Dear student,

In the last few weeks we have seen that the coronavirus situation in many parts of Europe has become more manageable and that restrictions in daily life and regarding entry and exit have been relaxed. We have also experienced how fragile the situation is, how quickly case numbers can change and how quickly countries, districts or institutions must react by tightening restrictions again. We can also assume that university operations in Germany and abroad will continue to be organized in online or hybrid mode (combination of online and classroom teaching).

Against this background, the University of Applied Sciences Osnabrück advises students to arrange their study plan in such a way that a stay abroad, originally planned for Winter Semester 2020/21, is postponed to a later semester. This recommendation applies in particular to non-European destinations and very explicitly to countries for which the German Foreign Office has issued a travel warning.

Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences will not support mobility to countries for which a travel warning exists:
The Learning Agreement will not be signed as long as there is a travel warning. Learning Agreements which have already been signed remain valid.
Financial support from Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences through the payment of ERASMUS or PROMOS scholarships will only be provided from the date on which the travel warning is lifted.

If a (new or renewed) travel warning is issued during your stay abroad, the University of Applied Sciences will strongly recommend that you interrupt your stay and return home.
In this case, the University of Applied Sciences will examine to what extent it is possible to recognize course work that has already been completed.
Decisions on the continuation of the financial support will be made on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with the guidelines of the scholarship provider.

We expect you to inform your contact person at the Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences of any changes as soon as possible.

It is ultimately up to you to decide whether you want to take part in a semester abroad and to which country you will travel. The stay abroad takes place at your own risk and in your own responsibility.

Please note the following points:

- Observe the developments and course offerings at the foreign university.
- Regularly check the latest travel warnings and travel advice from the German Foreign Office as well as possible entry restrictions by the destination country.
- Find out whether there are any quarantine measures in place in the host country and whether you will have to pay any additional costs as a result.
- Book flights and accommodation as late as possible, as you may not be able to go abroad (e.g. because entry into the country is not permitted).
- There will probably be no further recall actions by the Federal Government. There is therefore a risk that, in the event of a crisis, it may not be possible to return to Germany from abroad.
- Register in the crisis preparedness list of the Foreign Office: Online registration in the crisis preparedness list for German citizens of the Foreign Office, www.elefant.diplo.de (inclusion in the e-mail distribution list of the “Landsleutebrief”)
- Take out a comprehensive international health insurance policy that covers risks beyond the existing health insurance in Germany. This includes, for example, repatriation in case of illness or death. Check whether your international health insurance also covers costs in connection with an epidemic/pandemic and whether benefits are provided even if a travel warning has been issued for the country.
- Consider taking out travel cancellation insurance/travel interruption insurance and clarify whether this insurance will cover costs related to an epidemic/pandemic.

Please contact the IFO of your faculty as soon as possible if you decide to postpone or cancel your semester abroad.

Best regards,

Prof. Dr. Andrea Braun von Reinersdorff
Vice President of Internationalization
Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences