



Study Abroad

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

July 1, 2020

Dear Winter Intersession 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 program 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 and in your study abroad and program handbooks.
 - Submit Course Equivalency Requests (CERs) (when applicable) in your MyStudyAbroad 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.

- 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 date 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.

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 or study abroad program before purchasing a ticket.
- 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