



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
A private university in the public service

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September 5, 2017

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL MEMORANDUM

TRAVELING TO NORTH KOREA AND IRAN FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES

Travel to North Korea. Travel to North Korea by U.S. citizens now requires prior approval from the U.S. government. Effective Friday, September 1, 2017, anyone traveling to North Korea on a U.S. passport must obtain a special passport validation in advance from the U.S. Department of State. Such validations will only be granted under certain very limited circumstances (e.g., you are a professional journalist or the trip is for compelling humanitarian considerations). Traveling to North Korea without the required passport validation may lead to the revocation of your U.S. passport and/or criminal penalties. More information on the U.S. Department of State's North Korea Travel Restriction is available [here](#). If you plan to travel to North Korea for NYU purposes, including on a non-U.S. passport, contact Daniel J. Magida (dm156@nyu.edu) or Elizabeth Whiston (eww4@nyu.edu) in the [Office of General Counsel](#) prior to departure.

Travel to Iran. Travel to Iran for academic purposes typically requires prior approval from the U.S. government. As part of the sanctions program maintained by the U.S. government against Iran, a license from the U.S. Department of Treasury may be required to attend a conference, conduct research or undertake other academic activities in Iran. The license process can take approximately 6 months. For more information on the requirements for travel to Iran, see the Office of General Counsel Memorandum on [U.S. Export Control Regulations](#)

In addition, a PhD student/researcher in history from Princeton University was arrested in August 2016 for espionage and has been held in Evin Prison in Tehran since that time. In July 2017, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison for infiltration/espionage, which included gathering information for Western academic institutions. In light of the unpredictable situation on the ground in Iran and current U.S.-Iran relations more broadly, we encourage you to think carefully about travel to Iran.

For more information on the requirements for travel to Iran or to discuss your travel plans, contact Daniel J. Magida (dm156@nyu.edu) or Elizabeth Whiston (eww4@nyu.edu) in the [Office of General Counsel](#).