



Risk Mitigation – AU Madrid Center

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 2021 at AU Madrid Center:

COVID-19 Vaccination: All students, faculty, staff and members of homestay families will be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19. AU is committed to promoting a vaccination environment that is safe and equitable for all students, faculty, and staff and has implemented an exemption process for individuals with medical conditions that prevent them from being vaccinated and for individuals with sincerely held religious beliefs that prohibit them from being vaccinated. Please refer to the Health and Safety Directive on Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination for further information.

Testing: AU strongly recommends that students obtain a negative PCR test 72 hours prior to departure for Spain. All members of AU Madrid host families will get a COVID-19 test 72 hours prior to arrival of students. All students will be required to take a COVID test upon arrival in Madrid before the start of orientation. This testing will be arranged by local AU Madrid staff and the cost is covered by AU. Once on-site, students, faculty, and staff who are not fully vaccinated will be required to be tested for COVID-19 twice a week at an AU Madrid Center designated testing location. Given COVID-19 variants, all fully vaccinated students, faculty, staff, and host families may be subject to periodic surveillance testing at the university's discretion. 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 Madrid Center, and local government directives regarding COVID-19 restrictions, regulations, and isolation and quarantine procedures.

Daily Screening: To ensure they are not symptomatic, all students, faculty, and staff who are not fully vaccinated must complete the university's online Daily Self-Screening Form. Fully vaccinated faculty, staff and students are expected to take their temperature daily, self-monitor for symptoms, and get a test if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms must get a COVID-19 test. The AU Center is located within a Spanish law school called ISDE. In order to enter ISDE buildings, students must enter through the main door, wash their hands with hand sanitizing gel, and have their temperature taken with

the temperature measuring machine installed for this purpose. If the temperature is higher than 37.2 ° C, entry to the building is denied and the potentially ill person will be instructed to be tested for COVID-19, isolate at home, and follow the instructions of medical professionals.

Medical Care: Students can receive medical care for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 related medical needs at [HM Hospitales de Madrid](#). Students do not need to make a copayment to be seen there and costs for medical care are minimal or free. *HM Hospitales* accepted AU Emergency Travel Insurance which all AU Abroad students automatically receive as an AU Abroad student. AU Abroad recommends that students purchase supplemental international travel insurance to cover routine medical care.

Contact Tracing: Any student, faculty, staff, and host family member must report COVID-19 exposure/positive test result to the AU Madrid staff COVID coordinator. After taking a test at *HM Hospitales de Madrid*, the hospital will notify the Department of Health of the Community of Madrid and follow up directly with the patient. *HM Hospitales* also notifies the AU Madrid COVID coordinator IF the student has authorized it in writing when they took the test. The AU Madrid COVID coordinator will inform and look after close contacts (other students, faculty, homestay members, and other educational partners).

Face Coverings: In accordance with the university's Health and Safety Directive on Face Coverings, all individuals will be required to always wear face coverings over their mouths and noses while indoors at AU Center facilities or on program sponsored activities except when in their homestay, when eating or drinking, and in other limited circumstances. Face shields do not fulfill the face covering requirement. Students will also be expected to wear face coverings as required by local government health directives. When outdoors, all individuals must use a face covering when unable to maintain a social distance of 1.5 meters. See: <https://www.mscbs.gob.es/profesionales/saludPublica/ccayes/alertasActual/nCov/ciudadania/otrosIdiomas.htm#en>

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, monitoring their own health and taking their temperature daily, and seeking 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 the university by submitting a [Self-Report Form](#) and by contacting the

appropriate AU Center Madrid staff. They will be required to follow local government guidance regarding self-isolation. The person who tests positive must quarantine for 10 days and then take another COVID test. If symptoms have not continued, the person can resume normal activities after a negative test on the tenth day.

Exposure to COVID-19: In Spain, you are considered to have been exposed to COVID-19 if you shared the same space, at a distance of less than 2 meters, and for a total time of more than 15 minutes in 24 hours and you didn't use protective measures correctly within 48 hours of the onset of an infected person's COVID-19 symptoms, or within 48 hours before their positive test to COVID-19 if they are an asymptomatic person. If you have been exposed, you must: immediately get tested for COVID-19 at *HM Hospitales de Madrid* and then stay at home, preferably in your room, for 10 days after your last contact with that person, avoid leaving your room as much as possible and prevent physical contact with people living in your Household. If you must leave your room, wear a surgical mask, monitor the onset of any symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) during the 10 quarantine days and the following 4 days, wash your hands frequently, and do not share the bathroom with other people living with you.

See: https://www.mscbs.gob.es/profesionales/saludPublica/ccayes/alertasActual/nC_ov/ciudadania/otrosIdiomas.htm#en

Physical Distancing: In Spain, all individuals must keep a distance from others of at least 1.5 meters.

https://www.mscbs.gob.es/profesionales/saludPublica/ccayes/alertasActual/nCov/ciudadania/docs/COVID19_6M_EN.pdf

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Faculty, staff, and students, and are expected to bring their own face coverings. Disposable face coverings will be provided for individuals who forget or lose their face coverings.

Cleaning: The homestay family will clean all common areas and the student's bedroom twice a week. The AU Center facilities are disinfected several times a day, 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.

Facility Air Quality/Water Quality: In our AU Madrid classrooms, we keep the windows always open, so air circulates continuously. When winter arrives, the windows will be closed during class but open during every break in between classes. All our AU Madrid classrooms have windows. Students should carry a personalized bottle of water (marked with their name).

Classrooms: All classroom desks at the AU Center have been spaced out according to local guidelines, leaving 1.5 meters between students. Students, faculty, staff should not change the position of desks or chairs in the classrooms.

Housing: Most AU Madrid students live in program arranged homestays. All individuals who live in the home are vaccinated. Students and host families are not required to use a face covering in the homestay unless in case of suspected exposure or positive COVID-19 test result. If a student is exposed or tests positive with COVID and needs to isolate, they can do so in the homestay. A bathroom will be available for sole use of the student. If a home stay family member tests positive, then the AU student will be temporarily placed in another host family during the family's isolation. The AU Madrid Housing Coordinator will manage this process. BeMadrid, the organization through which AU Madrid manage homestays, can also provide an apartment/room in a hotel in case of need of isolation if another host family is not available. The cost of this additional housing is covered by

BeMadrid. Students who are not living in a program sponsored homestay live at a Spanish residence called RESA. Students living at RESA housing must follow RESA protocols for isolation in case of exposure. Students at RESA must wear a face covering in all areas of the residence, indoors and outdoors, even if social distancing can be maintained, except when you are: Alone in your bedroom, when eating or drinking in the café, or in the gym and 1.5 meters of distance can be maintained. [RESA Regulations](#).

Internships: All sites are vetted for COVID-related protocol by the AU Madrid 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 AU Madrid Director, the internship site's supervisor, and the student prior to starting the internship.

Excursions: Field trip locations for the *Clashes & Alliances of Mediterranean Civilization* program and the *Global & Public Health Issues* program will be within the Iberian Peninsula instead of throughout the Mediterranean region for Fall 2021. *HM Hospitales de Madrid* also has locations throughout Spain for medical services while traveling on program sponsored field trips.

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. Due to these uncertainties, AU strongly discourages students from engaging in any independent travel and reserves the right to restrict certain locations/countries as may be deemed necessary. 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.



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