Email to students planning mobility in 2021-22

We are getting in touch with you because you are planning to study or work abroad during the 2021-22 academic year and to inform you of decisions made by the University relating to overseas travel.

As you will be aware, the UK government has categorised all countries into red, amber and green - you can see further information including the category of your planned study destination on these webpages. Please note that this is a changing situation and guidance including country categories are regularly reviewed and updated.

Please read the following guidance carefully:

Students planning to spend a period abroad during the academic year 2021-22 will be permitted to proceed with their plans, subject to the following conditions:

1. Students departing in Semester 1 must not travel to, or via, red list countries according to the government’s Covid-19 guidance. A date will be set to review this decision for students planning to travel to current red list countries in semester 2, if the country remains on the red list at this review date, students must not proceed with their travel plans. Any financial commitments made to travel to red list countries will not be covered by insurance and will not be underwritten by the University.

2. Satisfactory completion of a risk assessment: this must be signed by the academic member of staff in your department/school/faculty who is responsible for your period abroad. The risk assessment form and guidance notes are available on the University travel insurance webpages.

3. Students must have adequate insurance cover: all students spending a period abroad are eligible for cover through the University’s travel insurance policy. However, the insurers will not currently provide cover for cancellation or curtailment of travel, nor quarantine or vaccination costs as a direct or indirect result of Covid 19, therefore:
   a. for students whose period abroad is a required part of their degree (as per their programme regulations), the University will continue to underwrite these insurance exemptions.
   b. students whose period abroad is not a required part of their degree, will not be covered by insurance under the above circumstances (cancellation or curtailment of travel, nor quarantine or vaccination costs as a direct or indirect result of Covid 19). Students who face financial hardship due to unforeseen costs may apply for Financial Support, the University’s hardship fund.
   c. Please contact insurance@sheffield.ac.uk if you need to submit a claim.

4. If the country status changes from (e.g. from amber to red) during the period abroad, students should contact their academic department to discuss the best course of action in the context of any restrictions and guidance that may apply at the time. If, as a result, the trip needs to be amended or curtailed, or quarantine requirements change, the insurance coverage and University underwrite will apply as explained above.

5. Students should familiarise themselves with any Covid-19 restrictions and guidance that applies in the host country and be aware of any impact this may have on their
ability to travel and engage in their proposed activities. **Travel restrictions may still change between now and your proposed date of travel.**

6. As rules relating to Covid-19 are still subject to frequent changes **both in the UK and abroad**, students are advised to allow for as much flexibility as possible when making any travel and accommodation arrangements or any other financial commitments.

7. **FCDO travel restrictions** apply and supercede those listed above

8. If study abroad is a required part of your programme and Covid restrictions mean that you are unable to do so at this time, please speak with your department about the alternative options available to you.

If you have any questions about the above information please contact the member of staff in your department who is responsible for your period abroad in the first instance.

We are committed to supporting as many of our students as possible to gain global experience by studying and working abroad. However, we do need to be mindful that the Covid-19 pandemic is ongoing and we will always prioritise your safety and wellbeing in our policy and decision making.

With best wishes,

Prof Mary Vincent
Interim Vice-President for Education