

COVID-Related Risk Management Policy for Spring/Summer 2022 Study Abroad Programs

New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) determines location safety by reviewing [U.S. Department of State Travel \(DOS\) Advisories](#), [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Travel Health Notices](#), the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) recommendations as well as a vast array of reputable and objective sources. For any proposed student travel, educational benefits will be weighed against the risk of harm. Criteria for approval or rejection will be based on the following:

- Assessing the safety of the destination based on CDC, DOS, WHO and information from other vetted sources.
- Confirming that the host institution or third-party affiliate has appropriate safety measures in place.
- Reviewing the host country and/or region-specific response to COVID-19 and social distancing measures.
- Reviewing the host country and/or region-specific quality and availability of medical care in event of illness.

COVID-Related Risk Management Policy for All Spring/Summer 2022 Study Abroad Programs

- NJIT will not allow travel to destinations at a *Level 4: Do Not Travel* advisory from the Department of State.
- NJIT requires proof of full COVID-19 vaccination for all faculty and students participating in study abroad programs. Exemptions will not be accepted.
- All faculty and students are required to provide proof of medical coverage while abroad if coverage is not provided as part of the study abroad program.
- All faculty and students must adhere to the COVID-19 guidelines, rules, regulations, and codes of conduct of NJIT and the U.S., the program provider, the host country, and the host institution.
- All students participating in study abroad programs must sign a waiver acknowledging that they are voluntarily participating in this off-campus activity, releasing liability and assuming risk, including but not limited to health, safety, academic, and financial risk in case of program cancellations or disruptions.
- All students must attend the study abroad pre-departure orientation hosted by the Office of Global Initiatives.

Faculty-Led Study Abroad Programs

Short-term study abroad programs are considered based on the established process and include the following additional requirements:

- The number of students per program should not exceed 15.
- Each program is limited to only one destination country.
- All faculty-led programs must have two faculty leaders per program regardless of the number of student participants.
- Program will receive preliminary approval with final review and approval occurring 30 days prior to departure date (assuming there are no further developments/changes). The evaluation will be based on recommendations from local, state, and federal agencies, and other risk management factors.

Policy for COVID-19 Positive Cases During a Short-Term Study Abroad Program

- Isolation
 - If a student or faculty member contracts COVID-19, they will be required to isolate, which may result in potential loss of activities, accommodations, and flights already in place.
 - Infected faculty and/or students will be responsible for any expenses incurred as a result of the isolation, which include but are not limited to accommodations, meals, COVID-tests, and flight changes.
 - If a student needs to isolate past the end date of the program or is hospitalized, the faculty program leader will be asked to stay behind and accompany the student home. NJIT may incur additional faculty expenses for additional accommodations, meals, return flights home, etc.
 - The program provider, Study Abroad Association, will provide a local staff member to assist with an ill or quarantined participant.
 - Study Abroad Association will provide logistic support and assistance with:
 - Arranging for COVID-19 testing
 - Arranging accommodations
 - Assisting with meals or meal delivery
 - Arranging ground transportation as needed
 - Providing translation if needed
 - Communicating with local authorities, health department, or other entities

Semester Abroad Programs

Student requests for semester study abroad are evaluated on a case-by-case basis through a student intake process (NJIT Study Abroad Application). Once students submit their requests, OGI makes a decision whether to approve or deny based on recommendations from local, state, and federal agencies, and other risk management factors.

Responsibilities of Semester Abroad Student Participants

All students accepted into semester study abroad programs must assume the following additional responsibilities:

- Reading any safety materials and/or waivers issued by the Office of Global Initiatives and returning them with required signatures by specific deadlines.
- Researching the intended destination country and its history regarding response to and outlook for COVID-19 (e.g. testing availability, social distancing, mandatory face masks, quarantines, lockdowns, positivity rate, the treatment facilities, and the capacity to respond to an increased outbreak).
- Evaluating physical health and other pertinent circumstances in regards to personal COVID-19 risk.
- Obtaining the required health insurance coverage and reviewing the policy.
- Providing the Office of Global Initiatives with up-to-date contact information and emergency contact information. This includes monitoring these channels of communication while abroad.
- Becoming familiar with procedures for obtaining emergency health services in the host country.
- Understanding and complying with the terms of participation and regulations as set forth by the host institution or third-party affiliate. This includes any expanded COVID-19 safety measures.
- Understanding the host institution or third-party affiliate's financial policies in the event of cancellation or program disruption.
- Agreeing that if safety or health becomes in jeopardy, they must cooperate with the Office of Global Initiatives, host institution, and/or third-party affiliate to return home.