



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

COVID-19 FAQs

(updated as of September 17, 2020)

1. How is the University of Tennessee, Knoxville monitoring the Covid-19 situation worldwide?

UT is monitoring Covid-19 in close cooperation with the Overseas Security Advisory Council (an office of the US Department of State), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and our private health, safety and security partner. University updates can be found on this webpage: <https://utk.edu/coronavirus>.

2. What's the difference between program cancellations and program suspensions?

If your program is canceled, it is no longer running.

- See Appendix for academic year 2020-2021 programs that have been canceled

If your program is suspended, it is on hold.

3. What is the current status of fall 2020 education abroad programs?

All programs with a start date in the fall 2020 semester are canceled or postponed until spring 2021 (see Appendix).

Students should talk with their academic advisors regarding their fall semester plans and contact their Programs Abroad Office Coordinator, email volsabroad@utk.edu, or call (865) 974-3177 with questions.

4. What is the current status of spring and summer 2021 education abroad programs?

Education Abroad programs for spring and summer 2021 are proceeding as planned. The Programs Abroad Office will continue communicating status updates and further developments to students directly via email.

5. If I am participating on a non-UT sponsored program with a UT affiliate (i.e. CEA, CIEE, IES, ISA, etc.), am I eligible to study abroad for spring 2021 and beyond?

You may be eligible to study abroad if your program provider has not canceled your program and there is not a [CDC](#) Level 3 Health Notice or a [Department of State](#) Level 4 Travel Advisory for the host country when the program begins. Depending on your program start date, your program may or may not be affected. Please stay in communication with the Programs Abroad Office about your program status.

Check UT affiliate providers' websites for updates on how COVID-19 is affecting their programs:

- [API Abroad](#)
- [CEA Study Abroad](#)
- [CET Study Abroad](#)
- [IES Abroad](#)
- [ISA](#)
- [SAI](#)

Center for Global Engagement

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- [CIEE](#)
- [DIS Study Abroad in Scandinavia](#)
- [Semester at Sea](#)
- [SIT Study Abroad](#)
- [USAC](#)

6. How does UT make decisions about its education abroad programs?

UT consults the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the US Department of State, and our private health, safety, and security partners. When making decisions about specific programs, UT also considers local conditions and input from peer institutions and overseas partners.

7. What happens if a UT education abroad program is canceled?

Academic Information

If programs are canceled, UT will work with students to identify alternative academic options. The University is committed to supporting our students' academic success. In all cases, the Programs Abroad Office will work with our partner institutions and organizations, as well as the student's academic department at UT to identify appropriate academic solutions. We will also work closely with the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships to provide support and guidance where appropriate.

Financial Information

If you plan to participate on a UT Faculty-directed or Exchange program and it is canceled prior to the start date, you will not be charged tuition or any fees associated with the program.

If you are participating in a UT Affiliate or Direct program, you would need to contact those organizations to learn what costs are refundable. In most cases UT partner organizations such as affiliates and direct programs will make every effort to waive or reduce fees associated with study abroad in emergency situations.

8. What happens if a student withdraws from a future education program out of concern for COVID-19?

UT understands that personal tolerance for risk may vary, and that final decisions will be made between a student and their family/financial supporters. If a student chooses to withdraw from a future education abroad program, the student will be subject to the terms of the applicable withdrawal policy which can be found in the students' Vols Abroad portal and, if applicable, their program provider's documentation. Should the Programs Abroad Office ultimately cancel a UT Faculty-Directed or Exchange program (even after the student has withdrawn), the student will receive a full refund of the program fee, tuition (if applicable), and study abroad administrative fee.

9. What happens if I want to leave my current program early due to COVID-19?

UT will make every effort to assist any student that wishes to leave their host country/program early due to Covid-19. Please email volsabroad@utk.edu or contact the Programs Abroad Office at (865) 974-3177 for more information.

10. Should UT students purchase trip cancellation insurance and/or refundable airfare?

The Programs Abroad Office strongly recommends that students purchase fully refundable airline tickets and/or trip cancellation insurance to safeguard against losses or penalties associated with withdrawal or program cancellation. The Programs Abroad Office assumes no responsibility for such losses or penalties.

11. How will I receive updates about programs?

The Programs Abroad Office will contact students directly with updates as soon as they become available.

12. Who can I contact at the University of Tennessee about Covid-19 as it relates to my education abroad program?

Students with questions about the status of their education abroad program should contact their Programs Abroad Office Coordinator, volsabroad@utk.edu, or 865-974-3177.

13. What are reliable resources that I can use to stay informed about Covid-19?

- [University of Tennessee Covid-19 Information and Support Webpage](#)
- [UTK Student Health Center](#)
- [U.S. Department of State](#)
- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)
- [European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Appendix – Canceled education abroad programs for the 2020-2021 academic year (as of September 17, 2020)

- Fall 2020: ALL programs in ALL locations
 - Academic year 2020-2021 programs may be deferred until spring semester 2021
 - UT Architecture Fall Semester in Tokyo has been postponed until spring semester 2021
- Spring 2021:
 - Macquarie University
 - Massey University
 - University of Canberra
 - University of New South Wales