

## Off-Campus Study FAQ's

### **How does Swarthmore make decisions about student participation in off-campus study during the current outbreak of COVID-19?**

We expect study abroad programs to continue, with the exception that Swarthmore prohibits College-sponsored international travel to areas that are under either a [Level 4 travel advisory](#) (Do Not Travel) from the U.S. Department of State, or a [Level 3 travel warning](#) (Avoid Nonessential Travel) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Study abroad programs in areas with such designations will be canceled. As a result, to date, study in China, South Korea, and Italy has been canceled for the spring 2020 semester.

### **What if a program is canceled before it is completed?**

If a program suspends operations prior to its completion, every effort is made by the sponsoring program or university to provide a continuation of studies, through remote means, so that the student can complete their studies. Swarthmore will support students through this transition.

### **What if a program isn't suspended, but a student still wants to leave it?**

Participation in off-campus study is voluntary, and students may choose to leave at any time. However, if students choose to withdraw from a program, and therefore not complete their studies, they should not expect to receive credit for the program. Programs and universities normally make every effort they can to support students, and each person's case will be considered individually.

### **Can students return to Swarthmore if their program is suspended or they decide to leave early?**

Students participating in off-campus study programs cannot return to campus during the semester, as it is too late in the term to enroll in classes here, and the College does not have housing available to accommodate such requests.

## **What should students and families consider doing at this time?**

It is always a good idea for students and their families to consider planning ahead should the situation in their program of study change, and should they need to return to their home. That is particularly important now, given the dynamic nature of this situation around COVID-19,

Students and their families should follow communications from their programs or universities in response to COVID-19, and they should follow recommendations of authorities local to their destination about best practices around issues of health and safety.

## **How do students handle changes to their flights?**

Participants in the Semester/Year Off-Campus Study Program were required to book their travel through Key Travel. If it is necessary to change a flight, students should contact Key Travel by emailing at [Swarthmore@keytravel.com](mailto:Swarthmore@keytravel.com) or calling them using the information below: Monday-Friday EST during business hours: 646-218-2100

If an urgent response is needed during the evening or weekend:

- 888-339-1502
- 001-646-289-6808 from outside the U.S.

## **What about spring break travel?**

The College has not imposed restrictions on travel to locations within the U.S. or to international locations, with the exception that Swarthmore prohibits College-sponsored international travel to areas that are under either a [Level 4 travel advisory](#) (Do Not Travel) from the U.S. Department of State, or a [Level 3 travel warning](#) (Avoid Non Essential Travel) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Students who are enrolled in a study abroad program or university should keep track of and follow their travel advice.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

## **How will summer travel be handled?**

Because of the dynamic nature of this situation, students are expected to have back-up plans for their summer activities. Swarthmore prohibits College-sponsored international travel for students to areas that are under either a [Level 4 travel advisory](#) (Do Not Travel) from the U.S. Department of State, or a [Level 3 travel warning](#) (Avoid Non Essential Travel) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; we expect to make decisions about any further restrictions on summer travel by the end of April. Students should not purchase flights until those decisions are made.

### **How will Off-Campus Study in the fall be affected?**

We hope that students will be able to pursue their fall plans. However, because of the uncertainty around COVID-19, it is unlikely that decisions about participation in off-campus study will be made until the end of the spring semester. Students will be notified about how these decisions might affect their registration for courses and applying for on-campus housing should that become necessary.

### **What else should travelers consider?**

#### **We recommend the following:**

- When planning, review the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), [World Health Organization](#), and [U.S. Department of State](#) Travel Advisories for health alerts and policies that pertain to COVID-19 and any other health, safety, or security issues.
- U.S. citizens should register their international travel through the [U.S. Department of State's STEP program](#), and citizens of other countries should check to see if their country offers a similar service. You can also register to receive travel advisories and local information directly from a U.S. Embassy in another country.
- Obtain health and travel insurance for your trip, and determine if you need property insurance. Details on insurance and other trip planning information is available in the Off-Campus Study [Practical Matters handbook](#).
- Be alert to country immigration policies as they relate to both your country of origin (i.e., U.S.) and as they relate to countries you transit through.
- Read local media from countries to which you will travel to understand local perspectives on COVID-19 and any other health, safety, or security concerns.
- Always make sure that your immunizations or other travel health recommendations for travel to other countries are up to date.

- Plan ahead if you are traveling with medications. In addition to making sure that [your medications are legal](#) in the country you are going to, make sure you have an extra two-week supply (in the original packaging) in case you cannot return on the planned date.
- Make sure you have sufficient access to funds in case you cannot return home as soon as planned.
- Make sure that you have a plan for communicating back home while traveling, and always share your travel plans with a relative or friend.
- Review the Department of State's [information for students abroad](#). This includes important information about downloading the State Department app to receive safety and security messaging.

### **While Traveling**

- Always cough or sneeze into your elbow rather than into your hands.
- If you have respiratory symptoms such as a cough, nasal discharge, or sore throat, be sure to use Clean your hands often by washing them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If you cannot wash your hands, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%–95% alcohol. It is especially important to clean hands after going to the bathroom, before eating, after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose, and if your hands are visibly dirty.
- Wipe down hard surfaces on planes and other modes of transportation with sanitizing wipes.
- Wipe down your phone and keep it in your pocket as much as possible when in public spaces, especially public restrooms.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid unnecessary crowds and gatherings.
- Sleep well, eat well, and hydrate.
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Do not share drink bottles or food with others.

### **Upon Return from Travel**

Closely monitor your health upon return from travel. Ensure that you are maintaining thorough hand washing techniques, a nutritious diet, consistent hydration, and good sleep hygiene. Contact your health provider if you return from travel with any cold symptoms including, but not limited to, cough, fever higher than 99.5F, headache, or shortness of breath.

