

Frequently Asked Questions About COVID + Semester-Long Travel

- 1. How is Messiah University making decisions about when and where to support/provide semester-long study abroad programs?**
 - a. Messiah University's Director of Off-Campus Programs, along with the support of the institutional IRT Committee who meet regularly, are monitoring the impact that COVID-19 is having on the countries and communities where we send our students. In all of our locations, our program host partners have local staff in-country providing additional information for consideration. Our program partners are evaluating every aspect of their programs in their specific environments including adjustments and added focus on hygiene and social distancing, location-specific governmental regulations, and educational adaptations when necessary.
- 2. Will students be required to wear facemasks or follow other protocols while off-campus?**
 - a. We all have a shared responsibility to one another and do our own part to mitigate COVID-19 risks both on and off campus. For this reason, Messiah students are required to follow the host program's protocols while enrolled in their semester off-campus. As of now, all of our program partners are requiring to follow all COVID specific rules. This includes, but is not limited to use of facemasks, maintaining social distance measures, limitations on gatherings, quarantining in-place once arrived at host location, etc. We encourage all students to do their own research of what their host location requires of them prior to their departure.
- 3. What if students become symptomatic while studying off-campus?**
 - a. Similar to what is expected here on Messiah University's campus; students are expected to communicate to their program partner's staff. Most likely, the program staff will guide students in necessary protocols to help care for the individual, while keeping the others in community safe.
- 4. Will my international insurance cover my COVID-19 test?**
 - a. No. The international insurance that is provided through Messiah University does not cover anything related to a global pandemic. This includes, but is not limited to canceling or changing flights due to program closure or return home due to COVID, COVID testing of any kind, hospitalization due to COVID, etc.
- 5. Is Messiah University requiring students to be COVID vaccinated before they travel?**
 - a. At this time, MU is not requiring vaccination. However, your host country may have other health requirements/documentation needed and students are responsible to know that before their departure.
- 6. What is the refund policy for any program that cancels after they start if COVID would cause them to shut down?**
 - a. Though most program partners will look at all recoverable costs and issue a refund of any costs that they can recover, which should not be assumed. Each program has their own refund policies in place and students are encouraged to know those before they go. Messiah University will not be responsible for issuing any refunds on behalf of program partners.
- 7. What is the refund policy if the student gets sick before the program starts and can no longer participate?**
 - a. Messiah's office of Off-Campus Programs will work in collaboration with the semester program partner to see if there are any recoverable costs. Most program partners have a refund policy based on a pro-rated cost scale, so depending on when this decision is

made could determine how much of a refund a student could receive. A refund is not guaranteed.

8. Where is Messiah University permitting students to travel?

- a. At this time, MU has given the green light to move forward with any semester-long off-campus travel as long as the program partner is running their courses with COVID regulations in place. Please note that not all program locations are up and running at this time. This can also change at any time that the US government or host country government makes a decision that would no longer permit students to participate. It is the student's responsibility to be in communication with their host program to monitor any changes. Please note that Messiah University has NOT approved other institutional travel at this time beyond semester-long off-campus programs.