

Summer Scholars Travel Policy

The purpose of the Summer Scholars Program is to foster mentorship of undergraduate research by Tufts faculty. The program is intended to support joint student-faculty research projects on one of the Tufts campuses (Medford, Boston, Grafton). Students and their faculty mentors are expected to conduct research on a Tufts campus, interact regularly, and take part in the lively community of Summer Scholars on campus. In some cases, the student-faculty team, or just the student, may need to travel off campus to conduct research. Students who are conducting independent research abroad are held to an even higher standard for admission to the program than students who will be staying on campus.

The following are examples of acceptable travel during the Summer Scholars 10-week research window:

- 1) Student and professor travel together to local New England sites to conduct research (for example, to conduct ecological research at a specific off-campus site).
- 2) Student travels alone on day-trips from the Tufts campus to local sites to conduct research (for example, to visit a museum, special collection at a library, historical site, research lab).
- 3) Student travels alone to another part of the United States to conduct research for 5 weeks or less during the 10-week Summer Scholars window (for example, to conduct field research, to conduct interviews, to conduct ethnographic observations).
- 4) Student travels with faculty mentor overseas for 8 weeks or less during the 10-week Summer Scholars window (for example, to participate in an archaeological dig, to visit a research lab, to conduct field research, to conduct interviews, to conduct ethnographic observations, to visit museums and special collections).

Examples of research that are allowed but require the student to provide an official letter of affiliation:

- 1) Independent international travel by the student, not accompanied by mentor, for any period greater than two weeks.

Examples of research proposals **not** suited for the Tufts Summer Scholars Program:

- 1) Travel by student (with or without the faculty mentor) to a nation or area of the world considered dangerous by the U.S. State Department.
- 2) The student has found a Tufts professor who agrees to act as a “mentor” or “advisor,” but the student’s research is being supervised primarily by a non-Tufts professor or by a graduate student.

Applications for international travel require the following additional elements:

- 1) A signed letter, on letterhead, from an affiliated organization in the country where the student wishes to travel. This letter will outline the ways that the sponsoring organization will support the student (offering work space, transportation in country, access to research subjects, etc.). Email correspondence will not suffice.
- 2) Completed IRB approval if necessary.
- 3) Signed waiver for international travel.

All students traveling alone internationally are required to check in weekly via phone or Skype with the Program Coordinator.