

Support for International Travel

The **Office of Student Affairs (OSA)** at the Mailman School of Public Health (MSPH) provides the following services to students traveling internationally for practica and internships.

- **Student Travel Fund** to help subsidize the practica or internship experience. Visit www.mailman.hs.columbia.edu/careerservices/stu_alumni_serv/stf-international.html for details.
- **Documentation** from local supervisors of practica and internships in countries on the U.S. Department of State's Public Announcements and Travel Warnings website regarding the safety/security issues that impact their employees and volunteers and the precautionary measures in place on-site.
- **Evacuation insurance by International SOS (ISOS) through the University's policy.** Contact Tanya Cobbs Leslie at TCL1@columbia.edu for details and the required authorization.
- **Immunizations and malaria prophylaxis** provided you have not waived the student health service fee. Contact Tanya Cobbs Leslie at TCL1@columbia.edu for details and the required authorization.
- **Safety/Security seminar** prior to departure.
- **Departmental and Student Affairs' responders** for dangerous or emergency situations.
- **Referral** to sites including the following to help assess the relative risks involved in traveling/living internationally:

U.S. Department of State's Public Announcements and Travel Warnings at <http://travel.state.gov/travel/warnings.html>

U.S. Department of State's Background Notes (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/>) on countries and their current political situations.

CDC website (www.cdc.gov) for immunization and other precautions necessary for international travel.

Overseas Security Advisory Council (www.ds-osac.org/) for current news and reports on global security.

Epidemiology Department's Travel Assistance Webpage (www.mailman.hs.columbia.edu/epi/Academics/practicum/Travel/Travel_International_Assist.html) for travel tips and suggestions on varied topics.

- **Checklist** of items/issues to consider when traveling internationally including:

abiding by the internship host organization's security regulations at the practica or internship site.

agreeing to use good personal judgment and exercise caution in any potentially high-risk situations at the internship site.

becoming aware of the inherent risks in travel and work in any setting, that the political environment and cultural situations of the internship can differ from those in the US and in the Columbia University environment and that these situations are unpredictable and may become volatile and dangerous, often within a very short period of time.

understanding that foreign visitors should avoid situations that have the potential of becoming politically volatile or otherwise dangerous, that there are health risks as well as travel risks, including those associated with motor vehicles, poor driving conditions.

weighing the risks and rewards of participation in an international practica or internship