

## GUIDE TO CONDUCT ON UNIVERSITY TRAVEL

Personal conduct has a direct impact on the safety and security of travelers, particularly in overseas destinations where they may be less familiar with local culture, norms, rules, restrictions, and laws. Princeton travelers are reminded to uphold certain standards of conduct both on campus and on University Travel, whether domestic or overseas. These standards are outlined under [Princeton University's Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities](#). Travelers should consider the following guidance – which is not exhaustive – in relation to their destination and their specific circumstances.

### Culture and Norms

*Preparation involves research and an understanding of local culture, norms, taboos, and traditions.*

- ✓ Discuss these topics with contacts who have prior lived or travel experience in the locale.
- ✓ Consider local cultures and norms, including norms relating to cultural or religious dress codes, common etiquette, and public conduct, such as the acceptability of public displays of affection.
- ✓ Have an open mind.
- ✓ Adopt a culturally sensitive approach to learning about and preparing for any differences.

### Personal Conduct, Safety, and Security

*Familiarity of local dynamics and safeguarding personal information can support traveler safety.*

- ✓ Research local laws and customs.

Activities and practices that might not be considered a crime in the U.S. can be illegal or taboo abroad, making you stand out as a foreigner and potential target for criminals. These may include laws and restrictions on behavior (e.g., alcohol intake, public displays of affection), dress (e.g., conservative dress codes), and activities such as photography, for example, laws against photographing sensitive government and military sites, or even civilian sites such as beaches.

- ✓ Research any restrictions on freedom of expression and speech.

Several countries have restrictions on freedom of expression and speech, so it is important to research and understand these restrictions. Restrictions may include laws prohibiting criticism that may be deemed insulting or challenging to the local or national government, such as criticism of the country, government, political leadership, and state religion. These restrictions may also extend to internet and social media usage. Travelers are strongly encouraged to review their own internet and social media presence for anything that could be viewed or interpreted as breaking local laws.

- ✓ Be cautious of the information you share, both in person and online.

Criminals can use and exploit such information, so travelers should avoid sharing personal information, particularly with strangers, regarding their personal identity, their professional or academic ties (e.g., to Princeton University, to local organizations), and details of their trip (e.g., their place of residence, their travel plans, being a solo traveler). In addition, travelers should avoid sharing personal financial information, to mitigate the risk of online scams and cybercrimes.

Travelers wanting additional guidance on these topics and more can schedule a travel risk consultation with Global Safety & Security by emailing [globalsafety@princeton.edu](mailto:globalsafety@princeton.edu).