

WABASH COLLEGE

December 1, 2015

To: Wabash College
From: Amy Weir, Director of International Programs
Re: International Travel

In the aftermath of the recent attacks in Paris, France, the US Department of State recently issued a [Worldwide Travel Alert](#) to American citizens due to increased terrorist threats. It is important to understand that a Travel Alert is issued for short-term events the Department of State thinks US citizens should be aware of when traveling to another country or countries. A Travel Alert is less severe than a Travel Warning, which is issued by the Department of State when the agency wants travelers to carefully consider traveling to a certain country at all.

Wabash College is committed to the health and safety of our students, and we are taking steps to review safety procedures with our students, reminding them of the precautions they should take while traveling to minimize risk. We will continue to take every opportunity to advise and educate our students who are currently studying abroad and those who are planning to study abroad next semester. At this time, we are planning to proceed with our faculty-led immersion programs, and we understand that our partnering study abroad providers (for the full semester abroad) are planning to continue their programs. However, should the Department of State issue a Travel Warning advising US citizens not to travel to any of the cities where our students are studying abroad, we are prepared to evacuate our students immediately.

The International Center is prepared to answer questions and help our students and their parents to make informed decisions about academic international study. Please contact Amy Weir, the Director of International Programs, for assistance at weira@wabash.edu or (765) 361-6078. The following is a list of the precautions we are sharing with our students:

- Remain alert to your surroundings at all times.
- Avoid all protests, demonstrations, and large public gatherings, as they can turn violent.
- Follow local, national, and international news reports closely.
- Make sure you report all independent travel with your study abroad provider before you depart, so the provider's staff can reach you immediately in case of an emergency.
- Walk away at the first sign of trouble, such as suspicious person, packages, or activities.
- Keep a low profile when in public and avoid clothing or behaviors that would readily identify you as an American.
- Keep your cell phone with you, fully charged and turned on at all times, responding immediately to any calls or messages from the Wabash College International Center or your study abroad provider's staff.
- Consult the US Department of State [website for advice to students abroad](#), paying particular attention to the "[Smart Travel](#)" and "[Emergencies](#)" sections.
- Register with the US Department of State [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP) to automatically receive travel alerts and warnings.