Global Safety & Security (GS&S) has watched the developments of the last few days closely and with concern, as governments around the world have reacted to the emergence of the omicron variant. The closure of borders and renewed imposition of entry bans affecting certain countries and regions are unfortunate and disruptive reminders that the pandemic continues to make international travel a challenging proposition.

Due to the uncertainties and attendant risks created by governmental responses to the new variant, we have determined it is necessary to impose additional, temporary travel restrictions as we assess international reactions. Therefore, effective for trips planned to begin between November 30 and December 20 (inclusive), we are suspending all University-sanctioned international travel by graduate students, whether as individuals or in groups. This includes trips that may previously have been reviewed and approved by GS&S. Graduate students already abroad on University-sanctioned travel are not being recalled and may continue their planned travel. Of course, GS&S is available to help those currently traveling, should they require assistance.

The current suspension of University-sanctioned international travel by undergraduates also remains in place until further notice.

We are not, as yet, further restricting University-sanctioned international travel by faculty and staff. Department chairs, deans, and others who have authority to approve such travel should exercise increased diligence in their reviews, especially as to the feasibility of proposed trips. New entry bans, quarantine requirements, and disruptions in flight availability will likely make many international trips in the coming weeks substantially more difficult, if not altogether impossible. GS&S stands ready to consult with approving officials as they consider requests during this period of uncertainty.

**Personal Travel**

There continue to be no restrictions on personal international travel by graduate students, faculty, and staff. The current restrictions on personal international travel by undergraduates will be lifted, as previously announced, for travel on or after December 6. Given the dynamic situation caused by the emergence of the new variant, we strongly urge anyone considering personal international travel to weigh carefully
the risks involved. Additionally, we encourage undergraduate students intending to depart for personal international travel between December 6 and the end of the semester not to return to campus until Wintersession begins.

Due to these recent developments, international undergraduates who cannot or decide not to travel home will be approved for housing during the winter break period. International undergraduates should register for winter break housing by clicking here or by searching for “Continuous Housing Request” through the Princeton Service Portal. The portal will be open until Friday, December 17th at 5:00 p.m.

We will monitor developments regarding the impacts of the omicron variant and will update you on international travel restrictions, as well as our overall permissible travel policies for the spring semester, by December 15.

Our priority remains what it has been throughout the pandemic: facilitating as much vital travel as can be done practically, safely, and with due concern for the health of our travelers, our campus, and the communities into which we journey. I know that these temporary restrictions will be unwelcome, but they are necessary if we are to fulfill this goal given the circumstances we now face.

The GS&S team is happy to answer your questions. Please do not hesitate to contact us via email at globalsafety@princeton.edu.

I wish you all good health and success as you finish the semester. We greatly appreciate your continued cooperation with our travel policies and procedures.