



## Study Abroad

### UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Dear Exchange Students,

By now you are very well aware of the unprecedented health situation facing the UW-Madison (and global!) community. In these times of uncertainty, we hope that we will be able to support you as you navigate the changes in academics and campus climate, during the semester you are here for exchange.

We have received several messages concerning the possibility of returning home, in light of directives you may have received from your university to return home or simply because you feel it is in your best interest to return home. Everyone has a common question: what are the academic implications of returning home?

**If you leave right now, there is no guarantee that you can complete the term and final exams online. We are actively exploring those options and will update you as soon as we know more.**

Here's the current timeline (3/17/2020). Please note this may evolve in the coming days.

- Week of March 16<sup>th</sup>: spring break (any non-essential travel outside of Dane County is **strongly** discouraged)
- Week of March 23<sup>rd</sup>: classes resume but ONLINE. In order to maintain J-1 status, students must be participating in these online classes. Format is determined by professor/lecturer.
- April 13<sup>th</sup>: classes are set to resume in-person, **in theory**. Decisions on returning to face-to-face instruction will be made by April 6<sup>th</sup> and communicated to students.
- What if's:
  - If you will complete your academic program from outside the U.S., you must complete the ISS Leave of Absence form in your Terra Dotta portal. Your J-1 student visa status cannot remain in active status.
  - If you choose not to return for in-person class instruction, ISS will terminate your J-1 immigration document.
  - If you elect to go home temporarily, you will be unable to return to the U.S. to complete the semester. These decisions are made at the federal level in order to slow the spread of the virus.

We understand the need/desire to return home to family. Please let us know if you have any questions we can help with, and we will be happy to try and assist.

-Incoming Exchange Team

#### International Academic Programs

University of Wisconsin-Madison

301 Red Gym, 716 Langdon Street  
608-265-6329 studyabroad.wisc.edu

Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1314