



CENTRALISED RISK ASSESSMENT – YEREVAN (2026)

Introduction

This Centralised Risk Assessment provides an overview of the principal risks and practical considerations relevant to Language Link students studying in Yerevan, Armenia. It considers personal safety, the political and regional security environment, healthcare and mental-health provision, food and water, transportation, social and cultural considerations, seasonal and environmental risks, and emergency arrangements.

The purpose of the assessment is to help students and staff understand the conditions in which the programme operates, identify areas requiring appropriate precautions or advance planning, and support the safety and wellbeing of students throughout their stay in Armenia.

The assessment is based primarily on current information and guidance from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Armenian government authorities and other relevant official or specialist sources. **Information and travel advice may change, and the assessment should therefore be reviewed periodically and whenever significant changes occur that may affect students or programme operations.**

General Safety

Yerevan is generally regarded as a safe and welcoming city for international visitors. Levels of violent crime are relatively low, although students should take the normal precautions appropriate to any major city. Petty theft and pickpocketing can occur, particularly in crowded areas, markets, tourist locations and on public transport.

Students should:

- ✓ Remain aware of their surroundings, particularly at night and in crowded areas.
- ✓ Keep phones, wallets, passports and other valuables secure and avoid carrying unnecessary amounts of cash.
- ✓ Take sensible precautions when visiting bars, clubs and other nightlife venues, including keeping drinks under their supervision.
- ✓ Avoid walking alone in unfamiliar or poorly lit areas late at night where practical.
- ✓ Use reputable or pre-arranged taxis or recognised app-based taxi services and check that the vehicle and driver correspond with the booking details.

- ✓ Report theft, assault or other serious incidents to the police and inform Language Link staff where appropriate.

Students should exercise the same sensible personal-security precautions in Yerevan that they would in any unfamiliar city and should avoid allowing the city's generally relaxed and welcoming atmosphere to lead to complacency.

Emergency assistance: Armenia introduced 112 as its unified emergency number in February 2026, providing access to police and rescue services. Current FCDO guidance continues to list 911 as an emergency number and specifically advises calling 911 for an ambulance. Students should therefore keep both numbers available: 112 for police/rescue emergencies and 911 for emergency medical assistance.

Overall assessment: Personal-security risks for students in central Yerevan are generally low. Normal urban awareness, particularly when travelling at night, socialising or visiting crowded areas, should substantially reduce the principal everyday risks.

References: *Armenian Ministry of Internal Affairs; UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Foreign Travel Advice: Armenia – Getting Help / Health.*

Political and Regional Security Context

Armenia is a parliamentary democracy with an active civil society. Day-to-day life in Yerevan is generally calm, and shops, restaurants, universities and public services operate normally.

Armenia's regional security environment should nevertheless be recognised. Relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan have improved significantly following the initialling of a peace agreement in August 2025, and the two countries continue to work towards normalisation, border delimitation and greater regional cooperation. However, the Armenia–Azerbaijan land border remains closed and some tensions remain. The FCDO currently advises against all travel to within 5 km of the eastern border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as travel on the M16/H26 road between Ijevan and Noyemberyan. These restrictions do not apply to Yerevan.

Political demonstrations and protests sometimes take place in central Yerevan, usually in connection with domestic political or social issues. Although demonstrations are generally peaceful, students should avoid large crowds and demonstrations, follow the instructions of local authorities and monitor local news if significant protests are taking place.

Students should:

- ✓ Avoid demonstrations, political rallies and large gatherings where possible.
- ✓ Follow official travel advice and instructions issued by the Armenian authorities.
- ✓ Not travel to areas against which the FCDO advises travel.
- ✓ Consult Language Link staff before undertaking independent travel close to Armenia's international borders.
- ✓ Remain aware that the regional security situation can change and check current advice before travelling outside Yerevan.

Overall assessment: Yerevan continues to provide a generally stable environment for international students. The principal regional-security concerns relate to specific border areas rather than everyday life in the capital. Nevertheless, developments in Armenia's relations with neighbouring countries should continue to be monitored throughout the programme.

Reference: *UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Foreign Travel Advice: Armenia – Safety and Security / Regional Risks*

Health, Hospital and Emergency Care

Healthcare in Yerevan is provided through both public and private medical facilities. Public medical facilities in the capital are generally sufficient for minor or straightforward medical conditions, while private hospitals and clinics offer a broader range of services and may provide easier access to English-speaking staff. Standards of healthcare outside Yerevan may be more limited.

Key medical facilities in Yerevan include:

- ✓ **Erebuni Medical Center** – a large multidisciplinary medical centre providing 24-hour emergency, inpatient, diagnostic and specialist services.
- ✓ **Nairi Medical Center** – a private multidisciplinary hospital providing emergency, diagnostic, medical and surgical services.
- ✓ **Republican Medical Center of Armenia** – a major public medical facility providing a range of specialist and inpatient services; it is included on the FCDO's current list of facilities with English-speaking staff.

In a medical emergency: Students should call **911 and request an ambulance**, asking for an English-speaking operator where necessary. In a serious emergency, students should not attempt to determine for themselves which hospital is most appropriate; the emergency services should arrange appropriate medical assistance.

Students should contact Language Link as soon as reasonably possible following a serious medical incident so that staff can provide practical assistance. Their travel insurer or medical-assistance provider should also be contacted as soon as circumstances allow, particularly where hospital admission, private treatment or medical evacuation may be required.

Private medical treatment can be expensive. Students should have appropriate travel insurance covering local medical treatment and unexpected medical evacuation or repatriation where required. They should carry details of their insurance and emergency-assistance number and understand how to contact their insurer while abroad. Treatment, particularly in private facilities, may require evidence of insurance or payment arrangements.

Students with pre-existing medical conditions should discuss their travel plans and continuity of care with their healthcare provider and insurer before travelling. They should bring an adequate supply of prescribed medication, subject to Armenian regulations governing the importation and possession of medicines.

Language Link can assist with practical coordination and communication with medical providers, insurers and family members where appropriate. However, Language Link staff are not qualified healthcare professionals and cannot provide medical advice. Decisions concerning diagnosis, treatment, hospital admission, discharge and fitness to travel remain the responsibility of qualified medical professionals.

Overall assessment: Yerevan has access to public and private medical facilities capable of dealing with most routine and emergency medical needs. In a serious medical emergency, students should use the emergency medical service rather than attempting to select a hospital themselves and should involve their insurer and Language Link as soon as practicable.

References: UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), *Foreign Travel Advice: Armenia – Health*; FCDO, *Medical Facilities/Practitioners in Armenia*; Erebuni Medical Center; Nairi Medical Center.

Mental Health

Mental-health and psychiatric services are available in Yerevan, although provision, procedures and access to English-speaking professionals may differ considerably from those in the UK. Specialist psychiatric care is generally provided through dedicated mental-health institutions rather than mainstream hospitals, and English may not always be available. Private psychological and psychiatric services are also available in Yerevan, including some providers with English-speaking practitioners.

Students with a pre-existing mental-health condition should:

- ✓ Discuss their fitness to travel and continuity of care with their healthcare provider before departure.
- ✓ Ensure that they have an adequate supply of prescribed medication and understand Armenian requirements concerning prescription and controlled medicines.
- ✓ Declare relevant pre-existing conditions to their insurer and confirm the extent of cover for psychological and psychiatric treatment, hospitalisation and medical repatriation.
- ✓ Carry appropriate documentation relating to medication and treatment where necessary.
- ✓ Complete any required Language Link medical or risk-management documentation before departure.

For an **urgent mental-health or psychiatric emergency**, students should call **911**. Emergency operators may not speak English, and assistance from an Armenian speaker may therefore be required. Where a person's condition presents an immediate threat to life, emergency medical services, including emergency psychiatric assistance, are provided irrespective of nationality.

Inpatient psychiatric treatment is available at facilities including **Avan Mental Health Center / National Center for Mental Health in Yerevan**. A number of private clinics in Yerevan also provide psychological and psychiatric support. Students requiring non-emergency assistance should normally contact their insurer or healthcare assistance provider, who can help identify appropriate services and clarify coverage.

Students should be aware that Armenian law and procedures relating to psychiatric treatment and hospitalisation differ from those in the UK. In certain circumstances, a person considered to require urgent psychiatric treatment may be hospitalised without their consent, subject to Armenian medical and legal procedures.

Language Link staff can assist with practical coordination, communication with medical providers, insurers and family members where appropriate, but they are not qualified mental-health professionals and cannot provide clinical advice or determine whether a student is fit to continue travelling or studying.

Overall assessment: Mental-health support is available in Yerevan, but language barriers, differences in local procedures and the more specialised nature of psychiatric provision mean that advance planning is particularly important for students with known mental-health conditions.

References: UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), *Mental Health Support for British Nationals in Armenia*, updated 18 June 2026; FCDO, *Foreign Travel Advice: Armenia – Health*.

Cleanliness, Food, and Water

Yerevan generally maintains good standards of urban cleanliness and sanitation. Restaurants, cafés and food businesses are subject to Armenian food-safety regulations and oversight. Students should nevertheless follow normal food-hygiene precautions, particularly when buying food from markets, street vendors or establishments where hygiene standards are uncertain.

Tap water in Yerevan is supplied through the municipal drinking-water system and is subject to quality monitoring. Bottled water is also widely available. Students who notice any unusual colour, smell or taste in tap water should avoid drinking it and seek local advice; the water supplier, Veolia Djur, specifically advises consumers to stop using tap water and report the problem if they have concerns about its quality.

Temporary interruptions or changes to water-supply schedules can occur, particularly during periods of maintenance or high seasonal demand. Students should follow information provided by their accommodation provider or the local water supplier if an interruption occurs.

Overall assessment: Food and water generally present a low risk for students living in Yerevan when normal hygiene precautions are followed.

References: *Government of the Republic of Armenia, Food Safety Inspectorate; Veolia Djur; Armenian Water Committee.*

Transportation and Infrastructure

Yerevan has an extensive public transport network, including buses and the Yerevan Metro. Public transport is widely used and provides an inexpensive means of travelling around the city. Students should remain aware of their belongings, particularly when services are crowded.

- ✓ **Taxis:** Students should use reputable or pre-arranged taxis or recognised app-based services such as Yandex Go. When using an app, students should check that the vehicle registration number and driver correspond with the details shown in the booking before entering the vehicle.
- ✓ **Road travel:** Road conditions and driving standards can vary considerably, particularly outside central Yerevan. Some roads outside the capital may be poorly maintained or inadequately lit, and driving at night can present additional risks. Students should wear seat belts whenever available and exercise particular caution when travelling outside Yerevan.
- ✓ **Walking:** Central Yerevan, particularly the Kentron district, is generally easy to explore on foot. Students should nevertheless take normal precautions when crossing roads, as traffic conditions and driver behaviour may differ from those experienced in the UK.
- ✓ **Travel outside Yerevan:** Students planning independent travel outside the capital should check current road conditions and FCDO travel advice, particularly before travelling towards Armenia's international border areas.

Arrival: Zvartnots International Airport (EVN) is located approximately 12 km from central Yerevan. The city centre is readily accessible by taxi and public transport. Students using a taxi or ride-hailing service from the airport should use an official or pre-arranged service.

Overall assessment: Transport within central Yerevan presents a relatively low risk. Greater care should be exercised when travelling by road outside the capital, particularly at night or in unfamiliar areas.

References: UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Foreign Travel Advice: Armenia – Safety and Security; Zvartnots International Airport; Yerevan Municipality.

Out and About in Yerevan

Yerevan is a lively and culturally rich city with an extensive café, restaurant and cultural scene. Students should feel encouraged to explore the city and engage with local life while remaining aware that social attitudes, customs and expectations may differ from those in the UK.

- ✓ **Personal safety:** Crime levels in Yerevan are generally low. Students should nevertheless take normal precautions, particularly when out alone at night, and remain aware of their surroundings and personal belongings.
- ✓ **Language:** Armenian is the official language. Russian is widely understood and spoken, while English is increasingly used, particularly among younger people and in central Yerevan.
- ✓ **Women travellers:** Female students should take the normal precautions associated with travelling and socialising independently. Particular care should be taken when travelling alone late at night and when using taxis; recognised app-based or pre-arranged services are preferable.
- ✓ **LGBTQ+ travellers:** Same-sex sexual activity is legal in Armenia, but social attitudes towards LGBTQ+ people can be considerably more conservative than in the UK. LGBTQ+ students should be aware that open displays of affection may attract unwanted attention and that local LGBTQ+ individuals and organisations have experienced verbal and physical harassment. Students should exercise appropriate discretion according to the situation and location.
- ✓ **Alcohol:** Students should drink responsibly and be aware that excessive or disorderly behaviour may attract police attention. The FCDO reports that British nationals have been arrested in Armenia for drunken behaviour.
- ✓ **Drugs:** Possession, use and trafficking of illegal drugs, including cannabis, are criminal offences in Armenia and can result in severe penalties, including imprisonment. This also applies to certain cannabis-derived products, including CBD and THC products.
- ✓ **Religious and cultural sites:** Students should behave respectfully when visiting churches, monasteries and other religious sites and follow any locally displayed requirements concerning dress, photography or access.

Overall assessment: Yerevan provides a generally welcoming environment for international students.

Awareness of local social attitudes and laws, together with normal personal-safety precautions and respect for local customs, should allow students to participate confidently in the city's social and cultural life.

Reference: UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), *Foreign Travel Advice: Armenia – Safety and Security*.

Weather and Seasonal Risks

Yerevan has a continental climate, with hot, dry summers and cold winters. Summer temperatures can become very high, particularly during July and August. Students should take appropriate precautions during periods of extreme heat, including maintaining adequate hydration, using sun protection and avoiding prolonged exposure during the hottest part of the day.

Winter temperatures can fall below freezing, and snow and ice may affect roads and pavements. Students should wear appropriate footwear and clothing and take additional care when walking or travelling during icy conditions. Road conditions outside Yerevan can be more difficult during the winter months, particularly between November and February.

Earthquakes: Armenia is in a seismically active region and earthquakes are a recognised natural hazard. Although serious earthquakes are infrequent, students should familiarise themselves with basic earthquake-safety procedures and follow instructions from the Armenian authorities and Language Link in the event of significant seismic activity.

Overall assessment: Seasonal weather in Yerevan is generally manageable with appropriate clothing and normal precautions. Extreme summer heat, winter ice and the underlying earthquake risk should nevertheless be recognised and included in student safety planning.

References: Armenia Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center; UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), *Foreign Travel Advice: Armenia – Safety and Security*.