

Safety Abroad at UW-Green Bay

The Office of International Education takes numerous steps to help ensure the safety of all students who are traveling abroad.

Our office works with a campus Travel Safety Committee to ensure that locations we send students to are not under a current U.S. Department of State travel warning and continuously monitor world situations to make decisions on running programs to particular locations.

In addition, all students and faculty/staff who travel abroad are enrolled in the State Department STEP program, which registers students with local embassies or consulates so they can be contacted in case of an emergency. All are also enrolled in our mandatory UW System insurance program, which among other benefits includes emergency evacuation coverage and medical insurance.

All students receive safety tips and information via an online orientation program and are required to complete an assessment that addresses safety as well as other important topics before departure. Some specific safety topics include women abroad, petty crime, getting lost, and use of alcohol.

Our students traveling on a short term exchange program or for a semester/academic year also participate in a half day orientation led by our office that focuses on health, safety, and intercultural communication abroad. In addition, our host institutions abroad provide an on-site orientation to students that go over safety in the current location along with other important topics.

Students who participate in faculty-led programs that are four weeks or shorter have meetings with faculty that address the same topics and focus on the specific locations where students are traveling.

While abroad the Office of International Education contacts our short exchange and semester/academic year students on a regular basis to touch base and always reaches out when there is a matter of concern in a particular location. The office is also in regular contact with faculty led groups abroad as well.

Although no institution or program can guarantee the safety of a student abroad, the Office of International Education monitors world situations and contacts students (either by a check-in email or more involved action) if necessary and also provides the tools and resources to help students keep themselves safe while participating in a program.

Upon return to the United States students are given a program evaluation where one of the questions addresses safety. Students are asked if they felt safe while abroad and over 98% of students from the past 5 years have responded that they did, while using the suggested precautions.

It is our goal in the Office of International Education to provide a safe, educational, and enjoyable experience abroad for all UW-Green Bay students.