

Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 281

TO: Faculty and Staff
FROM: Charles Steger 
DATE: April 17, 2013
SUBJECT: University-Affiliated International Travel for Student Groups

Virginia Tech's long-range plan reinforces the value of international engagement and the need to intensify our focus in the international arena. The university has a number of very strong international programs, and their success is due to the hard work of faculty who conceived the programs and made them a reality. Such initiatives are applauded and encouraged.

However, in the context of the university's historically decentralized approach to international engagement, the university's Safety and Security Policy Committee has been considering the issue of the welfare of members of the university community who are engaged in university-affiliated international travel, which includes study abroad and service-learning programs as well as other types of travel. At the recommendation of that committee and with the support of Academic Council (deans, vice presidents, and major institute directors), I have appointed Guru Ghosh, soon-to-become Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs, to chair a task force to examine best practices at other universities and to provide policy recommendations with respect to safety and security to me by the beginning of the fall semester.

As an interim measure, the Office of the Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs immediately will create a data base to maintain information about all university-affiliated international travel programs and the participants in those programs. **Effective immediately, all university employees planning university-affiliated international travel for student groups are required to contact the Office of the Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs and provide all information requested well in advance of travel.** Non-compliance will result in all sources of funding for the travel program being withheld.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation to ensure to the extent possible the welfare of those participating in university-affiliated international travel. Please direct any questions to Dr. Guru Ghosh at gghosh@vt.edu or 1-7888.