International Travel for Trainees on Visas

Purpose  The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for trainees on visas when traveling outside of the United States.

Policy  The GME Committee recognizes that many trainees travel outside of the United States (U.S.). Trainees with visas may be prone to unexpected delays that prevent them from returning to academic responsibilities as scheduled. Trainees with visas must contact the Office of International Affairs (210-567-6241, International@uthscsa.edu) prior to making travel arrangements if leaving the U.S. during their training programs. Trainees who plan to travel abroad for any HSC-associated or sponsored business or academic purposes to countries that may fall under Department of State Travel Warning will require an International Travel Waiver well in advance of the planned travel date; international travel waivers are not guaranteed. Please refer to HOP Chapter 15 for more information about travel to restricted regions.

A trainee who is prevented from returning to the U.S. as scheduled due to unforeseen travel delays will continue to receive his/her stipend up to the remaining allotment of vacation. Once a trainee reaches the maximum allotment of vacation days, s/he will be required to take an unpaid leave of absence for the remainder of his/her time away. Benefit coverage will continue.

Additional circumstances of the continued absence may allow the trainee to be eligible for another type of leave (e.g. emergency leave/funerals, short-term disability).

Extended breaks in time during training may negatively impact board eligibility – see GME Policy 7.3.1.

In the case of an extended absence which is disruptive to other trainees within the program, the program director may elect to rescind the appointment and fill the position.