Frequently Asked Questions: COVID-19

Given the ongoing presence of the COVID-19 virus, students, faculty, and staff considering traveling internationally must prepare to be flexible, adaptable, and resilient while abroad; all elements of an international program are subject to modification at any time to comply with the COVID-19 policies of the host city, country, or institution/partner.

Applicants are expected to remain informed of the COVID-19 measures in their program location before and after committing to participate in an International Program.

How could COVID-19 impact my program?
Each country establishes its own laws and policies to manage COVID-19. These policies vary between countries and are subject to change with little notice. Participants must comply with all local COVID-19 requirements in place during their program, including but not limited to:

- **Host Country Entry Requirements**: Travelers may be required to submit proof of COVID-19 vaccination, COVID-19 booster(s), and/or a negative COVID-19 test upon entering or boarding a flight to certain countries. FSU does not have the authority or ability to grant exemptions to local requirements, which may be reviewed here.

- **Quarantine or Isolation**: The host city, country, or institution/partner may require participants to quarantine or isolate during the program due to a positive COVID-19 test, exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual, or for other reasons. Specific requirements may be affected by vaccination status.

  All participants will be enrolled in an international health insurance policy through Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI) covering international medical expenses, medical reunion, medical evacuation, and repatriation. The policy may also reimburse qualified expenses related to quarantine or isolation if required by the host country following a positive COVID-19 test. Specific CISI Insurance policy details may be reviewed here.

- **Masks**: Participants must wear masks if or when required by authorities of the host city, country, or institution/partner.

Will I be required to get a COVID-19 vaccine or booster to study abroad?
Florida State University, and therefore FSU International Programs, does not require students to be vaccinated to study abroad. However, the host city, country, or host institution/partner may require proof of COVID-19 vaccination or booster(s) to enter the country, qualify for a shorter isolation period after testing positive for COVID-19 (if applicable), or to facilitate full access to elements of life abroad such as entry to certain venues or independent travel to other countries. All participants should plan to bring proof of vaccination abroad, leaving copies at home.

Are COVID-19 vaccines & boosters available abroad?
FSU encourages all students, faculty, and staff to get the COVID-19 vaccine and recommended booster prior to international travel since the eligibility criteria and cost of vaccines varies by country. Vaccine or booster access abroad is not guaranteed, and the CISI insurance included in your program fee does not cover the cost of preventative treatments like vaccinations.
What other steps should I take to prepare for my program?
Aside from completing all checklist items in your IP Student Portal, all participants must have a valid passport to study abroad. While exact requirements vary by country, in general your passport should be valid for at least 6 months beyond the end date of your international program.

Passport processing via the U.S. Department of state remains delayed. If you don't have a passport with enough validity, you should apply for one immediately and are strongly encouraged to select expedited processing.

Visa requirements vary depending on country of citizenship and program length. Reference the garnet Visa tab of your program page on the IP website to find out if you will require a visa, and monitor the IP Student Portal regularly for any immigration tasks, deadlines, and updates.

Non-U.S. citizens or U.S. citizens living abroad should contact our Visa Specialists at IP-Visas@fsu.edu ASAP as you may have additional visa requirements.

Will I be required to test and/or quarantine upon return to the U.S.?
Effective June 12, 2022, air passengers are no longer required to show a negative viral COVID-19 test result, or documentation of recovery from COVID-19, before boarding a flight to the United States.

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