Education Abroad FAQs

April 23, 2020

General

Q: Is the decision to cancel all education abroad programs final? Does this apply to all programs?

A: Yes, this decision is final and applies to all programs for summer term 2020. Ohio State has suspended all university-sponsored international travel and any non-essential domestic travel. Those restrictions are effective immediately and until further notice. This includes participation in programs administered by organizations outside of Ohio State.

Q: If my program was cancelled due to COVID-19, will I receive priority admission for a program next year?

A: While we cannot guarantee admission into an education abroad program, students enrolled in programs that were cancelled due to COVID-19 will receive priority preference for education abroad programs during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Q: Will my autumn semester 2020, winter break 2020, spring 2021, spring break 2021 program still run?

A: At this time, programs starting in autumn 2020 and later are expected to run, but are subject to change due to the evolving situation. Please pay close attention to communications from the Office of International Affairs in regard to future programming. Semester programs that begin during the summer months will depend on our partner institutions, providers and the evolution of the pandemic. More information will be shared to impacted students as it becomes available.

Q: How can I contact my education abroad specialist?

A: Visit educationabroad.osu.edu to find your education abroad specialist’s contact information.

Finances

Q: Is Ohio State be reimbursing summer education abroad program fees or application fees?

A: Yes, OIA is providing reimbursements for non-refundable summer education abroad program fees for third party providers and OIA application fees.

Q: Will Ohio State be reimbursing airfare costs for summer education abroad students?

A: Ohio State will provide reimbursements for summer education abroad students’ nonrefundable airfare if those costs were not included in the program fee. If you receive a credit for future travel, you are not eligible for a monetary reimbursement. First contact your airline to seek a reimbursement and/or credit, then submit non-refundable airfare receipts to your education abroad specialist by June 1.
Q: Will Ohio State reimburse airfare costs for spring education abroad students who returned early?

A: Ohio State will provide reimbursement for airline fees resulting from changes to the original round-trip ticket. One-way return tickets are also reimbursable (students should contact their airline to determine if a portion of their original round-trip ticket can be reimbursed). Submit your airfare reimbursements to the Office of International Affairs by May 1. If your program provided financial assistance for change fees, this will be taken into consideration.

Q: Am I eligible for a partial reimbursement for program expenses due to my program being cancelled and coming home early?

A: Students who were on a third party program, direct enroll or international exchange program should follow up with their provider or host institution about reimbursements.

Q: I was awarded a scholarship for my summer education abroad program. What will happen to it?

A: OIA is allowing summer term 2020 scholarship recipients to retain any OIA-awarded scholarships for future use. Please work with your financial aid contact for the appropriate treatment of any scholarships that may have been awarded and may need to be deferred. If you were planning on using STEP funds, STEP will be in contact regarding how those funds can be used in the future.

Q: What happens after I submit my request for reimbursement?

A: Once submitted, your request enters multiple layers of review. Should we need further clarification on your request or any of the supporting documentation you provided, a member of the Education Abroad staff will contact you directly. Please note that this may not be the Education Abroad Specialist with whom you would regularly communicate, so please closely monitor your Ohio State email for communication from our office.

It is in your best interest to provide as much context and supporting documentation as possible when submitting your original request. If we need to reach out for clarification for any reason, this will understandably delay processing.

You will be notified once your request has been approved. In most cases, you can expect to see the amount reimbursable posted as a credit on your Ohio State student statement of account within 30-60 days of submission, depending upon the complexity and completeness of your request.

Q: What other financial assistance is available from Ohio State?

A: The Together as Buckeyes emergency grants program is funded primarily by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. It is available to all students through the Student Financial Aid office and is meant to provide relief to students who are facing financial challenges or hardship related to the disruption of campus operations. The amount of the grant will vary based on individual circumstances, but is meant to assist with expenses including, but not limited to, food, housing, course materials, technology and health care. In order to apply for this grant, please visit Student Financial Aid’s COVID-19 financial aid website.

Additional financial resources may also be available through the Student Advocacy Center’s Student Emergency Fund. Students are encouraged to visit their website for application, eligibility and contact information.
**Academics**

Q: How have students who returned early from a spring semester program been impacted academically?

A: In most cases, host institutions and providers offered online classes. Students have remained in their education abroad placeholder class and are completing their semester coursework via distance learning.

**Health and Safety**

Q: Do I need to self-quarantine after returning home from international travel?

A: Ohio State and the [Wexner Medical Center](https://wexnermedicalcenter.osu.edu) has provided guidance on self-quarantine after returning from international travel.

Q: Are there university resources for mental health and coping during these difficult circumstances?

A: We recognize that this is a very stressful time for students. Resources for emotional support and managing your mental health are available through Student Life’s [Counseling and Consultation Service](https://www.counselingandservices.osu.edu).

Q: What if I have a concern not addressed in these FAQs?

A: We are facing an unprecedented global event that has impacted our university community and their families in all areas of life including academics, physical and mental health and finances, among others. If you have questions not addressed in these FAQs or need any support regarding your individual situation related to your education abroad program, please do not hesitate to reach out to your education abroad specialist.