

# Tulane

Office of Insurance and Risk Management  
300 Gibson Hall  
6823 St. Charles Avenue  
New Orleans, La 70118

## Travel Abroad

It is important to know and be aware of local customs and problem areas before you depart. Always let someone know where you are going and when you are due to return and don't travel alone. Be sure that you have health insurance that covers you while you are abroad and that it provides coverage for evacuation if you are seriously ill. Be certain your other insurance covers you while you are abroad.

Check the following websites and the American Embassy websites of the countries you plan to visit before you go and if there is a crisis register with the American Embassy or Consulate so they will be able to keep you informed and provide assistance if necessary.

### Internet Resources

It is highly recommended that all persons planning to travel abroad visit the U.S. State Department's web page at <http://travel.state.gov/index.html>

The State Department site lists official warnings about travel to particular countries and it includes background information of which faculty and students should be aware before they go abroad. See the feature titled, "Tips for Students" section. It also includes information on what kind of support travelers can expect from local country consular offices in the event of an emergency.

Other useful web sites include:

- Tulane's Center for International Studies  
[www.tulane.edu/~intl/studyabroad.html](http://www.tulane.edu/~intl/studyabroad.html)
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
[www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)
- American Council on Education (ACE)/The International Initiatives  
[www.acenet.edu](http://www.acenet.edu)
- Institute of International Education  
[www.iie.org](http://www.iie.org)
- International Student  
[www.internationalstudent.com](http://www.internationalstudent.com)
- Study Abroad  
[www.Studyabroad.com](http://www.Studyabroad.com)
- Center for Global Education/University of Southern California  
[www.usc.edu/globaled](http://www.usc.edu/globaled)

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If you rent a car you will need local insurance that can be bought from the rental agency since your U.S. automobile insurance will not cover you outside of the United States, its territories and possessions and Canada. Many foreign automobile insurance policies exclude liability coverage if the driver does not have a valid driver's license or if the driver is intoxicated and will often presume that the driver was intoxicated if there is a single car accident. If you plan to purchase a car overseas Insurance coverage can be obtained through the American International Group or its affiliates in most countries.

American concepts of “the presumption of innocence until proven guilty” and “double jeopardy” (being tried more than once for the same crime) do not exist in many countries. The norm is you are guilty until proven innocent. In some countries any actions against a police officer, including swearing or rude gestures, are considered crimes against the State.

Even Mexico, one of our closest neighbors, has laws that differ greatly from our own. Insurance policies issued by companies in the United States for automobiles or airplanes are not recognized in Mexico. If a Tulane vehicle is to be driven in Mexico prior arrangements need to be made. (see Use of a Tulane Vehicle outside of the United States *insert hyperlink to page*) Automobile insurance with a Mexican insurer must be purchased before entering Mexico and can be obtained at the U.S. border. Failure to have Mexican insurance in the event of an accident will result in the driver being jailed and the automobile impounded. You can be tried criminally as well as civilly as a result of an automobile accident. Possession of more than a few days supply of some controlled prescription drugs without a prescription and a doctor's explanation of why you need them can cause problems. Possession of any firearms or ammunition in Mexico without prior permission of the authorities or possession of illegal drugs can result in stiff jail sentences. For additional information see : <http://travel.state.gov/mexico.html>