
International Travel Safety

Safety and Preparedness
Suggestions to Manage Risks

December 7, 2022

Plan

1) MIT Travel Risk Policies

❖ Students

❖ Faculty and Employees

- Risk levels based on US State Department Travel Advisories
- DOS Level 3 and 4 are prohibited to students and require a policy waiver application
- Policy requires travel registration where travelers will sign a risk acknowledgement form for all locations.
- Global Support site: <https://globalsupport.mit.edu/travel-safety-abroad/>

2) International SOS (ISOS): www.internationalsos.com

MIT's contracted provider for medical/security information & assistance globally 24/7 (outside the USA)

- Not insurance
- MIT membership number: **11BSGC000066**
- Save the main number in phone contacts
 - Call collect: **+1-215-942-8478**
- Download the app to your smart phone
 - Offers Live Chat feature over wireless

Prepare

3) US State Department

- Check travel risk/country information: travel.state.gov
- Sign up for State Department's STEP: step.state.gov

4) MIT Travel Registry: travel.mit.edu

- Register trip information including location, dates, contact info
- Travel Admin tool for department admins to manage travel registration data for groups (no proxy function)
 - URL: travel-admin.mit.edu

Prepare

5) Health Insurance

- Students: Institute provides up to \$100K international emergency health insurance coordinated through ISOS. Check insurance.mit.edu for further information
- Faculty/Staff: review coverage with your own providers

6) Communications

- Review IS&T presentation on Tech Tips & Cyber Safety
- Don't rely exclusively on wireless networks in case of emergency; know telecomms infrastructure of location.
- Identify local trusted contacts and alerts

While You're Abroad

7) Transportation Safety

- Driving in foreign countries (programs prohibit)
- Road safety (e.g., seatbelts, emergency kits, etc.)
- Ride sharing providers
- International Travel Risk Policy restrictions (mode location, time)

8) Accommodation Safety

- Fire exits, fire safety, lighting
- Secure locks
- Access monitoring and building security
- Program or host recommendations
- Potential online fraud

While You're Abroad

9) Be a Hard Target

- Demonstrate alertness/awareness of surroundings, particularly in crowded areas
- Wear closed-toed/lace up shoes (fast get-away)
- Avoid solo travel (buddy system), be more careful at night
- Carry a mugger's wallet
- Use credit card where possible and withdraw money at safe ATM locations
- If confronted, don't be a hero: hand over valuables and avoid eye contact
- Add'l recommendations vary by location, please research

While You're Abroad

10) Emergencies

While abroad, ISOS is your key point of contact in the event of an emergency. (They will notify MIT)

- In case of medical emergency, seek care at the nearest medical facility. If you do not know where this is, or if follow-up and support services are needed, contact ISOS.
- In a natural disaster (both pre/post event) or a political type event such as civil unrest or a terrorist attack, contact ISOS immediately.
- In a criminal event, such as assault or robbery, contact ISOS. They will assist in providing further direction on contacting local resources.
- ISOS provides trip risk briefs as well (24/7)

Questions?

Please contact Todd Holmes: tholmes@mit.edu