



What are the comprehensively sanctioned countries?

As of Fall 2024, they are Iran, Syria, Cuba, North Korea, and the following regions of Ukraine: Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk.

This list can change and the Export Controls Team will update the information as needed.

Who decides what countries are sanctioned?

The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the US Department of Treasury is responsible for issuing sanctions.

Is it legal to travel to these countries?

Except for North Korea, there is no United States law that keeps persons from traveling to these countries.

However, there are safety and other considerations with travel to these countries and you should contact Global Safety & Security (globalsafety@princeton.edu) for more advice.

You also may need a license from the US government to travel to these locations depending on the work you intend to participate in. Please contact the [Export Controls Team](#) for more information.

Are there limitations on travel to Iran and Cuba?

Yes, several.

The US government has placed limitations on travel to Iran and Cuba that can vary based upon a particular situation including why you are traveling, who you are meeting, and what you are taking with you.

Please read the below FAQs for more detail and contact the [Export Controls Team](#) with specific questions.

Can I travel to Iran to visit family or sightsee?

Yes, there is no restriction on traveling to Iran in order to visit family and friends or sightseeing, but your interactions with Princeton may be limited during that time.

I'm not a US citizen, do the restrictions apply to me?

Yes. When interacting with, working for, or doing research with Princeton University, its associates and employees, these restrictions would still apply.

Can I travel to Cuba to attend a class?

If the class is for credit, a General License related to educational activities may be available. There are strict limitations on what activities may occur and how payments can be made. Please contact the [Export Controls Team](#) for more information.

Can I present or attend at a conference in Cuba?

Most likely, as long as the conference is open to anyone to register and anything you will discuss is confined to either information already in the public domain or intended for publication.

This includes all discussions during your time at the conference, whether in official sessions or during casual conversations.

Can I go to Cuba for a conference and then stay for a few days to sightsee?

While in Cuba for educational purposes, including attending a conference, you must maintain a full-time schedule of education events. Events can include cultural activities such as guided museum tours, language lessons etc., but they should be complementary to your main reason for attending and not the focus.

Do I need anything special to travel to Cuba? (alternative: Do I need to inform the university of my travel to Cuba?)

You should make sure to register your travel with the university via the [Enroll My Trip](#) travel registration system. The Export Controls Team will provide a Travel Authorization letter to travelers to Cuba. This letter includes details related to the travel, the regulations allowing the travel to take place and additional information regarding what actions can legally be done in Cuba.

Can I perform research in Cuba?

Possibly.

Certain research may be allowed, but please contact the [Export Controls Team](#) with details for specific advice well in advance.

Are there restrictions around where I can stay in Cuba?

Yes, several hotels in Cuba are sanctioned by the US government restricted party lists and payment cannot be provided to them for any reason. This list is called the 'List of Restricted Entities and Subentities Associated with Cuba effective January 8, 2021'

Please check with the [Export Controls Team](#) prior to booking stays and look at the list provided here: [Cuba Restricted List - United States Department of State](#)

Can I present or attend a conference in Iran?

Possibly.

Conferences should:

- Be open to anyone who wants to attend.
- Discuss things either already in the public domain or intended for publication.

The content of the conference may be of concern and most will require a license to participate in. Please contact the [Export Control Team](#) as soon as possible to review and begin a license application if needed.

Can I perform research in Iran?

Some research can be undertaken in Iran, but the specific circumstances need to be reviewed to determine if a license would be required so please contact the [Export Controls Team](#) with details. Any license needed for activities planned in Iran must be obtained **before** you depart to Iran.

What if I want to do research at nonacademic institutions for Iran?

This will most likely require a license. Please contact the [Export Controls Team](#) well in advance of making travel plans to Iran.

How early should I contact the Export Controls Team for travel to Iran?

As soon as you are able.

Iran sanctions are complex and take time to analysis. Furthermore, if a license from the federal government is needed, it can take over a year to receive.

What information should I provide the Export Control Team when traveling to a sanctioned country?

Please provide:

- Who you are visiting? (i.e. universities, companies etc.)
- Where are you visiting?
- What you will be doing? (research, conference talk etc.)
- What you will be taking with you?
- Any links to conferences, events etc. that you have

Can I check my Princeton email while in Iran or Cuba?

You can check your email as long as the following applies:

- You do **NOT** have access to any export controlled information.
- You do **NOT** respond to questions regarding research.
- You do **NOT** advise students, staff etc. About specifics.
- You **CAN** exchange emails about preparing a paper.

Can I work on a manuscript while in Iran?

Yes, as long it is limited to the writing and editing of the manuscript and does not extend to any research or analysis.

Can I teach students at Princeton while in Iran?

Possibly.

For areas that are not related to science, engineering, or mathematics, you may teach basic, open courses that contain information generally available in the public domain from similarly developed courses.

For other areas, please contact the [Export Controls Team](#) for specific advice.

Can I advise my Princeton students while in Iran or Cuba?

In a limited capacity.

You can provide general advice and information on things like career and class choices, but you cannot advise about most research activities. Please contact the [Export Controls Team](#) about your specific situation.

Can I pay someone in a sanctioned country?

Possibly.

Most banks in sanctioned countries are on restricted party lists and cannot be utilized to transfer funds.

Some sanctioned countries have additional restrictions as to how and what funds can be used for. For more details on payments in a sanctioned country, please contact [Global Financial Services](#).

Could I send payment for someone in a sanctioned country to a bank in a different country?

This is not recommended without consulting the Export Controls Team and Global Financial Services prior to trying to send payment.

Can I employ someone in a sanctioned country?

It will depend on what they are employed to do and how you will pay them.

If they are coming to Princeton to work with you, they will be screened during the visa process and will be allowed.

If they will remain in the sanctioned country, further details will be required. Please contact [Global Financial Services](#) for more information.

Can I participate in a conference virtually run in Iran while in the US?

A license will be required to participate in a virtual conference in Iran. Please contact the [Export Controls Team](#) well in advance to begin the export license application process.

What activities can I do for Princeton while in Iran?

You can complete literature reviews and comments.

Work on writing any papers you intend to publish.

Respond to “housekeeping” emails regarding basic things such as syllabus questions, room assignment, due dates etc.

Can I accept payment from an Iranian entity?

It would depend on what the payment was for and how it was being routed. Several Iranian banks are sanctioned by the US government and cannot transfer money to US banks.

Can I take my work laptop with me on a trip to Iran?

Prior to taking your laptop, please check with the Office of Information Technology. Princeton has a loaner laptop program that can provide “clean” laptops to students and staff travelling overseas. Please contact your departmental manager for more information on this program.

If your laptop contains sensitive information such as HIPAA, FERPA, select agent, or export controlled data, please do not take your laptop overseas without first speaking with the [Research Security Team](#)

Can I take scientific equipment with me on a trip to Iran?

A license will most likely be needed for any equipment, including basic items such as pens and notebooks. Please contact the [Export Controls Team](#) with specific details and they will work with you on potentially obtaining a license.

Can I take official Princeton gifts with me on a trip to Iran?

Most gifts will require an export license to take with you on a trip to Iran, including items such as pens and mugs.

Books about Princeton are recommended as a better option as the regulations surrounding them are different than other physical items.

What happens if I am already in Iran, Cuba, or another comprehensively sanctioned country?

Please contact the [Export Controls Team](#) as soon as possible and cease all research and consulting activities until you receive a response.

Can I use Zoom, Teams, Canvas, or other Princeton online tools while in a comprehensively sanctioned country?

Princeton's license for these products do not allow for their use in these countries. Please do not access or attempt to use these tools while in these countries.

Can I travel to North Korea?

US persons cannot legally travel to North Korea with official, US government authorization. There is a very low likelihood of obtaining this authorization for academic purposes.

Even speaking about public domain information in North Korea can cause legal consequences, including fines and jailtime.

I need a license, what do I do next?

The Export Controls Team will prepare and submit all licenses on your behalf. However, you will be heavily involved in the process. The Export Controls Team will need information related to the travel/shipment. Information needed may include the following:

- Recipient's Name (including C.V. and information related to their background as it pertains to the license)
- Recipient's Institution
- Purpose of Travel/Shipment
- Items being shipped

Depending on the type of license and the government agencies involved, license approval can take months. It is recommended that you contact the [Export Controls Team](#) as early as possible so that the process can begin.

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