Recently, we sent an email to all students currently studying abroad on UAlbany programs with an update on UAlbany actions related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). That email is available on our website.

You are receiving this email because your study abroad university has temporarily suspended classes. At present, UAlbany has not suspended any of its programs abroad. That said, your decision to continue enrollment in your spring study abroad semester or voluntarily withdraw is based on your individual academic, financial, and personal circumstances. The information that follows is intended to help you make informed choices.

Please note,

1. If you are not a UAlbany student, please contact your home college/university study abroad, academic, and financial aid advisors for additional information regarding any decision to withdraw.

2. Additionally, if you are an international student on a U.S. F-1 visa at UAlbany, you must contact Dr. Mike Elliott in UAlbany’s International Student and Scholar Services office for specific guidance relative to your visa status. If you are an international student at a campus other than UAlbany, please contact the International Student and Scholar Services office at your home campus for guidance.

Voluntary withdrawal – UAlbany Students

If your program is not cancelled and you choose to withdraw from your spring semester abroad, you must contact your UAlbany study abroad advisor, as the education abroad office is actively coordinating with multiple departments at UAlbany on your behalf.

Academic considerations

Your academic options are as follows: (1) remain enrolled in your study abroad program, or (2) voluntarily withdraw from your study abroad program.

If you choose to withdraw voluntarily from your study abroad program, there are several possibilities to consider, including:

1. You may attempt to register for 8-week-2 classes through the University at Albany for the spring 2020 semester (see financial considerations below). Current course options for 8-week-2 are limited. You may also consider the option of cross registration under two existing agreements currently in place with the University at Albany. By mid to late March, spring enrollment will no longer be possible through UAlbany. Your contact to explore your academic options is John Donoghue (jdonoghue@albany.edu). In addition, you should contact your academic advisor, whom is briefed on the situation.
2. You can explore summer course offerings, at UAlbany or for transfer credit, or return to UAlbany in the fall (see financial considerations below). Please alert Anna Karlsson if you choose this option.

Financial considerations

Any decision you make aside from choosing to remain in your study abroad program may carry financial aid implications. These implications will vary by individual student. Things to consider include full time versus part time study, and if you receive TAP or an Excelsior scholarship as part of your financial aid packet. A dedicated team of financial aid advisors is available to receive your emails. Please contact either Earl Tretheway, Rachael Cofresi, Meryl Schwalb, or Stephen Kudzin and include the subject line “Study Abroad Urgent Request” in your email.

Spring tuition is not refundable even if you do not participate in alternate UAlbany spring course options. UAlbany will work with your host university to try to recover any available funds beyond tuition. In addition, if you paid for housing or any other expenses directly, you will need to discuss any potential refunds with housing staff and/or other vendors.

We hope this information helps you and your family make the decisions that are best suited to your needs. In conjunction with partner universities, local health departments, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), UAlbany actively continues to monitor developments of this virus and will provide further updates related to the UAlbany community on the University’s Risk Management and Student Health Services web pages.