
Important Ukraine Mssg#2 - Internet Security & Other Tips

1 message

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Whitman OCS

Dear Spring 2022 OCS students,

This is an email follow-up to my March 2 email to you all about the Russian invasion of Ukraine that covered health, safety, and security resources available to you while abroad.

Additional Safety & Security Tips

1. **Internet Security.** Experts have reported concerns about potential cyber security attacks by Russia against the west as part of their war against Ukraine. We, therefore, think this is a good time for all OCS students to ensure that they are taking appropriate internet security precautions to protect their personal and other data. See below:

- Make sure that your devices are running on the latest versions of their operating system, security software, and apps
- Make sure your device and key programs (like email) are password protected
- If you must use public wifi (this includes hotels, cafes, etc.) then you should pay close attention to making sure your connections are secure. In other words, use an app vs. the browser when available, and make sure all web connections are https:
- When accessing banking information online, use a banking app rather than accessing your account via a browser and use a cellular connection, not Wi-Fi.
- Never log on to personal finance sites on a public computer

2. **Independent Travel.** Do not travel to Ukraine, Russia, or areas negatively impacted by the conflict, such as regions bordering Ukraine. Prior to finalizing any independent travel plans, use the following resources for information about the security situation in your intended destinations:

- Local staff of your OCS program
- AlertTraveler app country-specific information
- US Department of State Travel Advisories at travel.state.gov

The invasion of Ukraine is very tragic and troubling, and we hope for the sake of everyone involved that the situation is resolved peacefully soon. We also recognize that some Whitman students may be worried about friends and family in Ukraine or the surrounding areas that are directly impacted. If you are one of those students, please reach out to your in-country program staff or to Greg Lecki, Director of International Students and Scholar Support Services at leckige@whitman.edu, or contact an OCS staff member at offcampusstudies@whitman.edu to let us know about your concerns.

Take care.
Susan