



Study Abroad

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Exchange Students -

You should have received [today's \(March 17\) update from Chancellor Blank](#). Key things to note in this message are:

- The University has confirmed that we will hold courses online from March 23 through the end of the spring semester, including final exams.
- You can complete your courses and final exams from anywhere (including your permanent home).
- Students in residence halls who cannot return home or who are unable to access alternative course delivery from elsewhere may remain in the residence halls. (Residents will receive more information from University Housing shortly.)

If you choose to return home, be sure to check [global travel advisories](#) prior to finalizing your plans. Circumstances around the world due to COVID-19 are dynamic and many countries are taking aggressive measures to control travel in an effort to combat disease spread. During this period, there may be unforeseen challenges and even obstacles as governments around the world attempt to act quickly on behalf of their populations. We encourage you to make the decision that is best for your health, safety, and well-being.

The International Student Services (ISS) team has put together a [program completion checklist](#) with helpful information.

If you are enrolled in the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP), please note:

Due to the situation concerning the novel coronavirus COVID-19, the SHIP office will accept requests from refunds from international students who are returning to their home country to complete the spring semester online. You will need to request a refund by email to shipmail@uhs.wisc.edu. You will also need to include a copy of your airline itinerary/receipt (in English). Your SHIP coverage will be terminated from the 15th of the month following the date of departure from the United States and a pro-rated premium refund will be processed. Refunds will be processed as soon as possible but can take up to eight weeks.

Note that you do not need a valid travel signature to depart the USA. A valid travel signature is currently a requirement to re-enter the U.S. on your J-1 student visa document.

Please continue to check the [UW-Madison](#) and [ISS](#) COVID-19 webpages and your @wisc.edu email regularly for important updates.

If you plan to depart Madison, please reply to this email with your intended departure date. We are tracking all exchange student departures. If you plan to stay in Madison, please confirm that for us as well by email.

International Academic Programs

University of Wisconsin-Madison

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

Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1314

We are sorry that your time in Madison is not what any of us expected. Badgers care for each other, so please know that our team, ISS, and colleagues across the university offer our support during this time. If you returning home, we hope that your travels go smoothly and we hope that you can return to Madison again under better circumstances. For those of you remaining in Madison, we hope that the situation changes soon for the better.

-Incoming Exchange Team