Ohio State is forming a working group of the International Travel Policy Committee to develop protocols and assess the viability of university-wide international travel by students, including education abroad programs for the 2020-21 academic year. The working group will develop assessment criteria to align preexisting health and safety standards with current travel restrictions and university precautions related to COVID-19.

With autumn semester on the horizon, guidelines already have been put in place that give Ohio State the flexibility to review education abroad programs at various intervals based on program start dates, travel timelines and financial commitment deadlines. The assessment process takes into consideration many factors including guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of State, State of Ohio travel requirements and university guidelines among other national and international resources.

Assessments will be made at 60-days prior to departure and again at 15 days prior to securing financial commitments from either the university or a student participating in Ohio State supported international travel. The working group comprised of senior leadership, faculty and staff, including representatives from the Office of International Affairs and the Office of Risk Management, will conduct the assessments. Recommendations will be made to the Office of the Provost for final approval.

With many autumn semester education abroad programs starting within different timeframes, the following dates represent when decisions will be made this summer on the viability of Ohio State supported international travel. Faculty-led winter break programs will undergo an assessment in July. These deadlines for decisions could change given the evolving nature of COVID-19 circumstances.

- June 5 – semester travel commencing prior to August 25, unless financial commitment requires an earlier assessment
- June 19 – semester travel commencing after August 25 unless financial commitment requires an earlier assessment

Students and resident directors - faculty and staff who accompany students on education abroad programs - will be notified directly of all decisions.

The assessment protocols and decisions made for autumn semester education abroad are designed to mitigate risk and maintain the health, safety and welfare of Ohio State’s students, faculty and staff.