

COVID-19 and Upcoming Travel FAQ

Winter GO Short 2020, Winter GO Your Way 2020, and Spring GO Long 2021

When will GO make a decision about postponing a program?

The timing of decisions will be based on a balance of global health news, public health and safety advisories, travel restrictions, visa application dates (when applicable), and program deadlines (when applicable), as well as feedback from on-site contacts. Once a decision has been made to postpone a program, GO will promptly notify students with details about alternative options. GO does not approve travel/reserves the right to rescind approval for a program in a region with a level 3 or 4 U.S. State Department Travel advisory.

Winter GO Short/GO Your Way 2020:

We are cautiously moving ahead with winter programs. A decision about travel will be made in October.

“GO Short” programs are study-away options offered during winter and summer breaks in which students attend programs that are directly managed and administered by the GO office.

“GO Your Way” programs are options during winter and summer break. Students typically attend study abroad programs through providers.

Spring GO Long 2021:

We, along with the study abroad field, are hopeful that programs will be able to run during the spring semester. We will be monitoring each country and travel recommendations closely in the coming months in hopes that we will be able to travel. *Decision timelines will vary based on the program.*

Decisions to postpone or cancel programs are made by each program provider; therefore, the timing may vary. If a program is cancelled by the provider, GO will work with students to help them find alternatives. For SWSB London, GO office makes postponement and cancellation decisions for this program.

“GO Long” programs are options during the semester in which students attend programs not directly managed or administered by the GO office.

What information do you have about US passport processing?

The US State Department is resuming operations for passport processing, but due to the shut down in operations earlier in the year, they are experiencing significant delays. Passports are likely to take over 12 weeks to process. Additional information can be found on: <https://travel.state.gov/passports>

I am a Winter 2020/Spring 2021 student, when does my preparations course start?

GO will enroll you in a preparations course, which will start during the second-7 weeks of the semester. If you are a student who previously passed the OFFP: Preparations for GO Long course, you do not need to take the course again, but will need to complete all other mandatory preparation processes.

I am a Winter GO Short/GO Your Way 2020 student, what would happen if my program is canceled?

We will work with students individually about alternatives if we need to cancel programs, prioritizing graduation dates. The university has guaranteed to work with students to meet the cross-cultural requirement for graduation.

I am a Winter GO Your Way/2020 Spring 2021 Student, when should I book my airfare?

We recommend waiting to make airfare arrangements.

Each airline has their own policy regarding refunds and cancellation waivers due to the coronavirus. These are being updated regularly as the situation is changing minute to minute. While airlines that have cancelled flights directly into areas with coronavirus outbreaks will provide refunds, many airlines are offering to waive change and/or cancellation fees for flights booked in the next few weeks to provide you with protection and flexibility with upcoming travel plans. All of these airline-specific policies apply to tickets booked directly with an airline and through travel agencies.

(Note: Winter GO Short students' airfare is included in the cost of the program, so you will not make your own airfare arrangements).

I am a Winter GO Short 2020 student, when will I be billed for the program?

We will not bill GO Short students until the determination for travel is made in October. The decision date was determined based on when the second 7-week preparations course is scheduled to start.

I am a Spring GO Long 2021 student, what are my next steps?

Read e-mails from goprogram@susqu.edu and/or stuhl@susqu.edu and the instructions from the GO portal. Students who were approved for Spring 2021 must commit to the program by October 1 so that we can work with them for the next steps, including applying to the program provider or host university.

I am a Spring GO Long 2021 student, what happens if I withdraw from my committed program after October 1st, the commitment deadline?

By October 1st, you must choose whether or not to move forward with plans for GO Long for the Spring 2021 semester. If you commit, but then later decide to withdraw yourself, you will be responsible for paying a \$500.00 withdrawal fee, as outlined in the Post-Approval Acknowledgement Form on your GMS application. If GO decides to waive this fee, you will be notified when that decision is made.

I am a Spring GO Long 2021 student, when is the latest I can withdraw from my program without incurring additional fees?

This depends entirely on each program. Please make sure to read all materials from your program provider or host university, as they will include information on their refund policies and procedures.

During this time, it is typical for providers to offer full refunds (of fees and deposits) as long as you give them approximately a month's notice before the programs starts, but this varies by program, so make sure to find out from your provider what their policy is.

I am a Spring GO Long 2021 student, what will happen in the spring if I can't participate in my scheduled GO Long?

This fall, in addition to planning for Spring 2021 GO Long, we will also be having students prepare for the reality that they might remain on campus in the spring, if their program is suspended, GO revokes approvals, or they choose to withdraw themselves. So, students will go through spring course registration and housing selection in an abundance of caution.

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