

Education Abroad Pandemic Travel Preparation – updated June 6, 2022

This guidance is available to students in their TerraDotta registration and requires students to select “I understand” to each prompt.

CSU Education Abroad is working with our partners, faculty and students to create impactful international experiences that are adaptive to the ongoing pandemic, reduce your risk of exposure to COVID-19 to the greatest extent possible, and account for additional travel risks separate from contracting the virus. Travel has always required your detailed planning and understanding of the risks involved; this is especially true today. It also requires that you take steps to foster your own safety and help to support the safety of others. With this in mind, we have created this guidance to help you and your emergency contacts think critically about international travel and to prepare for circumstances that are both within and beyond an individual's control.

This guidance includes important prompts and proactive planning questions, but it cannot be exhaustive. It also includes websites and resources that are continuously updated and should be consulted throughout your experience. We encourage you to ask questions, speak to your support network and to assess your own risk tolerance throughout the planning process. Your well-being is important to CSU. While our goal is for you to have an education abroad experience, we need to remain flexible in this evolving situation.

Please contact internationalsafety@colostate.edu if you have questions or do not understand the prompts in this form.

1. Vaccination Policy

Review CSU's [vaccination policy](#). The CSU Health Network and Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) advise that all international travelers are vaccinated against COVID-19 for the duration of their time abroad, including relevant booster doses. Being vaccinated against COVID-19 helps to protect both you and the communities that you interact with abroad. In many countries, documentation of vaccination (including boosters) eases entry requirements and permits access to large-group activities, which may include the activities associated with the academic requirements of your travel.

2. Vaccine Exemptions

If applicable, a COVID-19 vaccination exemption from CSU does not constitute a vaccine exemption from travel providers or destination countries, which may have more strict limitations on exemption criteria. Understand that for both your health and safety, as well as overall quality of your experience, international travel is not recommended if you are not fully vaccinated.

3. Positive Test

The science around COVID-19 is new and ever-developing. Though vaccines are vital to limiting the spread and impact of COVID-19, no vaccine is 100% effective. It is important that you understand the consequences for testing positive before your travel begins (e.g. travel delays), as well as the response if you test positive while abroad (e.g. delaying return home).

4. International Insurance

Education Abroad students are required to have [international health insurance](#). Students on OIP sponsored programs have a quarantine insurance benefit. These plans are not trip insurance or "cancel for any reason" (CFAR) insurance which can be purchased separately. Many insurance plans have exclusions related to pandemics. Be sure to read the fine print so that you understand any insurance benefits and limitations. Contact internationalsafety@colostate.edu with insurance questions.

5. Travel Exposure

International travel puts you at greater risk of exposure to COVID-19. Review measures to [prevent yourself from getting sick](#). You are encouraged to ask questions about what your program provider, host organization, or host institution (which, for some programs, may be CSU) are doing to reduce exposure to program participants.

6. CDC Travel Guidance

Review the CDC [guidance for international travel](#). This website includes links to critical information including the requirements for [re-entry to the US](#), safer travel tips, and information specific to your destination. Check this information regularly as it will continue to change in response to the evolution of the pandemic.

7. Entry/Exit Requirements

You are required to understand the entry/exit procedures for your host country as well as transit countries. Know that this information is subject to change at any time. It is vital that you continuously monitor the appropriate resources. You can find important information from the [US Embassy COVID-19 response website](#) in your destination country.

8. Daily Life Abroad

Each country has responded to the pandemic within its unique structural and cultural context. Your lived experiences with the pandemic in the US may be different from the lived experiences of the host country you will be visiting, some of which have experienced waves of closures and travel restrictions. You must be flexible to changing itineraries based on local social norms, restrictions on travel and businesses, reduced free time activities, and creative new ways of engaging with local culture. It is important that you set realistic expectations for your time abroad and be ready to adapt if and when country conditions change.

9. Potential for Mobility Restrictions

While you are abroad, you are subject to the rules of that country. This could result in [mobility restrictions](#) (e.g. curfew, 'lockdown,' limited transportation options, etc.). If you test positive for COVID-19 while abroad, you must follow your host country quarantine requirements, even if they differ from those in the US.

10. US Government Advisories

Review the advisories from the [Department of State](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#) specific to your destination. What risks do these advisories list? Which of these risks can you control

(e.g. getting vaccinated against COVID-19)? As the world continues to re-open, some of these risks may shift (e.g. crime, or social unrest). It is important that you keep yourself informed of these known risks and mitigation practices.

11. Emergency Plan

Consider how you might navigate a non-COVID emergency. It is important to identify your support networks in-country, how to contact them 24/7, and how to respond to an emergency within the confines presented by the pandemic. Because of the burden the pandemic has placed on healthcare infrastructure, this includes possible limitations or restrictions on access to medical care.

12. Financial Commitments

Carefully review the withdrawal timelines, financial commitments, and any refund policies related to both CSU and your program provider. Purchase airfare with minimal cancellation or change fees. Note that if you can earn academic credit, even if the teaching environment looks much different than you anticipated (e.g. online, change in itinerary, etc.) applicable tuition fees will not be refunded.

13. Additional Costs

These could include, but are not limited to, last minute cancellation or alteration to your program (including while you are abroad); cost for COVID-19 testing; costs incurred from needing to quarantine or isolate; and additional costs for being required to remain in-country beyond your program dates. Ensure that you account for the potential of additional expenses.

14. Academic Back-Up Plan

You are advised to have an alternative plan to account for the possibility that your participation in this program cannot go as planned. This could be due to events both within and beyond your control (e.g. changes in entry regulations, testing positive for COVID-19 before departure, etc.). A back-up plan could include another international destination or coursework here at CSU. Consult with your Education Abroad Coordinator and Academic Advisor for support.

15. Program Model

Each Education Abroad program model is different. If you are at a host university you will need to follow their institutional policies; if you are on a CSU faculty-led program, or in a homestay, consider how your actions could affect others; if you are doing field research you should consider how to conduct your work in a safe way, especially in countries with lower levels of vaccination. Speak to your program coordinator or host organization about how you can be the safest possible traveler within the context of your unique experience.

16. Support Systems

Know that you have layers of support when you travel abroad as a CSU student. You are asked to speak to your Education Abroad Coordinator about the support offered by your host organization/institution and CSU. Also consider how you maintain your personal support structures while abroad for both new and pre-existing needs (physical and mental health, academic needs, etc.).

17. Responsible Travel

We each have an important role in reducing the spread of the virus. If you travel abroad, you will need to do so in a healthy and responsible way to reduce exposure for both yourself and others. Rather than planning extended personal travel to other countries, we advise immersing yourself in your host country. It is important to assess your interest in a more limited or structured experience, or one with less free time available to participants.