



Hot Topics in Education Abroad

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Mexico/Thailand Travel Warnings

- Countries that generally see significant US students
- Safety/security of students is the priority
- Programs getting ready to leave versus programs already on the ground

Travel Warnings vs Travel Alerts

– Travel Alerts

- terrorist threats and other relatively short-term and/or trans-national conditions posing significant risks to the security of American travelers.
- Could affect only a particular area of the country

– Travel Warnings

- long-term, protracted conditions; the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff.
- affect the entire country not just a region

Gathering information

- Consulting other countries travel information

- Canada -

- <http://canadaonline.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?zi=1/XJ&sdn=canadaonline&z=1&http%3A%2F%2Fwww.voyage.gc.ca%2Fdest%2Fctry%2Freportpage-en.asp>

- UK -

- <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/>

- Australia -

- <http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/>

- Talking with the regional security office at the us embassy abroad
- Local news

Gathering information

- Talking with your partners in the host country about what they are seeing
- Talking with other study abroad professionals about their experiences in the location
- OSAC information on the country – what are American businesses/NGOs seeing on the ground
<http://www.osac.gov/>

How do we respond to a travel warning?

If there isn't already a committee on campus to review programs establish one to review the information. No one should be making a decision like this alone. Involve university counsel and risk managers on your campus.

?s for the Committee to Consider

- What is the risk to students/staff/program?
- Could the program run in another location with the same benefit to the students?
- Will the presence of students benefit the local community?
- What would the impact be of canceling the program?

?s for the Committee to Consider

- Is it worth the risk?
- If something bad did happen – could you/your institution respond to questions from family members and friends of those injured/killed and in good conscience say that it was the right decision to run the program in the country?

NAFSA Health & Safety Subcommittee

- <http://nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?catId=429104>

Volcano (other unexpected issues) & Insurance

- Many institutions require students to purchase international health insurance but don't provide detailed information on travel/trip insurance for students.
- Should offices be doing more?

Understanding the Insurance Maze – Trip/Travel Insurance

- Typically need to purchase the insurance within 6-14 days after the purchase of your tickets
- “Known Events” – not covered
 - A hurricane – when it becomes a named storm
 - Active political or civil unrest
- Make sure you and your students know what is covered

The Volcano - Specifically

- Some companies (like CSA) views the volcano in Iceland as “adverse weather” with each ash cloud restricting travel as a separate “event”. Coverage only for those who purchase insurance between “events”.
- Other insurance companies (perhaps most) will not cover volcanic related delays if trip was purchased after first eruption (4/14/10).

Visas

- NAFSA regulatory practice group – and the resources they provide to NAFSAs
- http://www.nafsa.org/regulatory_information.sec/education_abroad/visas_for_study_abroad/
- To get help – IssueNet-
<http://issuenet.nafsa.org>

Going Green

- Green Passport -
<http://www.greenpassport.us/>
- Our responsibility in helping students think about their environmental impact
- Bill McKibben and study abroad -
http://www.abroadview.org/green/mckibben_clip.htm

Thanks!

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