

Dear SDSU Community,

In a vote today, the University Senate has approved a waiver for the international experience required, often referenced as the study abroad graduation requirement, for students who may be impacted by recent travel restrictions. The waiver will apply when a student is in their final year of study, and the study abroad program has been suspended due to the global public health concern associated with the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. San Diego State University has suspended programs in China, South Korea and Italy, and is discouraging non-essential travel to those countries given level 3 travel advisories in place.

There remains no probable and no confirmed cases of COVID-19 at SDSU, and university officials continue to closely monitor the coronavirus outbreak and have launched a [COVID-19 webpage](#), which is updated regularly. We are also actively engaged in daily planning in an effort to inform and provide preventative guidance for students, faculty, visiting scholars, students and visitors.

The following message serves as a community update:

Planning and Coordination

To monitor and manage concerns with COVID-19, SDSU activated an emergency operations team, including campus health officials. The team is both assessing and developing needed plans related to this swiftly moving global public health situation. SDSU is also continuously monitoring and following the recommendations of county, state and national health authorities.

Regarding Community Health and Well-being

SDSU is providing screening for students who visit Student Health Services who have a fever, cough, sore throat, or other symptoms consistent with upper respiratory infections.

Faculty are also asked to modify course requirements regarding absences to limit adverse impacts on students who may become sick.

All students, staff and faculty are reminded to continue to practice [healthy habits](#) and good hygiene. The best available recommendations to avoid infection are careful and routine sanitation and illness prevention efforts. For more details, visit the university's [site on coronavirus](#).

Study Abroad Programs

SDSU suspended study abroad programs in China, South Korea and Italy after the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of State issued level 3 travel warnings for those countries. The university is directly communicating with students in suspended spring 2020 programs, and connecting them with support for return travel.

SDSU also asks students not to book summer study abroad trips in any country where there is a current level 3 travel advisory without establishing alternate program options. Currently, all programs for spring break in countries with level 3 advisories are also suspended.

It is important to note that because the global public health threat related to coronavirus is continually changing, SDSU is closely monitoring the situation and assessing if suspension of additional study abroad programs may be necessary. At this time, SDSU is encouraging students who are planning for summer or fall study abroad programs to seek alternatives to those in countries with level 3 travel advisories, due to the increased likelihood of future suspensions. Students may contact the SDSU Study Abroad office at 619-594-2475 or studyabroad@sdsu.edu with any questions or for guidance.

Communications

SDSU is providing updates to students, faculty and staff via in person and email communications. Some communications occur more directly through guidance being provided to segments of the students, faculty and staff populations. Additionally, the university has introduced an [Educational Resources During Emergencies page](#) for instructional faculty, providing details about how to adjust instructional offerings during emergencies.

We will continue to provide updates on the [COVID-19 webpage](#) and via email as the situation warrants. We encourage all students, faculty and staff to be attentive to these communications channels as the university continues to actively address this global public health concern.

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