

July 22, 2021

Dear Students,

I hope that you are doing well this summer. I am writing to share some information about modified eligibility requirements for study away programs.

The continuing impact of the pandemic will make it difficult for some students to return to in-person residential education in the fall of 2021. We recognize that students may have health concerns with the COVID-19 vaccines and/or health conditions that may make in-person education difficult. International students may also face issues obtaining a visa for entry into the United States. **In response to these concerns, the college has broadened the eligibility for participation in an approved study away program (either domestic or international) for students who face health or visa issues.**

General guidelines for participation in a study away program can be found on the Office for Global Education's [webpage](https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/support/class-deans). Please reach out to your Class Deans (<https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/support/class-deans>) and Janna Behrens at jbehrens@amherst.edu with questions.

Sincerely,
Liz

Office of Student Affairs
201 Converse Hall
413.542.2337

Guidelines for expanded eligibility for Study Away for Fall 2021:

The continuing impact of the pandemic will make it difficult for some students to return to in-person residential education in the fall of 2021. We recognize that students may have health concerns with the COVID-19 vaccines and/or health conditions that may make in-person education difficult. International students may also face issues obtaining a visa for entry into the United States. In response to these concerns, the college has broadened the eligibility for participation in an approved study away program (either domestic or international) for students who face health or visa issues. General guidelines for participation in a study away program can be found on the Office for Global Education's webpage (https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/global-learning/study_abroad).

The modifications below will be made to the current policy on study away for the fall 2021 semester. Students are expected to read thoroughly and understand the parameters for these modifications, as indicated by checking the boxes below.

- Students must take a full semester's worth of online classes, i.e., a minimum of 15 semester credits, as a part of their full-time study away domestic program.

- A student must earn a C or better in the courses in order to transfer credit towards your Amherst degree; a grade of less than C (even C-) will not be transferable.
- Students must gain approval *in advance of taking the course(s)* from the College's Registrar by <https://www.amherst.edu/go/transfercredit>.
- A student must obtain separate approval from your major department should you wish to count the course(s) toward the completion of any requirements for your major
- Ensure that your enrollment is as a visiting, non-degree student only; not as a transfer student. **Note: As an exception to our normal policy, at this time, online or distance courses are eligible for approval because of the global health situation and reduction of in-person course availability at many study away sites.**
- Students participating in study abroad programs must live onsite in the host country, though courses may be taken online if the program requires it. Students living at home may take online courses.
- Students traveling to programs outside their home countries may have to petition per the [College's student travel policy](#).
- Students may select from any regionally accredited two or four-year, degree-granting college or university or any pre-approved study away program. (See a list of pre-approved programs in the [Amherst College Travel Registry](#).)
- Students of any class standing, except for second-semester seniors, may petition their class dean for study away eligibility as noted above. As part of the petition process, students need approval from their academic adviser(s) and need to consult with the Office of Global Education on programs or universities of interest.
- Juniors and seniors are required to have at least one major declared prior to study away. All other students are strongly encouraged to declare a major prior to study away, though if they have not, they are expected to consult with the department chairs of majors they are considering. Students should understand that some majors and course sequences may be unavailable to them if they are unable to transfer credit in the major from study away.
- Students are expected to select programs that will offer a full semester's worth of courses in the liberal arts. The College cannot guarantee that courses on study away will fulfill major and other requirements; students must check with academic departments and other programs (e.g., pre-health).
- Students are required to complete at least sixteen courses at Amherst College to be eligible for a degree from the college, which will make this study away option unavailable for some transfer students (particularly, students who entered Amherst as juniors).
- Students should be aware that this option will count as one of their two possible study away semesters. Participation may limit their choices for future, year-long study away programs.

Students who have already completed two semesters of study away are not eligible for this modified program.

- All students on educational leave [pay Amherst tuition](#) for their semester or year away because they are earning credit for their Amherst degree. Non-tuition expenses are billed directly to the student and financial aid transfers to all approved programs.

Students interested in educational leave for reasons outlined above need to contact Global Education as soon as possible. All students must complete the educational leave approval checklist, which includes course approval from the Registrar.