

COVID-19 UPDATES

Higher Education Newsletter



OFFICE OF GLOBAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS (ECA)



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Hi folks,

EducationUSA and USA Study Abroad are still tracking U.S. Higher Education Institutions, their response to COVID-19 and the impact on international mobility and the ongoing impact on study abroad programs. Want to get on the list? Please email both Amelia VanderLaan and Rebecca Pisano and we'll add you! As always, thank you Chloe Bates (VSFS intern/Gilman alumna) for helping EdUSA and USA Study Abroad on this.

Disclaimer: all this information is open source and for informational purposes, only, and not USG-generated (except for the cables). These are not official USG messages for wider dissemination, and anything linked here does not constitute a formal endorsement.

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U.S. Higher Education Overview / Impact from COVID-19

U.S. Higher Education COVID-19 Overview / Toplines

- A number of institutions are announcing they will freeze (Clemson University, Central Michigan University) or reduce tuition for certain groups of students (University of Maine system) for the upcoming academic year. [Southern New Hampshire University](#) will offer incoming freshmen a year of free tuition and online classes.
- It is anticipated that an unprecedented level of coordination will emerge among [public college systems](#), possibly including moving academic programs and consolidation of services.
- **3** universities have announced plans to continue at least some online learning for at least the beginning of the fall semester: San José State University, [California State University, Fullerton](#), Southern New Hampshire University. [University of California, Berkeley](#) announced it may offer online instruction for at least part of the fall semester, but there will be no tuition/fees reimbursement even if the whole semester is online.
- [Purdue University](#) intends to proceed as normal with in-person classes in August.

- At least **5** universities/university systems are facing [lawsuits](#). Drexel University, University of Miami and the Board of Regents of the University of Colorado, Arizona Board of Regents ([Arizona State University, University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University](#)), Liberty University and [Purdue University](#). A law firm in South Carolina started a [website](#) to solicit students to join class action lawsuits against universities handling of COVID-19. [Note: this firm generally appears to handle personal injury suits].
- Students [still staying on campus](#), many of whom are international, are wondering what will happen when the semester ends (see Princeton University as example).
- A recent [AACRAO survey](#) reports that of over 500 U.S. institutions, 16-21% are considering a delayed start to the fall semester.
- A new AACRAO/ACE [survey](#) of more than 2,000 current U.S. college students finds that 83% intend to enroll in the fall as previously planned.

Impact on U.S. Study Abroad

- At least **13 total** universities have canceled fall study abroad programs: (**3** more universities this week [University of Illinois](#), Sacramento State, Simpson College), joining [Binghamton University](#), [University of Pittsburgh](#), [Emory University](#), [Georgetown University](#) (programs set to begin before Aug. 1), [San Diego State University](#), Peralta Community College District, Rochester University, [Saint Mary's College](#), Stonehill College, [University of Tampa](#), Binghamton University, SUNY, [Trinity University](#). **0** third party providers have cancelled fall programs at this time that we are aware of.
- The Forum on Education Abroad has a new [COVID-19 Program Status Tracker](#) on changes in Study Abroad programs, both universities and study abroad providers, for spring, summer and fall semesters.
- University of Auckland in New Zealand has canceled incoming study abroad programs for semester two (which starts in late July).
- A few observations from conversations USA Study Abroad has had with Higher Education Stakeholders:
 - There is a growing conversation among HEIs that some were disappointed with how 3rd party providers communicated (or didn't communicate) during the pandemic crisis and have since ended relationships with some providers.
 - Some institutions said that they were concerned about how providers handled staffing cuts, particularly those that suddenly removed all of the university relations personnel.
 - Some HEIs were starting to move away from working with providers due to the high costs, and this has motivated many to go in that direction even faster - favoring faculty-led programs and direct exchanges.
 - Many HEIs are worried about the impact this will have on future insurance costs for both programs and at the student level. HEIs commented that many insurers had specific exceptions for pandemics.
 - HEIs that still want to work with providers are worried that some/many of them might not exist once things "get back to normal."

COVID-19 Impact on U.S. University Admissions

- The California State University system has [suspended the requirement](#) that incoming undergraduates submit SAT or ACT scores (effective 2021-2022). The Montana public universities and Tennessee State University will also waive the requirement for one year.
- Some institutions have [reopened their application](#) window (Franklin & Marshall College).
- Many colleges are [reaching out to students](#) who had applied in earlier years but went somewhere else, asking them if they would like to transfer and offering more generous financial aid and no loss of credits.
- Some [for-profit colleges](#) are offering scholarships to students in need or for those pursuing careers in nursing, teaching and other fields expected to be in high demand post-coronavirus.

- [Survey from Studyportals](#) (European-based student search website) found that 40% of prospective international students are considering changing their international education plans.

Federal Government Updates For International Students

- The U.S. Department of Education told college administrators in [newly released guidance](#) that they are allowed to issue funds from the CARES Act only to those students who are eligible for Title IV financial aid (which excludes international students).

Higher Education Association Updates

- The Forum on Education Abroad's 16th [Annual Conference](#) was held this week virtually from April 21-23. The Conference's theme, "Education Abroad at a Crossroads: Actions for a Sustainable Future", focused on exploring how institutions can build sustainable programs that mutually benefit diverse students, host communities, and home communities. Several sessions specifically focused on how institutions can adapt and sustain operations in light of COVID-19. Recordings of all sessions will be available on the Forum's website by April 30. If you are interested in viewing any recordings, please contact USA Study Abroad for login information.
- Recordings of The Forum on Education Abroad's [Responding to COVID-19 Webinar Series](#) are available online now for free. Topics include:
 - Academic Continuity
 - Taking Care of Our Students and Ourselves
 - Virtual Exchanges and Summer 2020: Ideas and Resources
 - Refunds
- NCAA FAQs related to COVID-19: http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility_center/COVID-19_Public.pdf

Selected International Education Resources

- **New!** [List of Colleges' Plans for Reopening in the Fall](#), Chronicle of Higher Education
- **New!** [Forum on Education Abroad COVID-19 Program Status Tracker \(for study abroad\)](#):
 - View program closures/cancellations/moved to remote learning by universities and by Education Abroad Program Provider Organizations
 - View which programs were not closed or cancelled due to COVID-19 during the Spring 2020 term and programs are still able to welcome students displaced from other programs for Summer 2020 and Fall 2020 terms
- **New!** A coalition of education organizations, including EdSurge and ISTE, has curated [free strategies, tips and best practices for teaching online](#), and [this directory of more than 300 online learning tools](#) available at little or no cost to school communities affected by coronavirus is searchable by grade level, subject area or simply what's needed to make it work.
- [How many nonprofit colleges and universities have closed since 2016?](#) *Tracker of major nonprofit college and university closings, mergers, acquisitions and other consolidation from 2016 to the present* from Education Dive.
- [Entangled](#) - This is where the spreadsheet of university closures moved to, includes other data and insights as well. COVID-19 HE resource center.

Press Summary

Higher Ed Press

Education Dive: [For Southern New Hampshire, the future of the campus may be online](#) (Apr. 23, 2020)

Education Dive: [Federal officials urge wealthy colleges to reject coronavirus aid — some are](#) (Apr. 22, 2020)

Education Dive: [President Speaks: 6 ways colleges can help international students amid coronavirus](#) (Apr. 22, 2020)

Inside Higher Ed: [15 Fall Scenarios](#) (Apr. 22, 2020)
Inside Higher Ed: [Is Pass-Fail an Equity Issue?](#) (Apr. 22, 2020)
Inside Higher Ed: [The Big If](#) (Apr. 24, 2020)
Inside Higher Ed: [Rethinking the Academic Calendar](#) (April 20, 2020)
Inside Higher Ed: [Federal Funding Left Out Some of the Most Vulnerable](#) (April 23, 2020)
The Chronicle of Higher Education: [2 Campuses Give Early Answers to Higher Ed's Biggest Question: What Happens This Fall?](#) (Apr. 21, 2020)
The Chronicle of Higher Education: [More College Students May Need Remedial Help This Fall. Can They Get It Online?](#) (Apr. 22, 2020)
The Chronicle of Higher Education: [Here's a List of Colleges' Plans for Reopening in the Fall](#) (Apr. 23, 2020)
The Chronicle of Higher Education: [Here Are the Covid-19 Legal Risks You Need to Know About Now](#) (Apr. 21, 2020)
University World News: [The future of international HE in a post-mobility world](#) (Apr. 18, 2020)
University World News: [Dozens of colleges drop SAT and ACT requirements](#) (Apr. 18, 2020)
University World News: [University faces class action suit for COVID-19 'profiting'](#) (Apr. 18, 2020)
University World News: [Universities consider cancelling in-person classes until 2021](#) (Apr. 18, 2020)

Domestic Press

Axios: [Coronavirus sends American universities over a cliff](#) (Apr. 23, 2020)
Bangor Daily News: [Maine universities plan to reopen campus this fall — but student life likely won't be the same](#) (Apr. 21, 2020)
CBS Baltimore: [Coronavirus Response: Morgan State University Preparing For Possible Remote Learning This Fall](#) (Apr. 21, 2020)
CBS SF Bay Area: [COVID-19 Impacting Fall College Admission Decisions For Students And Universities Alike](#) (Apr. 22, 2020)
Financial Times: [Coronavirus: universities face a harsh lesson](#) (Apr. 21, 2020)
Indianapolis Business Journal: [Purdue student files lawsuit against university over its pandemic response](#) (Apr. 22, 2020)
KNIA KRLS: [Simpson College Cancels Study Abroad](#) (Apr. 22, 2020)
NBC15: [UW-Madison faces census challenges during COVID-19 pandemic](#) (Apr. 21, 2020)
Nonprofit Quarterly: [With COVID Comes Changes to Higher Education—Will Some Be Permanent?](#) (Apr. 17, 2020)
NPR: [Cal State Fullerton Announces Plans For A Virtual Fall. Will Other Colleges Follow?](#) (Apr. 21, 2020)
NPR: [Can Colleges Survive Coronavirus? 'The Math Is Not Pretty'](#) (Apr. 20, 2020)
San Francisco Chronicle: [UC Berkeley's coronavirus dilemma: What will fall semester look like?](#) (Apr. 19, 2020)
San Jose Chronicle: [Coronavirus: San Jose State plans to offer most courses online in fall](#) (Apr. 22, 2020)
The Guardian: [40% of students rethinking their study abroad plans, survey reveals](#) (Apr. 23, 2020)
The New York Times: [Teachers and Students Describe a Remote-Learning Life](#) (Apr. 23, 2020)
The Washington Post: [College students want answers about fall, but schools may not have them for months](#) (Apr. 23, 2020)
The Washington Post: [Desperate for fall enrollees, colleges are luring students with campus perks and cold cash](#) (Apr. 23, 2020)
The Washington Times: [Universities across U.S. lowering tuition for fall semester](#) (Apr. 22, 2020)
USA Today: [Under pressure by Trump, elite colleges turn down emergency coronavirus financial aid](#) (Apr. 23, 2020)
USA Today: [Students are weary of online classes, but colleges can't say whether they'll open in fall 2020](#) (Apr. 19, 2020)
Vox: [Coronavirus is changing some high school seniors' college plans](#) (Apr. 23, 2020)

University Press

Berkeley News (UC Berkeley): [Information about fall semester 2020](#) (Apr. 23, 2020)
Purdue University: [A message from President Daniels regarding fall semester](#) (Apr. 21, 2020)

Student Life (Washington University in St. Louis): [As summer study abroad programs are canceled, the future of fall study abroad remains unclear](#) (Apr. 17, 2020)

The Daily Illini (University of Illinois): [University cancels study abroad for fall semester](#) (Apr. 23, 2020)

The Daily Tar Heel (UNC Chapel Hill): [Harder to justify': Students consider taking time off if fall semester goes remote](#) (Apr. 19, 2020)

The Ticker (Baruch College): [Remote Study Abroad Isn't An Effective Use of Your Money](#) (Apr. 22, 2020)

The State Hornet (Sacramento State): [Sac State suspends fall 2020 study abroad programs](#) (Apr. 20, 2020)