

Winter Term 2022

Elon University/Isabella Cannon Global Education Center (GEC)

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: December 28, 2021

Academic Credit

1. What happens to my course credit or ELR if a program is canceled?
 - a. In the event of a program cancellation, Elon will endeavor to assist students in making alternative plans to earn credit. Those might include offering an alternate on-campus course during winter term, postponing the program to May/June, or other options depending upon the situation. If a student elects to withdraw from a program that has not been canceled, they should work with their academic advisor to find other academic options.
2. What happens to my course credit if I test positive for COVID-19 and have to quarantine?
 - a. As on Elon's campus, our ultimate goal is to help students complete their academic coursework. In the event of a quarantine, you would work with your faculty member to develop a plan for completing assignments.
3. How do I ensure that I get the on-campus winter term course I need, if my program is cancelled?
 - a. Regardless of when a winter term program cancellation is made, we will support students in academic advising. We are particularly mindful of graduating seniors that need to fulfill requirements for graduation.
 - b. The GEC cannot waive graduation requirements set by the institution. It is important to have a back-up plan to complete graduation requirements like an ELR (research, service, leadership or internship).
4. Should students sign up for winter term course as a backup in case a program gets canceled?
 - a. No, Elon is not able to have placeholders as there are not enough courses/seats available to do so.

Financials

1. If Elon cancels a program after financial deadlines have passed, will I get my money back?
 - a. If Elon must cancel a program between now and the date of departure due to Covid-19 restrictions, e.g. closed borders or prolonged mandatory quarantines, students can expect to receive a credit towards a future Elon global engagement program.
 - b. Students graduating in May 2022 will be given an option to participate in an Elon summer study away program or to receive a refund of their program fee after the program is officially canceled by Elon.

- c. The GEC cannot reimburse personal purchases, i.e. expenses not included in the billable program fee.
 - d. The GEC can provide guidance and assistance on any flights included in the program cost. Domestic connections or independent travel to the program (in cases of a recommended flight) would be the responsibility of the student. If booking with Direct Travel, they can provide assistance.
2. What are my options if I no longer want to go on a program, yet the program is not cancelled?
 - a. The GEC is happy to work with any student who opts to withdraw from a program. Details on how to withdraw can be found on the [GEC website](#), which includes a link to the required cancellation form. As listed on this site, please note that the GEC is not able to issue a refund. Program expenses are paid well in advance, regardless of whether a student goes. October 19, 2021 was the last date to withdraw with a partial refund for Winter Term 2022.
3. What will happen to my Elon study abroad scholarship if my program is cancelled or I withdraw?
 - a. Scholarships offered through Elon for study away programs are applicable for the stated semester. If you go on a future program, you will be considered again for funding, with any awards given based on the costs of the new program and your assessed financial need at the time of applying, as determined through Elon's financial aid office.
4. I don't see the Program Fee on my eBill. When will that be added?
 - a. Most fees have been added to eBill at this time. Some program costs were recently finalized and fees will be added shortly. Please feel free to email global@elon.edu if you do not see the fee on your eBill account by the first week of January 2022.
 - b. The required insurance is included in the billable cost of the program.
5. How much cash should I carry abroad? How should I go about carrying spending money?
 - a. Students may want to check with program leaders depending on location about an appropriate amount. A card with no international fees or no ATM fees may be a good solution for many program locations to replenish spending money so students can keep a relatively small amount on their person.
6. How do I apply my global experiences grant to my program fee?
 - a. Students must submit a form to have their grant applied to the program fee, which is accessible through the [Academic Advising website](#).
7. When is the Global Engagement Scholarship applied?
 - a. The information is with financial planning and will be applied soon.

COVID-19

1. Should I carry my original vaccine card when I travel?
 - a. Yes, you may need the original card when traveling. It is recommended that you keep it in a protective sleeve.

- b. It is also recommended that you keep an electronic copy of the card, such as with a photo on your phone.
2. Will students need to test for COVID prior to travel?
 - a. This will depend entirely on the country/itinerary, and may change between now and departure. The GEC will continue to monitor closely and communicate with students. If a test is required, students will be responsible for securing a testing appointment within the timeframe required.
 - b. Students returning to the US at the end of the program are required to have a negative COVID test, currently within one day of the return. This will be included in the program itinerary and costs will be covered by the program.
3. Will all students in the course be vaccinated? Can unvaccinated students travel?
 - a. Elon requires all students traveling abroad to provide documentation of being fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or the World Health Organization. As of December 28th, 2021, all Elon students traveling for winter 2022 study away courses have submitted proof of full COVID-19 vaccination.
 - b. The GEC cannot discriminate against medical conditions for some students that causes them to be unable to receive the vaccine. Non-vaccination due to medical reasons, while approved by Elon, the host country may have additional restriction, regardless of the reason. These may include not being able to attend classes, museums, restaurants etc.
4. Which Covid protocols do I need to follow while abroad?
 - a. Each country will be different, and so you will need to follow the guidelines provided by local authorities. In some locations, you will need to provide a Covid vaccination card or electronic pass to enter restaurants, museums, and other buildings. Masking requirements will vary as well. Note that in some countries a regular cloth mask is not deemed sufficient, and gaiters are not accepted in most places; you may need to wear a KN95 or other specific type of mask.
5. What happens if I contract COVID-19 during the program and I have to quarantine, or I'm hospitalized?
 - a. Just like Elon follows guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), you all will need to adhere to local public health protocols. If you test positive, typically the clinic that has given the test will be in touch with the local health department. Instructions will vary, yet you will normally need to quarantine for anywhere from 6-14 days depending on your location and vaccination status at the time.
 - b. If you do need to quarantine, the experience will be similar to what you can expect while quarantining at Elon: you will most likely be in a hotel room, someone will be checking in on you regularly via phone, you will have food brought to you, and you will receive additional medical care if you need it. Once your quarantine ends, the GEC will

work with faculty and our partners to get you caught up to the group both physically and academically. It will depend on when and where.

6. How do I handle my predeparture Covid testing?
 - a. If you are required to be tested prior to travel, please reach out to local testing facilities to make plans for predeparture testing now. The likelihood of a requirement coming into being is high. More details can be found on the [Healthy Elon website](#).
7. What if I got my vaccine through Elon but lost my card?
 - a. Please contact Rhonda Waller, Executive Director of Global Engagement, at rwaller3@elon.edu

Flights and travel

1. How can I find specific entry requirements for my program?
 - a. The GEC will provide updates as available. At the same time, changes can take place at any time, and it is ultimately the host country immigration officials and/or airline that will be responsible for enforcing regulations. For the most up-to-date information, it is recommended that you follow any updates that you receive from your airline and that you check the embassy site for the country your program starts in.
 - b. If you are flying through another country, please look at the transiting rules for that country/airport. In some situations, you may be required to meet that country's entry requirements as well.
2. When do we confirm flights?
 - a. If you booked through Direct Travel, you should have received your flight itinerary. You are to check in at the airport and not in advance. Seat assignments have been given to all group participants. If you would like to add your frequent flier number or request an upgrade, please do so at the airport.
3. Who can I contact to assist with booking flights?
 - a. If your flights were booked through Direct Travel, there should be program-specific contact information in the Official Flight Itinerary, but you can also reach out to the team at directed@dt.com. You should have an official flight itinerary or recommended flight (depending on the program) in your [MyElonGlobal](#) application. There is also information included on booking domestic connections.
4. How will our students know which countries require a visa?
 - a. You will have been advised of this by your program manager or faculty members. You can also check online for any requirements for the country to which you are traveling.

Logistic and additional questions

1. How are cancellations made? What's Elon's criteria?

- a. Elon consults a number of sources and experts for making decisions, including the U.S. State Department, CDC, WHO, and in-country partners. We take seriously the health of our students, faculty, staff, and host community members. Additionally, we consider protocols for entry into another country. For example, we have cancelled programs in countries that do not permit the arrival of non-nationals or that require an extensive quarantine for all arriving from outside of the country.

2. What does insurance cover?
 - a. The iNext policy taken out for program participants is robust for both travel insurance and health insurance. For travel, if an itinerary is changed due to covered factors (e.g. flight cancellations, weather), the insurance will cover the incremental cost of rebooking that travel. If a student cannot travel due to a medical reason, as certified by an attending physician, the cost of the program may be recoverable. Please note: travel insurance excludes cancellations due to Covid restrictions and costs for known (pre-departure) quarantine regulations.

For health care, the policy covers medically necessary, emergency treatment. If a student contracts Covid while on a program, the insurance covers all medical costs and incremental costs due to quarantine requirements up to \$250 per day for 10 days.

As with all insurance, the policy statement will determine exactly what is covered. Students received an email directly from iNext detailing coverage. If you have specific questions, please contact email kwinpisinger@elon.edu.

3. How do I know what vaccinations and medications I need for my program?
 - a. Please review the CDC site for medical recommendations. Also, there are travel clinics in both Greensboro and Durham where students and faculty have scheduled travel consults. Those clinics have issued prescriptions for malaria meds and have also given various vaccinations that might not be readily available at other clinics.

4. What do students do on their free time?
 - a. Given the short and intense nature of a short-term program, students are asked to stay in the same location/city as planned on the program itinerary. Students usually spend their free time exploring the host community with other peers in the program. It is not uncommon for the faculty to invite students to explore with them.

5. Do we need a power of attorney?
 - a. This is most likely not necessary. You can review information on the [GEC travel preparations site](#).

6. Is there a refund/credit for housing/meal plan while I am away for January term?
 - a. Depending on the meal plan, students typically do see some credit on the e-bill. There is no credit for housing.