

Updated 5.1.2022

Columbia Summer Core in Berlin Summer 2022 COVID Protocols

The safety and well-being of students, faculty, and staff is our top priority, so we are working to take all precautions as necessary and follow all local guidelines and regulations in order to ensure that the program can be carried out safely and effectively for all parties involved. Please find below information and links to resources about how COVID-19 might impact the upcoming study abroad experience so that you can remain informed as the situation evolves. Please note that these protocols as well as participation policies may need to be modified at any time prior to departure or while in-country.

Flights, Entry Requirements & Arrival

Entry requirements may vary depending what country students are arriving from. For detailed information on entry requirements, please consult the German embassy website from your departure country. The German Mission in the United States website is available here: <https://www.germany.info/us-en/coronavirus/2317268>

Vaccination Requirement

All students are required to follow Columbia University's vaccine and booster mandate in order to participate in a Columbia Led or Columbia Approved program. Exemptions are not allowed. Please read more Summer [Summer 2022 Planning Resources](#) available on the UGE website.

Student Accommodation

The program offers housing at the CIEE residence hall. The residence hall will be staffed 24/7. Students will be asked to follow CIEE housing rules and guidelines which will be provided to them during the CIEE orientation.

Daily Life in Germany

Students are strongly urged to continue to take personal health measures to protect themselves, including social distancing, wearing masks, and avoiding crowded areas with poor ventilation.

Please note that due to the pandemic, there may be restrictions on events and activities involving larger groups of people, such as sports games, concerts, club life, conferences, meetings, etc. Access to various cultural activities and events may be curtailed, restricted, regulated via online tickets only, etc. The program expects all staff and participants to act responsibly and in accordance with clearly announced regulations and policies with respect to the pandemic, both on- and off-campus. Any extracurricular activities will be contingent upon COVID-19 restrictions and considerations in Berlin.

Personal Travel

Travel outside of Germany is discouraged while the program is in session. Furthermore, any independent travel should be limited to days during which there are no program activities

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planned (please note that the program has scheduled some activities on Fridays and Saturdays so be sure to follow the academic and extracurricular calendar to be up-to-date).

Students are required to enter any travel outside of Berlin into their ISOS MyTrips account. Failure to do so may result in a warning or disciplinary action. Please note that travel restrictions may change while you are traveling, and if you are unable to return to Berlin we will not be able to offer any support. Any missed classes or class activities because of independent travel plans is not permitted and you will not be able to make up any missed work.

COVID Testing & Protocol for Positive Cases

Students will be expected to do daily symptom self-monitoring and obligatory observing of pandemic risk mitigation policies. Students will be briefed during their on-site orientation on COVID testing protocols and testing locations. Students who test positive should inform program staff and follow any given instructions.

As needed, CIEE staff can arrange for self-isolation housing, contact tracing, quarantine housing, testing (rapid antigen), assist in arranging for re-testing if required by health authorities, facilitate twice-daily food delivery (though students would cover the cost of food), and conduct regular wellbeing check-in calls.

Academic Policies

Should general pandemic developments or an individual COVID infection interfere with the completion of the course, the program will make arrangements as the local environment allows so that all students or the affected individual participant can continue his/her/their coursework and studies in order to complete the course. To prepare for this, all students should bring their own laptops to use.

If pandemic-related developments, such as a renewed lockdown, impact the program in its entirety, arrangements will be made for all students to complete the term via online instruction. The program will make every effort to enable participants to remain in Berlin and complete the term successfully on-site, most likely via online instruction. If the situation necessitates students' departure from Berlin in order to return home, program staff will assist where it can but students will be responsible for organizing and paying for their own flight arrangements.

Health Insurance & Local Healthcare

As part of the program, you will have health insurance for urgent and emergent illness and injury while abroad. This insurance is provided at no cost to you via Zurich. Routine and preventive care is not included so you should maintain a health insurance policy that will provide coverage outside the U.S.

Program Departure

To return to the U.S., you will need to get a COVID-19 viral test (regardless of vaccination status or citizenship) no more than 1 day before you travel by air into the United States. You must show your negative result to the airline before you board your flight.

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If you recently recovered from COVID-19, you may instead travel with documentation of recovery from COVID-19 (i.e., your positive COVID-19 viral test result on a sample taken no more than 90 days before the flight's departure from a foreign country and a letter from a licensed healthcare provider or a public health official stating that you were cleared to travel). Please refer to the CDC website for more information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-international-air-travelers.html>

If you are traveling to a country other than the U.S. after the program's end, please make sure to check their entry requirements as they will vary.

Refund & Withdrawal Policy

Students may withdraw from this program at any time. If dismissed, students will not receive a refund. If withdrawing prior to the program start date, students must notify their UGE adviser in writing. After the program has started, students wishing to withdraw from the program must notify their UGE adviser and the Faculty Directors in writing. Failure to attend classes or non-responsiveness does not constitute formal withdrawal and will result in failing grades in the summer course. Please refer to [the refund schedule on the UGE website](#) and note that any adjustment of the tuition that the student has paid is calculated from the date on which the student's written notification is received by the relevant parties.

Resources

- <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/covid-3/coronavirus-germany>
- <https://www.germany.info/us-en/coronavirus/2317268>