**Acknowledgement, Waiver, Assumption of Risk and Release for Travel to [DESTINATION] through Western Michigan University during the [SEMESTER/YEAR] academic term**

In consideration of being accepted to travel abroad through Western Michigan University, and [UNIVERSITY] I hereby acknowledge that I have read the [U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory / CDC COVID-19 Travel Recommendations] issued on [date] and I have made the decision to request travel to [DESTINATION] during [SEMESTER/YEAR] academic term through Western Michigan University.

I acknowledge that I am aware of the current situation with COVID-19 pandemic and challenges associated with international travel at this time that may include mandatory quarantines, travel restrictions, and closed borders. I realize that the situation may change while I in [DESTINATION] and that I will continue to monitor the situation through the State Department website (travel.state.gov), CDC (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travel-notices.html) and through WMU’s international health and emergency insurance provider, GeoBlue Worldwide.

I understand that I am solely responsible for my safety. I acknowledge and agree that I have used my sole judgment to participate in this travel and that Western Michigan University, its trustees, officers, employees, agents faculty and staff have made no promises or representations to me regarding my safety and security while in[DESTINATION]. I hold Western Michigan University, its trustees, officers, employees, agents, faculty and staff harmless from any and all losses I may incur including financial losses and physical injury up to and including death.

Bottom of Form

**Participant Signature Date**

**Participant Name Printed**

**Notary Public Signature Date**

**Name of Notary Public Printed**

**[EXAMPLE OF TRAVEL ADVISORY AND ADDITIONAL COUNTRY SPECIFIC INFORMATION ALWAYS ATTACHED TO THE WAIVER]**

**Netherlands Travel Advisory-** *Last Updated: August 6, 2020
Level 3: Reconsider Travel*

Reconsider travel to the Netherlands due to **COVID-19.** Exercise increased caution due to **terrorism**

Read the Department of State’s [COVID-19 page](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html) before you plan any international travel.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a Level 3 Travel Health Notice for the Netherlands due to COVID-19.

Improved conditions have been reported within the Netherlands.  Visit the Embassy's [COVID-19 page](https://nl.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information-3/) for more information on COVID-19 in the Netherlands.

Terrorists continue plotting possible attacks in the Netherlands. Terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, local government facilities, hotels, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, parks, major sporting and cultural events, educational institutions, airports, and other public areas.

Read the [country information page](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Netherlands.html).

If you decide to travel to the Netherlands:

* See the [U.S. Embassy's web page](https://nl.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information-3/) regarding COVID-19.
* Visit the CDC’s webpage on [Travel and COVID-19](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/netherlands-travel-advisory.html#ExternalPopup).
* Be aware of your surroundings when traveling to tourist locations and large crowded public venues.
* Follow the instructions of local authorities including movement restrictions related to any ongoing police action.
* Monitor local media for breaking events and adjust your plans based on new information.
* Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)](https://step.state.gov/) to receive Alerts and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
* Follow the Department of State on [Facebook](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/netherlands-travel-advisory.html#ExternalPopup) and [Twitter](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/netherlands-travel-advisory.html#ExternalPopup).
* Review the [Crime and Safety Report](https://www.osac.gov/Country/Netherlands/Detail) for the Netherlands.
* U.S. citizens who travel abroad should always have a contingency plan for emergency situations. Review the [Traveler’s Checklist](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-checklist.html).

**COVID-19 Traveler Information**

**COVID-19 Travel August 6, 2020**

The Department of State advises all U.S. citizens to read the country-specific [Travel Advisories](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/) and [U.S. Embassy COVID pages](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/COVID-19-Country-Specific-Information.html) for updates on the impact of COVID-19 worldwide.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect countries differently. Challenges to any international travel at this time may include mandatory quarantines, travel restrictions, and closed borders. Foreign governments may implement restrictions with little notice, even in destinations that were previously low risk. If you choose to travel internationally, your trip may be severely disrupted, and it may be difficult to arrange travel back to the United States.
On March 14, the Department of State authorized the departure of U.S. personnel and family members from any diplomatic or consular post in the world who have determined they are at higher risk of a poor outcome if exposed to COVID-19. These departures may limit the ability of U.S. embassies and consulates to provide services to U.S. citizens.
**For COVID-19 Travel Information, FAQ and State department Support click here:** <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html>

**For detailed information on the Netherlands, please see below.**

If you decide to travel to the Netherlands:

**Terrorism**: Credible information indicates terrorist groups continue plotting possible attacks in Europe. European governments are taking action to guard against terrorist attacks; however, all European countries remain potentially vulnerable to attacks from transnational terrorist organizations. U.S. citizens should be aware that attacks can take place without prior warning.

When visiting or living in the Netherlands, you should:

* Be aware of your local security situation and take appropriate steps to bolster your personal security.
* Address specific safety concerns to Dutch law enforcement authorities who have responsibility for the safety and security of all residents and visitors in the Netherlands.
* Avoid demonstrations and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. Even events intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational. Large public gatherings can affect roads and means of transportation to and from the cities in which they occur.

**Demonstrations** occur regularly. Large, public demonstrations take place for a variety of political and economic issues. Demonstration organizers must obtain prior police approval, and police routinely oversee participants.

* Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence.
* Avoid areas around protests and demonstrations.
* Check local media for updates on the situation and traffic advisories.
* Security messages issued regarding demonstrations are now posted on the [U.S. Mission’s website](https://nl.usembassy.gov/).

**Crime:** While the rate of violent crime in the Netherlands is low, tourists are often targeted by pickpockets, bag snatchers, and other petty thieves and are active in and around train, tram, and metro stations in the city center; and aboard public transportation, especially to and from Amsterdam’s Schiphol Airport. Thieves often work in pairs: one distracts you, often by asking for directions, while the other moves in on your unguarded property. Use your hotel safe, and keep baggage locked or secured when you are away. Avoid leaving valuables in automobiles, especially electronic devices, such as laptops, tablets, GPS devices, and mobile telephones. Never leave your personal items or baggage unattended.

Most retailers in the Netherlands only accept a “chip and pin” card and will not accept a standard U.S. credit card containing only a magnetic strip. ATM and credit card users are advised to keep an eye on their cards at all times. If you feel uncomfortable using your card for any reason, use cash. Contact your credit card provider for further guidance.

**Scams**: U.S. citizens overseas are frequently the victims of online financial scams. Funds lost in such scams are rarely recovered. Information on fraud schemes can be found on the U.S. Embassy and Consulate’s [website,](https://nl.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/internet-fraud/) the Department of State's [international financial scams](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/emergencies/international-financial-scams.html) page, and the [FBI](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Netherlands.html#ExternalPopup) pages for information. If you suspect you have been targeted by a scam based in the Netherlands, you may report it to Dutch law enforcement authorities through the following police [website](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Netherlands.html#ExternalPopup) and through the Fraud Help Desk website.

Do not buy counterfeit or pirated goods, even if they are widely available, as you may be breaking U.S. and local law.

**Victims of Crime:** Report crimes to the local police at 112 or 0900-8844 for non-emergency cases. See above for contact information for the U.S. Embassy The Hague and U.S. Consulate General in Amsterdam.

Remember that local authorities are responsible for investigating and prosecuting the crime.

See the State Department webpage on [help for U.S. victims of crime overseas](http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/emergencies/victims.html).

The State Department can:

* Help you find appropriate medical care
* Assist you in reporting a crime to the police
* Contact relatives or friends with your written consent
* Explain the local criminal justice process in general terms
* Provide a list of local attorneys
* Provide our information on [victim’s compensation programs in the U.S.](http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/emergencies/victims.html)
* Provide an emergency loan for repatriation to the United States and/or limited medical support in cases of destitution
* Help you find accommodation and arrange flights home
* Replace a stolen or lost passport

**For further information:**

* See the State Department's [travel website](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en.html) for the Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and [Country Specific Information](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Netherlands.html) for the Netherlands.
* Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/go/step.html) (STEP) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.

**Embassy and Consulates:

U.S. Embassy in the Netherlands**

* Contact the U.S. Embassy in the Netherlands (U.S. Citizen Services) at John Adams Park 12244 BZ WASSENAAR.
* Phone: (+31) 20 575 5309; Fax: +31 70 310-2207)
* Website: <https://nl.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/>
* Follow Twitter and Facebook.

**U.S. Consulate General in the Netherlands**

* Contact the U.S. Consulate General in the Netherlands, located at Museumplein 19 1071 DJ Amsterdam
* Phone: +(31) (0) 70 310 2209. Emergency +(31) (0) 70 310 2209; Fax +(31) (0) 20 575 5330 ;
Email AmsterdamUSC@state.gov; Website: <https://nl.usembassy.gov/>
* Follow Twitter and Facebook.