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## Important FAQs for Fall 2021 OCS Students - Whitman Registration & More

1 message

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### Whitman OCS

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Dear Fall 2021 OCS students,

We are still cautiously optimistic that many of our students who have been approved for Fall 21 OCS programs will be able to study off campus this fall. That being said, we have some suggestions for precautions you can take so you have a viable Plan B.

**It is very important that you register for Fall 2021 classes at Whitman and arrange a fall housing option, in case you are not able to study off campus this fall.**

Please read through the following important FAQ to help you with planning.

#### **What steps should I be taking now?**

All Fall 2021 OCS students need to register for Fall 2021 courses on the Whitman campus in addition to your fall OCS courses so that places will be reserved for you in Whitman courses if Fall 2021 OCS programs are canceled. Whitman's on-campus registration for Fall 2021 begins April 23. Please consult with your major adviser soon to plan your Whitman on-campus course selection for Fall 2021.

#### **Will COVID-19 negatively impact my ability to study abroad in the Fall 2021 semester?**

Possibly. There are many issues related to COVID-19 that could make it impossible for OCS students to study in some or all destinations in Fall 2021. In addition to the possibility that your host countries' border may not be open to visitors from the United States, many countries have closed non-urgent visa services at their embassies and consulates indefinitely or require quarantine of foreign nationals upon arrival.

#### **Will Whitman withdraw approval for my Fall 2021 OCS program due to safety concerns?**

Possibly. For reasons of student safety, Whitman College does not approve off-campus studies for programs in locations in which there is a US Department of State Level 4 Do Not Travel travel advisory. Therefore, if your destination country has a US DOS Level 4 advisory, Whitman will withdraw your OCS approval for Fall 2021 by June 1. Note that if the US Department of State raises your host country's DOS travel advisory to Level 4 any time after June 1, Whitman will withdraw your OCS approval.

**What happens if my OCS program decides to deliver all or nearly all of its courses remotely in Fall 2021 due to COVID?** Whitman OCS will withdraw your approval for OCS if all or nearly all of the courses on your OCS program will be taught in a remote format. This is because on-location learning and immersion in the local community is an essential aspect of the study abroad experience.

#### **When will I know if Whitman has withdrawn approval for Fall 2021 OCS?**

By **June 1** for programs that commence late July or later.

By **May 1** for programs that commence in June through mid-July.

#### **Should I purchase my airline ticket for my Fall 2021 program?**

No. We recommend that you not purchase an airline ticket yet for your OCS program yet because of the uncertainties around the availability and approval of Fall OCS semester programs.

#### **What about my program enrollment deposit?**

Sometimes program deposits are non-refundable. We suggest that you check with your program about their program deposit refund policy before paying it.

#### **Can I defer my study abroad to Spring 2022?**

If your Fall 2021 program is canceled and you will be a junior next year, we encourage you to consider deferring your

off-campus studies until Spring 2022. In the case of students who will be seniors next year, please consult with your major adviser about the possibility of OCS in Spring 2022, if your fall program is canceled. If you wish to defer study abroad until spring 2022, Whitman OCS will work with you to determine if deferring until Spring 2022 is a good option for you. Please contact your OCS adviser - Barbara Hoffman at [hoffmabb@whitman.edu](mailto:hoffmabb@whitman.edu) or Susan Holme at [holmesl@whitman.edu](mailto:holmesl@whitman.edu) to discuss.

**I no longer wish to study off campus this fall, what should I do?**

If you no longer wish to study off campus in Fall 2021 and you don't want to defer until Spring 2022, please email [offcampusstudies@whitman.edu](mailto:offcampusstudies@whitman.edu) to let us know of your change in plans. It is your responsibility to notify your program provider about your desire to withdraw from their program.

**How do I request Whitman housing for the fall semester?**

Good news! There is no housing deposit required to reserve Whitman on-campus housing and a student can cancel on-campus housing before the move-in date without financial penalty. Reserving on-campus housing is therefore an easy way to have a back-up plan for housing this fall.

- On-campus housing requests can be sent via email to Amy Bruner in Residence Life at [brunerae@whitman.edu](mailto:brunerae@whitman.edu).
- Whitman-owned off-campus rental requests can be sent via email to Caitlin Kiesz at [offcampusrentals@whitman.edu](mailto:offcampusrentals@whitman.edu).

We know planning is not easy in these circumstances and we are here to support you, working regular business hours remotely from home.

Sincerely,  
The Whitman OCS Team

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