

Improved Consular Safety and Security Messaging

Today's Speakers:

- **Carmella Donahue**, Director of Outreach and Training, Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- **Morgan Morris**, Assistant Director of Health, Safety, and Graduate Programs, University of South Carolina
- **Allison Cash Spiro**, Associate Director, Education Abroad Outreach and Regulatory Practice, NAFSA

Improved Consular Safety and Security Messaging

Today's Agenda:

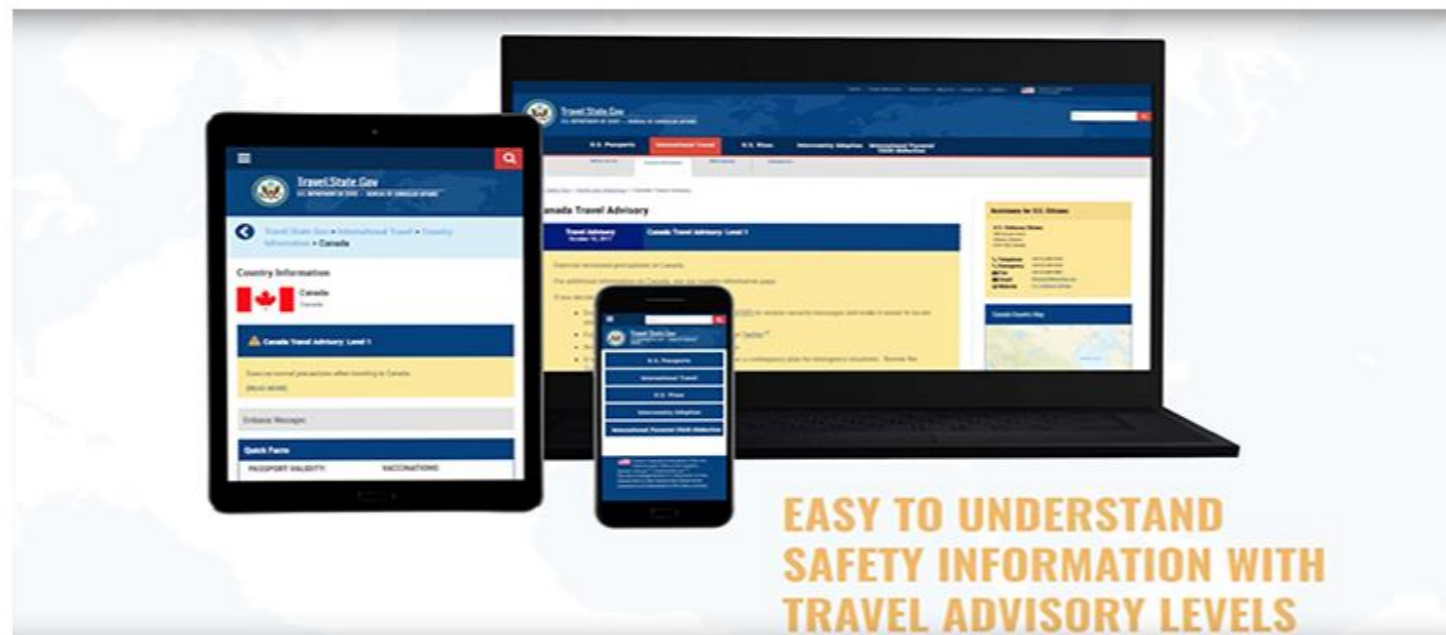
- Education Abroad and the Risk Landscape
- State Department Presentation
- Takeaways for Education Abroad Professionals
- Recommended NAFSA Resources
- Q&A

Improved Consular Safety and Security Messaging

“[...] it is our responsibility to be transparent about the risks associated with international travel and to work to educate students, parents, and programs providers to address those risks with the goal of responsible practices. We must also continue to acknowledge that no one can guarantee the safety of individuals, and that we all (students, parents, programs) have a role to play in responsible education abroad.” – Patricia C. Martin, Swarthmore College, introduction, *Crisis Management in Education Abroad*, 2017

Consular Messaging

LIVE! Improved Consular Safety and Security Messaging



We have made it easier for you to get clear, timely, and reliable safety and security information about every country in the world and access it at home or on the go via our mobile-friendly website, travel.state.gov.

Take Us with You Whenever You Go Abroad

The mission of the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs is to protect the lives and serve the interests of U.S. citizens abroad. We provide information to help you assess for yourself the risks of international travel and what steps to take to ensure your safety when you decide to go abroad.

Before You Go

You can now access all of our safety and security information on one country page. So before you travel, check our Travel Advisory and Alerts for your destination(s) at travel.state.gov/destination. Be sure to read further country-specific details on the same page that could affect your travel, such as entry/exit requirements, local laws and customs, health conditions, transportation, and other relevant

Learn more about our new products



VIEW ALL TRAVEL ADVISORIES



TAKE US WITH YOU!
DOWNLOAD OUR CARD.

Enroll in STEP

travel.state.gov/travelsafely

Country Page with Travel Advisory – Level 1

Home | Travel Advisories | Newsroom | About Us | Contact Us | Careers | Find U.S. Embassies & Consulates

Travel.State.Gov
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE — BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS

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Congressional Liaison | Special Issuance Agency | U.S. Passports | **International Travel** | U.S. Visas | Intercountry Adoption | International Parental Child Abduction

Before You Go | Country Information

[Travel.State.Gov](#) > [International Travel](#) > [Country Information](#) > Canada

Country Information

Canada
Canada
Last Updated: August 28, 2017

Travel Advisory
January 10, 2018

Canada – Level 1: Exercise normal precautions

Exercise normal precautions in Canada.
Read the Safety and Security section on the [country information page](#).
If you ... [READ MORE]

Embassy Messages | Alerts
No current Alerts.
[View Local Security Messages Archive](#)

Travel Advisory Levels:
Level 1 – Exercise Normal Precautions
Level 2 – Exercise Increased Caution
Level 3 – Reconsider Travel
Level 4 – Do Not Travel

Travel Advisory Levels

- 1** Exercise normal precautions
- 2** Exercise increased caution
- 3** Reconsider travel
- 4** Do not travel

Assistance for U.S. Citizens

U.S. Embassy Ottawa
490 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 1G8, Canada

Quick Facts

Travel Advisory – Level 2

Country Information



Tanzania
United Republic of Tanzania
Last Updated: December 4, 2017

Travel Advisory
January 10, 2018

Tanzania – Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution

Exercise increased caution in Tanzania due to **crime, terrorism, and targeting of LGBTI persons**.

Violent crime, such as assault, sexual assault, express kidnapping, mugging, and carjacking, is common. Local police may lack the resources to respond effectively to serious crime.

Terrorist groups continue plotting possible attacks in Tanzania. Terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting embassies, police stations, mosques, and other places frequented by Westerners.

Members of the LGBTI community have been arrested, targeted, harassed, and/or charged with unrelated offenses.

Read the Safety and Security section on the [country information page](#).

If you decide to travel to Tanzania:

- Always carry a copy of your U.S. passport and visa (if applicable). Keep original documents in a secure location.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not leave your food or drink unattended.
- Stay alert in locations frequented by Westerners.
- Avoid public displays of affection, in particular for same-sex couples.
- Monitor local media for breaking events and be prepared to adjust your plans.
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive Alerts and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Follow the Department of State on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Review the [Crime and Safety Report](#) for Tanzania.
- U.S. citizens who travel abroad should always have a contingency plan for emergency situations. Review the [Traveler's Checklist](#).

Risk Indicators:

- C – Crime
- T – Terrorism
- U – Civil Unrest
- H – Health
- N – Natural Disaster
- E – Time-limited Event
- O – Other

C T O



Brief summary, explanation of Travel Advisory and risk indicators

Advice for if the traveler decides to visit the country

Travel Advisory – Level 2 with Level 4

Country Information



Jamaica
Jamaica
Last Updated: June 29, 2016

Travel Advisory
January 10, 2018

Jamaica – Level 2: Exercise increased caution



Exercise increased caution in Jamaica due to **crime**. Some areas have increased risk. Read the entire Travel Advisory.

Do not travel to:

- Some areas of Kingston due to **crime**.
- Some areas of Montego Bay due to **crime**.
- Spanish Town due to **crime**.

Guidance on
areas that are
Level 4

Violent crime, such as home invasions, armed robberies, and homicide, is common. Sexual assaults occur frequently, even at all-inclusive resorts. Local police lack the resources to respond effectively to serious criminal incidents. U.S. government personnel are prohibited from driving outside of Kingston at night.

Read the Safety and Security section on the [country information page](#).

If you decide to travel to Jamaica:

- Avoid walking or driving at night.
- Avoid public buses.
- Avoid secluded places or situations, even in resorts.
- Do not physically resist any robbery attempt.
- Be aware of your surroundings and keep a low profile.
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive Alerts and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Follow the Department of State on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Review the [Crime and Safety Report](#) for Jamaica.
- U.S. citizens who travel abroad should always have a contingency plan for emergency situations. Review the [Traveler's Checklist](#).

Kingston

Violence and shootings occur regularly in some areas of Kingston. U.S. government personnel are prohibited from traveling to the following areas: downtown Kingston, which is defined as the areas between Mountain View Avenue and Hagley Park Road, and south of Half Way Tree and Old Hope Roads, and includes Trench Town, Tivoli Gardens, and Arnett Gardens; Standpipe, Grants Pen, and Cassava Piece.

Visit our website for [Travel to High-Risk Areas](#).

Travel Advisory – Level 3

Country Information



Niger
Republic of Niger
Last Updated: April 10, 2017

Travel Advisory
January 10, 2018

Niger – Level 3: Reconsider travel



Reconsider travel to Niger due to **crime and terrorism**.

Violent crime, such as armed robbery, is common.

Terrorist groups continue plotting kidnappings and possible attacks in Niger. Terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting foreign and local government facilities and areas frequented by Westerners. Terrorists operate in the areas bordering Mali, Libya, and throughout northern Niger. Avoid travel to Niger's border regions, particularly the Malian border area, Diffa region, and the Lake Chad region. Mali-based extremist groups have crossed the border and carried out multiple lethal attacks on Nigerien security forces.

The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in remote and rural areas as U.S. government employees must obtain special authorization to travel outside of the capital, Niamey, due to security concerns. Outside of Niamey, all U.S. Embassy personnel are required to travel only during daylight hours in a minimum two-vehicle convoy accompanied by armed Nigerien government security escorts.

Read the Safety and Security section on the [country information page](#).

If you decide to travel to Niger:

- Visit our website for [Travel to High-Risk Areas](#).
- Stay at hotels with armed Nigerien security presence.
- Do not physically resist any robbery attempt.
- Use caution when walking or driving at night.
- Keep a low profile.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Monitor local media for breaking events and be prepared to adjust your plans.
- Stay alert in locations frequented by Westerners.
- Make contingency plans to leave the country.
- Have evacuation plans that do not rely on U.S. government assistance.
- Keep travel documents up to date and easily accessible.
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive Alerts and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Follow the Department of State on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Review the [Crime and Safety Report](#) for Niger.
- U.S. citizens who travel abroad should always have a contingency plan for emergency situations. Review the [Traveler's Checklist](#).

Travel Advisory – Level 4

Country Information



Syria
Syrian Arab Republic
Last Updated: September 12, 2017

Travel Advisory
January 10, 2018

Syria – Level 4: Do not travel



Do not travel to Syria due to **terrorism, civil unrest, and armed conflict**.

No part of Syria is safe from violence. Kidnappings, the use of chemical warfare, shelling, and aerial bombardment have significantly raised the risk of death or serious injury. The destruction of infrastructure, housing, medical facilities, schools, and power and water utilities has also increased hardships inside the country.

The U.S. Embassy in Damascus suspended its operations in February 2012. The U.S. government does not have diplomatic or consular relations with Syria. The Czech Republic serves as the protecting power for U.S. citizens in Syria. The range of consular services that the Czech Republic provides to U.S. citizens is extremely limited, and the U.S. government is unable to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Syria. U.S. citizens in Syria who seek consular services should try to quickly and safely leave the country and contact a U.S. embassy or consulate in a neighboring country, if at all possible.

The U.S. government particularly warns private U.S. citizens against traveling to Syria to engage in armed conflict. U.S. citizens who undertake such activity face extreme personal risks, including kidnapping, injury, or death. The U.S. government does not support this activity, and our ability to provide consular assistance to individuals who are injured or kidnapped, or to the families of individuals who die in the conflict, is extremely limited.

Fighting on behalf of or providing other forms of support to designated terrorist organizations, including ISIS and al-Nusrah Front, can constitute the provision of material support for terrorism, which is a crime under U.S. law that can result in penalties including prison time and large fines.

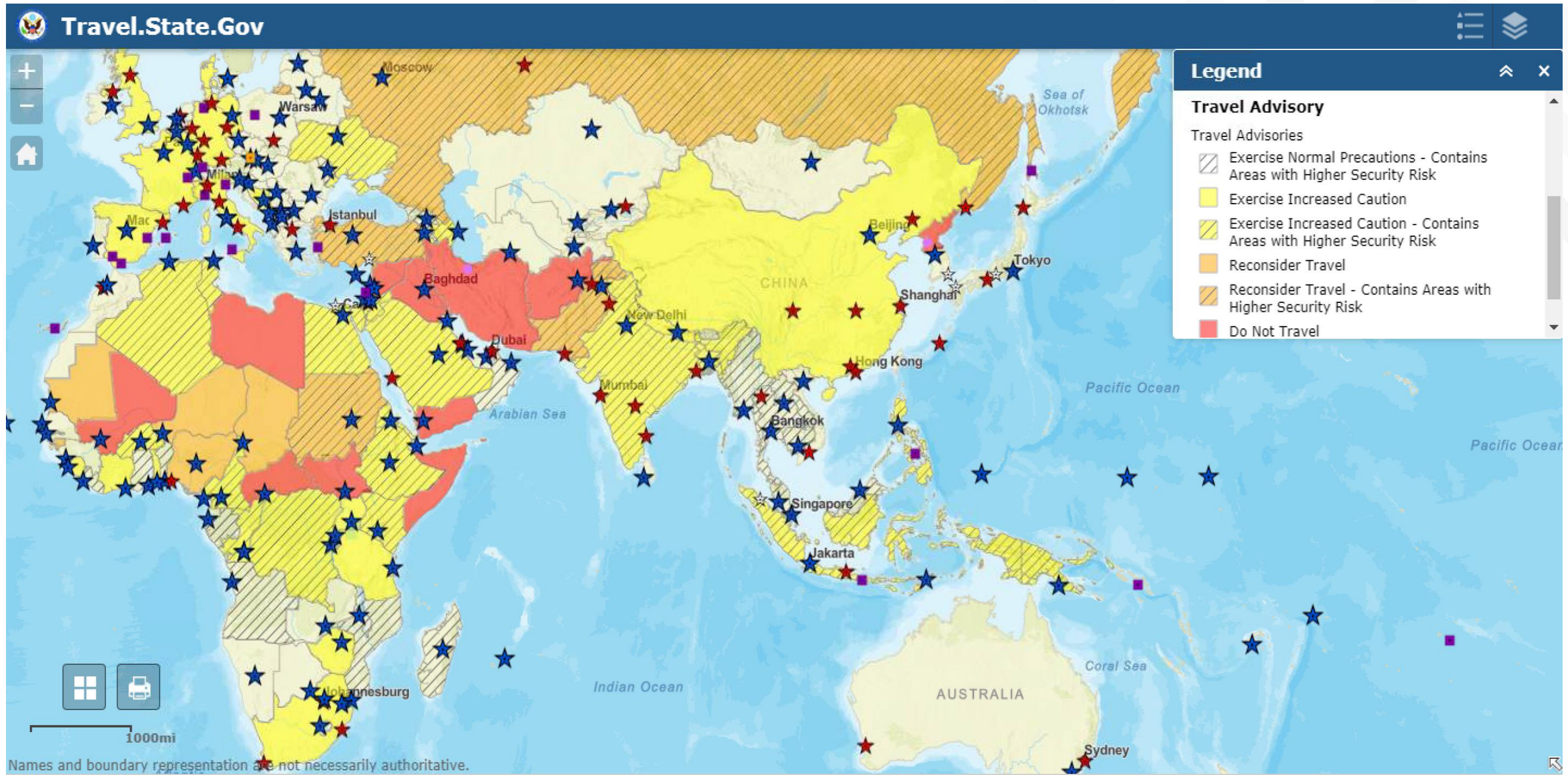
Due to risks to civil aviation operating within or in the vicinity of Syria, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) and/or a Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR). For more information U.S. Citizens should consult the [Federal Aviation Administration's Prohibitions, Restrictions and Notices](#).

Read the Safety and Security section on the [country information page](#).

If you decide to travel to Syria:

- Visit our website on [Travel to High Risk Areas](#).
- Draft a will and designate appropriate insurance beneficiaries and/or power of attorney.
- Discuss a plan with loved ones regarding care/custody of children, pets, property, belongings, non-liquid assets (collections, artwork, etc.), funeral wishes, etc.
- Share important documents, login information, and points of contact with loved ones so that they can manage your affairs, if you are unable to return as planned to the United States. Leave DNA samples with your medical provider in case it is necessary for your family to access them. [Find a suggested list of such documents here](#).
- Establish your own personal security plan in coordination with your employer or host organization, or consider consulting with a professional security organization.
- Develop a communication plan with family and/or your employer or host organization so that they can monitor your safety and location as you travel through high-risk areas. This plan should specify who you would contact first, and how they should share the information.
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive Alerts and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Follow the Department of State on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Review the [Crime and Safety Report](#) for Syria.
- U.S. citizens who travel abroad should always have a contingency plan for emergency situations. Review the [Traveler's Checklist](#).

Travel Advisory Map



Alerts

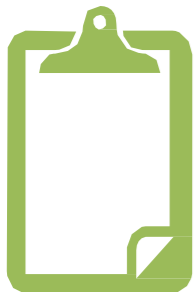
What are the changes?



Mobile-friendly



Improved format



Standard language

Example:

Health Alert - U. S. Embassy Bridgetown (January 10, 2018)

Location: South Coast of Barbados between Hastings and St. Lawrence Gap

Event: There is an overflow of raw sewage due to mechanical failure on the island's south coast that is affecting the water quality at certain beaches between the Hastings and St. Lawrence gap areas. Sewage has periodically bubbled up onto the streets, and there are reports that the overflow is reaching the beach areas.

Actions to Take:

- Avoid water activities in the affected areas (south coast between St. Lawrence gap and Hastings.).
- Beware of sewage on the streets. If you come into contact with sewage, wash your hands, shoes, and any clothing that may have come into contact with the effluence.
- If you become seriously ill, seek medical attention.

Assistance:

- [U.S. Embassy to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean](#)
+(246) 227-4000
- BridgetownACS@state.gov
- State Department - - Consular Affairs
888-407-4747 or 202-501-4444
- [Barbados Country Information](#)
- Enroll in [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security updates
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Sign up – STEP.state.gov



State Department Assistance

- Emergency Passports
- Medical Emergencies
- Arrests
- Victim Assistance
- Welfare & Whereabouts
- Repatriation
- Deaths & Estates
- Crisis Response
- Citizenship Documentation
- Notarial Services
- Voting Assistance
- Federal Programs
- International Parental Child Abduction
- Intercountry Adoption

Consular Fellows Program

- Live and work overseas as part of a U.S. Mission
- Languages Skills: Arabic, French, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish
- 5-year appointments

careers.state.gov/ca

What is OSAC?

OSAC is a **public-private partnership** with 4,000 American companies, educational institutions, religious groups, and non-governmental organizations

Your Security Partner

OSAC is housed in the
Bureau of Diplomatic Security.
OSAC is OSAC is a free service for
U.S. organizations with security
concerns abroad

Educational Institutions

Join the Academic
Working Group:
OSAC.gov

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs



The **Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)** serves as part of the Public Affairs arm of the U.S. Department of State. ECA's mission is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange that assist in the development of peaceful relations.



55,000 participants engage in exchange programs funded by ECA annually



15,000 American participants travel abroad on exchanges each year



101 U.S. public and private non-profit institutions funded

www.eca.state.gov

USA Study Abroad

The State Department's USA Study Abroad branch increases and diversifies U.S. study abroad through programs for both individuals and institutions.

- **The Gilman Scholarship Program:** Supports approximately 3,000 American undergraduate students who are Pell Grant recipients to study or intern abroad each year.
- **The Critical Language Scholarship:** Sends approximately 550 U.S. undergraduate and graduate students overseas to study one of 14 critical languages each summer
- **Capacity Building Initiatives:** Provides resources and institutional grants to create or expand education abroad opportunities for U.S. students.
- The **U.S. Study Abroad Website**, www.studyabroad.state.gov, provides resources for students, educators, and institutions.



USA Study Abroad MOOC



Our MOOC (Massive Online Open Course) is a free resource for the U.S. study abroad community on how to create, expand or diversify study abroad. Topics covered include:

- Study abroad program types and financial models
- Campus internationalization and curriculum integration
- Advising and application management
- Scholarships and student funding
- Orientation and assessment
- Health and Safety
- Promoting study abroad to students

<http://bit.ly/StudyAbroadToolBox>

Contact Us! studyabroad@state.gov

State Department Resources

Overseas Emergencies

- Nearest U.S. embassy or consulate:
travel.state.gov/destination
- Overseas Citizens Services
Washington, D.C.:

888-407-4747

+1 202-501-4444

Online

Consular Affairs:

travel.state.gov

STEP.state.gov

careers.state.gov/ca

OSAC: *OSAC.gov*

ECA: *studyabroad.state.gov*
exchanges.state.gov



@TravelGov



Improved Consular Safety and Security Messaging

Takeaways for Education Abroad Professionals:

- Create/review/revise your international travel policy
- Talk to campus partners (e.g., legal counsel and risk management) to assess risk – institutional tolerance
- Do some benchmarking – know what your peers are doing
- Talk to your insurance companies – know what's covered
- Assess the info you provide to constituents – what, when and how do you communicate
- Consult available resources, including from NAFSA

Improved Consular Safety and Security Messaging

www.nafsa.org/eahealthandsafety

Resources for Health and Safety in Education Abroad

March 30, 2016

Safety is a prime concern of all who are involved in education abroad ventures – participants, their families, advisers, institutions that send students abroad, those that host them, and the staff of all organizations that operate programs. NAFSA is committed to providing up-to-date, relevant resources on student health and safety abroad to aid education abroad professionals as they strive to create and promote safe programs for their students. For more information, check out the [International Education Professional Competencies](#), the most comprehensive listing of necessary competencies for success in the field of international education.



For information specific to Zika, please visit: www.nafsa.org/zika.

TOP RESOURCES

- › [Enhancing Health and Safety in Education Abroad](#)
- › [Resources for Monitoring Conditions Abroad](#)
- › [Questions for Responding to an Emergency](#)
- › [Mental Health and Education Abroad](#)
- › [Clarifying Clery](#)
- › [When a Reporter Calls](#)

Improved Consular Safety and Security Messaging



Risk Management for Education Abroad E-learning Seminar Package includes

- The Risk Landscape in Education Abroad
- Student Health and Safety Abroad: Collaborations Between Staff and Faculty
- Clarifying Clery: Collaborations Between Education Abroad, Risk Management, and Campus Safety Professionals
- Safety and Security in Education Abroad: Policies, Procedures, and Partnerships

www.nafsa.org/elearningseminars

Improved Consular Safety and Security Messaging



February 13, 2018 at 3:00p.m. (EST)

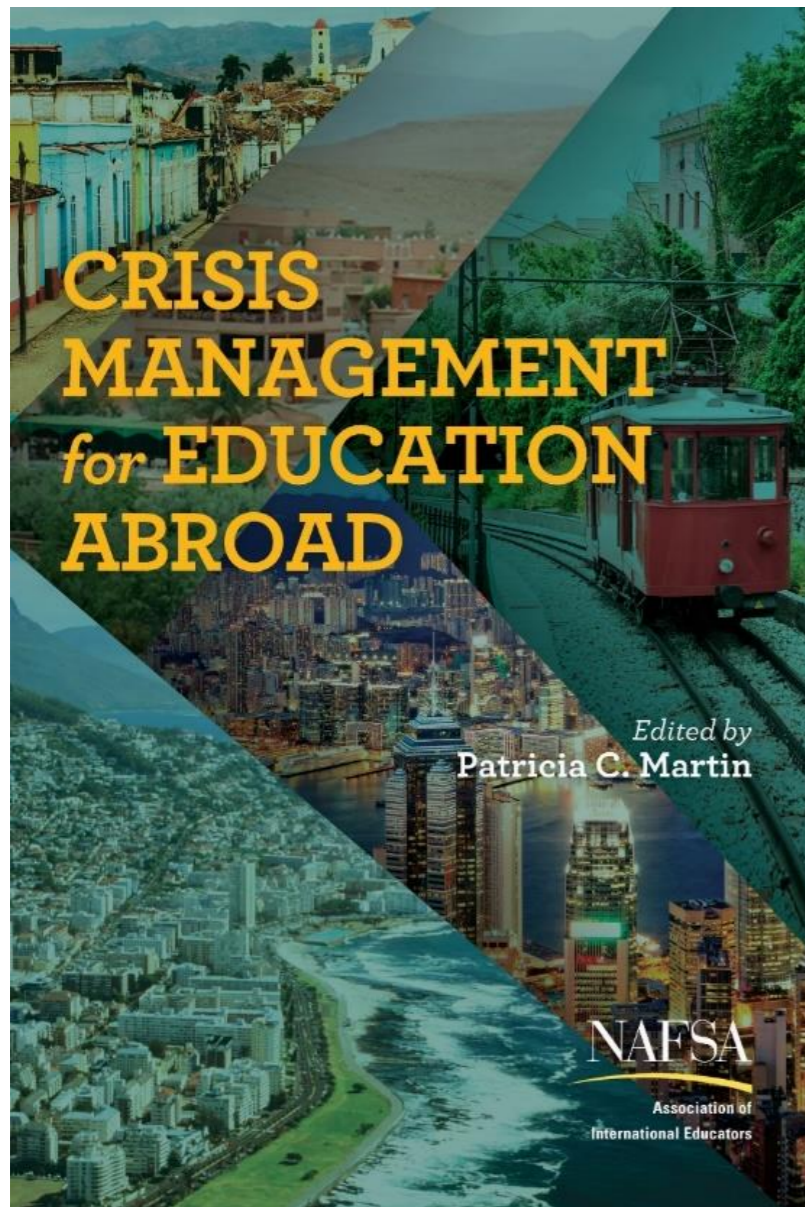
RESPONDING TO MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Explore techniques and resources to support students with mental health challenges.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Improved Consular Safety and Security Messaging



Crisis Management for Education Abroad

- Available in the NAFSA bookstore online
- Visit the webpage www.nafsa.org/eacrisismanagement for the following free checklists:
 - Safety Instructions for Program Participants
 - Political and Social Unrest and Terrorist Activities
 - Health and Safety in Education Abroad Programs: Next Steps
 - Student Health Insurance for International Programs

Q&A

Please submit questions
via the chatbox on your
screen



Thank You for joining us today!

Please submit
questions to
educationabroad@nafsa.org

