FAQs

International Placements 2020/21 and Covid-19 Disruption

I am planning to progress with my international placement. Is it possible for me to transfer to another partner university for 2020/21 if my current partner university ultimately cancels the exchange?

This is not possible for students participating in the International Exchange Programme managed by the International Programmes Office (IPO) or for undergraduate students participating in exchanges through the Alliance Manchester Business School. As the vast majority of exchanges worldwide have been cancelled there is very little scope to provide opportunities elsewhere.

Students on Language degree programmes will be supported to transfer to alternative partner universities wherever this is viable.

I was supposed to be spending the full year abroad but my partner university has cancelled exchanges for Semester 1, however they have said that I can defer my place until Semester 2. Why are you not offering me this option?

The options offered to students on particular degree programmes are largely driven by the structures of those degree programmes, the flexibility of the programme structure, how integral the international placement is to the learning outcomes and the balance of academic risk. Programmes where placements are being permitted in Semester 2 only, where originally they would have been full year, are only those where the University can viably put in place alternative provision for Semester 1 in lieu of the placement overseas.

If my full year is confirmed as online, can I still travel to my host country when travel is permitted and study online there?

Yes, providing you have met all of the conditions specified including having an approved risk assessment in place and that this is supported by the partner university/host organisation. However, if your placement is within Europe you should note that, as of 02/07/20, it has not been confirmed as to whether online provision will be eligible for Erasmus+ funding.

I am on a programme that includes an optional semester abroad and I am not due to undertake my international placement until Semester 2. I've decided that I wish to continue with my placement but can I withdraw later?

Yes, you can withdraw at any point, but you should be mindful of deadlines for course selection, implications for housing arrangements and that any costs incurred are not covered by insurance if the decision not to go ahead is purely based on personal disinclination to travel.
We ask that you notify us as soon as possible of any intention to withdraw.

**I am an international student who will be travelling to my host country directly from my home country. Do I still need to wait for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to support travel to my host country?**

As a British University, the FCO guidance is our reference point for risk and safety assessments for all travel and placements. As such, we do not ordinarily approve placements in locations for which there is FCO ‘advice against all travel’ or ‘against all but essential travel’.

FCO advice is applied to all placement approvals regardless of nationality except where students are nationals/residents of the host country. Non-UK nationals are also subject to any travel restrictions imposed by their home country; whilst the FCO is our safety reference point, a student traveling against the advice of their home country places themselves at much higher risk in a range of scenarios eg. becoming stranded, emergency evacuation, legal support from their home country etc.

Any entry restrictions that individual countries apply in the context of Covid-19 or otherwise are only pertinent to the relevant nationalities when approving placements ie. just because ‘x’ country won’t permit entry of UK nationals does not mean we wouldn’t support a non-UK traveling/undertaking their placement in that country if they don’t face any restrictions.

*Note: No travel for international placements is permitted prior to 1st August 2020.*

**I am planning to progress with my international placement as long as it is ultimately viable, is there anything additional that I need to do/prepare because of the Covid-19 Pandemic in addition to preparations that would ordinarily be required?**

Yes, all undergraduate students undertaking an international placement in 2020/21 will need to complete a detailed risk assessment and receive approval prior to commencing the placement. You will be notified as soon as the risk assessment document has been added to your My Placement account. This risk assessment process will highlight additional actions that you will need to take for your particular placement/destination both in relation to Covid-19 and more broadly.