

Global Engagement

Columbia in Paris Spring 2022 COVID-19 Program Protocols (as of December 17, 2021)

Below please find information and links to resources about how COVID-19 might impact your upcoming study abroad experience so that you can remain informed as the situation evolves. Please note that these planning protocols as well as participation policies are still being finalized and may be modified at any time prior to your departure or while you are in-country.

Columbia in Paris Vaccination Policy

- Columbia in Paris will require the COVID-19 vaccination for all students participating in the spring semester program.
- Boosters are strongly recommended for all students who plan to study abroad. For more information, please read UGE's [updated vaccine recommendations](#).

Flights, arrival and orientation

- Students wishing to enter France are subject to all restrictions and recommendations that the French government has put in place in regards to Covid-19. Students are responsible for understanding these restrictions and regulations.
- In order to enter France, vaccinated travelers must present the following documents:
 - Proof of full vaccination. Only vaccines authorized by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) (Pfizer (Comirnaty), Moderna, AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria), Johnson & Johnson (Janssen), or AstraZeneca (Covishield)) will be accepted.
 - A sworn declaration statement certifying the absence of COVID-19 symptoms and of any contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. This statement can be downloaded in English or French from the Interior Minister's website: <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Actualites/L-actu-du-Ministere/Attestation-de-deplacement-et-de-voyage>
 - Negative results of a virological (PCR) or antigen test taken less than 48 hours prior to departure
- In order to enter France, most students are required to apply for a long-stay student visa. [Read through the steps of the visa application process!](#)
- Vaccinated students: will need to provide proof of vaccination and a sworn declaration stating that they do not have any Covid-related symptoms. Only vaccines authorized by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) (Pfizer (Comirnaty), Moderna, AstraZeneca

(Vaxzevria), Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)), or AstraZeneca (Covishield) will be accepted.

- For more information see:
 - <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Actualites/L-actu-du-Ministere/Certificate-of-international-travel>
 - <https://www.campusfrance.org/fr/venir-en-france/informations-aux-etudiants-et-chercheurs-internationaux>
- Useful websites:
 - <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/>
 - <https://fr.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>
 - <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/france>
 - <https://fr.usembassy.gov/how-to-get-a-french-health-pass/>
- Health Pass or *Pass Sanitaire* Requirements: In order to access the Columbia premises in Paris students and all external guests will need to show their *pass sanitaire* for entry. This is true as well for many tourist attractions, entertainment and sporting facilities, and all dining establishments, among other businesses. Please read the following instructions on [How to Get a Health Pass](#). The process may take two or more weeks so be sure to apply in advance.
 - Students can apply for a *pass sanitaire* online through the Foreign Affairs Minister's website. The processing time may be long, so we encourage you to apply as soon as possible. To apply for a pass sanitaire online: <https://www.demarches-simplifiees.fr/commencer/passe-sanitaire-etudiants>
 - For all other visitors, a *pass sanitaire* must be obtained in a designated pharmacy. The conversion process in a pharmacy can cost up to 36€. For a list of designated pharmacies: <https://www.sante.fr/obtenir-un-passe-sanitaire-en-cas-de-vaccination-letranger>
- Students returning to the United States should check updated guidance on re-entry requirements. As of 12/2/2021 the CDC offers this [Airline Checklist: How to Confirm proof of vaccination and Negative Qualifying Test Results](#).

Student accommodation

- The program offers single dorm rooms with options for students to find their own accommodations through independent housing.
- If students need to self-isolate or quarantine while the program is in session, they will be able to do so in their dorm. Meals can be cooked on the premises, or food can be ordered in. Online instruction will be provided by Reid Hall courses, while students must abide

by local university policy for their direct enrollment courses. Columbia in Paris staff will support students via phone, email, text, etc. as needed.

Daily life and public transportation in Paris

- 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.
- Normal services are available throughout Paris, including grocery stores, schools/universities, restaurants, and religious services. Local transportation is running on normal schedules.
- A health pass is required to access certain restaurants/bars, cultural institutions, events, venues, malls, and certain modes of long-distance travel (plane, train, or bus). For a full list of places requiring a *pass sanitaire*:
<https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus/pass-sanitaire>
- Masking (<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/coronavirus-covid-19>)
 - In indoor public spaces (shops, offices, schools, etc) and on public transport you must wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth. This also applies to places where a *pass sanitaire* is required.
 - If you are outside you do not need to wear a mask except in places where social distancing is not possible (queues, open-air markets, etc.). Certain cities or regions may require a mask to be worn outside depending on the local health situation. Make sure to verify local restrictions when traveling.
 - Certain places, including offices and schools, may require that a “category 1” mask be worn. Category 1 masks include surgical masks, FFP2 and FFP3 masks, and cloth masks that filter at least 90% of particles.
 - Where necessary, local authorities may require masks to be worn in other places.
- Individuals that do not comply with governmental Covid protocols (such as wearing masks) may be fined 135 Euros, and repeat offenders may face fines up to 3,750 euros and risk imprisonment.

Program activities, Reid Hall protocols and independent travel

- Please note that due to the pandemic, there are 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 Paris.

- Students must comply with [Reid Hall regulations](#).
- Program Activities: Depending on Covid-regulations, planned activities will include a variety of excursions and experiences, social and cultural activities, local shows, plays and museum exhibits. Students will also participate in events hosted by the Paris Global Center. Depending on the activity and location, students may have to provide their Health Pass or *pass sanitaire* to attend.
- Independent Travel: Students must comply with the UGE Independent Travel Policy. Columbia in Paris is strongly discouraging any independent travel outside of the Ile de France region. Students will not be permitted to travel outside of France, and students will be required to follow local and national Covid-19 protocols and requirements. Students are required to enter all travel outside of Paris into their ISOS MyTrips account and stay up to date on the local situation in their destination. Independent travel should be limited to days during which there are no program activities 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). Travel restrictions may change while you are traveling, and if you are unable to return to Paris 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 & Vaccines

- Currently there is no vaccine requirement to enter France, though there are separate entry requirements for unvaccinated individuals depending on their country of departure.
- Check [here](#) for more information.
- Columbia in Paris is not currently requiring mandatory regular testing but students will be expected to do daily symptom self-monitoring and obligatory observing of pandemic risk mitigation policies.
- Students will be briefed during orientation by Columbia in Paris staff on COVID testing protocols and testing locations.
- According to the Department of State, COVID viral (PCR) testing is available at many [laboratories and testing centers](#), usually by appointment. Many pharmacies can do serologic (antigen/rapid) tests. PCR tests cost approximately 49 Euros, and antigen tests 29 Euros, payable in advance. Self-tests are available for purchase in most pharmacies and cost 5-6 Euros. Students should confirm with their insurance company if testing may be covered, and under what circumstances.
- Students may opt to use the following resources: [Steps to take to be tested](#) as well as the website/app [Doctolib](#) in order to locate nearby labs with available appointments. Please note, Doctolib is a private service and is not affiliated with Columbia in Paris.

Testing Positive for COVID, Quarantine and Isolation

Current French Government protocols (<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/coronavirus-covid-19>)

- If you test positive:
 - If you have the virus, you must self-isolate yourself for ten days from the first symptoms. If you still have a temperature, you must self-isolate for a further 48 hours.
 - If you have the virus but no symptoms, you must self-isolate for ten days from the time you took the test.
- If notified through contact tracing via the French Government:
 - You must self-isolate for 10 days from the last time you were in contact with the person who has the virus, even if you have a negative test result. If you live with the person who has the virus, you must self-isolate for 17 days. Contact a [test centre](#) to make an appointment. After the test, go straight home and self-isolate until you have the result.
 - If you are fully vaccinated and have a negative test result, you do not have to self-isolate any further.
- Students who test positive for Covid-19 must self-isolate for a period of 10 days following [French government guidelines](#). Before departure students must verify that their health insurance covers services while in France or purchase additional medical insurance for the program duration. Any student suffering from respiratory illness or problems (flu, cold, or cold-like symptoms) should not come to Reid Hall, even if they have not tested positive for COVID.
- Students are expected to notify Reid Hall staff in case of a positive Covid test. However, their first emergency contact if they require urgent medical assistance at any point during their self-isolation, is always the [SAMU](#) (emergency services). For intermediary care, students can have a doctor come for a house visit through [SOS Médecins](#). Contacting these different services requires having a working French phone number. After having called the SAMU students should always inform the Resident Director.
 - The student is expected to notify their emergency contact in addition to the Resident Director.
 - UGE will notify a student's home school if the student tests positive for COVID while the program is in session.
 - Students should keep any items they might need to safely self-isolate with them in their housing. This may include cleaning supplies, N95 masks, any medication they might need, protective gloves, a thermometer for monitoring their temperature, and a list of emergency contact numbers. In addition, the Columbia in Paris staff will have provided students at Orientation with additional references

to food delivery services, and will check-in on students regularly throughout their isolation period.

Academic Policies

- Should general pandemic developments or an individual COVID infection interfere with the completion of the semester, the program will ensure that all students or the affected individual participant can continue his/her/their coursework and studies in order to complete the full semester, including the use of online resources and/or directed self-study. To prepare for this, all students should bring their own laptops or PC to use.
- All Columbia in Paris language and disciplinary courses at Reid Hall can move online or be offered in hybrid form. All instructors will be prepared to provide alternative assignments as needed only in the case that a student is not able to attend class due to COVID-19 diagnosis or exposure. Otherwise students are expected to attend classes and mandatory program activities in person. In the case of any disruption, Columbia in Paris cannot guarantee that students will be able to attend their local university courses virtually, or receive credit for these courses. Columbia in Paris staff will do their best to support students, but these decisions are subject to the policies and arrangements made by the local university.
- 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 semester via online instruction. The program will make every effort to enable participants to remain in Paris and complete the semester successfully on-site, most likely via online instruction. If the situation necessitates students' departure from Paris in order to return home, the Columbia in Paris staff will assist where it can but students will be responsible for organizing and paying for their own flight arrangements.

Health insurance and Healthcare

- Students are required to have insurance valid in France for the duration of the program. It is essential that students verify their insurance coverage before the start of the program.
- Students needing medical attention while in Paris will receive support and recommendations about local medical facilities from the Columbia in Paris staff.
- For mental health support, students as Columbia University travelers are eligible to receive up to five emotional support sessions through International SOS, the 24/7 emergency assistance provider for individuals on Columbia Travel (<https://globaltravel.columbia.edu/content/what-international-sos-isos>).
- A small number of English speaking counselors are available to Columbia in Paris students by appointment. Columbia in Paris staff will give further information about how to schedule an appointment. Students should be prepared to cover the cost of any counseling sessions or inquire with their U.S. based health insurance provider to find out

if this is included in their plan. For students who are already working with a counselor in the United States, we recommend that you inquire before you leave about the possibility of continuing consultations online after you arrive in France.

Spring 2022 Adapted Refund and Withdrawal Policy

- Due to the unique circumstances of restarting study abroad while the global pandemic continues, we are adapting the refund policies to provide, where possible, an opportunity for students and their families to have as much time to make decisions before committing to studying abroad during Spring. Here is a link to the [Spring 2022 policy](#).
- As outlined in the Participation Agreement (which will be provided in your study abroad account), program regulations may be altered at any time to correspond with changing local conditions; these include, but are not limited to: changes to travel permissions; temporary or permanent suspension of in-person classes and other activities; program suspension and repatriation.