

LGBTQIA+ travellers may face challenges overseas

Griffith values our student and staff diversity, including members of the LGBTQIA+ community. We understand, however, that some countries do not have the same protections as in Australia. Our material is intended to alert our Griffith community to these differences to ensure the greatest possible safety for those travelling.

We understand that some of this material may be upsetting and encourage students to access counselling if needed.

Choosing a country

It is recommended that LGBTQIA+ students carefully consider their choice of overseas study destination in relation to potential safety and security issues. The Global Mobility team can work with students to identify the best programs and locations for their needs, both academic and personal.

Abiding by the law

Homosexuality is illegal in many countries including Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tonga, parts of Indonesia, parts of the Middle East, and a number of African nations.

Additionally, social attitudes in many countries can result in harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBTQIA+) individuals and groups; harassment is also frequently reported in countries where same-sex relationships are legal. It is advisable you consult the Australian Government's [Smart Traveller](#) Website, along with <https://www.equaldex.com/>

Travelling delays

Transgender & gender non-conforming (trans) travellers risk facing delays or difficulties at border controls and immigration points.

For example, trans* travellers may also experience pat downs and even secondary screening at major US entry ports, and there are many reports of discrimination by American TSA agents towards trans* people.

Travelling to the USA

Caution is advised before traveling to the USA if trans. You will also need to ensure that if you are taking hormone replacement therapy, or other medication, that it is legal to travel with that medication to your

destination. Further information for traveling to American destinations, visit [The National Center for Transgender Equality website](#).

Strategies

The following steps can be taken to minimise the likelihood of encountering social, legal or physical consequences arising from your sexual orientation:

- Keep a low profile

LGBTQI+ travellers generally face harassment or legal censure only if they draw attention to their sexuality. In higher risk locations, you should avoid drawing attention to yourself through public displays of affection or expressing opinions on LGBTQIA+ issues in public.

- Follow the law

Travellers should always comply with local laws, including in countries where LGBTQIA+ activity is illegal.

- Be vigilant

Please exercise higher levels of vigilance. Remain alert to your surroundings, check for signs of being followed and be wary of over-friendly strangers. In some instances, this could involve individuals with violent intentions, or the sign of an entrapment campaign by police in countries where homosexuality is illegal.

- Be tech aware

You should consider temporarily removing any apps or images which could inadvertently expose them you to greater scrutiny from the authorities. This is especially important for countries where homosexuality is illegal, and where scrutiny of electronic devices is common on arrival.