

Spring 2021 – Semester Study Abroad Programs FAQ

Is it possible to apply for a study abroad program in Spring 2021?

Yes, the Center for International Education in collaboration with our overseas partners are working to welcome spring semester students to their programs abroad. Applications are currently available for Spring 2021 programs, and the application deadline is October 1, 2020.

Students are encouraged to move forward with planning. But please note, that we recommend you parallel plan your semester (both abroad and on-campus). Also, be aware of program fees, deadlines, and cancellation policies. Xavier will work with you to recover costs, but our partners have varying policies.

Is it safe to travel abroad?

Xavier University and the Center for International Education are monitoring the current global environment in regards to COVID-19. Students' health and safety are always our greatest priority in offering programs abroad. We are monitoring a variety of sources to understand if a destination will be viable for spring 2021.

Sources and criteria we will consider in making our decision include:

- the US Department of State Travel Advisory and the CDC Travel Guidance,
- destination country travel restrictions and port of arrival requirements,
- destination country consular services to obtain visas or other entry required document
- availability of flights and ease of flights from and to the USA
- flexibility in deadlines and hybrid/online coursework
- program/provider adherence to COVID-19 protocols/best practices as they evolve

Are all study abroad programs/destinations open for spring 2021?

Students are welcome to apply to any Xavier-sponsored, Exchange, or the Semester in Peru program for this coming spring semester. However, it is possible that the program might not be viable for you to study during the spring semester. (see: Is it safe to travel abroad?) Students should be prepared to defer to another semester, possibly choose another location if available, or remain on-campus during the spring term.

When will a decision be made regarding spring 2021 in terms of cancellation?

Based on student applications, programs will be assessed over the month of October. Students will be notified in early November, if their program is unable to run and what to do next.

Programs determined they can run in early November are still asked to parallel plan, in the event that the situation changes in that country between the time the decision is made and the student departs for their program.

Should I be registered for classes and housing at Xavier, too?

Yes, please register for Spring 2021 courses at Xavier. Do not cancel your housing for the spring semester either. Once it is determined that the program will not be cancelled, the CIE in conjunction with the Registrar's office will register you for your study abroad placeholder course. The CIE will also notify Residence Life (if you live on-campus), that you will no longer need your room for the Spring. If you live off-campus, you will need to work with your landlord.

What are the financial implications if my program is cancelled?

The Center for International Education will return your application fee and deposit for your program. If you plan to defer your application to a future term, we will apply those fees/deposits to the new term, so you do not have to pay again.

If you have paid any fees or deposits to your host university abroad/program provider, you will be required to adhere to that institution's specific cancellation and refund policy.

We strongly recommend that you DO NOT make travel arrangements, pay non-refundable housing deposits, or pay for visa processing until your program is confirmed and it is necessary to do so.

Will the international health insurance required by the CIE/Xavier cover me if I get sick while abroad?

The insurance provided by CISI insurance or equivalent provided by your program provider covers emergency medical costs during your time abroad. All travelers should maintain primary health insurance coverage while abroad.

When should I book my flight?

The CIE recommends waiting to book any non-refundable flights until it is absolutely necessary to do so. We also recommend purchasing flight insurance through your airline. Xavier cannot refund any part of your flight if you were to cancel your program or return earlier than planned.

Should I purchase additional travel or trip cancellation insurance?

Due to the unpredictable nature of international travel at this time, we encourage you to purchase refundable/changeable airline ticket and/or additional flight or trip cancellation insurance from the airline or another company.

What happens if there is a new wave of the virus while I am abroad? Will I be sent home?

Xavier University and the CIE continue to monitor data surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Consistent with our Travel Policy, if being abroad presents a significant risk to your health or safety, we may decide that you must come home from your program abroad. If this is necessary, the CIE will notify you and advise you on next steps.