



Study Abroad

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

July 1, 2020

Dear Spring 2021 study abroad students,

UW Study Abroad continues to closely monitor the dynamic circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and its potential impact on study abroad. 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.

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](#) (MySA) account, and check in on this task list regularly.
 - Familiarize yourself with your program information and related policies. These are found on your program website, study abroad and program handbooks (located in your [MySA account](#)), 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 [MySA](#) account to determine course equivalents.
 - Ensure you have a 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 for studying in your program location.
- Review the cost sheet for your study abroad program and understand financial policies. There are a few specific points we want to highlight:
 - Acceptance deposits are normally non-refundable. However, if you cancel your program participation prior to the start of the program 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.

International Academic Programs

University of Wisconsin-Madison

301 Red Gym, 716 Langdon Street
608-265-6329 studyabroad.wisc.edu

Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1314

- Research and consider housing arrangements in Madison for the Spring 2021 term.
- Connect with your academic advisor to discuss your intended spring 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 at this time. We recommend you explore fully refundable tickets, travel insurance options, and connect with your Study Abroad Advisor if you have any questions.
- Do not put any money down for housing arrangements abroad. If you are being asked to do this, consult with your Study Abroad Advisor first.
- Avoid paying any other non-recoverable expenses at this time specific to your plans to study abroad.

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 us if you have any questions about programs, policies, and planning. Schedule a phone or virtual appointment with myself or your Study Abroad 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