

# Safety

## Are Global Programs safe?

Given the current global situation, it is natural to have concerns about travel plans. It is not InterVarsity's practice to put students into danger. We take student safety very seriously. While there are risks in overseas travel, going overseas does not automatically imply danger any more than staying home automatically implies safety.

We estimate a location's relative safety using a few information sources.

- The U.S. State Department issues warnings for locations it deems unsafe for Americans traveling abroad.
- We also seek advice from a Christian consulting agency, Crisis Consulting International, which specializes in equipping Americans serving in hostile locations.
- In addition to these sources, we will follow the advice of our on-site hosts in the foreign location. As residents, they are experts on the safety and risks in their area.

At appropriate times during the year, the Director of Global Programs will convene the President of InterVarsity, our legal counsel, and other leaders to review programs planned for locations deemed unsafe. On several occasions, we have helped program leaders redirect their teams due to safety concerns. More often, we have gathered sufficient evidence that the locations in question are not as dangerous as reported, or that our program is located far from the area of concern. Contingency plans are made in the event of an emergency. If there is any question about student safety, the President of InterVarsity is responsible for deciding whether we will travel.

In addition to assessing the safety of our Global Program locations, we train our program directors and staff in crisis management procedures. While Global Program teams are abroad, our office staff are always available to support and advise program directors in an emergency. We are confident that InterVarsity staff will continue to lead with clear-headedness and wisdom as they call our students to be responsible global citizens. Global Programs directors can find a copy of the Overseas Crisis Management document in the "onsite" section of the GP director resources on our website.