

# Student Travel Handbook

Prepared by: The Office of International Medical Student Education

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## Overview

This handbook is designed to help Weill Cornell students prepare for their international electives. It includes useful checklists and tips before students depart, along with important information on resources, requirements, and safety protocols. The objective of this guide is to make your experience as safe, enjoyable and stress-free as possible!

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## **Pre-Travel Checklist for ALL students traveling internationally**

- MS1 only: Application for Research Credit (if applicable, through Dr. Brown's Office)
- Weill Cornell Waiver & Release Forms for Overseas Travel
- Weill Cornell Consent Form
- Weill Cornell Consent Form If US State Dept. Travel Advisory (if applicable)
- Register your travel and elective dates with the Registrar's Office
- MS4 Only: Take at least 3 copies of the Student Performance Evaluation Form with you so your mentor(s) can complete it at the end of your elective
- MS4 Only: Once funds allocated – send a THANK YOU note to Donor (Info will be provided)
- Register your travel with Risk Management / Travel Insurance Program (International SOS) (<https://internationalaffairs.weill.cornell.edu/travel-resources>)
- Register your travel with the State Department to receive alerts (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel.html>)
- Student payment and Reimbursement procedures (see below)
- Book your flights and accommodation (keep all receipts)
- Ensure your passport and travel documents are up to date
- Obtain the appropriate visa (if necessary)
- Schedule a Travel Clinic Appointment to discuss vaccines and prophylaxis (if necessary)
- Complete Required Online Ethics training
- Complete IMSE Pre-Departure Worksheet
- Complete IMSE Code of Conduct
- Attend Pre-Departure Workshop

## **Post-Travel Checklist**

- Poster Presentation for Fall/Spring International Fellows Receptions
- Submit Narrative Summary (due within 4 weeks of return)
- MS4 only: Ensure your in-country mentor/preceptor has completed and returned the Student Performance Evaluation form to the Registrar's Office ([registrar@med.cornell.edu](mailto:registrar@med.cornell.edu)) AND to Maritza Montalvo [mmontalv@med.cornell.edu](mailto:mmontalv@med.cornell.edu) (due within 4 weeks of return)
- Student payment and Reimbursement procedures (see below)

### **International Travel Requirements: MS1 Summer Projects + MS4 Clinical Electives**

1. Reimbursements – Keep all airline receipts (i.e., proof of purchase of tickets) and travel itineraries. Submit them along with a signed Expense Sheet (attached – page 22) to Maritza Montalvo either in person (office located at 402 East 67th Street C-2) or via email ([mmontalv@med.cornell.edu](mailto:mmontalv@med.cornell.edu)). Your reimbursement up to the allocated amount will be processed and submitted via direct deposit.
2. Narrative Summary – A post-trip narrative summary of your experience **is required within 4 weeks of return date** before final reimbursement will be authorized. Submit the write-up to Maritza Montalvo ([mmontalv@med.cornell.edu](mailto:mmontalv@med.cornell.edu)). Submit photos to Savita Birbal ([sab2025@med.cornell.edu](mailto:sab2025@med.cornell.edu)) to post on our website and Twitter account. Please see detailed guidelines on pages 23-24.
3. Read and sign the Weill Cornell Agreement and Release Form and the Consent Form (pages 3-8) and return them to Maritza Montalvo ([mmontalv@med.cornell.edu](mailto:mmontalv@med.cornell.edu)) as soon as your elective has been approved. **No reimbursements will be made to any student who leaves the country without signing and submitting these forms.**
4. All students are **REQUIRED** to complete the Johns Hopkins: “Ethical Challenges in Short-Term Global Health Training” (Page 10) and send Certificates of Completion to Maritza Montalvo ([mmontalv@med.cornell.edu](mailto:mmontalv@med.cornell.edu))
5. All students are required to attend a Pre-Departure Workshop with the Co-Directors.

### **MS1 students only (Summer Projects)**

1. Guidelines for Receiving Financial Support: The international summer project funding process has changed and will no longer be part of the Financial Aid Work-Study Program. IMSE Office will provide funding for approved projects. In the past the funding consisted of a \$4000 stipend. Please stay tuned for updates regarding MS1 Summer Project Funding.
2. Students are also encouraged to apply for the BARR Fellowship and the Atkins Summer Fellowship Fund (from the Medical College) and any grants from outside agencies.
3. Funding from IMSE Office is contingent upon completion of the required submission of a Final Narrative Summary (Impact Statement). Student funding is also contingent upon participation in the International Fellows Event with a Poster Presentation of your work held in the Fall (October).
4. If you wish to receive research credit for this elective, please contact The Office of Medical Student Research and complete the required forms: <https://research.weill.cornell.edu/medical-student-research>
5. Student Poster Presentation – You are required to prepare a poster to be shown at an International Fellows Reception in October. Guidelines and a sample outline for the poster can be found on page 13.

### **MS4 students only (Clinical Electives)**

1. Upon approval of your elective, enter the data, along with travel dates, into your schedule in OASIS. Upon completion of your elective, please ask your mentor to complete and the required the Student Performance Evaluation Form (page 9) and submit it to the Registrar’s Office--with a copy to Maritza Montalvo ([mmontalv@med.cornell.edu](mailto:mmontalv@med.cornell.edu)) so it can be filed in your Student Profile Record.
2. Student Poster Presentation – You are required to prepare a poster to be shown at the Spring International Fellows Reception in May. Guidelines and a sample outline for the poster can be found on page 13.

### **Global Health AOC Related International Travel**

1. All WCM medical students planning international travel as part of their AOC projects must complete the ‘AOC Related Travel Request’ form at least 1 month prior to travel AND the requirements listed on the form to obtain approval prior to travel.

## Office of International Medical Student Education Waiver & Release Forms for Overseas Travel

All students are required to complete and sign the following forms and return them to Maritza Montalvo at the Office of International Student Medical Education prior to departure for travel and/or study abroad.

---

Participant's Name

---

Local Address

---

Local Address cont'd

---

Telephone

---

Email Address

---

Travel Dates: Departure Date/

Return Date

---

Elective Dates: Start Date/

End Date

**Emergency Contact Person:**

---

Name

---

Telephone

---

Location

WCMC does not discriminate against individuals based on physical or mental illness or related disability. However, if a student has a history of any medical problems during the previous two years, consultation with your personal physician is recommended prior to departure to discuss the potential stress and difficulties attendant in traveling and studying overseas.

1. Participation in the above program is entirely voluntary and will require transportation to and habitation in the country of \_\_\_\_\_ and may involve risks relating to or arising out of program activities.
2. Participant understands that there are risks inherent in such activity and acknowledges that he or she has been apprised of such risks (to the extent such risks are known to WCMC), and agrees to assume all risks and responsibility for his or her health, safety, and property while participating in this program.
3. Participant, and Participant's heirs and assigns, release Cornell University, WCMC, their officers, trustees, overseers, agents and employees from any and all liability, damage or claim of any nature whatsoever arising out of, or in any way related to participation in the overseas program, including, but not limited to, any medical authorization given to Cornell or WCMC, acts of God, acts or omissions of any third parties (including but not limited to common carriers, hotels, restaurants, or other firms, or agencies).
4. Participant agrees to indemnify and hold Cornell University, WCMC, their officers, trustees, overseers, agents and employees harmless from any damage or liability incurred as a result of any illness or accident Participant may suffer, including the costs of any medical care, or any injury or damage to any person or property of others that the Participant may cause, and from any financial liability or obligation that the Participant may personally incur, while participating in the overseas program.
5. Participant understands that the WCMC reserves the right to make cancellations, changes, or substitutions in cases of emergency or changed geopolitical, natural, or health emergencies, or in the interest of any group with which the Participant may be traveling or collaborating. Should WCMC cancel the program, a refund for cost of the airfare will be made to the Participant.
6. Participant understands the WCMC requires that the Participant be covered by appropriate accident and medical insurance and that he or she be financially responsible for such expenses. Participant also agrees that if he or she is planning to operate a motor vehicle during his or her participation, Participant must obtain liability and collision insurance that will cover him or her in the applicable foreign countries. WCMC recommends that Participants insure their property from loss and theft.
7. Participant understands and agrees that all students are subject to Cornell and WCMC regulations (including, but not limited to, the WCMC Standards of Conduct), the host program's and/or university's laws, rules, regulations, program guidelines, and laws of the host country. In the event of violation of any of the foregoing, or any other behavior, which is detrimental to the Participant, other students, or the program, the director of the program shall have the right to dismiss the Participant from the program. WCMC and Cornell are not responsible for the defense of a Participant accused of a violation of the laws, regulation, rules or customs of the host country, and is not responsible for the payment of any fines or other penalties resulting from such violations.
8. Participant pledges and agrees to conduct him or herself in a manner that reflects favorably on WCMC and the United States.

9. Participant understands that the manufacture, distribution, possession, use or sale of controlled substances as defined by New York State or Federal law, or the laws of the host country is prohibited during travel, study and work abroad. Participant understands that he or she will be directly subject to the laws and legal procedures as apply to the use, possession and distribution of illegal drugs as enforced by local authorities.
10. Participant further understands and agrees that he or she is solely responsible for ascertaining the lawful age for the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages in the host country and for his or her conduct in compliance with local laws as enforced by local authorities.
11. Participant agrees that he or she will be responsible for all medical and related expenses incurred while participating in the program. For medical and accident insurance, participant will be insured under:

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Name of Private Insurance Company (if not Medical School)

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Participant certifies that he or she is at least 18 years of age or older.

I have read and understand the above provisions and agree to be bound by the provisions.

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Signature

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Print Name

Date

## Office of International Medical Student Education Consent Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_ understand that there are risks inherent in doing an elective abroad and I have been apprised of such risks and agree to assume all said risks and responsibility for my health, safety, and property while participating in this program. I, and my heirs and assigns, release Cornell University, WCMC, their officers, agents, and employees from any and all liability, damage or claim of any nature whatsoever arising out of, or in any related to my participation in this program, including, but not limited to, the medical authorization given to WCMC, acts of God, acts or omissions of any third parties (including but not limited to common carriers, hotels, restaurants, or other firms or agencies), except such as may directly result from the negligence of WCMC, its offices, agent, or employees. I agree to indemnify and hold Cornell and WCMC harmless from any damage or liability incurred by Cornell and/or WCMC as a result of any illness I may suffer, including the cost of medical care, or any injury or damage to the person or property of others which I may cause, or from any financial liability or obligation which I may personally incur, while participating in this program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

## Office of International Medical Student Education

**The following to be executed if participant will travel to a country for which the United States Department of State has issued a travel advisory warning:**

I further understand and agree that if I am traveling to a country for which the U.S. Department of State has issued a travel warning. I am responsible for reviewing the Consular Information Sheets for that country available on the U.S. Department of State website (<http://www.travel.state.gov>), am familiar with the conditions in that country, understand the potential hazards, and have voluntarily made the decision to travel to such country.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name



**WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE**

**STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

Due no later than 4 weeks after course.

NAME OF STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_

ELECTIVE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ ELECTIVE TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

CAMPUS/LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATES OF ROTATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Competency	N/A	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent
<b>Fund of Knowledge &amp; Proactice-Based Learning and Improvement</b>					
1. Knowledge of relevant content					
2. Ability to utilize relevant basic science knowledge					
3. Ability to reason					
4. Ability to incorporate/use information from the medical literature					
<b>Clinical Performance</b>					
1. Ability to obtain an accurate history					
2. Ability to perform organized and appropriately focused physical examination					
3. Ability to give an accurate and concise presentation					
4. Ability to formulate differential diagnosis					
5. Teamwork					

**OVERALL PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL BEHAVIOR (Y = Yes, N = No, U = Unable to assess)**  
 Please indicate **whether the student demonstrated professional and ethical behavior**, as defined below, at all times.  
**If the response to any is NO**, please provide details in comment section below.

- Responsibility:** attendance, reliability, reporting, personal comportment Y / N / U
- Self-improvement:** accepting constructive criticism Y / N / U
- Relationship with patients:** rapport, sensitivity, advocacy, confidentiality Y / N / U
- Relationships with teams:** colleagues, the healthcare team and systems Y / N / U

**Narrative Comments Required** (please use additional pages if necessary):  
 Please include direct observations and examples. All assessments should include comments to advise the student where improvements can be made. We appreciate the time and thought required to complete these evaluations.

**Overall Grade (Circle):** Pass Fail

Name of Evaluator/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return completed and signed form to:**

**Mail:** Registrar, Weill Cornell Medical College  
 1300 York Avenue, C-118, New York, NY 10065

**Email:** [registrar@med.cornell.edu](mailto:registrar@med.cornell.edu)

**DO NOT FAX THIS FORM**

# Ethics and Cultural Competencies Online Requirements and Recommendations

All students are **REQUIRED** to complete the Johns Hopkins: “Ethical Challenges in Short-Term Global Health Training” (Link: [Ethical Challenges in Short-Term Global Health Training \(ethicsandglobalhealth.org\)](http://ethicsandglobalhealth.org) )

- There are 10 short online modules (Case-Based Vignettes based on real scenarios)
- Following each case, you must complete 5 brief survey questions which will allow you to obtain a **Certificate of Completion** for the case.
- **Please email your Certificates of Completion for the 10 cases to:** Maritza Montalvo ([mmontalv@med.cornell.edu](mailto:mmontalv@med.cornell.edu)) for your Student Record.

JOHNS HOPKINS | BERMAN INSTITUTE OF BIOETHICS

STANFORD CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN GLOBAL HEALTH

### Ethical Challenges in Short-Term Global Health Training

**Homepage**

- About the Case Series
- Cases
  - ▶ Developing Cultural Understanding
  - ▶ Ensuring Personal Safety
  - ▶ Exceeding Level of Training
  - ▶ Ensuring Sustainable and Appropriate Benefits
  - ▶ Addressing "Ancillary Benefits"
  - ▶ Recognizing Burdens
  - ▶ Shifting Resources
  - ▶ Telling the "Truth"
  - ▶ Selecting a Research Project
  - ▶ Understanding Informed Consent for Research
- Additional Resources (pdf)
- Acknowledgements and Funding
- Contact Us



This course consists of a series of ten cases to introduce trainees and others involved in global health research and service to ethical issues that may arise during short-term training experiences abroad.

Each is adapted from an actual scenario. Names, locales and other details have been changed to protect privacy and help meet learning objectives. For more information about the case series, [click here](#).

We recommend that you complete the cases in order. You can navigate the site using the navigation bar at left and the "Next" button on each page.

Following each case, we ask you to complete 5 brief survey questions. Doing so will allow you to print a Certificate of Completion for that case.

**Course Objectives**

1. Demonstrate increased awareness of ethical issues involved in short-term global health programs abroad;
2. Identify strategies for dealing with these ethical issues as they arise;
3. Display increased confidence in their ability to navigate these issues; and
4. Report anticipated and actual changes in their behavior during their training program abroad.

Before beginning this course, tell us a little about yourself.

To begin the first case, click its title at left or [here](#).

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Project funding provided by Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF)

While not required, we **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** reviewing the Practitioner’s Guide to Global Health Modules (Link: <https://www.edx.org/course/the-practitioners-guide-to-global-health> )

- The content is FREE. (We do NOT require you to get a certificate of completion which requires \$)
- The practical advice regarding **cultural competencies** and **safety and logistics** is worth reviewing!



## [The Practitioner’s Guide to Global Health - edX](https://www.edx.org/course/the-practitioners-guide-to-global-health)

Identify and describe different types of global health rotations and projects and determine which ones provide the best fit for you. Identify and make plans to address logistical issues including personal, health, family, financial and security concerns.

[www.edx.org](https://www.edx.org)

## **Narrative Summary Write-Up: Guidelines**

Each student participating in an international elective experience that is approved by the International Electives Committee and funded by the Office of International Medical Student Education is required to submit a short write-up (500-1500 words) and up to three photos upon return to Weill Cornell. The objective of this write up is to have the student summarize the professional and personal impact of the experience as well as to serve as a guide for future students who are considering doing the same or similar elective at the host institution or organization. The photos will be used for the website, international reception brochures, slideshows, and other events to highlight student participation in international experiences at WCM.

**Those students, whose international experience focused on a research project, please follow the guidelines delineated in sections I, II and IV.**

**Those students, whose international experience focused on clinical service, please follow the guidelines delineated in sections I, III and IV.**

- I. General Description - Describe the general concept of your project/activity and the specific learning objectives. Include in your write up:
  - Name and location of host organization
  - Host Mentor
  - Date/duration of the elective
  - Responsibilities; i.e., description of what you did
  
- II. Research Projects (clinical, bench, quality improvement, surveys, etc.) – If you conducted research include the following sections:
  - Was IRB approval required for your project? (Yes/No/NA)
  - Background and Purpose of Study
    - Identify gaps of knowledge addressed by your project
    - Explain the purpose of your study and how your work relates to the broader field of global health
  - Objectives; i.e., What were you hoping to accomplish in this project?
  - Methods; i.e., Provide a clear description of study population and data collection/analysis
  - Results & Conclusions
    - Report and discussion of results (can be qualitative or quantitative)
    - Discuss the impact of project/study on the study population
    - Discuss future directions for your work, questions that you would like to pursue further
  
- III. Clinical Observation/ Elective Rotation – If you participated in clinical observation/ rotation/ community service/ service-learning project, include the following sections:
  - Background:
    - Discuss the unmet health needs in the community.
    - Discuss the types of clinical/ service activities in the community.
  - Objectives
    - What were you hoping to accomplish in this project?

- What were you hoping to learn from this experience?
- Present a description of the following:
  - Local community you served / patient population
  - Roles of care providers, and your roles within the healthcare team
  - Healthcare resources on site, regionally, etc., including the community organizations you worked with
  - Your clinical or service responsibilities – include scope and depth

#### IV. Personal Impact

- How did your experience meet or not meet your learning objectives?
- Describe the best aspects about the experience.
- Discuss the obstacles and opportunities that emerged during your applied experience, and how you handle these situations.
- Describe the impact your experience has on personal and professional development, including future career goals.
- List three remaining questions you still have that you would like to pursue further.
- What advice would you give future students interested in doing a similar project at the host organization?

## **International Fellows Reception Poster: Guidelines**

What should my Poster look like?

- The poster should look professional as if you are preparing a poster for a professional scientific conference.
  - Here is some guidance on creating a poster:  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2049080116301303>  
and <https://guides.nyu.edu/posters>
- We suggest you include the following sections:
  - Name & Class Year
  - Title of Project or Name of Program Site
  - Background (to the research problem, or description of the elective site)
  - Purpose of research project (For research projects only)
  - Methods (For research projects only - Describe Study Design and Sample)
  - Student's Role (Your role in the project or in the elective)
  - Results (For research projects only - Tables, figures, etc.)
  - Conclusions/Summary
  - Photos (Not tourist photos! Site photos and with mentors/colleagues)
  - Acknowledgements (WCM scholarship [if relevant] and host mentors)
  - Optional: Contact Information (Program, Student, Host Mentor)
  - MS4 Students who rotated at the same international site may collaborate to create a single poster. Please include all your names!
- Poster dimensions should be approximately 30 x 40 inches
- You can go to Weill Cornell Duplicating Department's Print Shop or use an online site to prepare your Poster. IMSE will provide the actual easel boards, tacks, and tape. IMSE does NOT reimburse you for the cost of preparing the Poster.
- Please print your posters in color.

## **Cancellation Policy for International Electives**

The organization and preparation for an international elective requires significant administrative resources and time. As the demand for spots often exceeds the supply, it is important that we optimize our use of these scarce resources. Students who wish to take an international elective must submit an application for approval to ISME (see application form on our website). Written notification of approval will be sent via email to the student. **Students will have 30 days from the date of approval notification to confirm or cancel the international elective.** This must be done in writing to the Directors of the Office of International Student Medical Education, Dr. Radhika Sundararajan and Dr. Laura Greisman ([IMSEdirectors@med.cornell.edu](mailto:IMSEdirectors@med.cornell.edu)). If the student does not respond after 30 days from the date of the approval letter, he or she will be deemed to have declined the opportunity to take the elective and the elective will be made available to another student.

Once a student has confirmed his or her intent to accept the opportunity for an approved international elective, he or she is expected to keep that commitment. If a student believes that he or she needs to cancel an international elective, he or she must provide a written request with justification to the Directors of the Office of International Medical Student Education. Compelling reasons for cancellation of a prior commitment to an international elective would include, but are not limited to, a personal illness or a major illness in a close family member (child, sibling, spouse, partner, or parent). **Students who cancel the elective and are deemed to not have provided a compelling reason for their cancellation will be required to pay \$100 to cover the administrative costs incurred in preparing for that elective.**

# Travel, Health and Safety Logistics

## Flights

- Try to purchase your tickets 3 months in advance.
- Useful websites: Google Flights, Kayak, Expedia, Priceline, Travelocity, STA Travel, StudentUniverse
- Also check individual airline company's website. Purchasing directly from airlines provides more protection for you in case the flights are cancelled or rescheduled. If you purchase through a third-party vendor (i.e., Kayak), you may not receive notifications of any flight changes.
- **We recommend buying flights that have flexibility to change dates, get credits or have free cancellation.**
- Consider purchasing flight insurance.

## Travel Documents

- Obtain up-to-date travel documents: passports and visas
- If your passport is due to expire within six months of your travel dates, you must renew before you leave the country. Failure to do so will result in your being denied entry to the host country. <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html>
- Check the State Department website for country specific details (Visa requirements, currency, health conditions, etc.): <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country.html>
- **Travel on a Tourist Visa.** Be sure your passport has a sufficient number of blank pages for visas and country stamps.
- Make copies of passport, health insurance, credit cards, and other important documents, and *keep these safely apart from your original passport & credit cards.*
- **Print a copy of the International SOS card to keep with you at all times and download the Assistance App from Weill Cornell's Office of Risk Management's website:** <https://riskmanagement.weill.cornell.edu/travel/international-travel-assistance-program>

## Housing

- Contact your host country mentor to finalize your schedule and inquire about housing options.

## Getting to the Airport in NYC

- Get to the airport on time! Some options to JFK & Newark Airports include:
  - Take the E train from Penn Station to Jamaica Station. From Jamaica, take AirTrain to JFK. AirTrain stops at all terminals.
  - Airport shuttle bus to JFK and Newark leaves from Port Authority.
  - Take NJTransit Train from 34th Street Penn Station to Newark Liberty International Airport
  - Take an Uber or taxi

## **Learn about your destination**

- Connect with students who have travelled to your destination before for firsthand perspective and tips.
  - Check out the WCMC Global Health Project Database to find contact information of students who have taken international electives.
    - <http://weill.cornell.edu/globalhealth/mappage.html>
- Buy a guidebook! Check out Lonely Planet (great pictures and cultural background of cities and attractions), Let's Go (great resource for hostel names and cheap restaurants/bars) or RoughGuide (consider copying pages that are specific for your destination).
- A Student's Guide to International Health and Funding
  - Under Publications: <http://www.amsa.org/advocacy/action-committees/global-health/international-health/>

## **Pre-Travel Health**

All students should make an appointment to see their primary care doctor or a travel medicine specialist prior to their departure to obtain necessary vaccinations, malaria prophylaxis (if indicated) and review other health and safety concerns.

- For questions please contact: <https://global.cornell.edu/travel/safety/247-travel-assistance>

## **Vaccinations**

- Visit the CDC website for required or recommended immunizations/vaccinations.
  - <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list/>
- Contact WCM Student Health Services: <https://medicaleducation.weill.cornell.edu/student-resources/student-health-services> or your personal primary care provider to ask about the availability of travel-related immunizations or pre-travel health consultation
  - Most health insurance companies do not cover the cost of travel-related immunizations or medications
- The Travel Medicine clinic at Weill Cornell provides vaccinations/immunizations. See attached list of Travel Clinics in New York City (page 17) for other options.

## **Malaria prophylaxis** (depending on your travel destination)

- CDC website lists malaria endemic areas; it is also helpful to ask your host mentor about local prevalence.
- In addition to prophylactic medications – you should bring mosquito net, bug spray (with DEET) and long-sleeved clothing/pants to protect against bites.
- Mosquito nets can be found at: REI.com, EMS.com, or Amazon.
- If you are heading to a malaria-endemic region, we strongly recommend you take prophylaxis! Malaria infection can be very serious, even fatal, and we don't want you getting sick!

## **COVID19**

- All students must be fully COVID vaccinated and boosted before international travel.
- Speak with your host mentor prior to travel to find out about the local COVID conditions, rules and regulations at the institution so that you can abide by the local rules and guidelines. You should also inquire about your local host institution/program's protocol if you were to come down with COVID-like symptoms.
- *It is your responsibility to monitor the local health department's entrance guidelines and*



*requirements for your country of travel to ensure that you can safely enter.*

- For local Covid19 Advice by destination please visit CDC/WHO sites:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travel-notice.html> OR  
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/travel-advice>
- Please bring copies of your COVID vaccination cards
- Pack a supply of N95 and surgical masks for personal use
- We recommend bringing a supply of **at least 2 Rapid Antigen tests** for personal use

### **Water Safety**

- Better safe than sorry! Avoid fresh fruits/vegetables that were likely washed in local water. Only eat fruits and vegetables with protective skin (i.e., bananas).
- Avoid mixed juice drinks, since they were also likely mixed with water.
- Avoid ice cubes in drinks.
- Consider buying water purification tablets, if traveling to rural areas.
- Ask about local ways of disinfecting water (filters and UV systems).

### **Food Safety**

- Eating street food can be one of the favorite elements of a trip. It can remain a favorite element if a few considerations are made.
- Choose freshly fried and well-cooked foods.
- Some diseases and bugs don't get killed when food is simply reheated.
- Use common sense when eating from street/food vendors.

### **General Health**

- Seek medical care if you are not well.
- Practice safe sex; use a condom.
- An enjoyable experience is the goal.
- Be smart about traveling and don't take unnecessary risks while abroad.

### **Other Travel Health Considerations**

- If you take regular medications for chronic conditions – please speak to your health care provider to ensure that you have any prescription medications (sufficient to last you several weeks beyond your scheduled travel) along with a copy of prescription/letter from your doctor.
- We recommend that you pack some basic over the counter medications to have with you – especially if you will be in a rural or remote location or a health care system in which you are not familiar. Remember in other countries common over the counter medications may have a different generic/brand name and formulation or dosing.
  - Consider taking: Acetaminophen, Ibuprofen (or NSAID of choice), Antihistamine (diphenhydramine or cetirizine), anti-diarrheal medication (pepto-bismol, immodium), oral rehydration salts, topical steroid cream, anti-fungal cream (clotrimazole), also consider clotrimazole troches for vaginal yeast infections (which can be more common in tropical locations especially if taking certain anti-malarial prophylaxis).
  - If you are taking oral contraceptive pills – remember to take extra refills in case of changes in travel plans/duration of trip.
  - If you require injectable medications during travel – please ensure that you have a sufficient supply of sterile needles, syringes and a sharps container for safe disposal + alcohol swabs.

- **First Aid Kit:** Insect repellent, sunscreen, Purell, Band-Aids, pain medication (Tylenol, Advil), moleskin, tweezers, anti-diarrheal medication (Pepto-Bismol, Imodium), feminine hygiene products, N95 Masks, gloves.
- **If you will be doing a clinical rotation – we recommend that you bring your own box of GLOVES for routine use + if doing a surgical rotation – bring your own supply of sterile gloves in your size as well as surgical masks and N95 masks and alcohol swabs to avoid depleting the local supply.**
- Prescription medications with a copy of prescription/letter from your doctor.

### Packing

- **WORK CLOTHING:** Please pack professional modest clothing – especially for your clinical rotations. If you have questions about clothing that is culturally appropriate, please ask students who have previously participated in your planned rotation or ask your host mentor.
- Please note that in many countries – professional dress in hospitals and clinics is more ‘formal’ than we typically see in our hospital. Note: SCRUBS are not typically worn unless you are in the OR.
- **WHITE COAT:** Some rotations may provide you with a ‘white coat’ to use from the local institution, while other places will expect that you bring your own. Better to bring your own just in case!
- **MEDICAL GEAR:** We recommend bringing a stethoscope, penlight, reflex hammer, Consider bringing: portable pulse oximeter (can purchase for ~\$20 on Amazon.com), portable manual BP cuff. Your own box of gloves and alcohol swabs, surgical masks, N95 masks (as not to deplete local supplies). Any other medical supplies recommended by your in-country host. Remember that any large or expensive medical equipment may incur ‘import’ taxes or impose challenges with getting through customs (even if its for personal use).
- **GIFTS:** It is nice to travel with a few inexpensive ‘souvenir’ type gifts from NYC that you can use as small tokens of thanks to give people like your host mentor or preceptors with whom you’ve worked with etc. EX: stationary, pens/penlights, baseball caps, key chains, post cards, dish towels/potholders or household items – especially if you are staying with a family in a home stay.
- Put all **valuables** (prescription medication, camera, computer, jewelry, cash, etc.) in your carry-on bag, never in your checked luggage.
- Pack a small roll of Duct tape in case you need to repair tears in your luggage.
- Label all luggage.
- Note: most airlines charge for oversized or extra bags.

## TRAVEL CLINICS IN NEW YORK CITY

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Students are encouraged to use WCM Travel Clinic (but are not required).

IMSE has partnered with Weill Cornell Medicine's Travel Clinic to provide services to students who are travelling abroad at no cost to the student. WCM's travel clinic will make special accommodations to help fit the student in based on their schedules. At least 4 weeks prior to traveling, students should contact Avi Bueno ([aeb3001@med.cornell.edu](mailto:aeb3001@med.cornell.edu)) to arrange an appointment and indicate they are a student participating in a IMSE-sponsored international elective. Should the student receive any bills from the clinic, these should be submitted to Maritza Montalvo ([mmontalv@med.cornell.edu](mailto:mmontalv@med.cornell.edu)) for processing.

WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE TRAVEL CLINIC  
1305 York Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, NY, NY 10021  
Tel: 646-962-8747  
Contact: Avi Bueno / [aeb3001@med.cornell.edu](mailto:aeb3001@med.cornell.edu)

Other Travel Clinics around NYC include the following (but are not free to WCM Students):

TRAVEL CLINIC OF NEW YORK  
1550 York Avenue (near East 82<sup>nd</sup> Street) NY, NY  
Tel: 212-380-3841

TRAVEL MEDICINE CONSULTANTS  
178 East 85<sup>th</sup> Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor (near Third Avenue) NY, NY  
Tel: 646-780-7705

TRAVEL CLINICS OF AMERICA  
1317 Third Avenue (near East 75<sup>th</sup> Street, NY, NY 10021  
Tel: 212-734-9705

TRAVELER'S MEDICAL SERVICE  
595 Madison Avenue, Suite 1200 (near East 57<sup>th</sup> Street), NY, NY 10022  
Tel: 212-230-1020

CityMD <https://www.citymd.com/services/vaccinations/travel-vaccinations-immunizations>

CVS MinuteClinic <https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/services/travel-health/N-d8Z3a3jrZd5>

New York Center for Travel and Tropical Medicine <https://www.travelhealth.net/> (practice run by Dr. Bradley Connor, WCM voluntary faculty)

## **Be Prepared for Emergencies**

- Regardless of where one may be traveling, the need for an emergency evacuation plan cannot be more strongly stressed. Political strife and instability can occur anywhere in the world and at any time. As such, travelers should have an emergency plan in place before they leave the country.
- Weill Cornell Medicine offers travel assistance to all students traveling on University-sanctioned trips. No enrollment is necessary.
- Weill Cornell Medicine has international resources available for all of its travelers at: <https://riskmanagement.weill.cornell.edu/travel>.
- Further, all faculty, students and staff are automatically covered under the medical & travel security services company “**International SOS**” plan while they travel on college business. There is no cost to the traveler. A full range of medical and emergency services is provided, including onsite emergency medical assistance services, medical evacuation and repatriation services, security, and political evacuation services.
- Each student is responsible for downloading the [International SOS card](#) and the app. The student should keep the card as well as their website URL address in a safe place when traveling abroad. Have the app on your mobile devices and log in using the WCMC policy number.
- We recommend you keep a written log of important phone numbers/emergency contacts in case of power outages or stolen phones!
- If you need further assistance, please call WCM Risk Management at 646-962-7683.

### **Know what to do in an emergency!**

- Contact the Office of International Medical Student Education. In case of an emergency (including robbery, illness, lost documents), contact the Directors ([IMSEdirectors@med.cornell.edu](mailto:IMSEdirectors@med.cornell.edu)) and Maritza Montalvo via email ([mmontalv@med.cornell.edu](mailto:mmontalv@med.cornell.edu)) or cell phone: 914-563-2303.
- Know the number and location of the U.S. Embassy and consider checking in with the embassy or consulate upon arrival to the host country.

## Emergency Protocol & Procedures Sexual Assault and Rape

Students traveling abroad may be a victim of sexual harassment or sexual assault. While sexual harassment (ranging from whistling, suggestive comments, standing too close, or unwelcome sexual advances) and sexual assault (e.g., mugging, sexual assault, rape) are rare, they can and do occur.

If you are a victim of sexually harassment, quickly get away from the individual/individuals harassing you. Call and/or scream for help. Screaming will probably scare away the individual(s) and will usually draw a crowd.

If you are involved in a sexual assault or rape while traveling abroad, the following guidelines should be followed:

- Immediately contact your WCM mentor as well as your host mentor to report the incident. If you are not comfortable talking about the incident with your host mentor, be sure that you contact your WCM mentor. Seek medical attention immediately.
- In addition to contacting your WCM mentor, also contact IMSE to report the incident ([IMSEdirectors@med.cornell.edu](mailto:IMSEdirectors@med.cornell.edu))
- **Do not** contact the local police unless your host mentor advises you to do so.
- Consider contacting the local United States Embassy or Consulate to report the assault or rape.
- If raped, seek emergency treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and follow instructions regarding HIV prophylaxis, pregnancy prevention, and prevention of STIs.
- If raped, or if the sexually assault results in injury, consider returning to the United States for emergency medical care and counseling. Student Health or the NYP emergency department can provide you with appropriate care and counseling. If you prefer to seek care from your own physician, do so. Student Health Services can be reached at 646-962-6942.
- International SOS will help arrange transport back to the United States, per the insurance policy contract.

## **Emergency Protocol & Procedures:** **Prophylaxis after HIV Exposure**

The prevalence of HIV infection is high in most countries around the world. Potential risks to medical students doing electives would include injury from a sharp, mucous membrane exposure to blood and body fluids, exposure to blood or body fluids following an accident on the road, sexual exposure, and exposure during medical care involving injections or blood transfusions. To date, there are no reports of medical students becoming HIV positive during an elective abroad; however, it is prudent to take appropriate precautions.

Students engaging in activities where there is a reasonable risk of exposure to HIV should inquire with their sponsor whether or not they will have access to Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) as part of available healthcare services, and should receive training in the local exposure protocol once they arrive on location. Students may discuss appropriate PEP regimens with their personal physicians or set up a visit with Weill Cornell Medicine Student Health Services.

If significant exposure to blood or bodily fluids occurs you should immediately follow local reporting and testing procedures at your medical host if these are available. You should immediately start post-exposure prophylaxis if you sustain a high-risk exposure. You should continue taking the prophylaxis until your re-evaluation from Student Health, or from your primary care physician after you return home. Notify Weill Cornell Medicine Student Health Services as soon as you are able to do so, for reporting and evaluation.

[Student Health Services](#): 646-962-6942.





# Picture This: Dos and Don'ts for Photography

Product of the Research & Information Support Center (RISC)

The following is based on open-source reporting.

**March 19, 2015**

## Summary

Just about everyone has a camera at his or her immediate disposal through a smartphone. It is not uncommon to want to immortalize certain individuals, experiences, sites, or scenery, especially when traveling abroad. However, individuals to be photographed might have religious or animist/indigenous beliefs that photographs steal the soul (particularly of children) or disrespect the spiritual world; gender roles may make photography difficult, precluding women from being photographed; and security apparatus (police and military) generally do not want to be photographed. Some people simply want to be paid for being photographed. However, foreign laws and customs governing what is permissible to photograph can vary vastly from U.S. norms.

## Dos & Don'ts for Photography Abroad

Behavior that might be deemed inappropriate includes: lewd or lascivious acts, kissing, drinking alcohol, and immodest skin exposure. Edifices that might be deemed sensitive might include: government buildings, voting centers and processes, embassies, military facilities and vehicles (including airplanes), religious structures, and palaces. Scenery might include: war zones, sacred grounds, archeological sites, and tribal artifacts.

The use of the "selfie stick," a telescoping rod to take photographs of oneself from approximately one meter's distance, is banned in many locations, to include museums and art galleries, particularly in Europe.

Villagers in rural areas are sometimes suspicious of strangers, especially if they are not prone to seeing many people from outside their own community or country. There have been several incidents of violence in rural areas of Kenya, for instance, against Kenyan and foreign adults suspected of stealing children. Be aware that close contact with children, including taking their pictures or giving them gifts, can be viewed with deep alarm in some cultures, and may provoke panic and/or violence.

In some cases, anti-photography laws exist but are generally not pursued. For example, photographing the Eiffel Tower in Paris at night is [technically](#) a copyright infringement and, thus, illegal. Or, in Romania and Bulgaria, public buildings can be photographed, but those images cannot be sold. Further, in March 2014, [Hungary](#) made taking a photograph of people illegal unless everyone included has given permission; however, vagaries in the civil code leave room for interpretation.

## Case Studies in 2014 and 2015

In mid-March 2015, OSAC staff members visited Turkmenistan and were told not to photograph government buildings, which are rarely clearly identified as such but are numerous in Ashgabat. After photographing carcasses in a meat market, they were approached and told not to do so again. The staff members left the stall but were overtly surveilled and followed by two men for some time.

Also in mid-March, [Thailand](#) made posting specific 'selfies' online, a trend common with female tourists, illegal under the Computer Crime Act, [punishable](#) by five years of jail time and a 100,000 baht (U.S.\$3,035) fine.

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*The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.*



In early March, two U.S. citizens carved their names into Rome's [Coliseum](#) walls and then photographed themselves and their act of vandalism. The two were arrested for [aggravated damage](#) and may face fines and jail time. The Coliseum has [signage](#) in English and Italian that defacing the structure is prohibited.

In early February 2015, U.S. sisters were [arrested and deported](#) from Cambodia for taking inappropriate photographs of themselves in the Preah Khan Angkor temple, a World Heritage site. They were [charged](#) with "indecent trafficking of pornography and exposing sexual organs." The sisters were sentenced to a six-month suspended prison term, fined the equivalent of U.S.\$315, and banned from the country for four years.

In October 2014, a U.S. citizen was [arrested](#) in the United Arab Emirates and charged with charged with taking pictures of a restricted area. He was held in the al-Wathba prison, charged, fined the equivalent of U.S.\$135, and [released](#) after 29 days incarceration. The U.S. citizen was to speak at a conference and then travel on to Malaysia. However, as in many cases, the detention was allegedly not communicated to the Embassy or to his contacts, and only after the U.S. citizen did not appear in Malaysia days later did his friends become concerned and begin searching for him.

### Impact to Private Sector

Depending on what country is involved, visitors who violate local law or custom can be detained for lengthy periods, charged stiff fines, and/or be declared *persona non grata*. Not knowing local laws and customs is not excusable in the eyes of the court or police. Further, photographic [documentation](#) of illegal activities can be used in most judicial trials, as was the case when a fish poacher photographed himself with an illegal weapon in Wales, U.K. Prisons overseas are not kept to U.S. standards, and prolonged detainment under such conditions may lead to biological and psychological maladies. Further, should a detained individual be representing a corporate entity, an arrest could cause unwanted business tensions. The notoriety that would likely come, at least online if not in mainstream media, may be damaging personally, making future academic or professional pursuits challenging. For example, in March 2014, four U.S. citizens were arrested for 'streaking' at [Machu Picchu](#) in Peru, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. They were photographed by other tourists, and these and other 'streaking' photographs and videos have circulated online. Peruvian Ministry of Culture [authorities](#) are increasing surveillance measures, requiring guides and specific routes, and cracking down on a behavior that tarnishes the ancient citadel.

### Guidance



In tourist destinations, including museums or galleries, and near diplomatic buildings signs will often be posted if photography is not allowed. These signs generally have a traditional camera, or increasingly an image of a cell phone, with a red circle and single diagonal line (see right image). However, in other cases, there is no signage or it is unclear. A similar sign may restrict flash photography (see left image) or videography. When traveling overseas, it is always a good idea to ask an individual directly if he

or she is agreeable to being photographed or to ask the authorities if photography is permitted in the area. Perusing OSAC [Crime and Safety Reports](#) is a best practice, as they often include information on photography.

### For Further Information

For additional information on global diseases and pandemic outbreaks, please contact OSAC's [Health and Disease Analyst](#). For country-specific concerns, please contact the appropriate regional analyst.

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# Weill Cornell Medicine

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**Payee Name:**

**Payee Mailing Address:**

**Payee CWID:**

Expenditure Type	Description	Amount (USD)
Domestic - Air/Rail Travel		
Domestic - Ground Transportation		
Domestic - Lodging		
Domestic - Meals		
Domestic - Business Meals		
Domestic - Business Entertainment		
Domestic - Conf/Seminar Fee		
Domestic - Other		
International - Air/Rail Travel		
International - Ground Transportation		
International - Lodging		
International - Meals		
International - Business Meals		
International - Business Entertainment		
International - Conf/Seminar Fee		
International - Other		

**Total Expense Amount:**

*Employee: I certify that these are all legitimate WMC business expenses.*

**Payee Signature:**

**Date:**

## **IMSE Pre-Departure Worksheet**

Revised: September 2022

Name \_\_\_\_\_ International Elective Location \_\_\_\_\_

A. How prepared do you feel to undertake your international elective experience? (consider: language skills, cultural competency, scientific knowledge, prior travel experiences, etc.)

B. What do you think will be the three most personally challenging components of your international elective experience? (consider your answer above, and other factors such as interpersonal relationships, dietary restrictions, religious practices, gender-based issues, hobbies, etc.)

1:

2:

3:

C. What do you expect to learn from your experience? Please list three learning objectives for yourself (these do not have to be 'scientific' findings).

1:

2:

3:

D. What do you think are the most important health problems to the people living where you will be on rotation?

1:

2:

3:

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## Code of Conduct for Students Traveling Abroad

As a representative of Weill Cornell Medical College and the Office of International Medical Student Education, I will hold myself to the highest standards of professionalism, respect and courtesy.

I will always act in the best interests of my patients, hosts and colleagues. I recognize that personal behaviors, research skills and competencies are culturally framed and resource-dependent. I will therefore refrain from passing judgment or expressing opinions that are insensitive to those contextual frameworks.

I will not make promises to patients or local clinicians regarding allocation of resources at the local institution or financial assistance from my institution. I will not perform clinical or research-related tasks that are beyond my level of training or outside of my scope of practice.

I will use discretion when taking photographs. I will seek permission with transparency of purpose from individuals I wish to photograph.

I will respect the privacy of my host community and will not post patient or facility information on internet venues (such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or personal blogs) without explicit permission and consent. I will refrain from making comments about my host institution or study participants on social media, and will limit my comments about the experience in emails to friends and family.

I will respect and comply with the rules, regulations, and cultural standards of both the US and my host country and institution, and I will attend to any legal problems that I encounter. My host institution is not responsible for providing legal assistance for any legal issues that are secondary to misconduct on my behalf.

I will refrain from participating in political activity.

I will dress in a culturally appropriate and professional manner.

I will not utilize motorcycle taxis under any circumstances.

I will avoid walking alone after dark when possible and other activities that may compromise my safety or well-being.

I understand that both my institution and my host institution have the right to enforce the standards of the code of conduct as described, and that the institutions have the right to impose sanctions, up to and including early termination of the international rotation with need for immediate return to New York/Weill Cornell, loss of stipend/funding, and/or a formal Professionalism Report for violating these standards or for any behavior detrimental to or incompatible with the interest, harmony, and welfare of my institution, the host institution, or my patients.

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date