

Travel Policy & Prohibited Locations

AMIDEAST Education Abroad reserves the right to advise or strongly advise against travel by students to particular locations in the MENA region outside of the host country, and selectively around the world, for health, safety, and/or security reasons. AMIDEAST's designation of such locations may mirror that of the US Department of State or may be more restrictive out of an abundance of caution. AMIDEAST may notify home institutions, scholarship providers, and/or emergency contacts that AMIDEAST advises against a student's planned travel to a specific location. In addition, AMIDEAST reserves the right to require that students who plan to travel to particular locations complete an International Travel Registration Form that includes a signed Travel Waiver Form prior to travel. Failure to follow the procedures as noted here and in the Student Agreement and Release will be considered a violation of the Student Agreement and Release. Sanctions for violation may include dismissal from the program.

In addition to advising against travel to specific locations outside the host country, AMIDEAST Education Abroad also reserves the right to prohibit participant travel to locations/neighborhoods in the host country for safety and security reasons at any point during a program.

At any time, AMIDEAST may modify the list of locations to which it advises against, strongly advises against, or prohibits travel. Changes to this policy may be communicated to students by on-site or headquarters staff. Students should contact on-site AMIDEAST Education Abroad staff before any intended independent travel to check the status of a planned travel destination. Please see the AMIDEAST Student Agreement and Release for more information regarding travel.

Students should note that many home institutions have policies regarding independent travel in the MENA region and beyond. Students are responsible for making themselves aware of all home institution advice and policies regarding travel and to abide by that advice and those policies. Regarding independent travel generally and/or travel to a specific location, a home institution's policies regarding travel may be more or less restrictive than AMIDEAST's own travel policies. In such cases, **THE MORE RESTRICTIVE POLICY APPLIES, and AMIDEAST adheres to home institution policies that are more restrictive than its own**, including but not limited to enforcing academic penalties of which AMIDEAST becomes aware.

All AMIDEAST Education Abroad students planning to travel independently MUST submit an online Travel Registration Form before traveling anywhere outside their host city and the immediate surrounding metropolitan area. In most instances of travel outside the host country (please note the exceptions listed below), the deadline for submission of this form is five days before travel begins. In all instances of travel within the host country, the form submission deadline is 24 hours before travel begins.

In general, AMIDEAST encourages students to be extremely attentive to their surroundings at all times when traveling within or outside the host country. Further, it is imperative that students remain abreast of news reports about the locations to which they will travel independently to avoid areas of high risk. Students should register any travel outside of the host city with AMIDEAST's security intelligence provider, World Aware, and with the US Embassy (if outside the host country) through the State Department's Safe Travelers Enrollment Program (STEP) or with the embassy of their home country. Please see the State Department's worldwide Travel Advisories [here](#).

Travel Policy

AMIDEAST Level 4 Locations – Do Not Travel

AMIDEAST Education Abroad assumes that no student will travel to the following countries in the MENA region: Libya, South Sudan, Yemen, Syria, Iraq (including Iraqi Kurdistan), and Iran. AMIDEAST further assumes that no student will travel to any locations with US Department of State travel advisories at the “Do Not Travel” level, regardless of location in the world.

Any AMIDEAST Education Abroad student planning travel to any of these locations is **required to complete the following within the deadlines noted.**

Six weeks (45 days) prior to departure

- 1) Meet with on-site AMIDEAST Education Abroad Staff in person to discuss travel plans**
- 2) Submit an International Travel Registration (via the Student Portal) with all tentative travel plans and electronically sign the Travel Waiver Form**

Two weeks (14 days) prior to departure

- 3) Update the International Travel Registration Form, including all transportation and accommodation details**

AMIDEAST will notify the student’s home institution of travel plans and of the signed Travel Waiver Form and may also notify scholarship providers and emergency contacts.

Students planning travel to Level 4 locations should understand that AMIDEAST believes travel to these locations is unsafe at this time. Failure to submit the required International Travel Registration Form, Travel Waiver Form, or meet with staff to discuss travel plans may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the program. **AMIDEAST will enforce home institution decisions regarding disciplinary action**, as well as AMIDEAST Education Abroad’s own decisions.

AMIDEAST Level 3 Locations – Reconsider Travel

AMIDEAST Level 3 locations include the following in the MENA region: Sudan, Turkey, and Lebanon.

Any AMIDEAST Education Abroad student planning travel to these locations is **required to complete the following within the deadlines noted.**

One month (30 days) prior to departure

- 1) Meet with on-site AMIDEAST Education Abroad staff in person to discuss travel plans**
- 2) Submit an International Travel Registration Form (via the Student Portal) with all tentative travel plans and electronically sign the Travel Waiver Form**

Two weeks (14 days) prior to departure

- 3) Update the International Travel Registration Form, including all transportation and accommodation details**

AMIDEAST will notify the student's home institution of travel plans and of the signed Travel Waiver Form and may also notify scholarship providers and emergency contacts.

Students planning travel to Level 3 locations should understand that AMIDEAST believes travel to these locations is unsafe at this time. Failure to submit the required International Travel Registration Form, Travel Waiver Form, or meet with staff to discuss travel plans may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the program. **AMIDEAST will enforce home institution decisions regarding disciplinary action**, as well as AMIDEAST Education Abroad's own decisions.

AMIDEAST Level 2 Locations – Advised Against

AMIDEAST **advises students against travel** to Level 2 locations in the MENA region based on location-specific Department of State travel advisories and/or the policies and procedures of a number of schools that regularly send students on AMIDEAST programs. Students should understand that AMIDEAST makes no guarantees of safety for students traveling to these locations, and that some schools enforce strict prohibitions on travel to these locations.

These locations include: Algeria, Egypt (and especially the Sinai), Israel, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Jerusalem, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and any country in which there is no AMIDEAST office (including Oman).

Any AMIDEAST Education Abroad student planning travel to any of these locations is **required to complete the following within the deadlines noted**.

Two weeks (14 days) prior to departure

- 1) Meet with on-site AMIDEAST Education Abroad staff in person to discuss travel plans**
- 2) Submit an International Travel Registration Form (via the Student Portal) with all tentative travel plans and electronically sign the Travel Waiver Form**

Five (5) days prior to departure

- 3) Update the International Travel Registration Form, including all transportation and accommodation details**

AMIDEAST will notify the student's home institution of travel plans and of the signed Travel Waiver Form.

Students planning travel to Level 2 locations should understand that AMIDEAST believes travel to these locations is or may become unsafe, and/or that one or more home institutions may have specific policies or prohibitions in place regarding independent travel to these locations. Failure to submit the required International Travel Registration Form, Travel Waiver Form, or meet with staff to discuss travel plans may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the program. **AMIDEAST will enforce home institution decisions regarding disciplinary action**, as well as AMIDEAST Education Abroad's own decisions.

Prohibited Locations in Host Countries

AMIDEAST Education Abroad prohibits student travel to the following locations in host countries and considers them Level 4 locations for the purposes of this policy and related procedures.

Within Jordan: All refugee/migrant camps; any area within 10 kilometers of the Jordan-Syria border¹; any area east of the Jordanian city of Ruwayshid; and the Jordanian cities and areas directly around Ma'an, Mafraq, Tafileh, and Zarqa

Within Morocco: The Southern Provinces of Morocco (the Western Sahara) and all refugee/migrant camps

Within Tunisia: Any area within 30 kilometers of the border with Libya; the western mountains (including national parks); the desert south of Remada; and Jendouba, El Kef, Kasserine, and Sidi Bou Zid

Within Egypt: The governorates of North Sinai and South Sinai, the Western desert, and all border areas

¹ This does not include the tourist site of Umm Qais or the city of Irbid. Note that in addition to areas within 10 km of the border, any areas north or east of the city of Irbid are considered a Level 4 location.