



TO: The Princeton University community

FROM: Aly Kassam-Remtulla, Associate Provost for International Affairs and Operations

SUBJECT: New University Permissible Travel Guidelines

DATE: March 21, 2022

I am pleased to share these much-anticipated new guidelines on permissible University-sanctioned travel. I thank you for your patience as we have worked to craft guidance that can smartly and effectively carry us through and beyond the current phase of the pandemic. All of us involved in creating these guidelines are excited that they will reinvigorate the international engagement so curtailed over the last two years.

The guidelines attached here (and also available online) are the result of consultations across the University, including input from a focus group of faculty members. I am confident they are a strong set of policies for the road ahead, as we joyfully step more fully back into the world.

The guidelines are effective for travel beginning on or after April 4, 2022.

Let me share with you **some important highlights**:

- **These are not another set of “pandemic period” guidelines** and will not change each term as they have over the past two years. This guidance establishes a more permanent structure for how we will ensure the health and safety of our travelers, accounting for but no longer centered on the pandemic.
- **We are expanding permissible University-sanctioned travel to near pre-pandemic levels.** This includes significantly increased opportunities for student travel to international destinations where there is a U.S. State Department Level 4 travel advisory.
- Although we are initially aligning our destination risk categorizations with State Department advisories, this will change in the weeks ahead. Our Global Safety & Security (GS&S) office is instituting an effort to conduct Princeton-specific assessments of worldwide risks that **will decouple us from an exclusive reliance on the State Department’s travel advisories.** We are focusing first on applying the CDC’s new methodology for assessing COVID risks in the United States to analogous risks in international locations under a Level 4 travel advisory solely due to COVID. We anticipate this will result in downgrading the Princeton risk category for some such destinations, in turn further easing University requirements for travel.

As noted, the new guidelines are designed to be more permanent and more responsive to changes in risk on the ground in different destinations. That much of the world will initially be subject to relatively high requirements, particularly for student travel, is not a function of the guidelines themselves. Rather, it reflects the reality of a world that is emerging unevenly from the pandemic and that faces other security challenges unimaginable even a year ago. As more international destinations move past an acute phase of the pandemic and other risks stabilize, more University-sanctioned travel will be subject only to the very lowest set of requirements.

For those planning travel – whether for themselves or as part of a University program – I encourage you to read these new guidelines thoroughly. [The GS&S team is available to answer your questions](#) and always happy for the chance to meet with travel and program organizers to discuss these new guidelines and their implementation.

We also welcome your feedback on these guidelines and your experiences with them in the months ahead. At the end of summer, we will solicit feedback from the community about their experience with the new guidelines. Your input will be essential to helping us meet our commitment to continuous improvement in how we manage the risks of travel.

Thank you for your many sacrifices over the past two years. We know how difficult it has been to be disconnected from the in-person experience of international travel. That is why I am also grateful to all of those who have helped us in crafting these new guidelines and opening back up to so much more of the world.