

SAMFORD ABROAD RISK MITIGATION FOR COVID-19: LONDON

Samford Abroad plans to resume on-site instruction and residence life as of August 2021 in London. This will be in accordance with local, domestic and international guidelines.

Samford Abroad will continue to modify plans and adjust policies and procedures based on updated public health guidance. The following Samford Abroad policies represent what is current at the time of writing. Specific details about mitigation plans will be provided to students on an ongoing basis throughout 2021.

Students accepted to the program were provided [Daniel House Terms and Conditions](#) to review prior to committing to the program.

FAQs

Pre-arrival

1. How will Samford Abroad prepare students for their on-site arrival?

Samford Abroad will provide students with virtual pre-departure orientations, Q&A sessions, online learning materials and quizzes and pre-arrival email communications. Our goal is to ensure all students arrive in good health and well informed. We will advise students not to travel if they are unwell. and/or have a compromised immune system. No one should travel if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have been in contact with a positive case. We are fully prepared to support students if isolation is required upon arrival.

Current UK guidance requires all arrivals to provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of departure, to purchase two further tests in the UK, and to quarantine for 10 days. Samford Abroad will follow changing guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus> regarding quarantining and testing upon arrival in the UK and will communicate changes to students.

2. What is Samford Abroad's cancellation policy?

Students who withdraw from the program between the dates listed or receive an Honor Code violation from the date of registration until the full payment-due deadline are subject to the Samford Abroad Withdrawal Policy. Withdrawal penalties or refunds are dependent on the date of written withdrawal.

From commitment date in March until middle of May, when the International Travel Advisory Committee approves or denies fall international travel, no expenses will be incurred by students.

After final approval in May to program start date:

100% of Program Fee will be charged to the student account. The only exception to this policy will be as per the study abroad program medical/compassionate withdrawal request procedures outlined by Samford Abroad. Students must follow the procedures set forth in the Samford University catalog to withdraw from academic courses associated with their program.

After program start date:

If withdrawal occurs on or after program start date, the participant must pay program fee and any necessary tuition as set forth in the Samford payment and refund policy.

3. What is Samford Abroad's refund policy for an early cancellation?

Arrangements for international travel for a group involve advance planning and program commitments based on the number of registered participants. Deposits for airline tickets, accommodations, group activities, and full payment of most costs take place prior to departure. The University must commit non-recoverable monies prior to the deadlines for student payment of program fees.

If early cancellation occurs, the University may not reimburse students for the cost of application fees, tuition, transportation, visas, room and board, preventative quarantine, insurance or any other non-refundable expenses that may be incurred prior to, during and after the program if the program.

In the event of program interruption or cancellation, courses will continue in an online format.

4. What provisions does Samford Abroad if on-site program delivery is interrupted?

All of Samford Abroad's courses are ready to pivot to remote learning. Regarding internship placements, Samford Abroad will work with our partner CAPA to transfer these placements to remote format as well.

Samford Abroad is committed to ensuring students receive their intended academic credit from the program.

5. Does Samford Abroad offer insurance to support students?

Samford Abroad students are automatically enrolled in [GeoBlue health insurance](#) for the duration of their program. [GeoBlue Global Health and Safety Team](#) is available 24/7/365 to assist members with anything from arranging direct pay, coordinating evacuations, booking TeleMD appointments or getting the proper follow up care. Call +1.610.254.8771 or email globalhealth@geo-blue.com.

Please note that coverage under the group policy with GeoBlue is only applicable while overseas, so students should not cancel any existing insurance policies. **If students plan to travel before or after their program start or end date, they should self-enroll in GeoBlue insurance [here](#) for coverage during that time.** The self-enrollment code is SDC-52487 and students should select "renewal" when prompted to do so.

6. How does Samford Abroad share objective information on the local COVID-19 situation with students?

Samford Abroad takes information and advice about critical incidences from health authorities including the [NHS](#), [WHO](#), and [CDC](#). Students also have access to [AlertTraveler](#) notices on their smart phones, which deliver push notifications in real time related to location specific health, safety and security. We closely monitor these sources and continually update our website and communication to students with relevant COVID-19 developments.

7. Does Samford Abroad require vaccination prior to departure?

Samford University does not require students to get vaccinated at this time. However, if vaccination is mandatory to enter the UK at the time of travel, it will be required. Samford Abroad strongly encourages students to get vaccinated.

Choosing not to get vaccinated could have significant consequences. The requirements of different governments, organizations and institutions are subject to change at short notice. It may become difficult for unvaccinated individuals to enter certain countries, intern at particular companies or visit public buildings (including museums and theatres). There are calls for 'vaccine passports' in certain countries and business sectors. **Participation in, and experience of, the program could therefore be put at considerable risk if a student is unvaccinated.**

According to the CDC, vaccination will also reduce the risk of catching, spreading, and suffering severe illness as a result of exposure to Covid-19. Therefore, it should help to keep the staff and student community in the Daniel House healthy, and to minimize lost academic and internship time due to quarantine.

What to expect on-site

1. Will I be required to quarantine upon arrival?

Currently, 10-day quarantine is required upon entering the UK. You must be tested on or before day 2 and on or after day 8 of your 10-day quarantine period. Every passenger travelling to the UK from abroad (this includes UK residents) must book a travel test package. Costs vary but are in the region of £210/\$289. Students will be prompted to sign up for these tests by Samford Abroad prior to departure.

It is important to travel directly to where you will be staying during your quarantine period. You should follow guidance concerning [safer travel](#) and avoid using public transport if this is possible. If you have coronavirus symptoms, it is particularly important that you do not use public transport.

Please be aware that there are strict penalties for breaking quarantine rules, and you could face a penalty of up to £10,000.

Because things are changing rapidly, Samford Abroad will advise students on all testing and quarantining requirements closer to departure. If required, quarantine will take place in the Daniel House and students will have support from Samford Abroad staff. Online orientation will take place during this time along with other planned online activities within the house.

2. Can I use the 'Test to Release' scheme to end my 10-day quarantine period early?

The [Test to Release for international travel scheme](#) is still valid – this scheme allows you to choose to pay for a private Covid-19 test to end your quarantine period early. **If the result is negative, you can stop quarantining.** There are specific private providers able to administer Test to Release tests for international travel.

You cannot take a Test to Release test until you have been in England for 5 full days.

The scheme is voluntary and applies to those quarantining in England only. If you choose not to opt into the Test to Release scheme, you will need to stay in quarantine for the full 10 days.

You cannot use the Test to Release scheme if you have been in or through any country that is on the [travel ban red list](#) in the 10 days before you arrive in England.

If you're planning to use the Test to Release scheme, you must still take a test on or before day 2 and on or after day 8, unless [you're exempt](#).

3. Can I get vaccinated for COVID-19 while abroad?

Samford Abroad is unable to facilitate vaccines for students, visiting faculty or staff while on our study abroad programs. In the UK, COVID-19 vaccines are only available through the NHS and it is not possible to pay for a private vaccination. It is important that students get vaccinated prior to leaving the U.S.

4. Are COVID-19 tests available?

Samford Abroad understands that the need for COVID-19 testing pre-departure, onsite, and prior to returning to the U.S. can be daunting. Samford Abroad staff will help students prepare so they time their COVID-19 test to board their departing flight. If for any reason their test result is delayed or comes back positive, Samford Abroad will work with any student to accommodate their late arrival.

While abroad a student may need a COVID-19 test due to certain symptoms or confirmed exposure. Students may also be required to take tests for their internship. Samford Abroad staff know the most convenient, reliable testing locations and can refer students to free testing where available in consultation with GeoBlue, the program health insurance provider.

Our onsite staff are prepared to help students register for and receive a COVID-19 test prior to their return home so they have results in a timely manner to depart as planned.

5. Will the mandatory and included health insurance cover COVID-19 related illness?

GeoBlue student health insurance will cover testing costs for a student due to illness, symptoms or confirmed exposure to COVID-19, as well as ongoing care as needed abroad.

If a student should test positive for COVID-19 or become ill for any reason and is unable to depart at the end of their program, Samford Abroad staff will guide students to secure housing, or students will remain in their Samford Abroad housing if possible. GeoBlue health coverage will continue, and staff will remain available for support.

6. Will Samford Abroad staff/students/faculty be required to wear masks?

Effective Tuesday, Feb. 2, wearing a mask or face covering in airports and on planes became federal law. The mandate is enforced through a Security Directive issued by the Transportation Security Administration and applies to customers and employees. Many airlines are recommending passengers bring several masks with them. According to British Airways, one face mask lasts for four hours, so the airline recommends bringing a couple of masks to wear throughout the duration of the flight.

The UK government currently requires use of face masks on public transport and in most indoor environments. As the situation evolves, this may change. Students are required by Samford Abroad to bring the necessary supply of masks, sanitizing products, or other related supplies that may be required in order to access transportation, appear in public, or visit any operating establishments during travel.

Samford Abroad advises students on local cultural norms and requirements surrounding the use of masks prior to their program start date.

7. What can I expect if I'm planning on participating in an internship?

Samford Abroad is committed to students having as full an experience as possible and receiving their intended academic credit from the program for the duration of the pandemic. As of today, CAPA is planning to run in country internships for fall. Obviously, this is subject to change pending on the ground conditions, local regulations, and comfort level of organizations to host students. CAPA is regularly evaluating these things. Although they hope to have in-person internships, they are planning to have remote options ready to go should the need arise.

Given the changes to work culture favoring remote work and the uncertainty regarding conditions by the time placements begin, we advise internship students to anticipate a blended setting for the internship, with some mix of working remotely and in person. This mix will likely be different for every student.

Students will be required to be flexible regarding availability of placements in certain industries.

In most cases, students will take public transport to their placement site.

Should conditions require it, Samford Abroad will work with CAPA to migrate these placements to a remote format. When this is not possible, Samford Abroad is committed to offering an alternative to help the student fulfill their academic requirements.

8. Will there be regular taking of students' temperatures, either by themselves or staff on-site?

Samford Abroad staff will not be taking students' temperatures. As the situation evolves, Samford Abroad will comply with all protocols as deemed necessary (or mandated) by the UK. Students will be advised to bring or purchase to self-monitor.

Students have access to healthcare and will be supported in connecting with a health professional if they detect COVID-19 related symptoms. Any changes to health protocols will be communicated to the students.

9. What precautions does Samford Abroad take to ensure that the on-site environment is clean/sanitized?

Samford Abroad closely monitors the changing situation and complies with additional health/cleaning protocols as established by local health authorities both in student housing and in classrooms as related to cleaning, sanitizing, handwashing stations etc. Hand sanitizer will be available in the house and the house has a regular cleaning schedule. Should a student test positive within the house, the student will be moved to the isolation room and Samford Abroad staff will follow cleaning protocols.

10. What on-site social distancing measures will be in place within the Daniel House?

The hope for Samford Abroad is that by Fall 2021, social distancing will no longer be required if all goes according to Prime Minister [Boris Johnson's Reopening Plan timetable](#). Samford Abroad complies with safety protocols in the UK for all educational environments and residences. Samford Abroad reinforces good personal hygiene, promotes awareness of COVID-19 symptoms and includes on-site protocols students need to follow.

11. Are COVID-19 tests available for students?

Yes. Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 in the UK can get a free [NHS](#) test to check if they have the virus. Samford Abroad proactively supports any student who requires testing. Should a student test positive for COVID-19, Samford Abroad facilitates their isolation and employs the contact tracing protocols recommended by health authorities. The option of remote learning is available for students during this time, as is academic support for any related absence.

Everyone in England, including those without symptoms, is now entitled to self-administered free, rapid lateral flow tests twice a week. These are available from testing centers and pharmacies. If a student registers a positive lateral flow test, they can book a free PCR test for confirmation.

12. How does Samford Abroad provide support for wellbeing, welfare and mental health?

Samford Abroad recognizes that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented and unexpected challenges to students' mental health and wellbeing. Samford Abroad staff provides regular communication of mental health information and promotes open communication between students and staff regarding physical and mental health issues.

Through GeoBlue, students have access to medical doctors and counselors in person by appointment. For a list of local doctors that are in-network, students can call +1.610.254.8771, use the mobile app or speak with Samford Abroad staff. Students also can use GeoBlue's Global TeleMD, a smartphone app—at no additional cost—that provides confidential access to international doctors by telephone or video call.

Students can access counselors virtually via Global Wellness Assist offered by GeoBlue. Global Wellness Assist is an assistance program for students traveling globally, providing access to free, confidential assistance any time, any day. Students can use the GeoBlue mobile app or text +44-790-934-1229 to have a counselor contact them.

13. How will Samford Abroad facilitate the self-isolation of student(s) if needed?

Samford Abroad has reserved a room with private bathroom for students to self-isolate/quarantine if needed throughout the semester. Staff assist in delivering groceries and basic needs during the self-isolation period. Students in self-isolation will continue their courses remotely until they are ready to return to the classroom. If a student is too ill to work remotely, we will help them to fulfill their academic requirements once they have recovered.

What to expect off-site

1. What measures does Samford Abroad take regarding students' independent travel on weekends?

Independent travel outside of London or the UK during weekends or academic breaks may be restricted due to local, national or University guidelines. The Samford University International Travel Advisory Committee will make this determination based on COVID conditions at the start of the program.

If students decide to travel despite these guidelines, they could be caught in rapidly changing regulations, and Samford Abroad may not be able to offer assistance. It should be noted that post-Brexit, travel to/within Europe, and travelling to/within the UK are two separate things as far as

border control and other travel regulations are concerned. The travel policy is subject to change at any time and students will receive communication via email and in person regarding any changes.

Students are strongly encouraged not to purchase non-refundable tickets or accommodations for independent travel. Samford University will not reimburse students for independent travel arrangements that must be canceled due to a change in the programs' travel policy, or due to any changes in local or national restrictions.

2. What adjustments has Samford Abroad made regarding co-curricular activities and field trips?

Co-curricular activities and field trips may need to be modified in order to follow current government guidance. The ability to engage in particular activities, to travel to sites and the adherence to health precautions (including but not limited to group size, social distancing, distance to be travelled, and use of face coverings) is dependent on government and health authority regulations. We are hopeful that things in London will continue towards full reopening. However, students are encouraged to be flexible throughout the semester. Samford Abroad is committed to providing the best possible experience for students regardless of modifications.

3. What measures does Samford Abroad take regarding students use of public transportation?

Overall, public transportation is necessary for most students in London. The UK has taken extra steps to keep public transportation clean, safe, and socially distanced. It is currently mandatory for all passengers to wear a mask on public transport, in taxis and private hire vehicles. We will advise students on local norms and guidance for using public transport on a regular basis. In addition, Samford Abroad provides information on alternatives such as walking and biking.