When you travel abroad, everything you take with you is an export. The applicability of export controls depends where you are going, what you are taking, and what you will be doing. Most travel is free of export concerns, but with today’s heightened government security, you should demonstrate awareness and best practices.

### International Travel Red Flags

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where are you going?</th>
<th>What are you taking?</th>
<th>What are you doing?</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| Travel to **embargoed** countries requires an export license.  
- Cuba  
- Iran  
- N Korea  
- Sudan  
- Syria | **Physical Items**, even if commercially purchased, may need an export license.  
Additional review should be conducted on,  
- Scientific equipment & parts  
- Biologics  
- Chemicals & Toxins  
Some physical items may be “temporarily” exported for business purposes.  
For example,  
- Laptops & Smart Devices | **Teaching or training** beyond what would be included in a public educational course.  
**Presenting** research that is not in the public domain.  
**Field research** conducted abroad - Research related to space or military research may be subject to export controls.  
It is illegal to do business with people and companies that are blocked by the US Government.  
How do you know if the receiver or their company is blocked?  
VEC can help you with a restricted parties screening. |
| Travel to **at-risk** countries should be reviewed for security and safety reasons.  
Examples,  
- China  
- Russia  
- Iraq  
- United Arab Emirates (UAE) | **Intangible Items** may also be restricted.  
Examples,  
- Unpublished or restricted data  
- Software source code  
- High level encryption |  |
| Visit the Department of State Travel Advisories for a full list. | | |

Complete an ITQ for all International travel red flags

**International Travel Questionnaire (ITQ):** [https://redcap.vanderbilt.edu/surveys/?s=FWKN78W9LD](https://redcap.vanderbilt.edu/surveys/?s=FWKN78W9LD)

Examples:
- Traveling to present research at an open conference  
  - Canada, LOW export concern  
  - Iran, export license REQUIRED
- Taking a commercially purchased drone to China  
  - To study geographical topography, LOW export concern  
  - To conduct military training simulations, HIGH export concern

Vanderbilt Export Compliance (VEC)
vec@vanderbilt.edu
[https://www.vanderbilt.edu/exportcompliance/](https://www.vanderbilt.edu/exportcompliance/)
615-343-2426 or 615-343-6070

* VUMC departments should contact the VUMC Export office for all export matters: [https://ww2.mc.vanderbilt.edu/globalsupport/50084](https://ww2.mc.vanderbilt.edu/globalsupport/50084)