

Risk Mitigation – AU Brussels Center

Risk Mitigation – AU Brussels Center, Fall 2022

The safety and security of the AU community at AU Centers Abroad is paramount priority, and the safeguards in this plan are designed to mitigate the risk to members of our community of contracting COVID-19 and transmitting it to others.

The following health and safety measures are in effect for Fall 2022 at the AU Brussels Center:

- **COVID-19 Vaccination and Boosters:** All students who intend to study abroad will be required to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and to get a COVID-19 booster(s).

Medical and religious exemptions which have already been approved by the American University Student Health Center will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The University, in its sole discretion, will evaluate the quality of the study abroad experience for a student who is either unvaccinated or no longer deemed fully vaccinated in their host country. If the University determines the experience will be so diminished as to not meet a reasonable standard, then the University will not consider exemptions for that location.

- **Testing:** Given COVID-19 variants, all fully vaccinated students, faculty, and staff may be subject to periodic surveillance asymptomatic testing at the university's discretion throughout the semester. Any person experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, must get a COVID-19 test. Please refer to the [Health and Safety Directive on COVID-19 Exposure, Positive Test, or Suspected Infection](#) for further information.
- **Health and Safety Pledge/Acknowledgment:** All students will be required to sign a Health and Safety Pledge that they will abide by all health and safety regulations imposed by the university, the AU Brussels Center, and local government directives regarding COVID-19 restrictions, regulations, and isolation and quarantine procedures.
- **Daily Screening:** Faculty, staff and students are expected to self-monitor for symptoms and seek medical care if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms must get a COVID-19 test.
- **Medical Care:** Students have [ACE insurance](#) for emergencies. It is recommended that students keep their US based medical care insurance while abroad. There are ample medical facilities within a short distance of the AU Brussels program center and UCL campus where the center is located. Students can receive medical care for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 related medical needs at the general practitioner's office located close to the Saint-Luc UCL Clinic. If deemed necessary, the general practitioner will advise consultation at the hospital. The hospital [Saint-Luc UCL University Clinic](#) is within a short walk of the AU Brussels Center and has a wide range of specialized medical care and a 24/7 emergency care. AU Abroad

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recommends that students purchase supplemental international travel insurance to cover routine medical care while in Belgium.

- **Contact Tracing:** Any student, faculty, staff, and host family member must report COVID-19 exposure/positive test result to the AU Brussels program staff.
- **Face Coverings:** Students may be required to wear face coverings as required by local government health directives or at the university's direction.. See: <https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/faq/>.
- **Personal Health Precautions:** In addition to wearing face coverings as noted, members of the AU community are expected to exercise personal health precautions through practicing frequent hand washing and respiratory etiquette and seek medical care if symptoms warrant. These precautions not only reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection but also the spread of infectious disease in general. Students, faculty, and staff with signs or symptoms of infectious illness should stay home and seek medical care.
- **Positive Test Reporting and Self-Isolation:** Students who test positive for COVID-19 must notify AU Brussels staff. The person who tests positive must isolate and follow local regulations. The person can resume normal activities according to medical advice. However, the University also reserves the right to require a period of self-isolation. or in separate accommodations arranged by the program. If a homestay family member tests positive, then the AU student may be temporarily placed in the program-arranged separate accommodations or choose to remain in the homestay when possible and follow proper procedure. AU Brussels staff will manage this process. Students will be expected to isolate for at least 5 days. Isolation may end on day six if you do not have symptoms however you must wear a mask for the following 5 days
- **Physical Distancing:** It is advised to keep social distance as much as possible. Wear a mask if social distance cannot be maintained.
<https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/faq/>
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Faculty, staff, and students are expected to bring their own face coverings and use them in required settings.
- **Cleaning:** The homestay family will clean the student's bedroom on a regular basis. The student is responsible for keeping the bedroom tidy. The AU Brussels Center facilities are disinfected on a regular basis especially the areas with the highest influx of students, professors, and staff. All frequently touched surfaces (door and window handles, light switches, bathrooms, handrails, desks, etc.) will be cleaned regularly.

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- **Facility Air Quality/Water Quality:** AU Brussels classrooms are equipped with a state-of-the-art ventilation system and with windows that can be opened. A CO2 meter is available for monitoring the air quality. Students should carry a personalized bottle of water (marked with their name).
- **Classrooms:** All classroom are spacious. Desks will be spaced according to the regulations of the host UCL campus where the AU Brussels Center is located.
- **Housing:** AU Brussels students live in program arranged homestays. . Students and host families are not required to use a face covering in the homestay except in cases of suspected exposure or positive COVID-19 test result. Students will have their own bedroom separate from that of the homestay family. If a student is exposed or tests positive with COVID-19 and needs to isolate, students will quarantine within the homestay when possible or will be temporarily moved to separate accommodation organized by the program. If a homestay family member tests positive, then the AU student will be able to temporarily re-locate to separate accommodation or, if possible, remain in the homestay and follow proper procedure.
- **Internships:** All sites are vetted for COVID-related protocol by the AU Brussels Internship Coordinator prior to placing any AU student at an internship. Policies related to COVID-19 have been added to the internship contract which is signed by the AU Brussels Director, the internship site's supervisor, and the student prior to starting the internship.
- **Excursions:** Program field trips for Fall 2022 will proceed pending public health guidelines during the semester and are reviewed by AU Risk Management. The AU Brussels office-will conduct a thorough medical services review for all program sponsored field trip locations.
- **Independent Travel:** Independent travel away from the program site will depend on several factors, including the state of the pandemic, local and international travel restrictions, and guidance from national, local, and U.S. authorities. AU cannot extend any support for independent travel. Students who choose to travel away from the program site on non-program travel will be responsible for any inconveniences or costs incurred resulting from local restrictions or requirements. Additionally, if students are prevented from returning to the program site while traveling independently due to transport delays, local restrictions or border closures, any missed classes or required program activities will be deemed unexcused absences and will result in negative consequences as per our academic policies.