**International Travel Guidance**

**Updated May 11, 2023**

As the System Office prohibition on university-related international travel remains in effect, all University-affiliated international travel continues to require an exception to proceed. This international travel approval process manages the health and safety risks of travel and complements processes that contribute to sound financial oversight.

In April 2022, the Department of State (DOS) revised the advisory levels of many countries that were previously Level 4: Do Not Travel. Most countries (76%) are now rated Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions or Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution. The highly restrictive travel policy in place for much of the pandemic has therefore been replaced with a much less restrictive policy where almost all requests for travel to DOS Level 1 and Level 2 destinations are being quickly approved. With the termination on May 11, 2023, of the national emergency concerning the COVID-19 pandemic, this much less restrictive policy will remain in place.

Travelers should use the proper forms and processes (maintained on the UNC Global Affairs [travel policies page](https://global.unc.edu/travel-policies/)) for requesting approval to undertake University-related travel. The approval process enables prospective travelers to familiarize themselves with the range of known and foreseeable risks in their destination country –

from health to safety and security risks – to make informed decisions based on their personal circumstances.

Travel will continue to be considered high risk to countries with a State Department advisory Level 3: Reconsider Travel or Level 4: Do Not Travel. Risk increases for short-term travel, particularly where the traveler lacks support on the ground. An exception may still be granted for higher risk travel if the traveler presents a sound and compelling risk mitigation plan, and the benefit of travel to UNC is clear and compelling.

*This policy will be evaluated regularly as the situation evolves.*