

## UC San Diego Opportunities Abroad Program (OAP)

### Student Participation with Study Abroad In Countries with U.S. State Department Travel Warnings

The safety and security of UC San Diego students abroad is of the utmost importance. While we encourage students to participate in educational opportunities throughout the world, **when there are recognized regional dangers, instabilities, or severe health risks, we strongly recommend that UC San Diego students not participate in OAP study abroad programs in countries with travel warnings.** U.S. State Department Travel Warnings are on line at: <http://travel.state.gov/travel/warnings.html>

**Prospective OAP participants** are advised not to enter countries or regions with an existing U.S. State Department Travel Warning. They will be counseled to identify and consider alternative locations. Students considering OAP participation in a country with an existing Travel Warning must read the Travel Warning in the presence of the OAP Advisor, and must also discuss the risks of living in that location with the OAP Advisor.

**Definite OAP participants** should know that the UC Office of the President has a policy that facilitates study abroad in travel warning countries. The policy allows UC students to have coursework from institutions in travel warning countries evaluated by the UCSD Admissions Office prior to departure. And, students who qualify for state and federal financial aid based on the FAFSA, will be able to use this aid for study abroad programs in travel warning countries. Advisors in the Programs Abroad Office (PAO) have OAP Travel Warning paperwork that must be completed prior to departure.

#### Next Steps:

1. If you have not already done so, please begin by attending a First Steps Meeting. These are offered regularly at PAO.
2. You can then meet with a study abroad adviser who advises for countries with travel warnings. Bring along copies of course descriptions and syllabi if you have them. Be sure they include the number of units. If you qualify for financial aid under FAFSA, they will also give you the consortium or contractual agreement form necessary to use your financial aid for study abroad.
3. After meeting with your study abroad adviser in PAO, you will route the paperwork to the Admissions Office. They will determine if your courses will transfer to UC San Diego and how many units you will earn.
4. Then route the OAP paperwork to your college and departmental academic counselors who can help you select courses appropriate to your academic and professional goals, including an evaluation of how the units may apply to your major, minor or general education requirements.
5. Return the completed OAP Travel Warning Paperwork to your advisor in PAO.
6. If you qualify for financial aid, a copy of your completed OAP paperwork will be forwarded to the Financial Aid Office. You must complete at least 12 units per quarter during the regular academic year in order to receive financial aid.

**When a Travel Warning is issued after an OAP program has commenced** we will advise OAP students in the region about the Travel Warning. We will strongly encourage UC San Diego students to withdraw from their OAP program and leave the area covered by the Travel Warning even if their program continues to operate.