

Updated 7.24.2020

The CAS Study Away Office continues to monitor the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic. As we navigate through these unprecedented times, we would like to provide the following information to assist with questions students or parents may have due to the evolving COVID-19 (Coronavirus) situation as it pertains to study away programs beginning in fall 2020.

Additional information about the University of Redlands' response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic can be found here: <https://www.redlands.edu/coronavirus-resources/>.

Updates for spring 2021 study away programs

The University will make its decision about spring study away programs by October 9th to ensure that students still have time to make reasonable plans for a spring semester at Redlands. The University of Redlands continues to closely monitor the dynamic circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and its potential impact on spring study abroad programs. We are consulting multiple sources of information, including the CDC, State Department, our study away program partners/universities, and country specific entry/possible quarantining guidelines. In the meantime, we will continue to provide students with updates as they pertain to their spring program.

As students continue to prepare for their study abroad programs, they should be doing the following:

- Moving forward with their spring study away application. If students have questions about this in regards to their spring program, please email CASStudyAway@redlands.edu.
- Completing their post acceptance materials (passport copy and student medical questionnaire) in their Redlands study away portal. Students should ensure they have a valid passport that expires at least six months after their program's end date. If a student does not have a valid passport, they should contact the CAS Study Away Office as there are current restrictions on applying for new U.S. passports due to the COVID-19 pandemic and this may impact their program participation.
- Familiarizing themselves with their program information and related policies. These are found on their program website and in Redlands' [study away handbook](#).
- Knowing that the structure of their program may change (dates of program, modalities or courses, limited excursions or travel during term, etc.) due to constantly changing circumstances.
- Researching and understanding visa requirements for studying in their program location.
- Creating a back-up plan for a semester at Redlands in case a semester abroad is not an option this includes:

- Connecting with their academic advisor to discuss their intended spring enrollment both for their study abroad program and their back-up plan for courses at Redlands.
- Researching and considering housing arrangements in Redlands for the Spring 2021 term.

We also advise that students WAIT on the following items:

- Do not purchase airline tickets before the University's decision. When and if the time comes to purchase airfare, explore fully refundable tickets and purchase travel insurance. Reach out to the CAS Study Away Office, if students have any questions.
- Avoid paying any other non-recoverable expenses at this time specific to their plans to study abroad.

We understand that these are challenging times and that student may have questions as they continue to prepare for their study abroad experience. As always, we strongly encourage students to reach out to us if they have any questions about programs, policies, and planning. Email CASStudyAway@redlands.edu to schedule a phone or virtual appointment.

We also understand that students may no longer wish to pursue study away for spring 2021. If this is the case, please let us know and we can work to withdraw students from spring 2021 study away and help them explore studying abroad in a later term, should that be of interest.

What is the status of fall 2020 study away programs?

Exchange and Study Away Partner Programs:

On May 1, 2020, the University made the difficult decision to cancel all fall study away programs that start in July 2020. On June 1, 2020, all exchange and study away partner programs were canceled; students will automatically be deferred to the spring semester for their study away program **UNLESS a student submits one of the following to the CAS Study Away Office by noon Monday, June 8:**

- Student's intent to withdraw from study away. This decision means that a student is choosing not to participate in a study away program in AY20/21. To withdraw from study away students must complete this [short form](#). Once received, the CAS Study Away Office will withdraw the student from study away and send an email confirmation to the student. Students will be able to apply for future study away terms (May term 2021 or fall/spring 2021-2022).
- A [petition](#) to request an exception to the fall study away decision. Student must clearly articulate a compelling, exceptional academic or other valid reason for pursuing study away this fall. Petitions will be reviewed and students notified by Wednesday, June 10, of the University's final decision.

Salzburg Program:

On July 1st, the University made the difficult decision to cancel the fall 2020 Salzburg program. Students who wish to change from fall semester to spring semester in Salzburg, can do so easily. Students just need to respond to the email the CAS Study Away Office sent and let us know of their wish to change terms by July 15th. Our office will update the student's study away term to spring in our system and notify the on-site staff in Salzburg. Please note that the Faculty Fellow for spring 2021 will be Julie Shuler and she will be teaching a course titled Understanding Disability: International Connections and Communities. This course will fulfill CPI, APW, OC requirements.

The University used the following information to help guide its decision making process:

- CDC and State Department travel advisory levels. Both currently remain at their highest levels and advise against non-essential international travel. Information on the CDC Level 3 Travel Notice can be found [here](#) and information on the State Department global health advisory level 4 can be found [here](#).
- Questions of ability to enter host countries and resulting mandatory quarantine times, if able to enter. On June 30th, the European Union restricted entry to most US travelers.
- Questions of fall semester on-campus instruction at host institutions and providers
- Feasibility of obtaining student visas, if needed
- Access to flights to host countries

Our staff is ready to talk through any questions or concerns students may have regarding their impending study away programs. Students can schedule a WebEx or phone advising session by emailing CASstudyaway@redlands.edu.

Will students still receive their Smith Family Travel Grant if they change from fall 2020 to spring 2021?

Yes, a student's Smith Family Travel Grant will be applied to their spring semester. Smith Family Travel Grants cannot be applied to May Term Travel courses or study away terms past spring 2021.

Are students able to enroll in fall 2020 classes at Redlands and be considered for on-campus housing, if their fall 2020 program is canceled?

As a preventative measure, students were encouraged to enroll in fall 2020 Redlands courses due to the unpredictability of the virus.

Students should complete the housing intention form in their MyRedlands housing portal account that was sent on May 7th, so the university will know of a student's intent to live on or off-campus, in case study away is canceled for fall.