RESOLUTION

Council of Graduate Students – University of Minnesota

Date: 2/15/12
Author(s): Carlos Echeverria-Estrada, Emily Combs
Topic: Recommendations regarding the International Travel Risk Assessment Advisory Committee

Whereas, graduate students traveling to a country on the State Department Warning List must be approved to travel to that country by the International Travel Risk Assessment Advisory Committee (ITRAAC);

Whereas, approval for travel is supposed to take 6-8 weeks but in practice takes up to 3 months;

Whereas, graduate students traveling for conferences, research and internships do not always have more than 6-8 weeks notice prior to travel;

Resolved, that ITRAAC process all requests within 6 weeks of receipt of a completed application.

Whereas, nationals of the country on the State Department warning list must go through the same procedures as others, including registering with the United States Consulate;

Resolved, that ITRAAC streamline the approval process for travel to a country of which the student is a national.

Whereas, graduate students frequently travel solely to regions of the country that are not listed as dangerous in the official warning, but are still required to complete the entire ITRAAC approval process;

Resolved, that ITRAAC streamline the approval process when travel will be confined to regions of the country not included in the State Department Warning List.

Whereas, graduate students frequently travel to the same region of the country on multiple trips and each trip requires independent ITRAAC approval;

Whereas, filing for ITRAAC approval multiple times for very similar same trip is excessively burdensome;

Resolved, that ITRAAC either approve multiple trips to the same region of the country within one application and/or streamline the process for subsequent applications.