

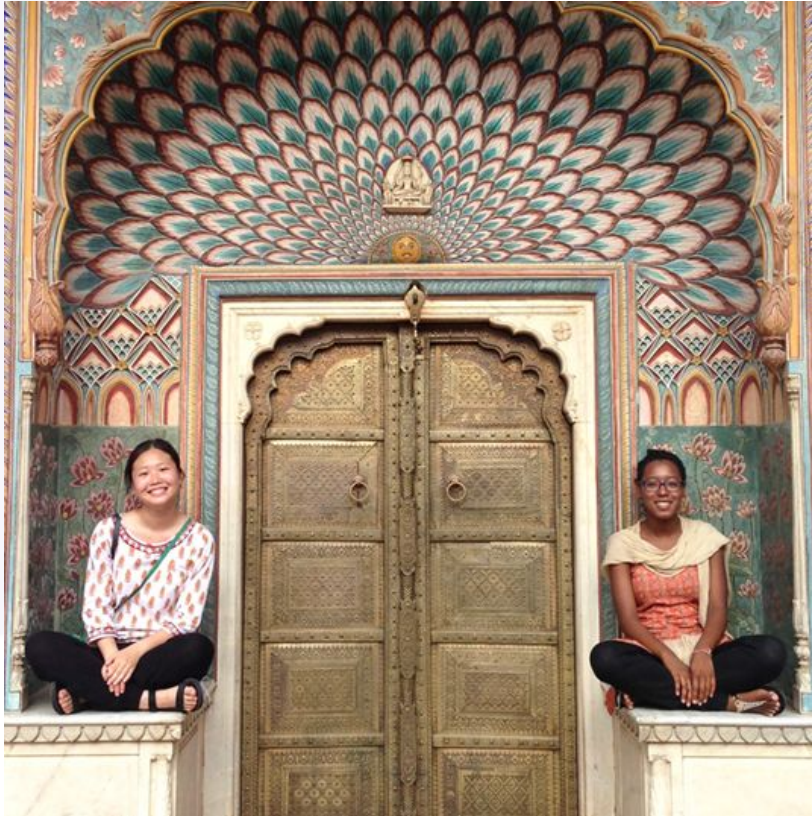
# Managing Risk And Prioritizing Safety When Expanding To New Destinations

*April 25, 2024*



The IDEAS (Increase and Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students) Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by World Learning.

# USA Study Abroad



## Mission:

The **Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)**'s mission is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange that assist in the of the United States and global society. development of peaceful relations. ECA is committed to fairness, equity and inclusion, and its programs strive to reflect the diversity



55,000 participants engage in exchange programs funded by ECA annually



15,000 American participants travel abroad on exchanges each year



101 U.S. public and private non-profit institutions funded



Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State



**IDEAS**  
PROGRAM

# IDEAS Program

A program of the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, USA Study Abroad branch

**Seeks to broaden U.S. higher education institutions' capacity to grow study abroad programs for U.S. students**

- Increase number of all students studying abroad, particularly those from historically underrepresented groups
- Increase the number of U.S. higher education institutions offering study abroad programs
- Expand study abroad to new overseas destinations, particularly those that are less common

## **Grant Competition**

- Approximately 35 grants of up to \$35,000
- Approximately one consortium grant of up to \$50,000

## **Capacity Building Initiatives**

- Virtual and in-person, open to everyone



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**145**  
grantees

**47**  
U.S.  
states +  
D.C. and  
P.R.

**\$5.4**  
million  
awarded

**10,000**  
estimated  
students  
impacted

## **IDEAS Grant Competition**

**IDEAS**  
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BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS  
U.S. Department of State



# Bureau of Consular Affairs

Supporting the Safety of U.S. Citizens  
Abroad

April 25, 2024

# Where We Are – The United States and Abroad

THE BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS HAS A PRESENCE IN

**29**  **+2**  VISA CENTERS IN THE U.S.

PASSPORT AGENCIES AND CENTERS

THE BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS HAS A PRESENCE IN

**OVER 250**  EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES AROUND THE WORLD

THE BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS EMPLOYS

**~9,000** PEOPLE WORLDWIDE



# Mission Statement

***CA's highest priority is to protect the lives and serve the interests of U.S. citizens abroad.***

Across the globe, we serve our fellow citizens during some of their most important moments – births, adoptions, medical emergencies, deaths, arrests, and disasters. We also help U.S. citizens connect with the world by issuing millions of U.S. passports each year.

***We keep the United States safe and help foreign nationals connect with the United States by issuing visas to qualified visitors, workers, and immigrants.***

Led by the Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs, our team is proud to be the public face of the Department of State, representing the best of U.S. values to millions of people around the world.

***We are here to serve you.***



# What We Do – Overview

- **Domestic Passport Services**
- **Routine U.S. Citizens Overseas Services**
- **Emergency Assistance to U.S. Citizens in Crisis Overseas**
- **Intercountry Adoption**
- **Prevent and Resolve Cases of International Parental Child Abduction**
- **Visa Services for Foreign National Travelers to the United States**





# Domestic Passport Services

## Issue Passports to U.S. Citizens!

- In FY 2023, issued over 24 million U.S. passports
- That same FY, there were over 160 million valid U.S. passports in circulation – nearly half of all U.S. citizens have passports.

## TIP: Check Passport Validity! Renew Early!

- Some countries require passports be valid 6 months beyond trip
- Apply early: 6 months before planned trip

### *Passport Book or Card?*

- *Book: for international air travel*
- *Card: for land/sea travel to/from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, and Caribbean countries*



# Travel Advisory Levels 1-4

**1** Exercise normal precautions

Lowest risk. There is some risk in any international travel.

**2** Exercise increased caution

Heightened risks to safety and security

**3** Reconsider travel

Reconsider travel due to serious risks to safety and security.

**4** Do not travel

Highest advisory level: Greater likelihood of life-threatening risks. USG may have very limited ability to provide aid. DOS advises U.S. citizens to not travel or leave as soon as it is safe to do so.



# Travel Advisory Risk Indicators

- **C – Crime:** Widespread violent/organized crime is present. Local law enforcement may have limited ability to respond.
- **T – Terrorism:** Terrorist attacks have occurred and/or specific threats may exist.
- **U – Civil Unrest:** Political, economic, religious, and/or ethnic instability may cause violence, major disruptions, and/or safety risks.
- **H – Health:** Health risks, including current outbreaks or a crisis that disrupts medical infrastructure, are present.
- **N – Natural Disaster:** A natural disaster or its aftermath poses danger.
- **E – Time-limited Event:** Short-term event may pose safety risks.
- **K – Kidnapping or Hostage Taking:** Criminals or terrorists have threatened to and/or have seized or detained and threatened individuals to compel a third party (including a govt) to do or abstain from doing something as a condition of release.
- **D – Wrongful Detention:** The risk of wrongful detention exists
- **O – Other:** Covers potential risks not covered by previous risk indicators.



# Crisis Management - What We Can and Can't Do

**The best time to leave a country is before a crisis, if possible**



- ✓ Advise U.S. citizens to leave if it is safe to do so or to shelter in place
- ✓ Provide information on evacuation routes and commercial transportation
- ✓ Provide loans to facilitate repatriation or evacuation



- Pay for evacuations
- Provide transportation within a country to individuals or groups
- Guarantee evacuations

**OUR #1 SUPPORT TOOL: INFORMATION!**



# Personal Emergencies – What We Can and Can't Do



- ✓ Provide emergency passports
- ✓ Visit detained U.S. citizens to ensure receipt of medical care; contact approved POCs; provide info on attorneys, legal processes, etc.
- ✓ Provide repatriation loans; facilitate \$ transfer
- ✓ Contact local authorities and institutions to try to locate missing persons
- ✓ Help address emergency needs of crime victims

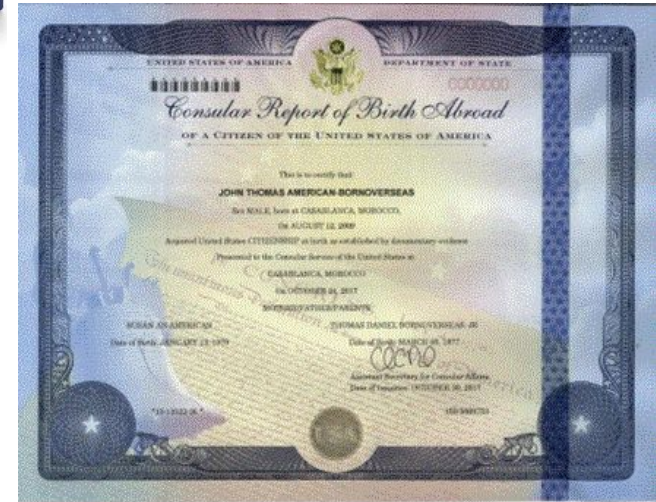


- Get U.S. citizens out of jail
- Provide legal advice
- Investigate crimes against U.S. citizens
- Pay legal, medical, or other fees
- Provide private information about an U.S. citizen to anyone (*e.g.* family, friends, members of Congress) without their written consent



# Routine U.S. Citizen Services Overseas

- Renew U.S. Citizen Passports
- Issue Consular Reports of Birth and Death Abroad
- Support Voting through the Federal Voting Assistance Program
- Support Intercountry Adoption Efforts
- Update U.S. Citizens on Conditions Overseas
  - Detailed Country Information
  - Travel Alerts and Advisories



# Country Specific Information Pages



[Travel.State.Gov](#) > [International Travel](#) > Learn About Your Destination

## Learn About Your Destination

Where Are You Traveling?

Learn About Your Destination

### Quick Facts

#### PASSPORT VALIDITY:

6 months recommended, 3 months beyond your date of departure is required

#### VACCINATIONS:

None

#### BLANK PASSPORT PAGES:

1 page per stamp

#### CURRENCY RESTRICTIONS FOR ENTRY:

None

#### TOURIST VISA REQUIRED:

None required for less than 90 days

#### CURRENCY RESTRICTIONS FOR EXIT:

None

Embassies and Consulates



Destination Description



Entry, Exit and Visa Requirements



Safety and Security



Local Laws & Special Circumstances



Health



Travel and Transportation



## Assistance for U.S. Citizens

### U.S. Embassy Madrid

Calle Serrano, 75  
28006 Madrid, Spain

**Telephone**  
(34) 91-587-2200

**Emergency**  
(34) 91-587-2200

**Fax**  
(34) 91-587-2303

**Email**  
[madridacs@state.gov](mailto:madridacs@state.gov)

**Website**  
<https://es.mwp.usembassy.gov/>



# Travel Advisory Varying Levels

## Mexico Travel Advisory

Travel Advisory  
August 22, 2023

See State Summaries



*Reissued after periodic review with general security updates, and the removal of obsolete COVID-19 page links.*

**Country Summary:** Violent crime – such as homicide, kidnapping, carjacking, and robbery – is widespread and common in Mexico. The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in many areas of Mexico, as travel by U.S. government employees to certain areas is prohibited or restricted. In many states, local emergency services are limited outside the state capital or major cities.

U.S. citizens are advised to adhere to restrictions on U.S. government employee travel. State-specific restrictions are included in the individual state advisories below. U.S. government employees may not travel between cities after dark, may not hail taxis on the street, and must rely on dispatched vehicles, including app-based services like Uber, and regulated taxi stands. U.S. government employees should avoid traveling alone, especially in remote areas. U.S. government employees may not drive from the U.S.-Mexico border to or from the interior parts of Mexico, except daytime travel within Baja California and between Nogales and Hermosillo on Mexican Federal Highway 15D, and between Nuevo Laredo and Monterrey on Highway 85D.

Read the [country information page](#) for additional information on travel to Mexico.

### Do Not Travel To:

- [Colima state](#) due to **crime** and kidnapping.
- [Guerrero state](#) due to **crime**.
- [Michoacan state](#) due to **crime** and kidnapping.
- [Sinaloa state](#) due to **crime** and kidnapping.
- [Tamaulipas state](#) due to **crime** and kidnapping.
- [Zacatecas state](#) due to **crime** and kidnapping.

### Reconsider Travel To:

- [Baja California state](#) due to **crime** and kidnapping.
- [Chihuahua state](#) due to **crime** and kidnapping.
- [Durango state](#) due to **crime**.
- [Guanajuato state](#) due to **crime** and kidnapping.
- [Jalisco state](#) due to **crime** and kidnapping.
- [Morelos state](#) due to **crime**.
- [Sonora state](#) due to **crime** and kidnapping.

### Exercise Increased Caution When Traveling To:

- [Aguascalientes state](#) due to **crime**.
- [Baja California Sur state](#) due to **crime**.
- [Chiapas state](#) due to **crime**.
- [Coahuila state](#) due to **crime**.
- [Hidalgo state](#) due to **crime**.
- [Mexico City](#) due to **crime**.

...etc.





# Alerts and STEP



Smart  
Traveler  
Enrollment  
Program

[step.state.gov](https://step.state.gov)



SECURITY  
ALERT



DEMONSTRATION  
ALERT



TRAVEL ADVISORY  
**LEVEL 4**  
DO NOT TRAVEL



HEALTH  
ALERT



NATURAL DISASTER  
ALERT



# Additional Communication



TRAVEL  
SAFE



TRAVEL  
SMART



TRAVEL.STATE.GOV





# Thank you!

[step.state.gov](https://step.state.gov)

[travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov)

@TravelGov



Smart  
Traveler  
Enrollment  
Program



# Madison Area Technical College

- Large **community and technical college** in Madison, WI
- Associate degrees only
- Serve over **25,000 students** w/ unduplicated headcount of 7,200
  - ½ in technical degree programs and ½ in Liberal Arts Transfer
- Largest **feeder school** to both University of Wisconsin- Madison and University of WI system schools
- Seamless transfer to 140+ schools
- Study Abroad, Virtual Exchange, Global Studies Certificate, African Studies Certificate
- Pre-Pandemic ~ 100 Study Abroad Students and 200 F-1 Visa Holders
- **Gilman Top Producer** for AY2020-2021
- 2023 **IDEAS Grant** Recipient

# Program Proposal Process

**1. Meet with Center for International Education (CIE) staff to discuss ideas**

**2. Submit Proposal Form and Budget**

Supervisor or Dean and Program/Department Support

**3. International Education Committee Review**

Criteria for Program Evaluation























**4. Administrative Approval (Spend Authorization, Provost, President, Board)**

**5. Work with CIE on program implementation**

**6. Complete all Workday financial reporting**

# Program Proposal Process - Forms



Online requirements from Deployment Rules		
Name ↑	Type	Actions
Faculty Program Proposal - Budget and Funding Plan	Questionnaire	 
Faculty Program Proposal - Development and Approval Steps	Learning Content	 
Faculty Program Proposal - Development Guidelines	Learning Content	 
Faculty Program Proposal - Emergency Response Plans	Questionnaire	 
Faculty Program Proposal - General Information	Questionnaire	 
Faculty Program Proposal - Leader Expectations	Signature document	 
Faculty Program Proposal - Learning Outcomes/Institutional Goals	Questionnaire	 
Faculty Program Proposal - Marketing Description	Questionnaire	 
Faculty Program Proposal - Supervisor and Dean Information	Questionnaire	 
Faculty Program Proposal - Travel Itinerary	Questionnaire	 
Faculty Program Proposal: Education Abroad Faculty Handbook	Learning Content	 



# Criteria for Program Evaluation

1. Educational Value – Will provide significant contribution to learning at program, institutional, or community levels.
2. Program Leadership – Adequate number of program leads, sufficient content expertise, and adequate program preparation.
3. Appropriateness of Site/Location – Appropriate for learning needs, diversity of program offerings, and program safety.
4. Adequate Planning – Appropriate budget, itinerary, logistics, and other program details.
5. Risk Management – Adequate attention to health and safety of program participants.
6. Strategic/Institutional Value – Promotes/Strengthens institutional goals or strategic partnerships.
7. Assessment of Learning Outcomes and Institutional Goals – Adequate plan to assess, record, and share program outcomes.

# Site Selection



## Conceptual Planning Questions

- Initial Program Design
- Program Development/ Curricular Connections
- Learning Design
- Language Learning
- Culture
- Students and Participants
- Timeline
- Program Site Considerations (housing, on-site staff, local interaction)
- Health and Safety
- Cost/ Program Fees

## Monitoring Country and Site Information

- <http://travel.state.gov/>
- <https://studyabroad.state.gov/>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/>
- <https://www.osac.gov/>

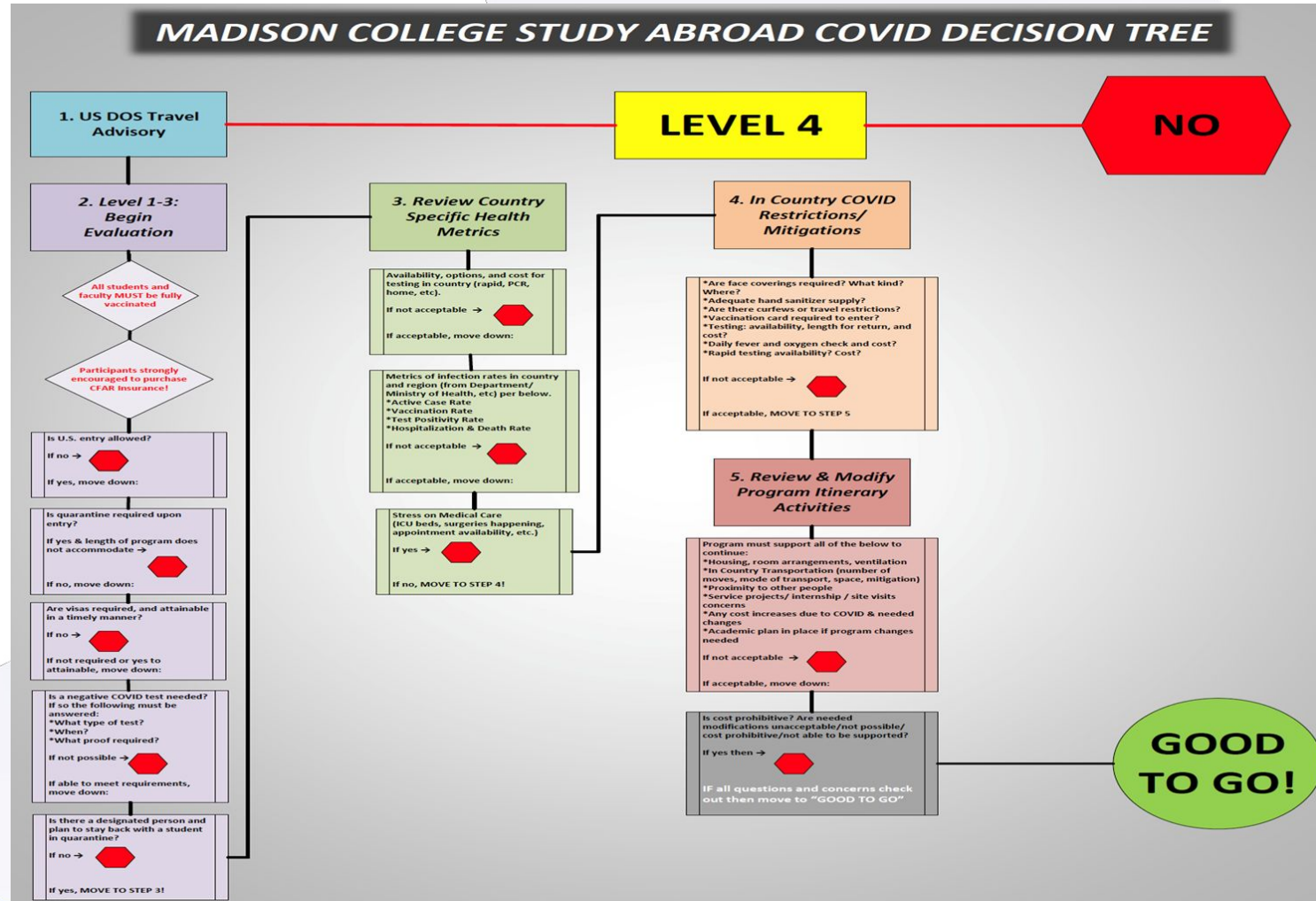
## Road Safety

- <http://www.asirt.org/>





# Assessing Potential Risks (ex. COVID)



# University of Georgia

Academic Year 2022 - 2023

- Research 1 Public University
- Land-grant and sea-grant university
- Overall enrollment: 40,118
  - Undergraduates: 30,166
  - Graduates: 9,952
- 3,108 students abroad for UGA credit
- 3,708 students abroad total
- Students traveled to 88 different countries
- #6 in nation for overall study abroad participation
- #3 for short-term study abroad program participation
- 2019 **IDEAS** grant recipient and workshop host



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# Risk Management Partners and Resources



## Internal Partners

- Risk Management Advisory Board
- New Study Abroad Program Proposal Committee
- Bilateral Exchange Program Committee
- Committees and internal staff review programs every year and make recommendations

## Resources

- [UGA International Travel Policy](#)
- [UGA Accompanying Individuals Policy](#)
- [OSAC/Department of State](#)
- [OnCall International](#)
- [Terra Dotta/Alert Traveler](#)
- [CISI Insurance/AXA Assistance](#)
- [PULSE](#)
- [UGA Emergency Response Protocol](#)

# Program Proposal and Annual Reviews



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Stakeholders at each level are involved in submitting proposals, reviewing programs, and supporting students and faculty abroad. Academic departments provide letters of support as part of petitions for graduate research/independent experiences in high-risk locations.

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# New Bilateral Exchange Program Review



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## India – OP Jindal Global University

- Site visit with Law School faculty  
(OSAC Risk Matrix)
- Considerations for graduate students
- No student travel yet – anticipated  
Spring 2025



- Required pre-departure and on-site orientations
- Student feedback to be collected

## Turkey – Istanbul Technical University

- Site visit with Director of Global  
Education and Exchange Advisor  
(OSAC Risk Matrix)
- Visit took place Spring 2023, 1st UGA  
student in Spring 2024 (Truman  
Scholar)



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# New Faculty-Led Program Review - Undergraduates



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*Global Education*

## India

- Infectious disease hands-on lab research (One Health)
- Proposal committee recommendations and adjustments (women travelers, roads, food/water, animals, lab safety, free time)
- Rabies vaccination and travel clinic consultation required
- Multiple mandatory pre-departure orientations
- Global Education Director traveling with program for 1st year

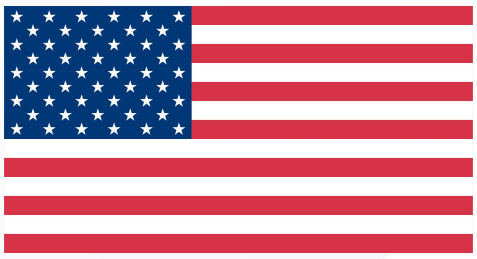
## Poland

- Animal health observations and site visits
- Standard health and safety recommendations
- Travel clinic recommended, not required
- Mandatory pre-departure orientation
- Program development grant funding for pre-program site visit

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# Q&A





World Learning  
EDUCATION | DEVELOPMENT | EXCHANGE

## Stay in touch with the IDEAS Program!

Email

[IDEAS@worldlearning.org](mailto:IDEAS@worldlearning.org)

Website

[StudyAbroadCapacityBuilding.org](http://StudyAbroadCapacityBuilding.org)

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ideas-program>

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