



## Study Abroad

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

April 3, 2020

Dear Student,

We are writing to share some important updates regarding your plans to study abroad during Fall 2020 or Academic Year 2020-21.

UW Study Abroad continues to closely monitor the dynamic circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and its potential impact on study abroad. **No changes have been made to Fall 2020 and Academic Year 2020-21 programming at this time.** Due to the dynamic and varied circumstances with COVID-19, we will continue to review each individual location in assessing risks and will contact you immediately if there are changes to your study abroad program status.

One important update is about your fall enrollment for your study abroad program. We understand with the continuing uncertainty you may wish to have a back-up plan in place. Because of this, your study abroad enrollment will be ON HOLD until a later date. This will allow you to enroll in UW-Madison fall courses as a back-up in the case that there is a change to your study abroad program.

As you continue to make preparations for your study abroad program, please reference the following steps you **SHOULD** be doing:

- Move forward with plans for your semester abroad.
  - Complete required Acceptance Tasks in your UW-Madison [MyStudyAbroad](#) account, and check in on this task list regularly.
  - Familiarize yourself with your program information and related policies. These can be found on your program website, study abroad and program handbooks, and your program cost sheet.
  - Research housing arrangements. Consult with your Study Abroad Advisor if you have questions about applying for housing abroad.
  - Submit Course Equivalency Requests (CERs) (when applicable) in your MyStudyAbroad account to determine course equivalencies.
  - Ensure you have valid passport that expires at least six months after your program end date. If you do not, contact your UW-Madison Study Abroad Advisor as there are current restrictions on applying for new U.S. passports due to the COVID-19 pandemic and this may impact your program participation.
  - Research and understand your visa requirements.

- Review the cost sheet for your study abroad program and understand financial policies. There are a few specific points we want to call out:
  - Acceptance deposits are normally non-refundable. However, if a student cancels program participation due to concerns about COVID-19, then the acceptance deposit is refundable.
  - Acceptance deposits are refundable if UW Study Abroad cancels a program for any reason.
  - Acceptance deposits can be transferred to a different program or a future term through Summer 2021.
  - Remember that out of pocket expenses are your responsibility.
- Create a back-up plan for a semester at UW-Madison in case a semester abroad is not an option.
  - Enroll for Fall 2020 UW-Madison classes.
  - Research and consider housing arrangements in Madison for the Fall 2020 term.
- Connect with your academic advisor to discuss your fall enrollment both for your study abroad program and your back-up plan for courses at UW-Madison.

We also advise you to **WAIT** on the following, or to connect with your Study Abroad Advisor before moving forward with these tasks:

- Do not purchase an airline ticket. We recommend you explore fully refundable tickets, explore travel insurance options, and connect with your Study Abroad Advisor or study abroad program before purchasing a ticket.
- Do not drop on-campus Fall 2020 UW-Madison courses, even if you receive your host institution acceptance letter; UW Study Abroad will inform you when you will need to do this.
- Do not put down any money down for housing arrangements abroad. If you are being asked to do this, consult with your Study Abroad Advisor first.

We understand that these are challenging times and that you may have questions as you continue to prepare for your study abroad experience. As always, we strongly encourage you to [reach out to your Study Abroad Advisor](#) should you have any questions about programs, policies, and planning. Schedule a phone or virtual appointment with your Study Abroad or Enrollment Specialist Advisor through [Starfish](#). If you wanted to explore studying abroad in a later term, you could also connect with your study abroad advising team to explore those possibilities.

Sincerely,  
UW Study Abroad