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
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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.
### I. Summary of Key Substantive Provisions

*Summary of Permissible University-sanctioned Travel*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Domestic</th>
<th>International</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All travelers must be in compliance with University vaccination policies.</td>
<td>U.S. State Department Level 1/2 Advisory</td>
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<td>U.S. State Department Level 3 Advisory</td>
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<td>U.S. State Department Level 4 Advisory</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Undergraduates</strong></td>
<td>Suspended*</td>
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<td>Suspended*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Graduate students</strong></td>
<td>No restrictions with self-certification of critical purpose and feasibility.</td>
<td>Feasible travel for critical purpose, with approval from chair, program director, or dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group/course travel involving undergraduate students</strong></td>
<td>No restrictions on feasible travel.</td>
<td>Suspended</td>
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<td>Suspended</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Group/course travel involving graduate students</strong></td>
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<td>Feasible travel for critical purpose, with approval from chair, program director, or dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Faculty / researchers</strong></td>
<td>No restrictions with self-certification of critical purpose and feasibility.</td>
<td>Feasible travel for critical purpose, with approval from chair, program director, or dean</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Staff</strong></td>
<td>Feasible travel for critical purpose, with approval from cabinet officer</td>
<td>Feasible travel for critical purpose, with approval from cabinet officer</td>
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*If otherwise approved, Study Abroad participants are permitted to travel to/from their program location.*

**Substantial Revisions:**

- The definition of “feasible travel” now specifies two criteria previously only implied:
  - That the traveler be able to comply with the testing requirements necessary to permit them to return home.
That the travel and its activities be allowable under U.S. sanctions/export-control laws and related regulations.

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. To a destination where the traveler can obtain the COVID-19 testing required for their return to their home location without the University’s assistance.
5. Allowable, including all planned activities at the destination(s), under and done in compliance with U.S. sanctions and export control laws and regulations.
6. Performed via regularly scheduled commercial common-carriers such as air or rail providers (i.e., not by charter or other special conveyance); and,
7. 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:

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

There is no requirement to enroll the details of personal travel; however, University affiliates are welcome to do so, if they wish.

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, 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. 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

Individual University-sanctioned domestic travel is permissible, provided:

1) the traveler is in compliance with University policies regarding COVID-19 vaccinations,

2) the travel is not otherwise precluded by University restrictions on students leaving campus, and

3) the traveler 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.

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.
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:

1) all participants are in compliance with University policies regarding COVID-19 vaccinations,
2) the travel is not otherwise precluded by University restrictions on students leaving campus, and
3) 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

These guidelines impose no restriction on personal travel; however, other University offices may determine that such restrictions are necessary as part of public health measures to protect the well-being of the campus community. Any such restrictions will be communicated separately by the offices who may determine they are necessary. Nothing in these guidelines supersedes University-imposed public health restrictions on leaving campus.

All 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.