# UF Sponsored Program Director - COVID-19 FAQs

## Will the University of Florida International Center (UFIC) move forward with Spring and Summer 2021 study abroad programs?

UFIC is carefully monitoring the situation regarding the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) infections worldwide. Our office is also monitoring all notices from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)](#) and the [U.S. State Department](#) for any further recommendations and/or restrictions on travel. While there is much uncertainty regarding COVID, please know that we will never run a program if we do not believe it can be carried out safely for both our faculty and students alike.

At this time, we are cautiously moving forward and are accepting student applications to study abroad in Spring and Summer 2021. Please note that an official final decision for most programs will only be made approximately 4-6 weeks prior to the start of a program. Should anything change within the timeline mentioned above, all affected faculty and students will be notified in a timely matter via email.

## Will I be compensated for recruitment efforts in the event my program is cancelled prior to its start?

As in the past, UFIC will not be able to compensate you for your efforts if your program is canceled prior to its start. Faculty teaching salaries and administrative stipends are paid from student program fees, which we will of course not collect in case of cancellation for whatever reason.

## Should I start making new arrangements (housing, transportation, excursions, etc.) with my host institution or third-party-provider to allow for social distancing and other safety measures?

Before we sign a program contract, we will make sure to address any COVID-19 related questions / requirements (housing, classroom, local transportation) with your provider / partner institution.

## Can I require a student to provide a negative COVID-19 test prior to departure?

You may encourage students to be tested, but it cannot be required. UF policies, based on legal interpretations, do not allow for faculty or staff to require that a student be tested for COVID-19. However, if students are traveling to a region or campus that requires the test, we can certainly inform students of these requirements.

**I am in the process of creating a new summer study abroad program for 2021, should I still continue designing my program or hold off?**

At this time we plan to run study abroad programs for Spring and Summer 2021 and therefore encourage you to submit any new program proposals according to our deadlines. Should you have any questions, please contact Susanne Hill for any new programs in Europe and Africa, or Nicole Fuls for programs in Latin America and Asia. If you are creating a program in Australia or New Zealand, you may contact either one of these individuals.

**The provider or host institution I was working with is no longer able to develop new programs. What other providers may I connect with?**

While there are many options to choose from, we recommend working with one of the following approved providers. However, if you find a provider that is not on this list, we will be happy to facilitate the vetting process accordingly.

- AIFS (American Institute for Foreign Study)
- API (Academic Programs International)
- campusb (Campus Brazil)
- CEPA (Customized European Programs Abroad)
- CISAbroad
- Worldstrides/ISA (International Studies Abroad)
- Learn International
- CRCC Asia (Global Internships)

We also run programs in collaboration with our partner schools abroad, in which case the partner helps with arranging some (or all) of the logistics (including but not limited to housing, classroom facilities, excursions, etc.) Faculty directors are typically well connected with the partner university and may negotiate these elements directly with the partner. Should you have any questions regarding which provider to use, please contact Nicole Fuls or Susanne Hill accordingly.

**Will the students who applied and were approved to be in my Summer 2020 program need to complete a new application?**

Due to potential changes in participant eligibility, all students will be required to begin a new application for Summer 2021. However, if a student chose to not receive a refund of their $375 deposit for Summer 2020, that amount may be transferred to their Summer 2021 application. Please ask the student to contact their Study Abroad Advisor to facilitate this transfer.

## Can I give preference to students who were approved for my program in 2020?

Yes, you may give preference to students who were previously approved for your program and not able to participate due to coronavirus. It will be important to communicate with your Study Abroad Advisor how you will navigate the approval process this year.

## How will I be able to sign off on Academic Advising Forms if I am not on campus?

All academic advising forms for UF Sponsored programs have been digitized and can be signed electronically. Students will be instructed to contact you to discuss the program and their eligibility. As the program director, you will be expected to meet (virtually if needed) with each student individually to assess their suitability for the program. Students will then provide you with their academic advising form, which you can sign electronically. If for any reason you are unable to sign the form, you can email your approval to the appropriate study abroad advisor for your program.

## What does the new status of 'Conditionally Approved' mean for my students?

Because we will be closely monitoring the spread of the coronavirus, students who have completed all application requirements, and have been approved by the faculty director will be moved to a new 'Conditionally Approved' status and will remain conditionally approved until UF is in a position to give final approval for student and faculty travel. Students and faculty should not purchase airfare or any other nonrefundable items until students have moved from 'Conditionally Approved' to 'APPROVED'.