SFC International
Study Abroad Update for Spring 2021 and Summer 2021
December 14, 2020

Students’ health and safety in Brooklyn and abroad remains the College’s top priority, and we continue to monitor the worldwide Coronavirus situation. Given the uncertainty regarding COVID-19 and the risk associated with travel, it is currently the recommendation of SFC International to postpone any study-abroad experience until at least summer of 2021.

However, SFC International would like to help students make well-informed decisions about studying abroad and have compiled the policies and recommendations found below. We will continue to update the community as new information becomes available, so check back regularly. Should you have any questions after reviewing this page, please do not hesitate to write to us at dbenson2@sfc.edu.

What should you do if you are considering Study Abroad for Spring 2021 or Summer 2021?

- Do your research and stay informed.
  - Review the CDC travel recommendations for your intended country, the entry requirements, and monitor online news sources.
  - Learn about how the country has responded to COVID-19. You should look into testing availability, social distancing, mandatory face masks, the severity of quarantines, treatment facilities available to visitors, and the capacity to respond to an increased outbreak.

- Check directly with your intended program provider to confirm that they will be accepting applications for study abroad in Spring or Summer 2021. If so, ask them how they are preparing to host study abroad students and what that will look like. You will want to ask about housing changes, travel restrictions, hybrid courses, and online options. You should discuss the refund policy if you choose to withdraw or if the program is suspended at any point before or during the semester. Is there insurance available that will cover the cost of your evacuation from a site?

- Contact Dr. Benson to discuss your plans, ask questions, and be sure to choose a program that matches your goals and interests. He can be reached at dbenson2@sfc.edu. Dr. Benson must approve any plan prior to you making arrangements.

- Discuss your plans with your family. You may end up in a situation where your family will need to help bring you home at the last moment.
- Apply by the deadline.
- Purchase travel insurance to ensure your access to healthcare while abroad, and in case you need to come home due to an emergency.

- Do not make any irreversible financial commitments such as purchasing flights or renting an apartment until the official decision about Spring 2021 travel is announced by your program.
- Have a backup plan in case spring study abroad is suspended. Meet with your academic advisor of department Chair to plan the courses you would take in Spring if you remain in Brooklyn.