



The American College of the Mediterranean & The Institute for American Universities (ACM-IAU)

J-Term COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

Updated December 2021

INTRODUCTION AND GOALS

ACM-IAU's goal is to provide a safe learning environment for its students, faculty, staff, and administrators. While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, ACM-IAU is implementing plans to best respond to the needs of its community. Through transparent protocols and measures, ACM-IAU aims towards a common goal of institutional preparedness that inspires confidence for international travel amongst partner universities, students, and families. ACM-IAU successfully resumed in-person programs in fall 2020 and is confident it will continue to safely offer in-person programs (with in-person teaching). We implemented a vaccine mandate for all students in January 2022 and continue to enforce mask-wearing and sanitary protocols in all our facilities, while ensuring social distancing, and contact tracing and testing when necessary. ACM-IAU bases our COVID-19 protocols on best practices in the United States along with the guidance of national and local government officials and health professionals in France and Spain. We reevaluate and update our COVID-19 Preparedness Plan every semester. It is important to note that the governments around the world are continuously updating regulations, local restrictions, and entry protocols as the COVID-19 situation evolves. ACM-IAU regularly monitors these updates and adjusts our policies and protocols accordingly.

PLAN

1. Vaccines

To ensure the ability to fully participate in J-Term academic activities, ACM-IAU requires all students in J-Term programs to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 with a vaccine approved by U.S. authorities. ACM-IAU defers to the [United States CDC](#) on what qualifies an individual as "fully vaccinated." However, the definition and timeline by which a person is considered fully vaccinated can vary by country, so students must comply with each country's vaccination requirements. Due to the nature of J-Term programs, we cannot accept any exceptions to this requirement.

2. Testing

Access to testing is paramount to providing a healthy and safe learning environment. To support safe programs, J-Term students must follow COVID-19 entry requirements for international travelers for their arrival at J-Term starting

countries and may be required to show proof of a negative test. Based on the evolving nature of each country's entry requirements, students should be prepared to test prior to departure from the U.S., regardless of what the starting country's current policies may be, as these can change. The cost and arrangement of any required COVID-19 testing for arrival, whether due to a country's entry requirements or an ACM-IAU requirement, is the responsibility of the student.

- All testing required for entry to another country on the itinerary during the program dates is included in the program fee and will be facilitated by ACM-IAU. All fees associated with obtaining the French Health Pass (currently required in France) are included in the program fee and ACM-IAU will facilitate this requirement.
- Students returning to their home country at the end of the program may be required to present a negative COVID-19 test upon entry. Students returning to the United States at the end of their program will be required to present a negative COVID-19 test (antigen or PCR) taken no more than 1 day before travel from their end point country. Students will be responsible for the cost of this test. ACM-IAU can provide guidance on where the test can be obtained. If students are not able to present a negative test result within this time frame and are therefore not able to travel on their intended departure date, ACM-IAU can provide guidance on extended housing arrangements and will support students until they are able to depart. Students will be responsible for the cost of this extended housing reservation.
- If, through contact tracing or other means, a student is identified as having been exposed to the virus, ACM-IAU will support testing of the individual at no cost. ACM-IAU will consult with local health officials and if based on their recommendation any further testing is recommended for other students, ACM-IAU will facilitate testing at no additional cost to the student.
- ACM-IAU staff will regularly monitor entry requirements and provide updated information to J-Term students. ACM-IAU will not include in J-Term itineraries any country requiring quarantine for international travelers.

3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Social Distancing, and Housing Protocols

ACM-IAU will enforce any relevant local and national government PPE requirements during J-Term programs. In addition, regardless of local practice, ACM-IAU will require students to use masks during all group activities or group travel. Students must supply their own PPE.

- ACM-IAU will use a reduced density model wherever possible during group transport and classroom activities.
- ACM-IAU will house no more than two students to a room when lodging in hotels. To the extent possible, students will room with the same person throughout the trip to reduce possible contact cases.

4. Exposure Protocols

If a student receives a positive COVID-19 test, ACM-IAU will enact quarantine and contact tracing protocols recommended by local health officials. The student will be required to remain in quarantine until cleared by a health professional. Students may be moved to a single-occupancy hotel room during the quarantine, and, if so, students will not incur any costs as long as the quarantine falls within the program dates. ACM-IAU staff will support students during required quarantine periods during the program dates to ensure they have appropriate lodging and adequate food, water, access to medical care, and supplies. If the J-Term program moves to another site, ACM-IAU staff will remain with quarantined students until they are cleared for travel.

4. Program Interruption Protocols

If quarantine is required for students, ACM-IAU will make every effort to ensure they can complete the program using a combination of remote instruction, alternative field-studies, and individual instruction. The following guidelines will inform decisions about program interruption:

- If a student must quarantine within the first week of a J-Term program they will be offered the opportunity to withdraw from the program and receive a full tuition refund and a 50% refund of the program fee
- Any student who must quarantine after the first week of a J-Term will be offered remote instruction to complete the program. After the first 10 days of the program, no refunds will be given.
- J-Term Leaders who must quarantine due to COVID will continue to provide remote instruction. ACM-IAU staff will ensure students continue with field-studies and lectures.
- ACM-IAU reserves the right to make changes to the itinerary in consultation with local health professionals.

Please note that ACM-IAU will evaluate the above-stated program interruption protocols against the individual circumstances of each program and may make adjustments in consultation with local health authorities.

5. Pre-Departure/Orientation

Prior to departure, ACM-IAU will regularly inform students of any changes in ACM-IAU COVID protocols, country-specific entry and exit requirements, and in-country mitigation measures and regulations. During the virtual pre-departure orientation, ACM-IAU will provide students with updated information about COVID-19 protocols in each country of the program.

6. Ongoing Communication with ACM-IAU Community

Paramount to this plan is the constant communication ACM-IAU pledges to execute, as necessary. The ACM-IAU's Dean's Council meets weekly to discuss updates regarding local restrictions and if/how these may affect the ACM-IAU's policies and protocols. These updates are shared with students as well as with partners. Below is an overview of ACM-IAU's communication plan in relation to COVID-19:

- *If a student tests positive for COVID-19:* If a student tests positive for COVID-19, the student's home institution and emergency contact will be notified immediately, outlining a plan for medical care, testing, self-isolation/meal delivery, remote learning, and re-entry into the ACM-IAU community. All other partners will be notified that a confirmed case was discovered within the community, with no identifying details disclosed. Institutions will also be notified if the confirmed positive case impacts in-person instruction of their students (should their students' courses temporarily be held remotely).
- *If a student is quarantined due to exposure to COVID-19:* If a student is quarantined due to suspected exposure to COVID-19, the home institution will be notified immediately and will be provided the plan for testing, remote learning, and when in-person instruction will resume.
- *If a students' academic courses are temporarily held remotely:* If a students' courses are held remotely due to suspected exposure of a staff/faculty member or classmate, the home institution will be notified immediately and will be provided with the plan for remote learning as well as when in-person instruction will resume.

ACM-IAU's COVID-19 Plan and further updates to it will be available on IAU's website (www.iau.edu) and ACM's website (www.acmfrance.org).