BUP Services for Penn Visitors

This document summarizes what services BUP can offer visitors from Penn.

1. Travel Health Insurance
Penn provides travel medical and evacuation assistance to Penn students and employees who are travelling outside of the U.S. on Penn business. Visit Penn’s International SOS (ISOS) portal for more information about this coverage. In order to access ISOS, you must register your trip on Penn’s Global Activity Registry (GAR). This step pre-authorizes you to use ISOS and you can access the ISOS membership card and details for Penn.

2. Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)
Due to the risks of exposure to HIV and other infectious diseases in Botswana, BUP maintains a supply of PEP at the BUP office. Penn students, faculty and staff have access to this course of medication in the event of an exposure to HIV. Due to an increased risk of exposure, BUP has a policy to disburse an emergency dose of PEP to post-graduate trainees and medical students who are clinically active in Botswana to keep with them at all times during their rotation.

3. Permit and Visa Assistance
The government of Botswana has specific requirements for visitors who carry out work in country. These requirements apply to most of Penn’s visitors coming to Botswana. BUP can help to guide you through the requirements to enter and work in Botswana. Refer to this guidance document for more information.

4. Professional Medical Liability Insurance
Penn employed clinicians, Penn medical students, and Penn trainees are covered by Penn’s professional medical liability insurance.

5. BHPC Application Assistance
BUP can provide administrative support to register with the Botswana Health Professions Council (BHPC), which is required for all those who are practicing medicine in Botswana. BUP will explain the necessary documentation needed to complete the BHPC application and assist with its submission. You must bring with you all the documentation required to Botswana. Refer to the requirements for the BHPC application here.

6. Airport Pick up and Drop off
BUP can provide airport pick up and drop off services to/from the Sir Seretse Khama International Airport in Gaborone. This service is reserved for BUP work-related travel to/from the airport (i.e. your initial arrival and final departure). It is not intended for any personal travel to/from the airport during your time in Botswana. This service is limited to pick-ups and drop offs between the hours of 8am – 6pm Monday through Sunday. So please book your flights accordingly. If you will be arriving/ departing outside of those hours, you can get a taxi to/from the airport. The price for a taxi is about 100-120 BWP ($10-12) one-way. You will need BWP (local currency) for a taxi. There are ATMs at the airport.

7. Accommodations at Pilane Court
Pilane Court is a three-unit residential complex leased by the University of Pennsylvania and provided to support the mission of the BUP. Bedrooms, bathrooms, and kitchens are intended to be shared similar to a hostel. Guests stay at Pilane Court at the discretion of BUP. Reservations are required. More information on nightly rates and how to make a reservation can be found on the BUP website.