

Dear USGG Faculty,

USG Goes Global (USGG) is fully aware of growing concern regarding [COVID-19](#) and has been closely monitoring information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Department of State regarding guidance for study abroad programs. At this time all USGG programs are scheduled to run as planned. Please be aware, however, that if the CDC assigns a [level 3](#) warning to any program it will be cancelled. **Currently, no USGG destination has been assigned any CDC warning level regarding COVID-19 which means they have determined there is no additional COVID-19 specific risk of traveling to any USGG program location at this time.** We do understand that you may have your own concerns regarding travel this summer, so we want to let you all know that if you feel uncomfortable about participating in USG Goes Global by traveling to your program location this summer, there are a few additional options for you:

1. Should your course make and you are concerned about travel risk due to COVID-19, you may put together a plan for teaching your course completely online instead of the hybrid online & in-country model currently planned. This would include putting together a plan for online lecture / class activities while students are abroad as well as a plan for your students to attend course specific field trips with either supervision from a tour guide arranged by USGG or field trips conducted independently with proof of attendance such as assignments to turn in from required field trips. As USGG courses are already setup as hybrid online/in-person courses, this should be a viable option even if it is not ideal. You would still receive your expected salary from USG Goes Global. This scenario is contingent upon other faculty still choosing to participate in the program, as significant faculty supervision would still be critical to the program structure.
2. Should your course make and you are concerned about travel risk due to COVID-19 but you are not comfortable offering your course completely online while your students are in-country, you may wish to drop out of teaching for USG Goes Global completely and not teach your courses this summer. If you choose not to travel and do not teach your courses this summer, USG Goes Global will not be able to provide your expected salary.

If you wish to take either of these actions due to COVID-19 concerns, you must make this decision by **Friday, March 13th** and notify Tammy or me in writing by email. After March 13th we will reassess each program and send new communication regarding these options.

Please note, the above options are still contingent upon your course making enrollment for this summer and the USGG student:faculty ratio course cancellation policies and timelines still apply.

As a reminder, each participant on a USGG program will have a robust health insurance policy through CISI (plan information available [here](#)) that includes the following coverage:

- High-limit medical and evacuation benefits that cover comprehensive care over an extended period. Overlapping benefits, such as “shelter in place,” come into play if an evacuation is necessary but delayed.
- Our policy includes the same coverage in cases where public health officials declare a group exposure (i.e. students who were on a plane or train, or in a building with someone who got sick).

- While our security rider excludes a pandemic disease, should it lead to situations such as rioting, marshal law, persona non grata, or military incursion that put students, faculty, or staff in harm's way, there is a \$100,000 evacuation benefit per person. The security benefit does not cover students who decide to leave the program on their own before security measures are put in place.
- Our policy will pay up to \$2,500 per person for expenses incurred while subject to a government-mandated contagious disease quarantine, that delays or prevents travel. Covered costs include: reasonable expenses for lodging and meals, one-way economy airfare to the person's home country or to re-join their program, and non-refundable travel arrangements.

Best,

Margaret