



Off Campus Study

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, June 23

Discussion Moderators: Director of Off Campus Study Alicia Stanley and Senior Director of Global Initiatives Kate Patch

S&B Reporter: Abraham Teuber

- Institute for Global Engagement (IGE) and Off Campus Study Office (OCS) are still working on ghd process of incorporating global engagement into Grinnell curriculum
 - ◆ Main goal is to get students studying off-campus as soon as possible
- Institute for Global Engagement (Kate Patch's office) handles all non-OCS travel, Office for OCS handles semesters/years abroad
- OCS started monitoring the COVID-19 situation very early on in the pandemic, hearing from partner institutions and organizations (OSAC, CDC)
 - ◆ No students were studying in China or South Korea, but several students studied in Italy and were the first to be notified they must return home
 - ◆ All Europe programs were then suspended and shortly after, every other OCS program
- Group of individuals followed 10-week process to make decision to cancel OCS, based off of US Level 4 advisory which says US citizens should not travel at all internationally
 - ◆ Decision was not made by the OCS office but by this committee
 - ◆ Reasoning
 - International flights are difficult to find, many borders are closed, and many cultural sites in these countries are closed.
 - Social distancing mandates threaten ability to connect culturally, such as living with host families and visiting cultural sites.
 - Bottom line, the College's travel ban is still in place and no College-sponsored travel is to take place.
 - ◆ Entire field of education abroad is being affected.
 - ◆ It was a difficult decision, but this is "the best way to keep students safe" amid a still uncertain time.
- New deferral form was created to make deferral as easy as possible, giving students the option to defer to Spring or Fall 2021, needs to be signed by advisor and parent/guardian.



- Many OCS partners are also making it easy to transfer deposits, make refunds easier, and defer enrollment to a later semester.
- They remain hopeful for Spring 2021 OCS's continuation, things are changing but so far all OCS providers are planning on continuing their spring programming.
- Grinnell in London was postponed from Fall 2020 to Spring 2021, all students were automatically approved to defer but there are some spots available that students can apply for starting at the beginning of the F1 term with an October 1st deadline.
 - ◆ Professors Kapila and Escandell will still be teaching in London for Spring 2021
 - ◆ Encourages GiL applicants to apply as soon as application opens, decisions are rolling
 - ◆ Will have a GiL info session w Kapila and Escandell early in F1 term
- Application process will look the same for studying off campus in the 2021-22 school year
- The College will make a decision for status of Spring 2021 programs by October 15th
- If OCS happens in the spring and someone's program is cancelled, they will be able to switch to a different program. Can meet with Alicia Stanley and sign up for an appt at calendly.com/stanleya or with Cassie Clements at calendly.com/cnclements to talk about finding a new program if the College is still permitting OCS for the Spring
- Students enrolled in GiL may need to be flexible, perhaps start online and then transition to London later on during or after the first spring term
- Restriction requiring that students be enrolled the semester before going abroad has been revised to only require the term before. A student could take a leave for F1, be enrolled F2, and be able to study abroad S1.
 - ◆ Students must be enrolled full-time for the term before they study off-campus, as of now part-time enrollment will not fulfill that requirement, but they will look into that and consider revising.
- Students planning on attending programs for Spring 2021 should apply to their providers as usual.
- If GiL becomes extended to allow for more time, expenses will not increase significantly and financial aid will be adjusted
- There will be no cap on the number of students that can study abroad in the spring, numbers haven't risen dramatically yet. This also shouldn't limit Fall 2021 applicants.



- Decisions to invite students to campus will likely not consider if they're studying abroad in the spring, but no concrete answer available. "It would make sense, but there are some other factors." -Kate Patch
- Grinnell will refund any deposits for spring programs if College cancels Spring 2021 OCS and providers don't have a refund policy in place
- Students can study off campus during their final term before graduation, but would need to petition the Committee for Academic Standing. Alicia Stanley has heard from registrar that this committee will be very open to these petitions and don't anticipate any issue as long as student still stays on track to graduate in time
- OCS and IGE looking into the possibility of allocating an official fifth term for study abroad for short summer programs where students will still be able to access financial aid, trying hard to advocate for that, stay tuned, will likely be decided by F2
 - ◆ Students can already study abroad in the summer, but almost always without Grinnell funding. This would open these opportunities up to more students.
- Very open to student feedback and ideas regarding off campus study and global engagement
- Alicia, Casey, and Kate are there as resources to talk to parents, provide resources and data regarding countries' status regarding the pandemic
- Recommend talking to Ann Landstrom in the CLS to explore options to work or study abroad postgrad