

ADVISORY ON SECURITY & SAFETY ISSUES ABROAD

Whether traveling abroad as a tourist, student or intern, you will likely be entering an unfamiliar environment. As a participant in Portland State University's Education Abroad Program, you have the advantage of a program infrastructure and/or individuals on-site to orient you to local safety issues and to support you in the event of a security or safety emergency. You also have a personal responsibility for your own safety and security.

We recommend the following precautions anytime you travel abroad:

1. Register with nearest U.S. Consulate or your home country embassy (if not a U.S. citizen) so that in-country staff know how to contact you should the need arise;
2. Avoid political demonstrations, large crowds and gatherings;
3. Maintain a low profile and do not advertise that you are a foreign national;
4. Stay in close contact with family members;
5. Avoid American hangouts;
6. Keep local program leaders, home stay family, or living group advisor (if appropriate), your family back home, and instructors informed of your whereabouts if you plan to travel.

Incidences of either verbal or physical attacks toward Americans are relatively rare, yet they do occur. You can protect yourself with some common sense and the simple tactics noted above. Keep in mind that any comments directed at you are rarely personal. Don't take them personally!

No one can guarantee your absolute safety while you're abroad any more than we can guarantee absolute safety on your home campus. Be assured, however, that we have taken precautions and routinely monitor information about the issues and conditions in the locales where you will study or work. We have communication procedures in place so that if an emergency occurs, you will know whom to contact for information, counsel and assistance.

You can find more information about travel advisories, safety and crisis response at <http://travel.state.gov/>. You can also obtain travel information and local conditions through a private company called "iJet Travel Intelligence". Their web page is <http://www.ijet.com>. (The PSU Study Abroad Office does not specifically endorse iJet, and provides this source as information resource only.)

With my signature below, I acknowledge that I have been advised of my personal responsibility for my own safety and that I agree to cooperate with instructions above and those of the program leader, resident director, or in-country sponsor in the event of an emergency.

Student's Printed Name

Signature

Date