

Aztecs Abroad database

Dear Students & Families:

The U.S. Department of State announced today a [level 4 global health advisory and travel restriction](#). In that announcement, all U.S. citizens currently abroad were asked to arrange for immediate return to the United States. Further, the U.S. Department of State also advised that all U.S. citizens avoid international travel due to the global impact of COVID-19, unless they are prepared to remain abroad for an indefinite period.

The California State University (CSU) system followed the updated advisory this evening, calling for all international travel, world-wide, to be discontinued.

SDSU students currently studying abroad are asked to return to their permanent residence. We also recognize that several of our students have expressed that they feel safer in their study abroad locations and want to remain to avoid any potential risk of COVID-19 exposure, especially for those who are able to safely remain abroad and have access to shelter, transportation and medical care if needed.

We ask students to consider the safest option for them given their current geographical location.

Over the last few weeks, students who have expressed a desire to return home have already done so or are in the process of returning. The vast majority of our students are now safely home at their permanent residences.

We offer the following options to help study abroad students and their families make informed choices that are best for them with respect to students' safety, academics, and financial situations:

Returning Home

SDSU will pay airfare and provide continued academic support as you transition home. Instructions for reimbursement will be sent on a separate email.

Travel Reimbursement:

If you already have a plane ticket home, you can work directly with your airline provider to rebook your flight home, then work with SDSU to receive reimbursement. Detailed information to obtain your reimbursement will be sent in a separate email.

Direct Travel Assistance Home:

You also have the option to work with the travel agent assigned by SDSU – Rancho San Diego Travel – to navigate flight changes or finalize individual flights home. Costs associated with booking or changing your flight will be covered by SDSU when booked through Rancho San Diego Travel. Please contact carin@ranchosdtravel.com at Rancho San Diego Travel as soon as possible.

In your email, include the following information:

- Your Name
- Travel from (departure location – city and country)
- Travel to (arrival location – city, state, country)
- Do you have an existing airfare?
- The name of the airline, flight number, departure time, arrival time and any layover information

SDSU Academic Support:

Students who are unable to complete their study abroad spring 2020 semester (due to early departure) will receive academic support and guidance. Additional details will be forthcoming in a separate communication.

Remaining Abroad:

Students who choose to remain in their study abroad program and feel that remaining offers greater safety, are allowed to do so with the support of the university. Students should consider the risks carefully when making a decision to remain on site during this fluid situation. We cannot predict at this time if your semester will continue without interruption, or if additional regions of the world will experience increased travel restrictions. Not all host institutions have indicated if they will discontinue in-person class meetings, but this could happen if it has not already occurred at your campus. There may be additional challenges with navigating a return at a later date.

As you make decisions, please update or fill out the [SDSU check in form](#) to let us know your intentions so we can better serve you.

[SDSU coronavirus \(COVID-19\) web page](#) contains the most current updates and FAQs. If you have additional questions, please email studyabroad@sdsu.edu and a team member will help work through your concerns.

Know that your safety is a top priority for us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

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