

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL

L O S A N G E L E S

Student FAQs Regarding COVID-19 and the Summer 2023 London Study-Abroad Program

April 20, 2023

These FAQs are for students who attend Southwestern Law School's 2023 Summer Study-Abroad Program in London and may be revised as necessary until the program concludes; these FAQs will be posted on the Summer Abroad Page under [COVID-19 Guidelines and Updates](#), and are subject to revision as conditions change.

Vaccination

Am I required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend the Southwestern's Summer-Study Abroad Program in London?

No. While we continue to recommend vaccination, Southwestern no longer has a COVID-19 vaccination requirement.

Travel

All students should carefully review COVID-related travel policies and restrictions and policies from the [Department of State](#) and the [Center for Disease Control](#) and frequent updates from the [World Health Organization](#).

Students should also carefully review the United Kingdom's government website for updates about their [COVID-19 travel policies and restrictions](#) and all other countries you plan to visit while studying abroad. Also carefully check the [U.S. Embassy & Consulates in the United Kingdom](#).

The Department of State encourages all U.S. citizens to enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP) to receive security and health updates.

Additional information regarding travel to England from another country during coronavirus can be found at this link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-to-england-from-another-country-during-coronavirus-covid-19>.

During the program, am I allowed to travel to destinations outside of the U.K.?

Yes. If you plan to travel outside the U.K. during the program, you must notify the Program Director before traveling and advise them of the location(s) when you plan to travel, the names

of other students who will be traveling with you, your dates and countries of travel, and a mobile phone number where you can be reached. To advise the Program Director of your planned travel outside the U.K., complete the Notification of Travel Outside the U.K. [form](#) at least 24 hours prior to your departure.

Am I required to obtain international travel insurance?

Yes, but the insurance is covered in the program fee costs.

All enrolled students are required to provide proof of international travel insurance that includes coverage for emergency medical evacuation, medical quarantine, and repatriation of remains. To avoid each student having to obtain this coverage individually, Southwestern will purchase a comprehensive international travel insurance policy with On-Call International, a well-established international travel insurance company for students. Your program fee covers the cost of this insurance. Southwestern will provide you with full details about this coverage.

What do I need to know concerning COVID-19 before traveling to another country over the weekend?

Before making travel arrangements, participants must review the CDC risk assessment for the proposed destination country, which is available at this link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html>. For the safety of all students and faculty, program participants will be permitted to travel only to countries that the CDC designates as a Level 2 (Moderate) risk or below.

I tested positive for COVID-19 while visiting another country over the weekend. What happens if I am not able to return to the U.K.?

If you test positive while in another country, you will be required to self-isolate according to the policies and protocols of that respective country (if any), at your own cost. You would then need to follow U.K. re-entry requirements. You should also contact the Program Director to alert them about your situation and provide updated contact information and your anticipated date of return.

If I am required to self-isolate in another country due to a positive COVID test, will I be able to continue with my classes?

Students who test positive for COVID-19 and receive permission from the Program Director may access courses remotely for up to 10 consecutive calendar days. Students will need an internet connection and device with the Zoom app to continue their studies remotely. Students may want to consider traveling with their laptop and or other device in case they need to participate remotely if they test positive and need to isolate.

To request permission to attend classes remotely after testing positive for COVID-19, students must complete a [remote attendance request form](#) subject to the Honor Code. Details are included on the form. No student may participate remotely in a course without the express permission of the Program Director. A travel delay unrelated to COVID will not suffice to attend classes remotely.

Testing for COVID-19 Before Traveling to the U.K.

What am I required to do before traveling to London?

Under current U.K. (as of April 5, 2023) government requirements, you do not need to take any COVID-19 test, complete a passenger locator form, or quarantine when you arrive in England.

What happens if I test positive for COVID-19?

If you test positive for COVID-19, immediately notify the Program Director at tmoore@swlaw.edu and Southwestern's COVID manager at covidmanager@swlaw.edu. Follow the U.K. government's quarantine and self-isolation instructions closely.

Quarantine and self-isolation instructions can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-quarantine-when-you-arrive-in-england#how-to-quarantine-or-self-isolate>

If I am required to self-isolate in the U.K., will I be able to continue my classes?

Yes. The Program Director will work with your faculty members to arrange for you to continue receiving your lectures and assignments. (Please see the prior answer about testing positive while traveling.) If you are asymptomatic (including being fever-free without using Tylenol or other medication) on Day 5, you may return to classes if you (1) test negative with an antigen or PCR test and (2) continuing wearing a mask while with others in the group until Day 10. "Day 1" is the day after you test positive.

Testing for COVID-19 While in the U.K.

Will I be required to test during the program?

You should test if you have symptoms related to COVID or have been exposed to COVID. Southwestern will provide each program participant with five COVID rapid tests.

Where do I get tested in London?

See the Program Director in the designated Program Office to obtain a testing kit. Alternatively, visit <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> to find nearby locations where you can get tested in London. You will be required to report your daily test result to the Program Director.

Will I be charged for COVID-19 testing in the U.K.?

The cost of tests provided by the Program Director will be included in your program fee. You are responsible for the costs of any PCR tests you may be required to take before you travel and when you arrive in the U.K. You will also be responsible for any other tests you purchase or may be required to take if you travel to other countries.

What happens if I test positive for COVID-19 just before the program concludes?

If you test positive for COVID-19 near the end of the program, you will be allowed to remain in the student housing to self-isolate for up to 10 days following the program.

If I must self-isolate after the program has ended, do I have to pay for the extended accommodations?

Yes. You will be required to pay for the extra days you remain in the student housing. However, Southwestern's travel insurance policy with On-Call International Global Assistance includes quarantine benefits to the maximum benefit amount outlined in the policy details. You will also be responsible for any change in fare for your airline ticket, although some airlines will waive those fees for COVID-related reasons. Please consider this factor when you are purchasing your airline ticket (refundable v. nonrefundable fares).

Returning to the United States

Do I need to test for COVID-19 before returning to the United States?

No. The CDC no longer requires air passengers boarding a flight from a foreign country to get a pre-departure COVID-19 test to enter the United States.

Masks/Face Coverings

Will I be required to wear a mask in the classroom in London?

Students will not need to wear a mask in the classroom unless (1) you return to the classroom for Days 6 to 10 after having COVID, (2) we experience an outbreak in our program, (3) our host school reimplements a mask requirement, or (4) the U.K. implements a mask requirement. We do welcome participants to wear a mask if they choose to do so. We will provide each program participant with 5 KN95 masks at the beginning of the program.

Will I be required to wear a face covering in the student housing facility?

No, unless you are with others in common areas after having tested positive for COVID (and through Day 10).

Classes and Classrooms

Do classrooms in the U.K. have upgraded air filtration systems?

The classrooms are mainly naturally ventilated. The host school manages ventilation in accordance with Government and HSE guidance and the recommended actions set out in the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers London (CIBSE) guidance to reduce/minimize risk of aerosol transmission.

Approximately how many students can be in a single classroom?

The maximum capacity in a single classroom is 40.

What is the attendance policy during the summer program, and what happens if I fall ill and cannot participate in classes?

The summer program adheres to the same attendance policy as is implemented on the Southwestern campus. Students with more than 14% absences will not be permitted to sit for the course's final exam and will not earn academic credit for the course. An absence for any reason counts toward the maximum of the 14% absences permitted. The program has 8 class sessions per course, so this policy allows for no more than one absence. The second absence will be cause for academic withdrawal.

If you are unable to participate in classes due to COVID illness, follow the instructions for temporary remote learning.

What if I have temporary circumstances that necessitate remote learning?

Students who test positive for COVID-19 and receive permission from the Program Director may access courses remotely for up to 10 consecutive calendar days. Please note that you may return on Day 5 if you are asymptomatic (please see the prior answer about testing to return). Students will need an internet connection and device with the Zoom app to continue their studies remotely. To request permission to attend classes remotely, students must complete request [form](#) subject to the Honor Code. Details are included on the form. No student may participate remotely in a course without the express permission of the Program Director. We do not offer remote learning for other circumstances.

Housing

At College Hall, am I guaranteed a single room if I request one?

Yes. You are automatically guaranteed a private single room.

At College Hall, will I have a private bathroom?

Yes. Your room will have a private in-suite bathroom with shower.

At College Hall, are kitchen facilities shared?

College Hall operates a main dining hall where meals are prepared by kitchen staff. A community refrigerator, microwave oven, and tea kettle for occupant use are located on each floor.

Must I live in program housing, or may I make my own housing arrangements?

All students are strongly encouraged to live in the student housing accommodations prearranged on their behalf as part of the program. Any exceptions must be requested at time of application and be approved by the Program Director.

Withdrawals and Refunds

I applied and was accepted into the 2023 summer program. How can I withdraw my application?

To officially withdraw your application, you must contact the Biederman Institute Office directly at institute@swlaw.edu.

What is Southwestern's tuition refund policy?

Students who withdraw from the program or request a class change must notify the Institute in writing as early as possible. Students who withdraw before the first day of the summer program may receive a 100% credit of charged tuition (but not housing and materials fee), with the exception of the \$250 non-refundable application fee and the \$750 non-refundable registration fee. Thereafter, a refund for tuition is pro-rated on a daily basis. After 60% of the program is completed, there is no refund.

Students who withdraw from the program before it commences due to a course cancellation, significant change, or the cancellation of the program, including cancellation because of a U.S. State Department travel warning or alert, will be refunded all monies advanced within twenty (20) days after the cancellation or withdrawal.

Students who withdraw from the program during the course of the program due to a course cancellation, significant change, or termination of the program, including termination because of a U.S. State Department travel warning or alert, will be refunded fees paid except for room and board payments utilized prior to the date of termination or withdrawal.

What happens if Southwestern cancels the program?

Southwestern reserves the right to change or cancel the London Summer Program at any time before May 1. Southwestern also reserves the right to cancel any course due to insufficient enrollment. Cancellation of the program or any course after May 1 will occur only if necessary for reasons beyond Southwestern's control. For cancellation that occurs after a deposit has been paid, the Program Director will use their best efforts to make arrangements for each student enrolled to attend a similar program, if the student so desires, and all money advanced by the student shall be refunded within 20 days after the date of cancellation. Students who have paid a deposit or registered for the program also have the opportunity to withdraw from the program if there are changes in the course offerings or other significant aspects of the program and receive a refund of fees paid with the exception of room and board payments utilized before the date of withdrawal. In the event of cancellation, students will immediately be notified by email.