University Travel Restriction on Student Travel to Hong Kong SAR

Restriction implemented: January 27, 2020

The University is restricting student travel for University-related purposes to Hong Kong, according to its authority to issue a “University Travel Restriction” in the Policy on Student International Travel. This restriction does not include transit through Hong Kong International Airport for purposes of connecting flights, however other modes of transit (e.g. ferry, bus) or layovers (e.g. airport hotel) are not permitted.

Rationale
Hong Kong SAR (Special Administrative Region, China) has seen ongoing and widespread civic disruption and violence as a result of protests since summer 2019. With transportation, commercial centers, and in November, university campuses forced to close in the face of escalating confrontations between police and protesters, including injury and death to bystanders, increasing arrests focused on student activists, and damage to property and buildings, the University has suspended all student travel within Hong Kong for University-related purposes until further notice. UVA remains in close communication with partner and peer institutions in Hong Kong and will reassess the restriction as circumstances recommend.

Exemptions
Exemptions to the restriction may be requested by undergraduate or graduate students. See “Petitioning for Exemptions” in Policy on Student International Travel.

University International Travel Risk Management Committee
The committee advises the vice provost for global affairs. Its members include representatives from the Office of University Counsel, Office of Property and Liability Risk Management, Office of the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, International Studies Office, Elson Student Health Center, Office of the Dean of Students, Office of the Vice President for Research, and at least three members of the faculty from schools with a particularly high level of student travel abroad programs, who each serve for three years.

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Resources
U.S. Department of State International Travel Resources
U.S. Department of State Travel Advisories
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
World Health Organization