



INTERNATIONAL OFFICE
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9 January 2018

TO: UT-Austin Deans

FROM: Jessica Miller, Director of Global Risk & Safety, Chair *ad interim* of The International Oversight Committee (IOC)

SUBJECT: **Interim Guidance for Restricted Regions Travel Policy amid Consular Messaging Changes**

The International Oversight Committee (IOC) is committed to supporting international travel and recognizes that a global perspective is essential to the University's academic mission. The IOC places the utmost importance on the safety, security, and well-being of its travelers. The IOC first developed its UT Travel Policy to Restricted Regions in 2010. This policy currently states that U.S. Department of State Travel Warnings, International SOS security risk ratings of "high" or "extreme," and/or CDC Travel Health Notice Warning Level 3 issuances result in a country being placed on the Restricted Regions List.

Procedure Change

The U.S. Department of State will soon be replacing Travel Warnings and Alerts with a color-coded, numerical rating system of Travel Advisories for every country. The tentative start date for these changes is 10 January 2018.

Once effective, the Department of State will issue all countries a Travel Advisory with an overall rating between 1-4, currently described as: 1 = Exercise Normal Precautions; 2 = Exercise Increased Caution; 3 = Reconsider Travel; and 4 = Do Not Travel. Travel Advisory levels 2-4 will have clearly articulated risk factors such as: crime, terrorism, civil unrest, natural disaster, health, and time-related events (e.g., elections or demonstrations). Certain areas within a country may also be assigned nuanced risk levels if the risks in that location do not align with the country's overall rating. Additionally, U.S. Embassy announcements such as Emergency and Security Messages will be replaced by Alerts with one-word descriptors, such as "Alert: Hurricane" or "Alert: Demonstration."

No advance information about how countries will be rated will be available prior to the worldwide roll-out of the new advisory level system. Given this, all countries and associated risk levels on UT-Austin's Restricted Regions list as of 23:59 on 9 January 2018 will remain in effect until the Department of State's new system can be adequately evaluated and the Restricted Regions policy can be formally updated accordingly. After this time, countries may be added to the list and risk ratings may be upgraded if circumstances warrant an elevation, but countries may not be removed from the list nor risk ratings downgraded until an updated policy is in place.

Thank you for your commitment to the health, safety, and well-being of UT students, faculty, and staff.