

Information for students regarding impact of coronavirus on study abroad

We are aware that the evolving situation with Coronavirus may have impact on your study abroad experience. Students have been on study abroad in a number of countries including the EU, the USA, South Korea, Malaysia and Singapore and some students were due to start Semester 2 in Japan in April. Universities in some countries have now closed and may not reopen until the next academic year. The University has committed to being proactive and transparent in communicating on developments with Coronavirus and is providing updates via web pages for [staff](#) and [students](#).

Table 1 sets out the academic requirements regarding study abroad and provides some options should you be unable to continue with teaching and assessment at your host institution, as planned. If you are unable to continue teaching and assessment at your host institution, please contact your School, who will agree one of the alternative options below for you.

Table 1: Study abroad in 2019/20

Credits to be taken on study abroad	Recognition in course title	Contribution to degree classification	Options if host institution closes in S2
Integrated study abroad year			
120 credits at level 5 (to be academically coherent to the course title)	<i>'with a study abroad year'</i> suffix to degree title where a conflated stage mean of 40% is achieved after marks are converted. No suffix if this is not achieved.	Stage 1 – 0% Stage 2 – 32% Stage 3 – 20% Stage 4 – 48% The study abroad year does not contribute if it is not passed.	Option 1 Option 2 Option 3a Option 4
Voluntary study abroad year			
120 credits at level 5 (50% to be associated with the course title)	<i>'with a study abroad year'</i> suffix to degree title where a conflated stage mean of 40% is achieved after marks are converted. No suffix if this is not achieved.	Stage 1 – 0% Stage 2 – 40% Stage 3 – 0% Stage 4 – 60%	Option 1 Option 2 Option 3a Option 4
Semester variation			
60 credits at level 5 (modules to be academically coherent to the course title and mapped to any missed core modules)	n/a	Stage 1 – 0% Stage 2 – 40% Stage 3 – 60% The converted conflated mark for the Semester is combined with the marks for Semester 1 taken at Sussex.	Option 1 Option 2 Option 3b

Option 1: Host institution provides opportunity to achieve credits

- i. Host institution provides teaching materials and assessment via distance learning to enable students to achieve credits for Semester 2.
- ii. Where distance learning is offered you are encouraged to engage with this to achieve the credits for the semester.
- iii. Some institutions are offering students the opportunity to take assessment on a pass/fail basis instead of getting a grade. You should consider this carefully and seek advice from your School. Being marked on a pass/fail basis may not be appropriate, since there will be fewer actual marks contributing to the mean mark for the year/semester. In addition, Schools may not support this for an integrated study abroad year or a variation semester.
- iv. Please be aware that a reflective assessment can be considered if distance learning is not offered for all modules (see Option 2). This enables all the credits to be achieved for the semester where distance learning is provided for most but not all modules, and ensures that you do not get a zero for such modules.

In cases where the host institution is not providing distance learning, the following options may be considered:

Option 2: Sussex to provide a reflective assessment to enable you to achieve credits

- i. A reflective assessment linked to the discipline or course title for Semester 2 to be marked at Sussex. Assessment task to be approved by the School Director of Teaching and Learning.
- ii. Where this is to enable you to achieve all the credits for the semester, the assessment must be equivalent to 60 credits and be at least 4,000 words.
- iii. A reflective assessment can be set to enable you to achieve a proportion of the credits for the semester, for example 15 credits, where distance learning was not provided by the host institution for one or more modules. The assessment and word count must reflect the credit volume.
- iv. May be appropriate for students unable to do a semester variation in Japan starting in April.

Option 3a: Temporary Withdrawal (TWD) from study abroad year

- i. Temporary Withdrawal (TWD) instead of continuing with study abroad year returning to Sussex in 2020/21 to start the final stage.
- ii. The degree title will not include the suffix 'with a study abroad year', since the course no longer includes an additional study abroad year. The course title will be updated when the award is made.
- iii. You must complete the TWD process as soon as possible and by 1/5/20, otherwise the final fee instalment for the year will be liable.
- iv. Student Progress will update your study status and inform Student Finance of the change in status. You may need to pay back some of the Student Maintenance Loan as you would no longer be studying abroad for the remainder of the year. The Student Life Centre can provide advice on how this option might affect your funding.

Option 3b: Temporary Withdrawal (TWD) from study abroad semester variation of study

- i. Temporary Withdrawal (TWD) instead of continuing with study abroad variation semester returning to Sussex in January 2021 to restart Semester 2.

- ii. May be appropriate for students unable to do a semester variation in Japan starting in April.
- iii. You must complete the TWD process as soon as possible and by 1/5/20, otherwise the final fee instalment for the year will be liable.
- iv. Student Progress will update your study status and inform Student Finance of the change in status. You may need to pay back some of the Student Maintenance Loan as you would no longer be studying abroad for the remainder of the semester. The Student Life Centre can provide advice on how this option might affect your funding.

Option 4: A retrospective Semester 1 variation

- i. A retrospective Semester 1 variation instead of a study abroad year, to replace Semester 1 of the final stage, where the course structure supports this.
- ii. You return to Semester 2 of the final year in January 2021.
- iii. Schools will need to ensure that the modules taken in Semester 1 of the study abroad year map to any missed core modules in Semester 1 of the final year.
- iv. The degree title will not include the suffix 'with a study abroad year', since the course no longer includes an additional study abroad year.
- v. Converted marks achieved on the Semester 1 variation will contribute to degree classification, as part of the final year.
- vi. You must complete the TWD process as soon as possible and by 1/5/20, otherwise the final fee instalment for the year will be liable.
- vii. Student Progress will update your study status and inform Student Finance of the change in status. You may need to pay back some of the Student Maintenance Loan as you would no longer be studying abroad for the remainder of the year. The Student Life Centre can provide advice on how this option might affect your funding.
- viii. (To be recorded as an early PAB Absurd Outcome).

Options 2 and 4 must be considered carefully by the School before they are offered to individual students, to ensure that the course learning outcomes can be met.

It is possible that some of the students in a country affected by Coronavirus started Semester 1 of their study abroad year in Hong Kong and had to move for Semester 2 due to the political unrest in Hong Kong. If this applied to you, you would have been given the opportunity to complete the assessment for Semester 1 enabling you to achieve 50 credits for the semester.