The State University of New York Office of Global Affairs (SUNY OGA) has developed a study abroad reopening plan which establishes criteria by which programs are evaluated in order to safely resume. The approved criteria is used by Stony Brook University (SBU) and SUNY to monitor each program.

Due to the fluid nature surrounding COVID-19, the guidelines may be updated/changed at any time as it is likely that new information will be received by the International Academic Programs (IAP) Office either from SUNY or our partner universities.

These guidelines apply to ALL participants.

STUDENTS GUIDELINES FOR FACULTY-LED PROGRAMS

Pre-program Planning:

SUNY requires that students are fully vaccinated in order to participate in a study abroad program.

In order to plan for a successful study abroad experience, students should understand that they will likely encounter more unexpected changes now than in the past. A greater level of independence and a heightened level of awareness and flexibility will be necessary during planning and throughout their study abroad experience. Examples of important changes could be new health entry requirements by the host countries. Other changes might be related to quarantining, housing and academic policies.

International Academic Programs (IAP) has met with each faculty-led program director to review New York State, State University of New York (SUNY), Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and local guidelines related to COVID-19. Program Directors will serve as a point of contact to direct students to these resources. Students are expected to thoroughly read and continuously reference the resources provided to remain informed about policies that will affect them and to maintain compliance if and when necessary.

IAP strongly recommends students discuss their study abroad plans as well as share this following guide with their parents/guardian and/or emergency contact(s).

1. Risk and Liability information
   a. Students are strongly encouraged to take the SUNY Risk Self Assessment Survey so they are aware of their own risk tolerance during the application process in SBUAbroad.
   b. Students are encouraged to meet with their program coordinator to discuss the findings of their survey.
   c. All students participating in a partner university program must sign the SUNY Acknowledgement Form and other COVID-19 related documentation in SBUAbroad which addresses SUNY liability information.
d. Students will be provided with SBU, SUNY and other documentation related to COVID-19 in the application process. Students are responsible for all information provided as it relates to program eligibility, participation and compliance.
e. Students are required to participate in IAP’s pre-departure orientation.

2. Flight Information
   a. Students are expected to travel to and from their program with the group and Program Director (or program staff). Group flight details will be shared with all participants by their IAP Coordinator. Students will book their own flight tickets based on the provided details. Students should purchase changeable or refundable flight tickets as well as understand the conditions and financial responsibility involved with changing/canceling flight tickets. SUNY may cancel programs based on fluctuating CDC levels and analysis of local conditions.
   b. In the event a student is not able to travel as planned (for example in case of a positive COVID-19 test result), they should contact both their IAP coordinator and their Program Director.
      i. The IAP Coordinator can provide guidance related to how this result could impact their program and participation.

3. Airline and Host Country Compliance
   a. Students must research COVID-19 vaccine/booster, testing requirements relevant to airlines of choice and host country entry requirements. SUNY requires all participants to be fully vaccinated and boosted.
      i. It is crucial for program participants to remain informed and actively comply with host country guidelines and policies.
      ii. Students must be aware that due to the fluid nature surrounding COVID-19 guidelines, policies and program itinerary may change.

4. Contingency Funds
   a. Students should have contingency funds planned as part of their overall program budget. Examples include funds for testing, a separate quarantine room/location if necessary, or unexpected travel occurrences.

5. Health Insurance
   a. IAP will share mandatory SUNY international health and trip cancellation insurance information prior to departure to allow students to plan for any health or travel related situations. Once able to access the SUNY international health insurance portal, students can identify health facilities in-country based on their location and follow local protocols.
      i. COVID-19 testing for travel-related purposes is not covered by this insurance unless specifically prescribed/requested by a licensed physician.
      ii. Mental health support is available to students through the SUNY insurance provider.
      iii. Students are strongly encouraged to sign the Health Insurance Release form (Personal Representative Appointment), which allows SUNY/SBU to support students while abroad as it pertains to their health insurance coverage. Students are encouraged to complete this form in SBUAbroad.

6. Program Housing
a. Housing is provided on all faculty-led programs and students are prohibited from opting out (details are on each program page). Students must follow any procedures mandated by their respective housing accommodations.
   i. Should a student need to quarantine, accommodations will be provided and coordinated by the Program Director and IAP.

7. Emergency Contact(s)
   a. Students are expected to share their emergency contact with IAP in SBUAbroad and provide the approval for IAP to reach out in case of an emergency.

8. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
   a. Students will be responsible for bringing their own appropriate PPE which meets the health standards of the host country.

9. Testing Requirement
   a. Students are required to bring a minimum of one test per week with them on the program.

**During Program Requirements:**

All SBU administered faculty-led programs will abide by the current SBU COVID-19 protocols and policies if stricter than the local/host country requirements.

1. Exposed, symptomatic or positive student response
   a. If a student is exposed, exhibits symptoms or tests positive, they are required to notify the Program Director to coordinate next steps.
   b. All students are required to follow the host country as well as SBU guidelines.

2. Limitations for support during isolation/quarantine
   a. Program Directors will arrange for local support to be available for students who may need to isolate or quarantine. SBU staff may not be available to stay with students who are required to isolate due to COVID-19.
   b. If a student needs assistance getting meals, transportation to a medical facility or otherwise, a local support person will be available to assist.
   c. If the lead faculty member becomes symptomatic or positive, the alternate staff person on the ground should be prepared to continue the program (in coordination with IAP) during the lead faculty member’s isolation/quarantine.
      i. Students may need to complete coursework post-program.

3. Student travel
   a. Students are expected to understand that increased movement could increase contagion risk. IAP advises that students should use reasonable judgment in planning their free time.

4. Guidelines for canceling/modifying program
   a. SBU, SUNY and NYS continually monitor each program location and will provide guidance should modifications or cancellation be necessary.
b. If the infection rate increases in a specific location, the Program Director should explore the ability to move to a different location or limit movement within that location.

**Post Program Requirements:**

1. Re-entry Testing Requirements
   a. Students must comply with their home country/state/campus/airline requirements regarding testing for re-entry.
   b. Re-entry testing information will be coordinated by the Program Director.
      i. COVID-19 testing for travel-related purposes is not covered by this insurance unless specifically prescribed/requested by a licensed physician.

**PROGRAM FINANCES**

Program specific budget sheets will be shared with students during the application process as well as detailed information regarding student’s financial responsibility and liability. Students will have to sign their acknowledgment of these documents in SBUAbroad.

1. Financial Liability
   a. As per SUNY international health insurance (1/12/2021), a medical provider’s note is required to receive COVID-19 testing that is covered by the SUNY provided insurance. Students should plan their budget accordingly for non-medical related testing (i.e. personal travel and event attendance).
   b. Upon commitment to their program through SBUAbroad, students accept all financial responsibility associated with participating in their program (additional details can be found in SBUAbroad).
   c. SUNY has required that SBU enroll all participants in trip cancellation insurance for COVID-19 related cancellation or interruption. Students will be guided on what documentation would be needed to submit a claim, though a refund is not guaranteed. Students will need to budget for contingency funds, as unexpected costs will be paid out of pocket and reimbursed at a later time.

**STUDENT COMMUNICATION**

We highly recommend for students to reach out to us with any questions and will direct them, if necessary, to the appropriate resources during all phases from planning through return.

1. COVID-19 resources are available on program pages and in the COVID-19 section of the IAP website.
2. The COVID-19 Risk Self Assessment tool is available on the IAP webpage and students are encouraged to revisit this resource throughout the program selection, application and pre-departure phases.
3. IAP expects students to give approval to IAP to communicate with the students’ emergency contact and SUNY international health insurance provider (via the Personal Representative Appointment Form) as part of the application in SBUAbroad. This allows SUNY and SBU to provide the best support to our students while abroad.
4. Pre-departure orientation is mandatory.
5. One on one sessions are available with the IAP Coordinator and/or Program Director for every student to discuss any program/concerns prior to departure.
6. IAP will communicate directly with students regarding any and all program updates. Only should an emergency arise (cancellation and/or departure mid-program related to COVID-19, and/or individual concerns related to health or safety of their student) will IAP contact a student’s disclosed Emergency Contacts (SBUAbroad form) to inform and/or request assistance.

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