



Washburn University Office of International Programs

Study Abroad COVID-19 Information and Resources

The purpose of this communication is to inform WU international education participants and supporters about WU Study Abroad Programs.

The Office of International Programs continues to monitor the evolving situation regarding COVID-19. Working in conjunction with WU leadership (the Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) and our host university partners and affiliate providers we have created the following protocol to evaluate programing. These events, in isolation or together, may compel WU to temporarily suspend or cancel our programs. The VPAA provides the final authorization to allow a program.

- An elevation in the CDC alert level to a 3 (“avoid non-essential travel” recommendation) for the host country; [COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Destination](#).
- An elevation in the U.S. State Department advisory level for the country to a 4 (“do not travel” status); [U.S. Department of State- International Travel-Country Information](#).
- The host country or U.S. government recommends evacuation or immediate departure for foreign visitors or U.S. citizens, see host country Embassy or Consulate website.

We continue to review and implement new safety protocols as we track developments related to the pandemic and follow CDC guidelines. Data continually shows getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself and others. For this reason, and for the health of our partners and host communities around the world, **WU requires program participants to be fully vaccinated and up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccinations prior to the start of an onsite study abroad program.** To understand if you are up-to-date on your COVID-19 vaccination, please refer to [the CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots Chart](#). In short, to be fully vaccinated you should receive a booster if you are 5 months past your last dose of Moderna or Pfizer vaccines OR 2 months past the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson single shot.

The Office of Intentional Programs will make a final determination on whether to cancel programs. We strongly advise students to make contingency plans to study through WU, in case the study abroad program is cancelled. This includes enrolling in courses at WU, confirming housing options, and all other WU requirements.

WU and the Office of International Programs will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as necessary. For any questions or further information, please contact WU Office of International Programs – Study Abroad at: studyabroad@washburn.edu

Travel insurance

Students planning to participate in study abroad programs are encouraged to purchase comprehensive travel insurance, including trip interruption and trip cancellation coverage for any reason. This type of insurance will provide travelers with some financial support and flexibility to adjust travel as needed. There are many companies and organizations that offer travel insurance, including:

- [International Student Insurance](#)
- [AIG Travel Insurance](#)
- [Generali Global Assistance](#)

- [ISIC Travel Insurance](#)
- [Allianz Travel Insurance](#)
- [LewerMark Student Insurance](#)

WU does not recommend any specific company.

FAQ's

Will WU's Office of International Programs (OIP) Be Able to process Study Abroad Programs in the Coming Academic Year?

The OIP facilitates study abroad programs internationally through a global network of WU partners and affiliate organizations. The OIP has established criteria that must be met before any students can embark on an onsite in-person exchange. Safety has always been and will continue to be our number one priority. No programs will be allowed proceed unless and until they meet the safety criteria determined by the OIP. These criteria include country-specific information related to the current state of the outbreak in each country, along with the governmental and medical infrastructure for dealing with the pandemic, immigration and visa issues and airline restrictions, status of school's delivery of academic programing, social/daily life implications, host university and partner support capabilities, among others. Each program will be assessed individually using the established criteria.

Will the OIP Process Faculty-led Study Abroad Programs?

The OIP will continue to process Faculty-led Study Abroad Program Proposals. The programs will be evaluated using the established criteria. Each program leader will need to submit a [Travel Safety Summary](#). Faculty leaders will work closely with their program host, vendors, and the WU supporting offices/areas to develop the program and adhere to safety protocols.

How Will the OIP Move Forward with Study Abroad Programs?

The OIP will evaluate all programs individually and send students to locations that meet the established criteria. The OIP will work with program providers and exchange partners to offer Virtual Online Study Abroad Program options.

For more information about how the university is preparing, visit [Washburn University Response to COVID-19](#).