COVID 19 and Study Abroad Frequently Asked Questions

Student health and safety remains our number one priority as we work through this challenging time. Due to continuing concerns of the impact of COVID 19, Ball State University has suspended all study abroad programs until conditions improve sufficient to allow safe student mobility. In the meantime, we will continue to accept student applications for programs in the hopes that conditions permit mobility by the time of planned participation. Decisions about resumption of study abroad mobility are complex and consider U.S. Department of State and Centers for Disease Control advisories, evolving entry and exit testing and vaccination requirements, quarantine periods, shelter-in-place orders, partner university instructional format, and visa regulations. Decisions regarding program suspension will be made 8-10 weeks in advance of program departure to allow sufficient time for students to make alternate plans. We apologize for any inconvenience and we hope to assist you with future international programming.

Will I receive a reimbursement for my study abroad program costs if it is not allowed to go forward?
In the event the program remains under suspension, all student program deposits will be refunded. Students should pay no other program expenses in advance until they are notified by the Study Abroad Office whether the program will be allowed to move forward. Any funds other than the program deposit may not be reimbursable. The Bursar’s Office will apply all refunds onto the student’s ebill account. Please check your student account to confirm receipt (note: Participant’s on KIIS programs will be refunded directly from KIIS).

Can I still apply for study abroad scholarships and can it be deferred to a future term/alternate program if my program remains under suspension?
All scholarships are available, and we encourage program applicants to also apply for a study abroad scholarship to support their program expense. If you receive a scholarship and the program remains under suspension, the scholarship cannot be deferred as all scholarship funds tied to specific fiscal years. You can, of course, apply for scholarships for future terms, though we are unable to guarantee being awarded.

Academic Affairs
Rinker Center for Global Affairs
Muncie, Indiana 47306-0000 | Phone: 765-285-5422 | studyabroad@bsu.edu | bsu.edu/rinkercenter
What should I do about registration and accommodation on campus for the semester/term I plan to study abroad?
As this situation is fluid, with no way of knowing when mobility will normalize, the Study Abroad Office recommends that students prepare alternate study options as a backup in case their program remains under suspension. The Study Abroad Office strongly recommends all students register for classes here on campus and arrange for accommodation here at Ball State for their planned semester/term of participation on a program. This will ensure no interruption to your studies should the program remain under suspension.

What about my visa/flight arrangements?
The Study Abroad Office recommends that students, if possible, avoid paying for visa/flights in advance of notice from our office on final determination of suspension status of your program. The Study Abroad Office cannot ensure you will be reimbursed for any visa fees or airline costs if the program is not allowed to move forward.

How will I know the status of my program?
The Study Abroad Office will follow up with each participant via email in the event there are any changes to their program’s status. If you have any questions or concerns, please do contact our office at studyabroad@bsu.edu for assistance. We are here to help at all times.