**Pre-Travel Checklist for Independent Travelers**

This information is for students traveling independently with Cornell support. This includes travel grant recipients, OCOF recipients, Cornell Commitment students and others who are not on a Cornell-sponsored or led trip.

* Complete Cornell’s [Travel Registry](http://travelregistry.cornell.edu/).
* Visit a travel clinic at [Cornell Health](https://health.cornell.edu/services/medical-care/travel-clinic) or elsewhere. Discuss health risks and receive immunizations or medications needed in the area where you are traveling.
* Make sure that your passport is current; the expiration date must be more than six months after the completion of your travel.
* If needed, apply for visas where you will be traveling. If you need a visa to return to the U.S., make sure yours will be valid at that time.
* Complete the training module in CU Learn, [Student Travel Health & Safety](https://cornell.sabacloud.com/Saba/Web_spf/NA1PRD0089/common/ledetail/cours000000000007960/latestversion).
* Print “[Emergency Protocol and Procedures](http://global.cornell.edu/travelers/planning-and-checklists)” and develop your emergency plan.
* Make copies of all of your important documents and your itinerary. Leave a copy at home; pack another set in your carry-on luggage separate from your originals. Take photos of your documents and store them securely on your phone.
* Review your health insurance and be sure that you have [adequate coverage](http://studenthealthbenefits.cornell.edu/plans/health/SHP/using_SHP/study-abroad.cfm) in the countries you will visit.
* Register for [UHC Global](https://members.uhcglobal.com/) worldwide travel assistance and print your member card. Take a picture and keep it in your phone too.
* Enroll in the Smart Travelers Enrollment Program ([STEP](https://step.state.gov/step/)) with the State Department to receive security updates and facilitate communication in the event of an emergency.
* Review the U.S. State Department information for [students abroad](https://travel.state.gov/content/studentsabroad/en.html).
* Explore cell phone options to maintain coverage while abroad.
* Save the numbers for Cornell Police 00-1-607-255-1111 and UHC Global 00-1-410-453-6330 in your cell phone.
* Pack prescription medications in *original containers* and keep in your carry-on luggage.
* Contact your credit/debit card companies to inform them of your upcoming travel so they do not freeze your account due to suspected fraudulent activity.
* Be sure that someone at Cornell (your department, sending unit, PI or other) and at home has relevant information on your host organization including a contact person, address, phone, email and website along with an updated itinerary once you are on-site.
* Learn as much as you can about the country or countries you will be visiting before you go. Brush up on current events, and try to place them in a deeper historical, social, cultural context. If you don’t already know the language, learn basic greetings in the local language.