



Study Abroad

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

SUBJECT: Statement on UW Study Abroad Programs Impacted by COVID-19

DATE: March 2, 2021

The ongoing global pandemic is unprecedented in our lifetimes. While we mourn the tragic losses that have impacted too many of us, we are also heartened and inspired by the perseverance we have seen as we adapt and overcome the challenges posed by our current environment. As with so many aspects of life and society, study abroad continues to feel the tremendous impact of COVID-19. At the same time, the importance of global and cross-cultural engagement and understanding is more critical than ever and UW Study Abroad remains committed to supporting our students, seeking new opportunities and adapting to meet the challenges posed by our changing circumstances. We remain dedicated to our [mission](#) and [strategic goals](#) as we explore different program models (international, domestic, and virtual) that foster students' personal, academic, and professional growth during these unpredictable times.

Health and safety is always our number one priority. Current circumstances do not allow for on-site programming and all on-site programs have been cancelled through Spring semester 2021 and for Summer programs that start prior to July 1, 2021. Many factors are considered in determining when programs can safely re-open, including relevant travel warnings and restrictions ([CDC](#), [DOS](#), [Campus](#), location- specific), our on-site partners return to full operations, adherence to the [UW system considerations](#), and the [UW-Madison Travel Policy](#).

We understand that for students, staff, faculty and partners abroad, planning for or developing a study abroad program takes a considerable amount of preparation well before the program even starts. We balance this need with the reality of the current travel restrictions and the uncertainty of when conditions will improve as we make decisions regarding future program development and application timelines.

Although currently all on-site study abroad is not allowed, we've created a list of programs that have [applications open](#) for future terms in case conditions improve in time for those programs to run, as well as a list of currently available [virtual opportunities](#). Our messaging to students with specific recommendations and timelines per duration and program offerings can be found [here](#).

We are constantly monitoring global circumstances and will reevaluate program offerings and application timelines as conditions allow.

We look forward to continuing to work together to support our students.