FSU International Programs Summer 2021 Frequently Asked Questions

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Summer 2021 Plan

Will Summer 2021 programs proceed as planned?

Yes! After an extensive planning process last fall, International Programs received approval from the President and the Provost to reopen the Florence, London, and Valencia study centers; study center staff welcomed students abroad for the Spring 2021 term in early-January and look forward to welcoming students abroad for the Summer 2021 term soon!
With that in mind, students admitted to a Summer 2021 program should be doing the following at this time:

- Thoroughly reviewing all information provided in this document
- Completing all checklist items currently listed in the IP Student Portal under your Summer 21 record
- Checking the validity & expiration date of your passport, and applying for a new passport if needed
- Making payments for your program by the corresponding payment dates
- Frequently checking your IP Student Portal notifications for updates from our office

How could COVID-19 impact my summer program?

Due to the uncertain nature of the pandemic, all program elements including the program calendar, weekly schedule, classroom environment, course delivery, housing arrangements, transportation policies, and international or in-country travel restrictions, are subject to modification at any time in order to comply with local public health recommendations as well as the policies and practices of Florida State University.

What policies will be put in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19?

Students will be required to follow all guidance and regulations required by FSU and local host authorities regarding COVID-19, including but not limited to:

Testing, Screening, and Contact Tracing

All students will be required to submit proof of a negative COVID-19 test in the days leading up to departure. All students should expect to be tested at least once upon arrival to their study center location; some students may be required to test more than once if required by their host country.

Students may be required to undergo additional testing, screening, or contact tracing during the program, for a variety of reasons including following a positive COVID-19 test, suspected exposure to a COVID-19 positive or presumptive positive individual, display of COVID-19 symptoms, or as required by the host country or University.

All program participants will be enrolled in an international insurance policy through Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI). The policy will cover COVID-19 testing during the dates of coverage for those who are symptomatic, or those who have had a known exposure to a person who tested positive.

Self-Quarantine or Isolation

Students should prepare for the possibility of self-quarantine or isolation upon arrival, if mandated by your host country. IP will notify students of any applicable requirements closer to departure, as host country rules, regulations, and expectations surrounding self-quarantine or isolation requirements could change rapidly between now and the beginning of summer programs.

Students may be required to self-quarantine or isolate at other points during the program, including due to a positive COVID-19 test, suspected exposure to a COVID-19 positive or presumptive positive individual, display of COVID-19 symptoms, or as required by the host country or University.

Study Center staff will provide support during these periods in various ways, including through support for arranging meal/food delivery and virtual services. Study center faculty and staff will ensure that students can continue their studies remotely if they are able to do so.

Masks

Students must always wear masks, except when inside their individual apartment interacting with their own roommates. This includes during classes, site visits & excursions, when visiting students in other apartments, and whenever directed by study center staff or required under local regulations.
Study Center Facilities
Social distancing guidelines will be in place at each study center. All study center facilities will be cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected according to local guidance for educational institutions. Consistent hygiene and social distancing signage will be displayed throughout each study center. Preventative measures such as hand sanitizing stations and plexiglass barriers will be installed.

Socially Distanced Housing
Students will be assigned beds within multi-occupancy, socially distanced apartments. Students are not allowed to change beds/apartments or to move the furniture within the apartments, as it will be measured specifically according to social distancing guidelines.

Students will be prohibited from gathering in large groups within the accommodation. Students are not permitted non-program visitors within program facilities at any time, and no more than two non-resident students on the program may visit another apartment at a given time.

At least 5% of program housing in each location has been set aside for quarantine/isolation purposes as needed during the program.

Socially Distanced Classes
Class sizes will be reduced to allow students to sit in socially distanced desks. Further, students will have assigned desks for each class to minimize the amount of high traffic surfaces they are touching. Instructors will use locally appropriate physical distancing and other mitigating strategies, including masks, face shields and physical barriers.

Laboratory facilities will also follow local requirements for physical distancing and other mitigating strategies.

Independent Travel
FSU’s President and Provost approved the reopening of the European Study Centers based on the specific condition that program participants must not travel independently outside their host city. More details about this policy, including what constitutes the boundary of your “host city,” will be provided prior to departure according to students’ study center locations.

Compliance with this requirement is expected of all students who wish to continue participating in the program. Failure to do so could have significant consequences, including potential removal from the program.

Program Planned Excursions
Study Center staff plan to offer a cultural calendar that includes program planned excursions within the host country; however, IP reserves the right to consider modifications to the cultural calendar, including timing and location of excursions, as required to comply with any local guidance or restrictions that affect travel within the host country. A copy of the calendar for your study center location will be distributed prior to departure.

Local Guidance and Restrictions
Students will be expected to abide by all local guidance or restrictions applicable to their host city or host country. This may include, but is not limited to, reduced capacity or operating hours in businesses or public spaces such as restaurants and museums, limited contact with members of other households/apartments, or curfews. As mentioned above, program planned excursions & site visits are also subject to local guidance or restrictions, which may affect their logistics.

IP staff will review local guidance or restrictions with students during pre-departure and on-site orientations, but we also strongly advise students to remain informed of the guidance and restrictions in place for their Study Center location.
before and after committing to their program as host country rules, regulations, and expectations are likely to change prior to and during summer programs.

Waiver and Contractual Agreement
International Programs has updated the contractual agreement and waiver for your program to reflect these and other policy changes related to COVID-19. These documents are available in the IP Student Portal, and all participants must review, sign, and upload a completed copy to your IP Student Portal in order to participate in Summer 2021 programs.

What if I test positive for COVID-19 while abroad?
Students who suspect or have tested positive for COVID-19 must isolate immediately, regardless of symptoms or lack thereof, and notify the appropriate member of study center staff, who can support tracing the COVID-19 impact on our community.

Study center staff will connect symptomatic students with local physicians or clinics as needed/requested, and students may also utilize main campus telehealth monitoring and case management services if needed. Study center staff will provide support in various other ways, including through support for arranging meal/food delivery and virtual services. Study center faculty and staff will ensure that students can continue their studies remotely if they are able to do so.

All program participants are enrolled in an international insurance policy through Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI) covering international medical expenses, medical reunion, medical evacuation, and repatriation. The policy includes coverage for treatment of ill students, including those with COVID-19.

Airfare

When should I purchase airfare?
You should refrain from purchasing airfare until International Programs indicates you may do so. When it is time to purchase airfare, you will receive a notification under your Summer 21 portal record with “Airfare” in the subject line. This notification will include detailed instructions for purchasing airfare in accordance with guidance related to immigration/arrival circumstances unique to COVID-19.

What if I already purchased my flights?
If you already purchased your airfare, it is crucial you review and make changes to your itinerary as needed once IP provides detailed instructions about purchasing airfare. You should also consider contacting your airline to purchase travel insurance or research other travel insurance providers. Travel insurance typically covers flight cancellation fees, lost luggage, or other losses incurred while traveling, etc. Click here for additional information about travel insurance and resources. Note: Airfare costs are not included in your program fee, and FSU will not reimburse any costs or fees associated with flight changes or cancellations due to COVID-19 should they occur.

Immigration

Are there steps I need to take related to immigration and visas?
U.S. citizens are currently permitted to travel visa-free to Spain, Italy, and the U.K. for the purposes of study during the summer term. However, U.S. citizens must have a valid passport to travel internationally. If you don't have a passport valid for at least 6 months beyond the end date of your program, you should apply for one ASAP. FSU International Programs is a Passport Acceptance Facility; visit https://international.fsu.edu/Passports.aspx to schedule an appointment to apply for or renew your passport.

Non-U.S. citizens or U.S. citizens living outside of the U.S. should contact our Visa Specialist 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 January 26th, 2021, the CDC will require all air passengers entering the U.S. to present a negative COVID-19 test, taken within three calendar days of departure.

Students returning from their program should anticipate being required to quarantine according to local, state, and/or national guidance.

**Payments**

**What if I decide not to participate in Summer 2021 programs?**

Students who no longer wish to participate in their Summer 2021 program must notify IP-Cancel@fsu.edu of their intent to cancel no later than **Wednesday, February 3rd**.

Participants who have not provided written notice of their intent to withdraw from their Summer 2021 program on or before February 3rd remain fully liable for the $1,500 commitment fee, whether paid or deferred. Review the Fee Liability & Refund Policy for your program [here](#).

**How do I confirm my participation in my Summer 2021 program?**

You should make payments toward your program by the specified payment due dates; the $1,500 commitment fee is due on February 3rd, and the remaining balance of Summer 2021 program fees must be paid or deferred by March 3rd, 2021.

It is imperative that you review the [Fee Liability Policy](#) for your program before making any payments or deferments. [Click here](#) for instructions on how to make a payment online or by check. Visit the Money Matters section of the [IP Student Portal](#) to submit a Fee Deferment if you anticipate receiving financial aid.

**Will I get a refund if summer programs are cancelled prior to departure?**

We have every expectation that Summer 2021 programs will proceed as scheduled. However, we have all learned that COVID-19 can cause unpredictable circumstances. In the unlikely event that we are unable to offer summer programs face to face, students would have 2 options:

- Transfer their admission & fees paid to a future program
- Cancel from the program and request a refund of paid fees, excluding the $100 application fee

**Will I get a refund if I am forced to leave my program after it begins?**

In the unlikely event that you are asked to depart from your study center prior to your program’s end date due to a deterioration of public health conditions, IP would attempt to issue a refund that represents the unused or recoverable portions of the social cultural calendar and housing components of the program fee, if possible. In this scenario, courses would be transitioned to remote delivery for the remainder of the semester in order to minimize the impact on students’ progression toward their degree.

As stated in the [Fee Liability Policy](#), refunds or release of liability cannot be granted, under any circumstances, in instances of withdrawal after a program has begun.

**What if I am separated from the program as a result of a student conduct process?**

If your participation in the program is terminated before the end of the regularly scheduled session because of a violation on your part of one or more program rules, regulations, instructions, and/or standards of conduct and behavior, you must make travel arrangements home at your own expense and will not be eligible for any refund of program fees.

*Last updated 1/29/2021*