from an international location.

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 any 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 GS&S for further review and approval prior to travel.

B. DOMESTIC TRAVEL

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 who is 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 students to any international destination is suspended.

University-sanctioned group travel involving graduate students to any international destination is suspended through December 5, 2021. On or after December 6, 2021:

1. Group travel involving graduate students is permissible to destinations subject to a [Level 1, 2, or 3 travel advisory from the U.S. Department of State](#), provided the relevant department chair, program director, or dean determines the group travel is feasible and for a critical purpose. Each individual traveling must otherwise be in compliance with the requirements in this policy applying to international travel by graduate students.
2. Group travel involving graduate students to destinations subject to a [Level 4 travel advisory from the U.S. Department of State](#) 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

Through December 5, 2021, enrolled undergraduate students may not engage in personal international travel unless granted an exception by their DSL (or the Athletics department for certain international competitions) for compelling individual circumstances. Additional approval from GS&S is required for any such travel to a destination that is both subject to a Level 4 [travel advisory from the U.S. Department of State](#) and not in the student's country of ordinary residence. 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.

On or after December 6, 2021, there are no restrictions on personal international travel by enrolled undergraduates.

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

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.