

Dear students studying abroad in Europe and the UK,

Last night the White House announced changes to travel restrictions for Europe. This morning there was some clarification about this announcement, so we are writing to you based on the latest information.

Importantly, no US citizen is required to leave by Friday, March 13. That said, we believe that you should make plans to leave soon.

The US State Department enacted a global travel advisory Level 3: Avoidance of Nonessential Travel, due to escalation in the number of COVID-19 cases. Additionally, the CDC has classified most of Europe as a Level 3 Travel Health Notice. GO policy is that we do not permit travel to countries with a Level 3 advisory (or higher), and that we ask students in an area that changes to a level 3 to leave. This situation is unusual because it is specifically about travel, and it is not country-specific. That said, at this time we ask you to leave your study abroad program and return to your home in the US. This request is based on the guidance from the State Department and the CDC.

Returning Home:

We realize that many of your programs have decided to close and move online. And several others remain in operation.

While the situation is serious, you do not need to travel immediately. We recommend that you plan your return for within the next week, or as your program allows. You will need to coordinate with your airline to change your ticket, and at this point many airlines are waiving fees, so please inquire. If the change fees and fare differences for your original flight home are expensive, we recommend looking at one-way options, as they may be less expensive. If you experience financial difficulties changing your flight, please let us know. Please let us and your on-site staff know of your new departure date.

As of this message, we have not seen information about quarantine requirements for US citizens returning from the Europe or the UK.

At this time, you have completed sufficient time on site to count for the GO experience.

We will be working with your host university or provider to see if they will offer any housing refunds. We will send you details as we learn more.

Staying on-site:

If you decide to stay at a program that is open, we must ask you to sign a waiver accepting responsibility for your decision to remain on site. You will still be covered by your financial aid, and still be able to transfer credits as before, and we will still do what we can to be of assistance to you.

We also recognize that this is a stressful time, and we remind you that we are available to help you through it. Please be prepared for possible travel delays as air travel may be more congested than normal. Throughout your remaining days on site, your travel home, and once you do get home, please continue to practice good hygiene and self-care.

We are disappointed by these events, and we are sure that you are as well. Please let us know what concerns you may have and what you would like to do.

Best,

Scott Manning

Molly Roe

Ariana Stuhl