

Study Abroad/Internships Affected by COVID-19

Dear Paterno Fellows,

I hope that you and your families are safe, and healthy. I recognize that many of your plans have been disrupted by the travel bans, stay at home orders, and social distancing protocols put in place to flatten the Coronavirus curve. Many of you are justifiably concerned about the academic consequences of cancelled internships and study abroad programs. I want you to know that the PFP program is here to work with you. For anyone who had an internship or study abroad experience cancelled, we will ask that you propose an alternative experience that can substitute for the lost experience. We cannot replace what is lost, but we can substitute a new experience in their place. Perhaps there is an online course you can take that is based in another country or in another language. Perhaps there is an important service that the community needs and you are uniquely positioned to render. Perhaps there is a pressing academic question that you can explore through an independent study. Perhaps there is a non-traditional internship that takes place virtually. Perhaps...perhaps...perhaps. The world more than ever demands creativity, and I know that our Paterno Fellows are nothing if not creative!

Before beginning this new and exciting project or experience, I ask that you tell us which experience you have lost due to COVID-19, and write up a brief description of your proposed plan of action that you [submit to me](#) for review. Once I've signed off, the way forward will be paved and you can continue to work towards fulfilling the requirements to graduate as a Paterno Fellow!

Some good news: if you were abroad for five weeks before returning home, you have met the study abroad requirement! Go to the [PFP database](#) and add a note telling us the dates, duration, and location of your study abroad, and mark it Claimed Satisfied. If fewer than five weeks, you can add time abroad from an embedded course, or propose a creative solution for the remaining time. Likewise, if you completed 150 hours at your internship before it was terminated, your requirement is fulfilled. If your internship is on your transcript, make a note in the [database](#) of how many hours you completed; or if not on your transcript, submit our [Non-Credit Internship form](#) to document your full or partial experience.

Jeremy David Engels
Director, Paterno Fellows Program

Virtual Global Internship Opportunities

As we learn to live and work in the world affected by the coronavirus pandemic, organizations that provide international internships have developed programs that help students gain valuable work experience around the world – but remotely, from the safety of your own home. [Check out this list of virtual internships opportunities.](#)

Penn State Internship Guidelines during Remote Instruction

Students participating in summer internships should make sure they are familiar with the Penn State internship guidelines during remote instruction. [Please review the policy.](#)