

Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 05:20 pm,

Dear [Student],

Program Cancellation

I regret to inform you that the State University of New York (SUNY) system administration has suspended all study abroad programs for the spring 2020 semester. Please see the message below from Tod Laursen, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor of SUNY:

10 March 2020

SUNY has determined that it is necessary to immediately cancel all remaining campus-administered study abroad programs for the 2020 spring semester in response to the ongoing spread of the novel coronavirus outbreak. This means that SUNY is instructing all program participants in all countries to return to New York or to their home in the US immediately.

Student returning from [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) defined, Level 1 countries will not be subject to a precautionary quarantine.

As a reminder for countries with [CDC Level 3 and Level 2 travel advisories](#), those returning students will be subject to a 14-day precautionary quarantine at home or at SUNY designated campuses.

These actions pertain to ongoing and planned programs taking place outside the United States. Students who elect to stay overseas in a locally administered and operated program must sign a release that will be forth coming.

Ensuring student safety and success is a priority for SUNY. Campuses and SUNY System Administration are actively working on course/credit recovery options for all students. SUNY is also working with Federal and State officials to understand their policy flexibilities to accommodate students with financial aid due to these exceptional circumstances.

Students should immediately contact their airline to rebook their return tickets home. Most international carriers have suspended change fees for rebooking of tickets.

All students should go to the URL below to provide information regarding their return. If a student needs assistance, please submit their request through this URL.

<https://www2.sysadm.suny.edu/studyabroadStudent/index.cfm>

If you have immediate questions, please email international.programs@suny.edu.

Academic Continuity

SUNY Geneseo will work with all students whose programs have been cancelled or suspended to ensure academic continuity. At present, the SUNY Geneseo Study Abroad Office staff will serve as your primary point of contact on this.

Returning Home

If your study abroad university offers the option to transition to distance learning (online instruction), SUNY Geneseo expects returning students to complete the spring 2020 semester through the distance learning option.

If your study abroad university does not offer the option to transition to distance learning (online instruction), SUNY Geneseo will work with you to build a schedule for the spring 2020 term. SUNY Geneseo has prepared an academic options [**guidance document**](#) to help students navigate academic alternatives for suspended Spring 2020 study abroad programs.

A full-time (12+ credits) schedule would likely consist of:

- Online courses available through Open SUNY
- Internships organized through the Department of Career Development
- Directed study with SUNY Geneseo faculty members

Choosing to Stay Abroad

According to Provost Laursen's message, "*Students who elect to stay overseas in a locally administered and operated program must sign a release that will be forth coming.*"

The release ("SUNY Acknowledge Form COVID-19") is linked at the bottom of this email. If you choose to stay abroad please read, print, sign, scan, and email the signed release form to the SUNY Geneseo Study Abroad Office by email at studyabroad@geneseo.edu.

SUNY Office of Global Affairs has provided some important information in considering your decision to stay abroad:

- - By signing the release, a student will have minimal assistance from SUNY in resolving any future issues abroad. Students will be expected to address their issues with the host university abroad. In the event of an emergency, students should contact the nearest [US Embassy or US Consulate](#).
 - Should a student choose to remain, United HealthCare (UHC) insurance coverage will continue through the original program dates. However, students who remain abroad will need to work directly with UHC to get assistance to resolve issues.
 - A student's financial aid will not be impacted if they remain abroad and are able finish their semester coursework. However, if a student remains abroad

and should the situation worsen in their host country and the student is not able to finish the semester, SUNY will have no responsibility for assisting in credit recovery and financial aid may be impacted.

- SUNY will not be coordinating future evacuations in other countries which may see a reclassification to a CDC level of 2 or higher.

Transportation Information

Students should contact their airline to inquire about rebooking their return tickets home. Most international carriers have suspended change fees for rebooking of tickets.

Quarantine

According to Provost Laursen's message,

"Student returning from [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) defined, Level 1 countries will not be subject to a precautionary quarantine.

As a reminder for countries with [CDC Level 3 and Level 2 travel advisories](#), those returning students will be subject to a 14-day precautionary quarantine at home or at SUNY designated campuses."

Refund or Reimbursement

Students are advised to keep copies of all receipts. It is unclear if the State University of New York (SUNY) will be issuing any refunds or reimbursements, but to seek any reimbursements, one must usually show proof of expenditures (receipts). Therefore, keep all receipts. It is suggested that students write a short note on the backside of the receipt indicating the reason for the purchase (i.e. "bus ticket to the airport", "change fee for return flight", etc.).

Financial Aid

According to Provost Laursen's message, *"SUNY is also working with Federal and State officials to understand their policy flexibilities to accommodate students with financial aid due to these exceptional circumstances."*

Important Action to Take - Please do the following as soon as possible

- Consider your plan of action.
- Communicate with your relevant stakeholders (parents, guardians, spouse, partner, dependents, etc.) about the information contained herein.
- Ask questions. Please contact the Study Abroad Office by phone at +1-585-245-5546 or by email at studyabroad@geneseo.edu if you have questions about any information contained herein.

- If you will be returning to your home, go to the URL below to provide information regarding your return. If a student needs assistance, please submit their request through this URL: <https://www2.sysadm.suny.edu/studyabroadStudent/index.cfm>
- If you choose to stay abroad please read, print, sign, scan, and email the signed release form to the SUNY Geneseo Study Abroad Office by email at studyabroad@geneseo.edu.

We understand this has been a very hectic few days and information about the situation has been changing rapidly. Please understand that this remains to be a fluid situation and guidance from SUNY Geneseo will continue to come as we receive it.

Thank you for your cooperation with us as we navigate this situation.