

**University of Kent International Study and Work Abroad Placements Policy 2021-22**  
**Revised version January 2022, with update for 2022-23**

**\*\*UPDATE: Academic year 2022-23\*\***

*The COVID pandemic continues to present challenges for international travel. Whilst we hope that physical exchanges will take place as normal next academic year 2022/23, we will continue to monitor the situation closely, liaising with your School/Division and other University departments over the coming months.*

*If it appears that physical mobility could continue to be affected or disrupted by the pandemic, or any political/social changes in the host country, we will advise you in consultation with your School/Division and discuss the options available to you.*

*In light of this we advise you to refrain from making any financial commitments (e.g. booking flights/accommodation etc) at this stage as it may not be possible for these costs to be recovered if your plans are subsequently cancelled.*

**Context**

Due to the impact of the global COVID pandemic, international student placements\* were suspended during 2020/21, with a small number of exemptions permitted (limited to students who were domiciled in the country where the placement was due to take place).

Following a thorough review and consultation process, the University will continue with a student-centred approach to study and work placements abroad for 2021-22, whereby the wishes, preferences, health, safety and wellbeing of our students are at the heart of our position.

Where it is safe and practicable, the University will support a student's decision to attend an in-country placement whether that be for study or work abroad, providing the necessary risk assessments, host university/employer and FCDO guidance permit travel.

**Health, safety and wellbeing**

Students must consider the implications on their own health, safety and wellbeing before making the decision to pursue study or work abroad at this time. Students are encouraged to contact International Partnerships and/or Student Support Officer should they require any support.

Students will need to take into account their individual health risk and vulnerability to Covid-19, as well as the safety and wellbeing implications of travelling overseas during the Covid-19 pandemic. Students must consider access to local health services at their destination, Covid-19 infection rates within the region, the UK Government's [FCDO travel advice](#) and the guidance of the government at the destination. Students will also need to consider whether they would like to receive their COVID-19 vaccination before travel, whether the host country requires vaccination, and if so, if they would be able to receive both doses in their country of residence before travel. If they are not able to receive both doses before travel then they should also consider whether it is possible to receive a second dose of the same vaccination in the chosen destination.

**Insurance**

The University's travel insurance policy does not currently include a pandemic exclusion. However, it is anticipated that the Disruption and Serious Disruption sections of the policy, which provide coverage for expenses related to travel cancellation, disruption, rearrangement or repatriation, will exclude any loss arising due to a pandemic from 1 June 2022 onwards. The Medical Expenses section of the policy will not be subject to a pandemic exclusion. It should be noted that the current Disruption coverage excludes losses arising from disinclination to travel, or to continue to travel, and expenses incurred as a result of regulations or order made by any Public Authority or Government. Students may be required to take out additional coverage at their own cost if the host university/employer/country requires this.

### **Travel / border / visa requirements**

Students must take into account the time-frame to secure a visa to study or travel in their chosen country, along with the current specific travel and border requirements for the country. Students must be aware that some destinations will not be available in the next academic year due to these factors. At present, there are a number of countries which are not allowing UK citizens and/or flights from the UK, with study not listed as an exemption. If these restrictions are not lifted by the time students need to secure a visa, then travel will not be possible.

### **Financial implications**

Students must consider the additional costs associated with travel during the pandemic. These include, but are not limited to, the cost of quarantining in a hotel for a specified time upon arrival in the host country, the costs of private Covid-19 tests before travel, upon entry, and during quarantine, and the costs of returning to the UK, which again may require private Covid-19 tests and quarantine in a hotel. Additional costs such as these are excluded from the University's travel insurance coverage and will need to be met by the student in full. It is therefore imperative that you consider the financial risks you face of working or studying abroad as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Students who choose to continue with their year abroad preparations at this stage but find themselves in a situation later on where they decide not to/can't proceed, may not be able to get refunded for the costs already incurred such as accommodation deposits, travel bookings, visa etc.

The University will take into account the following considerations when approving an overseas work or study placement:

1. FCDO advice – whether the UK government is permitting travel for educational purposes to the host country and or region
2. Whether the host country border is open to international students
3. Travel and border requirements of the country
4. Rate of Covid-19 infections in the region, per 100,000 people
5. Whether the host university/employer accepting in-person placements
6. Timeline to obtain visa required

The situation will be constantly monitored, and the University of Kent reserves the right to withdraw the placement at a later date (please see our Year Abroad Terms and Conditions).

Prior to placement approval, students must complete a Health Questionnaire and will require a Fitness to Travel certificate in order to proceed with travel. Students will also be required to complete a risk assessment.

If students do not wish to continue with their planned placement, they will have the opportunity to discuss alternative options with their academic school.

Students will be referred to additional information in the form of FAQs which will also be published online at [www.kent.ac.uk/student/coronavirus/international/study-abroad](http://www.kent.ac.uk/student/coronavirus/international/study-abroad) and on the Study Abroad Moodle module DP6100.

### **Students are reminded of the following sources of support:**

- Make an [appointment](#) to speak with the Study Abroad/Erasmus team
- Contact your School or the Division Placement Office (work placements) or email [placements@kent.ac.uk](mailto:placements@kent.ac.uk)
- Email [studyabroad@kent.ac.uk](mailto:studyabroad@kent.ac.uk) (exchanges outside Europe) or [erasmus@kent.ac.uk](mailto:erasmus@kent.ac.uk) (exchanges and work within Europe).
- Contact your School or Division Student Support Officers or email [wellbeing@kent.ac.uk](mailto:wellbeing@kent.ac.uk)

\*defined as Year or Term Abroad (Study Abroad/Erasmus) and Year in Industry