

Overseas Travel

Risk Assessment: Student Mobility_SOUTH AFRICA

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:	SOUTH AFRICA
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/south-africa
Living In Country Guidance	https://www.gov.uk/world/living-in-south-africa
Sign-up for FCDO travel advice email alerts and follow FCDO travel advice on Twitter and Facebook	

<i>Hints and Tips from previous Student Mobility participants</i>	
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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 the SOUTH AFRICA, 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. Travel to South Africa There are no COVID-19 testing or vaccination requirements for travellers entering South Africa.
Money			The currency in SOUTH AFRICA is the South African Rand (R or ZAR) Check that ATMs are widely available in major cities and tourist areas. Banknotes and coins are used daily for transactions. You can use your foreign card to access cash and make transactions before you open a bank account in South Africa. MasterCard and Visa cards are widely accepted, but American Express cards are less common. Research and make yourself fully aware of the cost of living for South Africa. Some countries have a significantly higher cost of living than the UK, and this can seriously impact your

			placement. We have received feedback from previous students that being aware of this and having fully prepared for the increased cost is essential.
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. 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 the current rules for the most common types of travel. The authorities in South Africa set and enforce entry rules. If you’re not sure how these requirements apply to you, contact the South African High Commission in the UK. Passport validity requirements Your passport must have an ‘expiry date’ at least 30 days after the date you leave South Africa and have at least 2 blank pages. Dual nationals When returning to the UK, British citizens must carry a valid British passport or certificate of entitlement. See Dual citizenship. South African-British dual nationals If you are a South African citizen aged 18 or over, you must use a South African passport to enter and exit South Africa. It is illegal to use another country’s passport. See the South African Department of Home Affairs for further information. Visa requirements You can visit South Africa without a visa for up to 90 days for business or tourism. Check the expiry date of your visa or entry stamp and ensure you do not overstay. For more information on visas, contact the South African High Commission. The Department of Home Affairs also has information on South Africa visas and immigration regulations.

			Travelling with children There are special requirements for travelling to South Africa with children aged 17 and under, and for unaccompanied children entering South Africa. The South African Department of Home Affairs has more information. Vaccine requirements To enter South Africa, you must have a certificate to prove you've had a yellow fever vaccination if you're coming from a country listed as a transmission risk. For full details about medical entry requirements and recommended vaccinations, see TravelHealthPro's South Africa guide. Customs rules There are strict rules about goods you can take into or out of South Africa. You must declare anything that may be prohibited or subject to tax or duty. Taking money into South Africa When you enter South Africa, you must declare cash: • in South African rand if you are bringing more than 25,000 rand per person • in other currencies if together they are worth more than 10,000 US dollars
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 Customs rules There are strict rules about goods you can take into or out of South Africa. You must declare anything that may be prohibited or subject to tax or duty. Working in South Africa If you are planning to work in South Africa, you will need a visa. Work visas are normally only issued to foreigners where South African citizens with the relevant skills are not available for

		appointment. This can mean it is difficult to get a work visa in South Africa if you do not have a scarce skill. Read the South Africa government's guidance on working in South Africa as a foreign national and how to get a visa. To apply for a visa you may need to provide: • UK police certificate not older than 6 months • a medical report • a radiological report • offer or contract of employment Power cuts In South Africa there are nationwide power cuts caused by shortages. Planned power cuts ('loadshedding') have become longer, can happen daily and affect: • private accommodation, including hotels and airbnbs • availability of mobile phone networks and wifi • shops • banks and ATMs • public lighting • traffic lights • security systems such as alarms and electric fencing • petrol stations • water There may be higher risk of crime where security systems or public lighting do not work. You should: • ask your accommodation provider how they manage planned power cuts • check for planned cuts on the Eskom website or 'loadshedding' apps • follow the advice of local authorities if there are water restrictions, including bans on drinking tap water
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			Preparing for power cuts To prepare for long power cuts: • write down emergency contact numbers • plan how you'll let relatives and friends know where you are • carry a power bank with extra charging cables • carry a torch or other portable lighting • ensure you have enough medicine and first aid supplies • find nearby safe places that may have back-up power such as hotels, hospitals and police stations, in case you need help • read our advice If you are affected by a crisis abroad
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

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	Laws and cultural differences Personal ID Always carry a copy of your passport photo page and the page with your visitors permit or residence permit for South Africa. South African officials may ask for ID and proof of residence at any time. Keep your passport in a hotel safe or another secure location. Do not carry it with you unless you need it for official identification. Cannabis laws It is illegal to buy or sell cannabis or to use it in public. Using cannabis in private is legal. Public and private use of cannabidiol oils (CBD oils) is also legal. The use, sale and purchase of all other drugs is illegal. LGBT+ travellers Same-sex sexual activity is legal. It is illegal to discriminate based on sexual orientation. See our advice for LGBT+ travellers. Wildlife, animal products and souvenirs It is illegal to buy, sell, kill or capture any protected wild animal or trade any of its parts without a permit. Trading ivory or rhino horn is banned. Anyone caught buying or trafficking banned goods will be prosecuted.
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	Terrorism 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.

		Reschedule visit or modify itinerary if at all feasible.	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. Terrorism in South Africa Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in South Africa. The main threat is from individuals who may have been inspired by terrorist groups, including Daesh, and who may carry out 'lone actor' attacks. Attacks could be indiscriminate and could target public spaces and places visited by foreigners, such as: - tourist sites - shopping centres - high profile events - crowded places Stay aware of your surroundings, keep up to date with local media reports and follow the advice of local authorities. Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories conflict The current conflict in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories has led to heightened tensions around the world. Terrorist groups, such as Al-Qaida and Daesh, have called on their supporters to carry out terrorist attacks in response to the conflict. The conflict could also motivate individuals to carry out attacks. Terrorist attacks could target Jewish or Muslim communities, or the interests of Israel and its allies. Attacks could also be indiscriminate and happen without warning. Political situation There are regular protests and demonstrations in South Africa which can turn violent at short notice. Violence could affect participants and bystanders anywhere in the country. Avoid areas where protests, demonstrations or marches are taking place, especially in city centres and townships. Do not cross protester roadblocks. This could provoke a violent
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			reaction. Monitor local and social media for updates, including local radio. Where possible stay on main roads. Be aware GPS could lead you to less secure areas. Protests can happen at some land border crossings, particularly with Mozambique.
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/

Crime:		• Awareness of risk of theft or pickpockets • Awareness of local scams or hotspots • Cash and card security/awareness	Crime There is a high crime rate in South Africa, with incidents including: • violent muggings • snatching jewellery and valuables • carjacking • ‘smash and grab’ attacks on vehicles • house robbery • rape and sexual assault • murder Cape Town airport road attacks There have been recent attacks and violent crime on secondary roads to and from Cape Town airport. You should: • stay on the M3 and N2 • avoid the R300 • stay on ‘airport approach road’ (exit 16 on the N2) and avoid Borchard’s Quarry Road leading to Nyanga • make a journey plan in advance and discuss it with a trusted local contact • avoid following GPS navigation routes that take you away from main roads Table Mountain National Park attacks There have been recent violent attacks and muggings against hikers and foreign tourists in Table Mountain National Park, including on Lion’s Head and Signal Hill. You should: • avoid quieter areas of the park, especially during early mornings and evenings • stay on busy, marked trails • go on popular days such as weekends • not hike alone Some Cape Town residents coordinate group hikes on social media, for example The Hikers Network, Meet up and Facebook. The Hikers Network offer a free safety tracking service.
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Crime locations

Violent crime can take place anywhere, including in tourist destinations and transport hubs. Most violent crimes occur in townships located on the outskirts of major cities, central business districts or in isolated areas. The threat is higher when it is dark.

There have been violent incidents involving tourists at popular tourist locations. There are usually security personnel in the main tourist areas who can assist tourists. However, policing and security can be limited, so always be cautious.

Avoid isolated beaches and picnic spots. Do not walk alone in remote areas or on beaches when deserted, especially when it is dark.

Protecting yourself and your belongings

To protect your personal safety:

- do not display valuables or leave them in your car
- take safe and reliable transport – see [Public transport](#)
- stay alert and be wary of people who approach you
- do not walk around after dark
- travel with friends if possible and make sure someone knows your plans
- only go to a township with a responsible and reliable tour guide
- consider removing expensive-looking jewellery to protect yourself

Fraud and scams

Be alert to the risk of scams, including through business or job opportunities, visa services or offers of romance and friendships, including on dating apps.

Card skimming and confidence scams are widespread. There has been an increase in cybercrime and internet scamming. Do not meet up with or send money to someone you do not know.

If you use a visa agent, be wary of fraud. Always follow the correct visa application process through the [Department of Home Affairs](#). Fraudsters often use embassy or other government details – check they are authentic before responding. Visa scams come in many forms and can cause great financial loss.

Criminals may pose as officials for financial or personal gain. If in doubt, ask to see their ID and move into a safe, public and open space. Police officers must carry their appointment certificate. If you have any concerns, call:

- police on 10111
- emergency services on 112 (mobile only)

Dating app safety

Criminals use dating apps to rob, rape or sexually assault victims. Be cautious using dating apps. Meet in well-lit, public places and tell friends or family your plans.

ATMs and money exchanges

Crime around ATMs and money exchanges is common. You should:

- hide your PIN
- be wary of strangers offering to help when your card does not work, or trying to lure you to an ATM
- only change large sums of money in banks or secure shopping malls, not in busy public areas – do be aware, however, that people exchanging large amounts of cash have been followed and robbed

Criminal kidnap

The risk of kidnap is increasing throughout South Africa. Criminals generally kidnap people for financial gain.

In recent years, foreign nationals, including British nationals, have been kidnapped. British nationals can be seen as wealthier than locals and may be at particular risk of kidnap for financial gain. There have also been reports of young children being kidnapped from shops, shopping malls and beaches. Stay vigilant and be aware of your surroundings.

To reduce your risk:

- avoid wearing expensive clothing or jewellery, particularly in public
- be vigilant, especially at night

There have been reports of long queues leading to armed robberies and express kidnappings close to the Lebombo border crossing with Mozambique at Nelspruit, Mpumalanga. Express

		kidnappings are short-term, opportunistic abductions aimed at extracting cash from the victim. Victims may be held hostage for up to several days while criminals use stolen bank or credit cards. These often take place after dark. Consider whether you can use a different crossing or only approach the border during daylight hours. Airport crime Crime in and around airports includes robbery and theft of baggage and valuables. Criminals have followed people from OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg to their destinations and then robbed them, often at gunpoint. You should: • be careful in and around the airport • use main roads to and from airports • go through public areas quickly • avoid isolated areas • arrange for your hotel or tour operator to meet you if possible • go to your connecting flight quickly if in transit • consider vacuum-wrapping luggage • keep valuables in your carry-on luggage Vehicle crime Carjacking and robbery are common, particularly after dark and around traffic lights, junctions, petrol stations and driveways. Thieves often break car windows and take valuables while cars are waiting at junctions. Criminals sometimes force vehicles, including tourist buses, to stop so that they can rob passengers. Common tactics include throwing spikes (sometimes hidden in plastic bags), stones or glass in front of vehicles. If criminals target your vehicle, drive to a safe place, or as far as possible, if it is safe to do so. Criminals may pose as police and use 'blue lights' on plain (often white) vehicles to stop motorists and steal the vehicle. If you are suspicious, do not stop and continue to a police station, petrol station or other place of safety to call the police. Do not pick up strangers or stop to help apparently distressed motorists. Continue driving and report the incident to the police.
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If you are involved in a carjacking, stay calm and surrender your valuables and your vehicle if asked. Do not resist as this could lead to a violent reaction.

To reduce your risk while driving:

- check your route for any hazards or disruptions before you set off
- use a GPS, but do not follow routes into less secure areas – generally smaller roads
- stay on main roads and park in well-lit areas
- avoid stopping for long periods
- lock your car when you leave it, and manually check the doors have locked
- keep your windows closed, especially at junctions
- keep valuables out of sight, ideally in the boot
- use ‘smash and grab’ film on windows – ask hire car firms for this
- make sure you can see the tarmac and the tyres of the car in front of you when you stop your vehicle, giving you space to escape if you need to

Taxi app crime

Scammers target people using taxi apps in major cities.

Make sure you:

- use an internationally recognised service
- book the taxi in the app
- check the vehicle registration and ID before entering
- do not wait in the street
- do not display your phone or valuables
- ask the driver to close rear windows and lock doors if you cannot do so yourself

At airports, be wary of unregulated drivers posing as Uber or other taxi app drivers. If you book a taxi, wait in the designated area.

Tensions between taxi app and metered taxi drivers can lead to armed violence, particularly around Gautrain stations and at airports. Strikes and protests by taxi app drivers take place, sometimes with attacks against drivers not seen to be participating. Passengers have also faced harassment or violence. Apps generally warn about high-risk areas, but be cautious using these services. During strikes use alternative reliable private transportation.

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 Support for British nationals abroad This page lists guidance on how you can help yourself stay safe abroad, and the help the Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) can provide.
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).
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. Emergency medical number Dial 112 (from a mobile) or 10177 and ask for an ambulance. Contact your insurance or medical assistance company quickly if you're referred to a medical facility for treatment. 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.

			Vaccine recommendations and health risks At least 8 weeks before your trip: • check the latest vaccine recommendations for South Africa • see where to get vaccines and whether you have to pay on the NHS travel vaccinations page See what health risks you'll face in South Africa, including: • malaria • chikungunya • cholera Altitude sickness is a risk in parts of South Africa, including Johannesburg. Read more about altitude sickness on TravelHealthPro. HIV HIV is a risk in South Africa. Take normal precautions to avoid exposure to HIV/AIDS. There is more information on sexually transmitted infection risk and prevention for travellers on TravelHealthPro.
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. If you take regular medication, make sure you can get repeat prescriptions if needed. Most prescription medicines in the UK need a prescription ('script') from a doctor in South Africa. The doctor may ask you to get an electronic prescription from your medical practitioner in the UK. There are pharmacies across the country – some have medical practitioners on site who can write prescriptions. TravelHealthPro explains best practice when travelling 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
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			This is particularly important if you have a health condition or are pregnant. Travel and mental health Read FCDO guidance on travel and mental health. There is also guidance on TravelHealthPro. Healthcare in South Africa There is no healthcare agreement between the UK and South Africa. Public medical care varies across South Africa. Standards of treatment and hygiene may not be the same as in the UK. South Africa has a very high standard of private medical care. Private healthcare can be expensive, so make sure you have the right travel health insurance and funds to cover the cost of medical treatment abroad and repatriation if needed. FCDO has a list of medical providers in South Africa.
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).	Transport risks Pedestrian safety Pedestrian deaths account for a high number of road deaths every year in South Africa. This can happen anywhere, and the risk is higher if you cross a road away from marked crossings (jaywalking). If possible, cross at a marked crossing when it's safe to do so. Public transport Transport with a greater risk of theft, violence and unreliable service includes: • minibus taxis • Metrorail train services • long-distance public train and coach services Generally safer and more reliable transport includes: • Gautrain between Johannesburg, Pretoria and OR Tambo International Airport • MyCiTi bus in Cape Town (central business district and Atlantic Seaboard) • airport shuttle buses through internationally recognised hotels • internationally recognised taxi apps where bookings are confirmed through the app To reduce your risk: • do not walk to or from Gautrain stations after dark • do not travel to townships by MyCiTi bus – there have been violent attacks in Khayelitsha Road travel If you are planning to drive in South Africa, see information on driving abroad. You can use a UK photocard driving licence to drive in South Africa for up 12 months. If you still have a paper driving licence, get the 1968 version of the international driving permit (IDP) before you travel, or update to a photocard licence.
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			If you are travelling to a lodge in a remote area, check road conditions with the lodge management as you may need a car with good ground clearance. If you rent a car, save the emergency roadside assistance numbers. Download an offline map if you do not have access to a GPS.
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.	
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.

Outdoor activities and adventure tourism

Do not take unnecessary risks when participating in outdoor activities and adventure tourism. Health and safety standards vary globally and may not be the same as in the UK.

Where possible, insist on a receiving a safety briefing.

Hiking and walking

To stay safe while hiking, [South African National Parks \(SANParks\)](#) advise you:

- save [emergency numbers](#) before you hike
- not hike alone – go in groups of 4 or more if possible
- choose a route that matches your ability
- stay on busy, marked trails on popular days such as weekends
- plan your route and allow enough time
- carry water, food and a fully charged phone
- dress appropriately and prepare for weather changes
- tell someone your route and when you expect to return

Table Mountain National Park

Some Table Mountain trails are strenuous and mountain rescuers get regular calls to help hikers. Know your limits, research possible trails and select a route suitable to your fitness level. Always check the availability of the cable car if you are planning to use it.

See [Crime](#) for information on violent attacks in Table Mountain National Park.

Kruger National Park

After a violent attack killed a tourist in the Kruger National Park, SANParks advise against using the Numbi gate. There have been protests and violent incidents on the R538 road leading to the gate.

You can fly directly to Kruger National Park from Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban. Many people also choose to take a private tour or drive overland themselves.

			If you stay outside the park, contact your lodge in advance to find out if any disruptions will affect your trip. See SANParks news. Swimming safety Beach conditions and local safety measures vary. Every year, many people drown due to strong sea currents. Ask for a life jacket if you participate in water sports. On beaches with no equipment or warning signs, speak to local people who know the conditions. If in doubt, do not enter the water. On busier tourist beaches: • only swim between the red and yellow flags • read the warning signs • follow instructions from lifeguards The South African National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) has information about rip currents. In an emergency, call: • 112 emergency services (mobile only) • +27 87 094 9774 - NSRI emergency line
Natural disasters		• Assessment of the risk of typhoons, earthquake, tsunami, avalanche, etc	Extreme weather and natural disasters Find out what you can do to prepare for and respond to extreme weather and natural hazards. Flooding Heavy rainfall often causes widespread flooding. There is a year-round risk of flooding across South Africa. Always check weather reports and news for hazards before you start your journey. For alerts and forecasts, see the South African Weather Service.

			Wildfires Wildfires can happen in rural and urban areas during hot and dry weather. If you see a wildfire, move to a safe place away from vegetation and smoke. If you are inside a building or a car and judge it is safe to stay there, close all vents and windows.
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
			Frequently Asked Questions (warwick.ac.uk)

