

Overseas Travel

Risk Assessment: Student Mobility_Colombia

The purpose of this Risk Assessment is to ensure that members of the University community are unlikely to be exposed to unacceptable risks which could affect their health, safety or security when travelling abroad on behalf of the University.

This form should be completed by the individual wishing to travel prior to making any firm arrangements to travel, and must be completed in discussion with the relevant line manager or supervisor, allowing sufficient time in advance of travelling for any issues to be addressed.

Before completing this form you should ensure that you (and your manager/supervisor) are familiar with the contents of the Health and Safety and Insurance webpages on travelling abroad.

When completed and approved this risk assessment and its associated itinerary should be carried by the traveller(s) and a copy retained by the Department. Queries on the completion of this assessment should be directed to HealthSafetyHelpdesk@warwick.ac.uk.

Please consider when completing this form how the country you intend to visit is managing the Covid-19 outbreak. In particular, it may be helpful to consider access to local medical facilities, how local transport is being managed and any local guidelines and social behaviours you may need to adopt

Department:	Student Mobility, Student Opportunity
Location(s) to be visited:	COLOMBIA
Purpose of journey:	Student Mobility
Name and role of traveller(s):	List held with Student Mobility, and on SITS
Name of line manager or supervisor:	Maria Fox (Head of Student Mobility)
Dates of proposed travel:	Academic Year 2026 – 2027
Information taken from:	https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/colombia
Living In Country Guidance	https://www.gov.uk/world/living-in-colombia
Sign-up for FCDO travel advice email alerts and follow FCDO travel advice on Twitter and Facebook	

Hints and Tips from previous Student Mobility participants	
---	--

Hazard/Consideration	Risk (High / Medium / Low)	Mitigating Actions (please add to or amend as appropriate)	Comments / Actions
Coronavirus			Countries may restrict travel or bring in rules at short notice. Check with your travel company or airline for changes. If you test positive for COVID-19 while in COLOMBIA, you may need to stay where you are until you test negative. You may also need to seek treatment there. Visit TravelHealthPro (from the UK's National Travel Health Network and Centre) for general COVID-19 advice for travellers.
Money			Money and banking The official currency of Colombia is the Colombian Peso \$ A wide selection of banknotes and coins are used. You will find 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000 peso coins and 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, 10,000, 20,000, 50,000 and 100,000 peso banknotes, highlighting Colombia's wealth and diversity. US dollars and Euros are widely exchangeable. Credit and Debit cards are widely accepted in Colombia but use with care and keep receipts. When using an ATM, try to do so during business hours inside a bank, supermarket or large

			commercial building. Be particularly vigilant before and after using an ATM on the street - robberies are common, especially at night. If opening a personal bank account, you will be expected to submit certain documents. Please ask the bank of your choice about requirements. For information on the banking rules and private funds (AFP) regulations in Colombia, please contact the Superintendencia Financiera de Colombia. This institution regulates and supervises the financial, insurance and private funds systems, and prevents and detects money laundering and terrorism financing.
Visa Applications			Visa requirements You must ensure you have the correct visa. If you are studying, you will be provided with details directly from our partner university. If you intend to work, you must have the correct visa to enable you to work in the country otherwise you may be denied entry to the country. It is your responsibility to arrange the correct visa. Entry requirements This information is for people travelling on a full ‘British citizen’ passport from the UK. It is based on the UK government’s understanding of Colombia’s current rules for the most common types of travel. The authorities in Colombia set and enforce entry rules. If you’re not sure how these requirements apply to you, contact the Colombian Embassy in the UK (for English choose ‘Ingles’ from the drop down menu). Passport validity requirements To enter Colombia, your passport must be valid on entry. However, Colombian immigration authorities recommend your passport has an ‘expiry date’ at least 6 months after the date you plan to leave. Check with your travel provider that your passport and other travel documents meet requirements. Renew your passport if you need to.

You will be denied entry if you do not have a valid travel document or try to use a passport that has been reported lost or stolen.

Dual nationals

When returning to the UK, British citizens must carry a valid [British passport](#) or [certificate of entitlement](#). See [Dual citizenship](#).

British-Colombian dual nationals

If you're a British-Colombian dual national, you must enter and leave Colombia using your Colombian passport and Colombian identification card (Cedula).

Visa requirements

You can visit Colombia for up to 90 days without a visa for business or tourism, at the discretion of the Colombian immigration officer on arrival.

You must be able to show an onward or return ticket valid within the 90-day period.

Applying for a visa

Check the latest entry requirements and how to apply for a visa with the [Colombian Consulate General](#) in London before you travel.

If you have a Colombian visa with more than 90 days of validity, you must register the visa at a [Migración Colombia office](#) (in Spanish) or [register the visa online](#) (in Spanish) within 15 days of arrival in Colombia. If you do not register, you may get a fine.

You may be able to extend your stay once you are in Colombia by up to 120 days by applying at the immigration office [Migración Colombia](#) (in Spanish). As a visitor, you cannot remain in Colombia for more than 180 days in any 12-month period.

If you overstay your visa, you could get a fine, or be deported at your own cost.

Checks at border control

Colombian authorities advise that you can speed up your entry to the country by [completing the 'Check-Mig' form on Migración Colombia](#), although this is not mandatory. You can complete the form between 72 hours and one hour before you travel to Colombia. You will receive a confirmation email that you will need to show to immigration officials when you

arrive.

Make sure you get your passport stamped.

If you enter Colombia by land, sea or river, make sure the immigration authorities stamp your passport. If it is not stamped, you could get a fine when you leave. If the immigration office on the border is closed, go to the nearest office of [Migración Colombia](#) (in Spanish).

Travelling with children

Children aged 17 and under who have resident status in Colombia and who are travelling on a British passport need a [notarised letter of permission from any non-accompanying parents or parent](#) (in Spanish). The letter must be authenticated by a notary or by a Colombian consulate. You can get more information from [Migración Colombia](#) (in Spanish) or by contacting the [Colombian Consulate in the UK](#) (in Spanish).

San Andres Archipelago

If you're travelling to the islands of San Andres, Providencia or Santa Catalina, you must buy a tourist card from the boarding gate, on the day of the flight. You do not need one if you're staying less than 24 hours.

Departure tax

Departure tax is usually included in the price of the airline ticket, but check with your airline.

Vaccine requirements

To enter Colombia, you must have a certificate to prove you've had a yellow fever vaccination if you are arriving from certain countries with a transmission risk. You may also be asked to show it if you are travelling to areas in Colombia which are considered high risk. Carry your vaccination certificate at all times.

For full details about medical entry requirements and recommended vaccinations, see [TravelHealthPro's Colombia guide](#).

Customs rules

			There are strict rules about goods you can take into or out of Colombia (in Spanish). You must declare anything that may be prohibited or subject to tax or duty. Taking money into Colombia You can bring up to 10,000 US dollars-worth of any currency into Colombia. You must declare anything above this amount with the National Tax and Customs Directorate (DIAN) (in Spanish).
Local knowledge, understanding of customs and conditions		• Experience of travel to, or working in, the region before • Obtain guidance and information from the host organisation • Research via relevant web-sites • Consider dress, behaviours and sensitivities • Local laws, fees or levies.	Before you travel No travel can be guaranteed safe. Read all the advice in this guide as well as support for British nationals abroad which includes: • advice on preparing for travel abroad and reducing risks • information for women, LGBT and disabled travellers Local laws and customs Consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in public spaces. Carry a colour photocopy of the data page and Colombian visa from your passport at all times for identification. Homosexuality is legal but not widely accepted, especially in rural areas. See our information and advice page for the LGBT community before you travel. Photographing of military or strategic government sites is not allowed. The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) advise against all but essential travel to: • the departments of Arauca and Guaviare (except their capital cities Arauca and San José de Guaviare) • the department of Chocó (except its capital Quibdó, the whale-watching towns of Nuquí and Bahía Solano, and the tourist site of Capurganá)

			- the Ariari region of southern Meta (except the tourist site of Caño Cristales - if travelling to Caño Cristales, travel by air to and from the town of La Macarena with a reputable tour company) - the South Pacific, Sanquianga and Telembi regions of Nariño - the Western region of Cauca - Buenaventura in the department of Valle del Cauca - the Urabá and Bajo Cauca regions of Antioquia - the region of Southern-Bolívar - the region of Southern-Córdoba - the Catatumbo region of Norte de Santander - Orito, San Migue, Valle del Guamez, Puerto Caicedo, Puerto Guzmán, Puerto Asis and Puerto Leguizamo in Putumayo - Cartagena del Chairá, San Vicente del Caguan, Puerto Rico, El Doncello, Paujil and La Montañita in Caquetá - the municipality of Puerto Carreño in Vichada, except the departmental capital - within 5km of the Venezuelan border, except the cities of Cúcuta, Arauca and Puerto Carreño - within 5km of the Ecuadorian border, except for the border crossing on the Pan-American highway at the Puente Internacional de Rumichaca and the city of Ipiales.
Equality and Diversity LGBTQ information		Unless provided here there is no statement given by the FCDO on Equality and Diversity and LGBTQ information, issues or concerns	Please see the link below which you may find useful: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-foreign-travel-advice Homosexuality is legal but not widely accepted, especially in rural areas. See our information and advice page for the LGBT community before you travel.
Cultural differences		- Awareness of attitudes towards protected characteristics, e.g. disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment etc. - Dress in accordance with local laws/customs - Avoid behaviour that may fall foul of local customs/laws/cultures. - Report and support at Warwick: https://warwick.ac.uk/students/welcome/spring/livingatuniversity/reportand-support	Local laws and customs Carry a colour photocopy of the data page and Colombian visa from your passport at all times for identification. Homosexuality is legal but not widely accepted, especially in rural areas. See our information and advice page for the LGBT community before you travel. Photographing of military or strategic government sites is not allowed. It is a serious criminal offence to have sex with a minor.

Drugs

Don't get involved with illegal drugs of any kind. Colombian drug trafficking detection methods are sophisticated and anyone attempting to traffic drugs should expect to be arrested. Conviction leads to severe penalties. British nationals have been arrested and detained for trying to smuggle cocaine out of the country. Prison conditions are harsh. Pack your own luggage and keep it with you at all times. Don't carry items for other people.

Colombia has severe penalties for possession, use or trafficking of illegal drugs. Conviction leads to severe penalties.

Colombian drug trafficking detection methods are sophisticated and anyone attempting to traffic drugs should expect to be arrested.

Do not get involved with illegal drugs of any kind.

British nationals have been arrested and detained for trying to smuggle cocaine out of the country. Prison conditions are harsh.

- Pack your own luggage and keep it with you at all times.
- Lock your luggage to protect it from tampering and theft from carousels or hotel staff.
- Do not carry any items for other people (packages, bags, suitcases, etc.)
- Never exchange money for strangers, as this is a common practice among money launderers.

Incapacitating drugs

Criminals in Colombia may use drugs to subdue their victims. This usually includes the use of scopolamine, a drug that temporarily incapacitates the victim who become quickly disoriented and are vulnerable to robbery, sexual assault and other crimes. These drugs can cause serious medical problems, including loss of consciousness and memory loss. They often work in teams, with women easing the victim into a false sense of security. They then steal the valuables once the victim has been incapacitated.

Robberies and assaults take place after victims accept spiked food, drinks, cigarettes or chewing gum. Thieves also administer these drugs by aerosol spray or paper handouts.

		Dating applications and websites are also often used by criminals to identify and lure foreigners travelling alone and looking to meet local people to commit these crimes. Hotspots also include nightclubs, bars, restaurants, public transportation (including taxis) and city streets. • Avoid leaving food or drinks unattended and do not take anything from strangers. • Be wary of accepting snacks, beverages, gum, cigarettes or anything else from new acquaintances or someone in the street. • Avoid accepting invitations from or inviting strangers to their or your accommodation Spiritual cleansing Traditional hallucinogens, often referred to as Yagé/Ayahuasca are found in Colombia. These substances are often marketed to tourists as ‘spiritual cleansing’, and typically contain dimethyltryptamine (DMT), a strong hallucinogen that’s illegal in the UK and many other countries. There are many risks involved. Consumption isn’t regulated. Intoxicated travellers have been assaulted and robbed. There have also been reports of sexual assault during these ceremonies. Health risks are not well understood and on occasions people have suffered serious illnesses and in some cases deaths after taking these drugs, which are often taken a long way from medical facilities making the risks even greater. Some retreats have basic medical services, including first aid, but others don’t. Some don’t even have an established plan for how clients can access medical facilities in case of an emergency. Road travel If you’re visiting Colombia, you can drive with a valid UK driving licence for the duration of your legal stay. If you’re living in Colombia, you will need to apply for a local driving licence. More information is available from the Colombian Ministry of Transport. If you’re planning to hire a car, check with your car hire company for information on their requirements before you travel. Driving standards are poor and traffic accidents are common. Avoid driving at night, which can be particularly hazardous. Don’t hitch-hike. The risk of violence and kidnapping is higher in some rural areas, and there is a risk of being caught in roadblocks set up by illegal armed
--	--	--

			groups. Main roads are generally safe during daylight hours. The departmental capitals of Amazonas, Vaupes and Guainía are only accessible by air due to the lack of road infrastructure in these departments.
Social/Political Unrest or Terrorism:		• Check the FCO website for up-to-date advice. • If the FCO advises against travel to destination(s) on safety/security grounds then seek approval from HoD/Line Manager • Consider not just the country in question but also any territories as identified in FCO pages • Reschedule visit or modify itinerary if at all feasible.	Terrorism UK Counter Terrorism Policing has information and advice on staying safe abroad and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack. Find out how to reduce your risk from terrorism while abroad. Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in Colombia. Armed Actors The threat comes from the National Liberation Army (ELN), dissidents from the demobilised FARC guerrilla group (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia), and other illegal armed groups. The National Liberation Army (ELN) terrorist organisation continues plotting possible attacks in Colombia. On 17 January 2019, the ELN conducted a vehicle-bomb attack on a police academy in Bogota, killing 23 people. The FARC handed its weapons in, as part of Colombia's 2016 peace deal, on 27 June 2017, marking the end of their status as an armed group. However, dissident groups of the FARC still exist, including one led by prominent ex-commander Ivan Marquez thought to be operating from inside Venezuela. These groups 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. Police and military personnel and installations, are frequently targeted. The principal intended target of these attacks is not usually foreign tourists. However, the pattern of these attacks means that incidents in public spaces and other areas visited by foreigners can't be ruled out. Past methods of attack have included car bombs, grenade

		attacks and explosive devices left in buildings. You should always remain vigilant and follow the advice of the local security authorities should an incident occur. In many areas of Colombia, the security situation can change very quickly. You should pay close attention to warnings issued by the Colombian authorities and monitor this travel advice. You should be particularly cautious and vigilant during any major events. There is a high threat of terrorist attack globally affecting UK interests and British nationals, including from groups and individuals who view the UK and British nationals as targets. You should remain vigilant at all times. Kidnapping There is a high risk of kidnap from both terrorist and criminal groups. While Colombians are the primary targets, foreigners can also be targeted, especially those working for (or believed to be working for) oil, mining and related companies. You should regularly reassess your security arrangements and consider carefully any travel around the country. The long-standing policy of the British government is not to make substantive concessions to hostage takers. The British government considers that paying ransoms and releasing prisoners increases the risk of further hostage taking. Political situation Colombia is a presidential republic with separation of powers. Since 1990 Colombia has had a multi-party system. Colombia's last Presidential elections took place in June 2022. Colombia suffered from internal armed conflict for over 50 years. On 24 November 2016, Colombia's President Santos signed a peace deal with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrilla movement to end the internal armed conflict. This peace agreement comes after four years of negotiations. On 1 September 2017, the FARC announced the launch of their new political party, officially ending their status as an armed group. The Colombian constitution guarantees extensive rights to indigenous and Afro-Colombian groups over their traditional territories and to protect their culture. Indigenous communities
--	--	---

			have special jurisdiction within their territories within the bounds of the national judicial system. Political demonstrations can occur in the capital city of Bogota and throughout the country. These can be confrontational and occasionally turn violent. You should monitor local media and avoid all demonstrations. Protests Protests can occur at short notice, impacting roads and transport. These demonstrations can be confrontational and may turn violent. A number of people have been killed and injured in previous protests. You should remain vigilant, avoid all demonstrations, and monitor local media for the latest information.
Personal attack / kidnap: Dangers associated with travelling alone; arriving at night, etc.:		• Precautionary measures should be taken to protect personal safety. • Inform hosts of itinerary. • Be aware of specific local risks. • Travel during daylight hours if possible.	Warwick Business Travel Insurance Details: 24 hour Emergency Medical Assistance Helpline +44 (0)1243 621066 Quote reference NUBT 0105 and policy number 100782764GPA Please note that there is no emergency medical cover if you are a national in the country you need medical attention. Security Assistance If there is a risk to your personal safety please call: 24 hour Security Helpline +44 (0)2077412074 Quote reference NUBT 0105 and policy number 100782764GPA Report and Support: https://reportandsupport.warwick.ac.uk/ Wellbeing Services: https://warwick.ac.uk/services/wss/ Emergencies Dial the 123 for emergencies, the police or ambulance services or dial: • 111 for disasters attention • 112 for emergencies • 119 for the fire brigade • 123 to report a missing child

			• 141 for children and young people's protection • 144 for civil services (Defensa Civil) • 132 for Colombian Red Cross • 165 for GAULA - Anti-kidnapping Police • 167 for Anti-kidnapping, Anti-Terrorism and Anti-Extortion Police line • 147 for Anti-kidnapping, Anti-Terrorism and Anti-Extortion Army line • 106 for mental health crisis and psychosocial support • 156 for CAI - Immediate Attention Centre (Centro de Atención Inmediata) • 155 to report domestic violence cases and Purple line (women's helpline): +57 018000112137 / WhatsApp +573007551846 • '767 for National Roads Institute (INVÍAS) If you have been the victim of a rape or sexual assault in Colombia, read the Colombia: information for victims of rape and sexual assault. If you are the victim of a crime, have been arrested, or are affected by a crisis, contact the British Embassy in Colombia.
Crime:		• Awareness of risk of theft or pickpockets • Awareness of local scams or hotspots • Cash and card security/awareness	Crime Despite improvements in security, crime rates remain high in Colombia. Illegal armed groups and other criminal groups are heavily involved in the drugs trade and serious crime including kidnapping (for ransom and political purposes), money laundering and running extortion and prostitution rackets. Street crime is a problem in major cities, including Bogota, Medellin, Cali and the Caribbean coast. Mugging and pickpocketing can be accompanied by violence. British nationals have been robbed at gun point in the Candelaria area of Bogotá. Be vigilant, particularly if you are in public places used by foreigners, or near official buildings. Avoid deprived areas of cities. Take care on city streets, especially after dark or if you are on your own. Don't carry large amounts of money or wear valuable watches or jewellery. Avoid using your mobile phone in the street. The British Embassy has received reports of criminals in Colombia using drugs to subdue their victims. This includes the use of scopolamine, which temporarily incapacitates unsuspecting victims. Drugs can be administered through food, drinks, cigarettes, aerosols and even paper flyers. Victims become disoriented quickly and are vulnerable to robbery, sexual assault, rape and other crimes. Avoid leaving food or drinks unattended and don't

		take anything from strangers. Where possible, plan how you will travel to and from your destination. Only use pre-booked taxis. Be wary if you are approached by a stranger. Fake police are known to operate in Bogota and elsewhere to conduct scams, e.g., asking to inspect money to see if it is counterfeit. If approached, you should ask to be escorted to the nearest CAI ('Centro de Atencion Inmediata' – local police station). Express kidnappings - short-term opportunistic abductions, aimed at extracting cash from the victim - also occur. Victims can be targeted or selected at random and held while criminals empty their bank accounts with stolen cash cards. Most cases in major cities involve victims that have been picked up by taxis hailed from the street. There have been incidents where those who have resisted the kidnappers' demands have been killed. Drugs, organised crime and terrorism are inextricably linked. There's evidence of high levels of coca cultivation in the following Departments in Colombia: Nariño, Cauca, Putumayo, Caquetá, Meta, Guaviare, the Catatumbo region in the Norte de Santander department, northern Antioquia, and southern Bolivar. There's a risk to your safety in any area where coca, marijuana or opium poppies are cultivated and near to cocaine processing labs. Illegal armed groups and criminal gangs are active in all of the departments where coca is cultivated, processed or transported, as well as in many cities. The risk is particularly significant in rural areas near to the borders with Panama, Venezuela and Ecuador; in the Parque Nacional Natural de La Macarena in the Department of Meta; and the port towns of Buenaventura in the Department of Valle de Cauca, Turbo in the Department of Antioquia and Tumaco in the Department of Nariño. Local travel In many rural areas, the authority of the Colombian state is limited, and the British Embassy's ability to help British nationals in trouble in these areas will also be limited. If you travel to remote areas, travel with recognised tour operators, and make arrangements for your security throughout your visit. You should also seek up-to-date advice from the local authorities before each stage of your journey. Mobile and internet connection in rural areas is often limited. The Pacific coast of Chocó is a popular eco-tourist destination. However, much of Chocó is remote. Illegal armed groups are active and involved in the drugs trade throughout the department and particularly near the border with Panama. If you intend to travel to the whale-watching towns of Bahia Solano and Nuqui, only do so by air and don't travel inland or along the coast out of town.
--	--	---

If you travel to the 'Lost City' in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, you should only do so as part of an organised tour.

The archaeological park at San Agustin is located in the department of Huila. You should enter and leave the park on the main road through Neiva or Popayán.

The tourist site of Caño Cristales is located in the department of Meta, in the Parque Nacional Natural de la Macarena. If you're travelling to Caño Cristales, only do so with a reputable tour company, and travel by air to and from the town of La Macarena.

Public transport

You should exercise caution when taking public transport in Colombia. Do not hail taxis on the street. There have been reports of express kidnappings, assaults and robberies in unlicensed taxis. Use licensed telephone or internet-based taxi services whenever possible or book through your hotel. Many restaurants in Colombia will book a taxi for you.

[El Dorado International Airport](#) in Bogotá only allows authorised taxis to pick up passengers at their terminals. Authorised taxi booths are present in El Dorado and most airports in Colombia.

Buses and coach services

There have been several recent incidents of armed robberies on buses. Avoid displaying valuable items like laptops, cameras and mobile phones. Don't wear jewellery and only carry minimal amounts of cash. Avoid travelling on your own or at night, especially at border crossings or areas where there are few other people around. When travelling to remote areas it may be safer to travel with others or take part in a tour with a reputable company.

Road travel

If you're visiting Colombia, you can drive with a valid UK driving licence for the duration of your legal stay. If you're living in Colombia, you will need to apply for a local driving licence. More information is available from the Colombian Ministry of Transport.

If you're planning to hire a car, check with your car hire company for information on their requirements before you travel.

Driving standards are poor and traffic accidents are common. Avoid driving at night, which can be particularly hazardous. Don't hitch-hike. The risk of violence and kidnapping is higher in some rural areas, and there is a risk of being caught in roadblocks set up by illegal armed groups. Main roads are generally safe during daylight hours.

			The departmental capitals of Amazonas, Vaupes and Guainía are only accessible by air due to the lack of road infrastructure in these departments. Land border crossings The FCDO currently advise against all travel to Venezuela's border regions with Colombia. You should not use any of the Colombia-Venezuelan land crossings. The 'Darién Gap' is a dangerous area renowned for the presence of several illegal armed groups, illegal migration, and drugs trafficking. There's no road crossing between Colombia and Panama. Avoid crossing between Panama and Colombia by land. To cross by land between Colombia and Ecuador, you should only use the crossing on the Pan-American Highway, at Ipiales. Unexploded ordnance Colombia is affected by land mines and unexploded ordnance. Mined areas are often unmarked. Be vigilant when visiting remote areas or travelling off the main roads.
Theft or loss of ID documents and other belongings: passport, driving license, bank cards, travel tickets, laptop		• Keep items secure. • Record details of numbers, issue dates, etc. and store separately both with you and at home. • Have emergency contact numbers • Report to police if theft suspected • Minimise amount of cash carried	Keep your passport secure at all times. Unless you are required to carry the original document, keep your passport in a safe location. If your passport is lost, stolen or damaged while you are on a trip overseas, you will need to apply for an emergency travel document so you can get back home. Make sure you have access to enough funds to cover emergencies. Check expiry dates on your credit or debit card(s). Inform your bank of your travel plans. Use a money belt or secure inside pocket. Do not openly display your cash. Do not carry all your cards with you – leave one in a secure location. If your passport or valuables are stolen abroad, report it at once to the local police and get a statement, as you will need one to claim against your insurance. You will need to cancel any bank cards, so take relevant phone numbers. Only emergency medical treatment is covered under the University of Warwick Business and Travel Insurance policy. In the event of an emergency please call: 24 hour Emergency Medical Assistance Helpline +44 (0)1243 621066 Quote reference NUBT 0105 and policy number 100782764GPA

Please note that there is no emergency medical cover if you are a national in the country you need medical attention.

Security Assistance

If there is a risk to your personal safety please call:

24 hour Security Helpline +44 (0)2077412074

Quote reference NUBT 0105 and policy number 100782764GPA

Emergencies

Dial the 123 for emergencies, the police or ambulance services or dial:

- 111 for disasters attention
- 112 for emergencies
- 119 for the fire brigade
- 123 to report a missing child
- 141 for children and young people's protection
- 144 for civil services (Defensa Civil)
- 132 for Colombian Red Cross
- 165 for GAULA - Anti-kidnapping Police
- 167 for Anti-kidnapping, Anti-Terrorism and Anti-Extortion Police line
- 147 for Anti-kidnapping, Anti-Terrorism and Anti-Extortion Army line
- 106 for mental health crisis and psychosocial support
- 156 for CAI - Immediate Attention Centre (Centro de Atención Inmediata)
- 155 to report domestic violence cases and Purple line (women's helpline): +57 018000112137 / WhatsApp +573007551846
- '767 for National Roads Institute (INVÍAS)

If you have been the victim of a rape or sexual assault in Colombia, read the [Colombia: information for victims of rape and sexual assault](#).

If you are the victim of a crime, have been arrested, or are affected by a crisis, contact the [British Embassy in Colombia](#).

1. [British Embassy Bogotá](#)

The British Embassy in Bogotá maintains and develop relations between the UK and Colombia.

2. [Colombia: information for victims of rape and sexual assault](#)

Information for British nationals who are victims of rape and sexual assault in Colombia.

Travel Preparation		Valid vehicle insurance (you cannot use the Business Travel Insurance policy).	At least 8 weeks before your trip, check the latest country-specific health advice from the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) on the TravelHealthPro website. Each country-specific page has information on vaccine recommendations, any current health risks or outbreaks, and factsheets with information on staying healthy abroad. Guidance is also available from NHS (Scotland) on the FitForTravel website. General information on travel vaccinations and a travel health checklist is available on the NHS website. You may then wish to contact your health adviser or pharmacy for advice on other preventive measures and managing any pre-existing medical conditions while you're abroad. The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or purchased in the UK can be different in other countries. If you're travelling with prescription or over-the-counter medicine, read this guidance from NaTHNaC on best practice when travelling with medicines. For further information on the legal status of a specific medicine, you'll need to contact the embassy, high commission or consulate of the country or territory you're travelling to. While travel can be enjoyable, it can sometimes be challenging. There are clear links between mental and physical health, so looking after yourself during travel and when abroad is important. Information on travelling with mental health conditions is available in our guidance page. Further information is also available from the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC). Driving in Colombia If you're visiting Colombia, you can drive with a valid UK driving licence for the duration of your legal stay. If you're living in Colombia, you will need to apply for a local driving licence. More information is available from the Colombian Ministry of Transport. If you're planning to hire a car, check with your car hire company for information on their requirements before you travel. Driving standards are poor and traffic accidents are common. Avoid driving at night, which can be particularly hazardous. Don't hitch-hike. The risk of violence and kidnapping is higher in some rural areas, and there is a risk of being caught in roadblocks set up by illegal armed groups. Main roads are generally safe during daylight hours.
---------------------------	--	--	---

			The departmental capitals of Amazonas, Vaupes and Guainía are only accessible by air due to the lack of road infrastructure in these departments. Read the guidance on what actions you must do to drive legally in Colombia.
Exposure to infection: Known endemic illnesses in destination(s)		• Take medical advice and arrange vaccination/inoculation/prophylaxis as appropriate • Consider the following conditions in particular: Cholera, Diphtheria, Hepatitis B, Japanese Encephalitis, Malaria, Meningitis, Poliomyelitis, Tetanus, Tick-borne Encephalitis, Tuberculosis, Typhoid and Yellow Fever.	FOR INFORMATION AND FAQs SEE WARWICK WEBSITE @ https://warwick.ac.uk/coronavirus During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to get travel insurance and check it provides sufficient cover. See the FCO's guidance on foreign travel insurance. Health Before you travel check that: • your destination can provide the healthcare you may need • you have appropriate travel insurance for local treatment or unexpected medical evacuation This is particularly important if you have a health condition or are pregnant. At least 8 weeks before your trip, check the latest country-specific health advice from the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) on the TravelHealthPro website. Each country-specific page has information on vaccine recommendations, any current health risks or outbreaks, and factsheets with information on staying healthy abroad. Guidance is also available from NHS (Scotland) on the FitForTravel website. General information on travel vaccinations and a travel health checklist is available on the NHS website. You may then wish to contact your health adviser or pharmacy for advice on other preventive measures and managing any pre-existing medical conditions while you're abroad. The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or bought in the UK can be different in other countries. If you're travelling with prescription or over-the-counter medicine, read this guidance from NaTHNaC on best practice when travelling with medicines. For further information on the legal status of a specific medicine, you'll need to contact the embassy, high commission or consulate of the country or territory you're travelling to.

			While travel can be enjoyable, it can sometimes be challenging. There are clear links between mental and physical health, so looking after yourself during travel and when abroad is important. Information on travelling with mental health conditions is available in our guidance page. Further information is also available from the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC). UK health authorities have classified Colombia as having a risk of Zika virus transmission. For more information and advice, visit the website of the National Travel Health Network and Centre website. Dengue fever, malaria and yellow fever are present throughout the country, although the coastal and southern states with lower altitudes are the most affected, especially during or shortly after the rainy season between April and November. You should take steps to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. Cases of Chikungunya virus have been confirmed in Colombia. You should take steps to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes.
Pre-existing medical conditions		• Take medical advice. • Carry written details of medical condition, adequate supplies of prescribed medication, details of blood group, etc. • Consider translation of information into local language. • Share with colleagues where appropriate	Medication The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or bought in the UK can be different in other countries. TravelHealthPro explains best practice when travelling with medicines. The NHS has information on whether you can take your medicine abroad. If you are on a prescription for any medication, you should ensure you have a supply of it, or are able to obtain it when in Colombia. You will be responsible for determining your medication legality in Colombia. You should consult your GP before travelling to Colombia to find out about any alternative medication. Always keep your medication in the original container, bring sufficient quantities of your medication with you, pack your medication in your carry-on luggage and carry a copy of your prescriptions. Read the guidance if you need to travel with medicines

Health and Local medical facilities		• Hospital proximity and standards. • Access to doctors/dentists. • Payment methods for medical treatment.	Make sure you have adequate travel health insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment abroad and repatriation. If you have a health condition, or you are pregnant, you may need specialist healthcare abroad. Check whether your destination country can provide the healthcare you may need and ensure you have appropriate travel insurance for unexpected medical evacuation or local treatment. At least 8 weeks before your trip, check the latest country-specific health advice from the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) on the TravelHealthPro website. Each country-specific page has information on vaccine recommendations, any current health risks or outbreaks, and factsheets with information on staying healthy abroad. Guidance is also available from NHS (Scotland) on the FitForTravel website. General information on travel vaccinations and a travel health checklist is available on the NHS website. You may then wish to contact your health adviser or pharmacy for advice on other preventive measures and managing any pre-existing medical conditions while you're abroad. The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or bought in the UK can be different in other countries. If you're travelling with prescription or over-the-counter medicine, read this guidance from NaTHNaC on best practice when travelling with medicines. For further information on the legal status of a specific medicine, you'll need to contact the embassy, high commission or consulate of the country or territory you're travelling to. While travel can be enjoyable, it can sometimes be challenging. There are clear links between mental and physical health, so looking after yourself during travel and when abroad is important. Information on travelling with mental health conditions is available in our guidance page. Further information is also available from the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC). Before you travel check that: • your destination can provide the healthcare you may need • you have appropriate travel insurance for local treatment or unexpected medical evacuation
--	--	--	--

This is particularly important if you have a health condition or are pregnant.

Medical treatment

Medical facilities in Colombia vary widely in quality. In large cities and state capitals, private clinics provide good quality care for routine treatments and complex treatment. Make sure you have adequate travel health insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment abroad and repatriation. Not all travel health insurance policies provide cover for private or emergency medical care so check your policy before travelling. Public health facilities and those in smaller cities are generally ill equipped and poorly funded. Ambulance services in remote areas are unreliable and public hospitals often lack adequate medical supplies.

You can find most medication in pharmacies in large cities, but medicine for complex treatment may be unavailable in rural areas and small towns. You may need a prescription from a local doctor to get some controlled medicine.

If you take prescription medication, you will be responsible for determining their legality in Colombia. Always keep your medication in the original container, bring sufficient quantities of your medication with you, pack your medication in your carry-on luggage and carry a copy of your prescriptions.

Pharmacies in Colombia are known as “droguerías”. They can be identified with a cross on the logo and can be easily accessed in the main cities in Colombia, but are less accessible in rural areas. Most pharmacies in Colombia will have a delivery service. You should note that prescriptions must be written in Spanish, in the metric system and using the medicine’s generic name.

If you need emergency medical assistance during your trip, you should dial 123 to ask for assistance (in Spanish). Contact your insurance/medical assistance company promptly if you are referred to a medical facility for treatment.

Health risks

UK health authorities have classified Colombia as having a risk of Zika virus transmission. For more information and advice, visit the website of the [National Travel Health Network and Centre website](#).

			Dengue fever, malaria and yellow fever are present throughout the country, although the coastal and southern states with lower altitudes are the most affected, especially during or shortly after the rainy season between April and November. You should take steps to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. Cases of Chikungunya virus have been confirmed in Colombia. You should take steps to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. Tap water is safe to drink only in Bogota. You should drink only bottled water and avoid ice in drinks. Altitude sickness is a risk in parts of Colombia, including Bogotá and areas in the Departments of Cundinamarca, Boyacá, Nariño and Antioquia. More information about altitude sickness is available from TravelHealthPro. Dial the 123 for emergencies, the police or ambulance services
Accommodation		• Pre-book accommodation • Stay in recognised accommodation • Familiarise yourself with emergency exits • Security staff and arrangements • Secure storage/safes	Student mobility students hosted at a partner University will be supported with finding accommodation by the partner. Work placements students are required to find their own accommodation with local support. Suitable accommodation can be difficult to identify and secure, it is recommended that you don't leave it too late to find this. We have had students whose placements have been impacted by being unable to secure suitable accommodation.
Transport		• Use only registered taxis • Arrange airport collection where possible • Check safety and road worthiness of any hire vehicle • Avoid driving at night • If possible, share long distance driving • Ensure all internal transfers are booked in advance of travel (where possible).	The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) advise against all but essential travel to: • the departments of Arauca and Guaviare (except their capital cities Arauca and San José de Guaviare) • the department of Chocó (except its capital Quibdó, the whale-watching towns of Nuquí and Bahía Solano, and the tourist site of Capurganá) • the Ariari region of southern Meta (except the tourist site of Caño Cristales - if travelling to Caño Cristales, travel by air to and from the town of La Macarena with a reputable tour company) • the South Pacific, Sanquianga and Telembi regions of Nariño • the Western region of Cauca

- Buenaventura in the department of Valle del Cauca
- the Urabá and Bajo Cauca regions of Antioquia
- the region of Southern-Bolívar
- the region of Southern-Córdoba
- the Catatumbo region of Norte de Santander
- Orito, San Migue, Valle del Guamuez, Puerto Caicedo, Puerto Guzmán, Puerto Asis and Puerto Leguizamo in Putumayo
- Cartagena del Chairá, San Vicente del Caguan, Puerto Rico, El Doncello, Paujil and La Montañita in Caquetá
- the municipality of Puerto Carreño in Vichada, except the departmental capital
- within 5km of the Venezuelan border, except the cities of Cúcuta, Arauca and Puerto Carreño
- within 5km of the Ecuadorian border, except for the border crossing on the Pan-American highway at the Puente Internacional de Rumichaca and the city of Ipiales.

Driving in Colombia

If you're visiting Colombia, you can drive with a valid UK driving licence for the duration of your legal stay. If you're living in Colombia, you will need to apply for a local driving licence. More information is available from the [Colombian Ministry of Transport](#).

If you're planning to hire a car, check with your car hire company for information on their requirements before you travel.

Driving standards are poor and traffic accidents are common. Avoid driving at night, which can be particularly hazardous. Don't hitch-hike. The risk of violence and kidnapping is higher in some rural areas, and there is a risk of being caught in roadblocks set up by illegal armed groups. Main roads are generally safe during daylight hours.

The departmental capitals of Amazonas, Vaupes and Guainía are only accessible by air due to the lack of road infrastructure in these departments.

Read the guidance on what actions you must do to [drive legally in Colombia](#).

Driving abroad <https://www.gov.uk/driving-abroad>

Public transport

		You should exercise caution when taking public transport in Colombia. Do not hail taxis on the street. There have been reports of express kidnappings, assaults and robberies in unlicensed taxis. Use licensed telephone or internet-based taxi services whenever possible or book through your hotel. Many restaurants in Colombia will book a taxi for you. El Dorado International Airport in Bogotá only allows authorised taxis to pick up passengers at their terminals. Authorised taxi booths are present in El Dorado and most airports in Colombia. Buses and coach services There have been several recent incidents of armed robberies on buses. Avoid displaying valuable items like laptops, cameras and mobile phones. Don't wear jewellery and only carry minimal amounts of cash. Avoid travelling on your own or at night, especially at border crossings or areas where there are few other people around. When travelling to remote areas it may be safer to travel with others or take part in a tour with a reputable company. Road travel If you're visiting Colombia, you can drive with a valid UK driving licence for the duration of your legal stay. If you're living in Colombia, you will need to apply for a local driving licence. More information is available from the Colombian Ministry of Transport. If you're planning to hire a car, check with your car hire company for information on their requirements before you travel. Driving standards are poor and traffic accidents are common. Avoid driving at night, which can be particularly hazardous. Don't hitch-hike. The risk of violence and kidnapping is higher in some rural areas, and there is a risk of being caught in roadblocks set up by illegal armed groups. Main roads are generally safe during daylight hours. The departmental capitals of Amazonas, Vaupes and Guainía are only accessible by air due to the lack of road infrastructure in these departments. Land border crossings The FCDO currently advise against all travel to Venezuela's border regions with Colombia. You should not use any of the Colombia-Venezuelan land crossings
--	--	--

			The 'Darien Gap' is a dangerous area renowned for the presence of several illegal armed groups, illegal migration, and drugs trafficking. There's no road crossing between Colombia and Panama. Avoid crossing between Panama and Colombia by land. To cross by land between Colombia and Ecuador, you should only use the crossing on the Pan-American Highway, at Ipiales. Unexploded ordnance Colombia is affected by land mines and unexploded ordnance. Mined areas are often unmarked. Be vigilant when visiting remote areas or travelling off the main roads. Air travel You can find a list of recent incidents and accidents on the website of the Aviation Safety network. The FCDO can't offer advice on the safety of individual airlines. However, the International Air Transport Association publishes lists of registered airlines that have been audited and found to meet a number of operational safety standards and recommended practices – IATA Operational Safety Audit and IATA Standard Safety Assessment. These lists aren't exhaustive and the absence of an airline from this list doesn't necessarily mean that it's unsafe.
Communications		• Consider access to landlines or alternative handsets if mobile phone is lost or stolen. • Back-up chargers or batteries for phones or electronic devices • Access to network or wi-fi	Loss of mobile phones or laptops are not covered on the University Insurance policy
Utilities/Cyber Issues		• Compatibility of equipment • Voltages and safety equipment • Power cuts or interruptions	Plug adapters will be required
Insect and animal bites		• Consider likely insect/animal issues in particular area • Avoid by prevention – repellents, clothing, etc. • Consider use of nets in accommodation • Carry appropriate treatment	

Contaminated water/food		• Avoid food or water which could be contaminated. • Carry water sterilising tablets.	Tap water is safe to drink only in Bogota. You should drink only bottled water and avoid ice in drinks.
Minor injuries and ailments		• Carry basic First Aid kit.	
Sunburn		• Avoid by prevention – hat, sunglasses, and sunblock. • Carry appropriate treatment.	
Leisure activities		• Ensure you are adequately insured (the University insurance does <u>not</u> provide cover for non-business related activity) • Skiing, white water, bungee jumping, diving. Etc.	The Warwick Business Travel Insurance will not provide cover for non-business (study) related activity. Ensure you take out personal insurance.
Natural disasters		• Assessment of the risk of typhoons, earthquake, tsunami, avalanche, etc	Earthquakes Earthquakes occur regularly in Colombia. In the event of an earthquake, monitor local media reports and follow the advice of the local authorities. You can find a real-time earthquake map and further information about earthquakes in Colombia on the US Geological Survey website. To learn more about what to do before, during and after an earthquake, visit the US Federal Emergency Management Agency website. Hurricanes/tropical storms Although uncommon, hurricanes and tropical storms can affect the Caribbean coast and the Archipelago of San Andres, Providencia and Santa Catalina. You should monitor local and international weather updates from the World Meteorological Organisation, the US National Hurricane Centre, the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) and the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM). See our tropical cyclones page for advice about what to do if you are caught up in a storm. Rainy season There is a risk of floods and landslides after heavy rains throughout the Colombian Andes. Seek local advice before travelling on mountain roads after heavy rain. Volcanoes

			Volcano activity in Colombia is monitored by Colombia's Geological Services (Servicio Geologico Colombiano, SGC). If you're planning to visit areas of known volcanic activity, pay careful attention to all warnings and follow the advice of the local authorities. Update April 2023 - The Nevado del Ruiz volcano is one of the 25 active and monitored volcanoes in Colombia. There has been a warning issued by Colombia's Geological Services (Servicio Geologico Colombiano, SGC) about the change in volcanic activity of Volcan Nevado del Ruiz. Colombian authorities continue to monitor its activity. The departments of Tolima, Caldas, Risaralda, Quindio, and Cudinamara might be affected. If you are in the areas mentioned, you should be prepared to make travel arrangements or even follow evacuation plans at short notice. If you are planning to visit affected areas, you should avoid the area and consider altering travel plans. Volcanic ash may impact flight availability and airport operations. You should notify friends and family of your safety, remain vigilant and follow the advice of the local security authorities and/or your tour operator. Monitor local media and seek information and advice from the local authorities before travelling on the Pan-American highway, which passes near the volcano. Call #767 for information (in Spanish) from the Colombian Highway Police about road closures. To learn more about The Nevado del Ruiz volcano (in Spanish), visit Servicio Geologico Colombiano SGC. To check the latest daily bulletins about the volcano activity (in Spanish), visit Boletín extraordinario page on the SGC website.
Research or work activities		• Awareness of safe systems of work • Awareness of local safety measures • Remoteness of work sites	Will be covered by the Host Institution
Completed by Department:			Student Mobility, STUDENT OPPORTUNITY
Completed by Study Abroad:			Friday, 06 February 2026

