

## Town Hall Transcript

### *Responding to a Worldwide Health Crisis and Travel Restrictions*

#### Poll Questions

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## Attendee Chat

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**Andrew Chen:** We provided Spring Break camps in Pittsburgh for high school Chinese students.

**Liza Carbajo:** Is there a way of knowing how many are cancelling programs in the Asia region vs. China?

**Liz Shearer:** Would be useful to poll which institutions have cancelled programs in other countries in Asia besides China

**Anh Phan:** Agreed with both Liza and Liz. Would be useful to hear ^

**Liz Shearer:** And which countries

**Sara Kochuba:** Is anyone canceling programs in South Korea for this spring?

**Laura Ochs:** Sara, we have not, but we understand that Yonsei has delayed their start.

**Liz Shearer:** Only canceling programs/prohibiting travel/study in China at this time. No other countries.

**Tim:** SNU has also delayed their spring quarter

**Eddie Contreras:** We have not at UP but Kookmin U (in Seoul) delayed start date for spring.

**Alice Yang:** Ewha in South Korea has delayed their start too.

**Julianne Jacques:** How are airport connections through Hong Kong being handled? (No time in country - just an airport connection)

**Kathy:** All Korea schools have been asked to delay start dates from 1-4 weeks to allow for students to quarantine if necessary.

**Liza Carbajo:** Has anyone cancelled summer programs to Japan?

**Susan Pham:** chung ang university delayed start by 2 weeks

**Kara Kauffman:** Liz - we cancelled our Spring break trip to Thailand

**Sara Kochuba:** Thanks....with the outbreak in Daegu I am benchmarking again

**Hannah Belshee:** I'm wondering if anyone has cancelled their summer programs to Japan as well

**Sue Macchiarella:** We have not cancelled S. Korea or Japan. We are watching Singapore at this time.

**Melissa Golowski:** I'd love to know about spring Japan and summer Thailand, too!

**Melissa Golowski:** And.. how layovers in Hong Kong to Japan might be dealt with by Japanese health protocol, if anyone happens to know

**Amy Weir:** Hannah, we have not cancelled travel to any place except China for now.

**Ken Nesbett:** We have programs to Japan in May, so far we are planning on going

**Samuel Cardamone:** Sogang University delayed by two weeks

**Opal Leeman Bartzis:** MSU has cancelled summer programs in China, Hong Kong and Singapore

**Samuel Cardamone:** SUNY Geneseo will continue the program operation in South Korea and Japan

**Dineo Brinson 2:** Selected exchange visitors from China have been halted from coming to the U.S. for the ECA programs implemented at my institution

**Liz Shearer:** We're still planning on allowing students to study in Japan this summer at this point.

**Tim:** Taiwan considers Hong Kong as part of Mainland, so students connecting through HK will need to be quarantined upon arrival in Taiwan

**Stephanie Cleland:** We have a spring break program to Japan, have not cancelled at this point

**Melissa Golowski:** ^ That's what I'm worried about for our spring student going to Japan, Tim...

**Tim:** We have recommended students traveling anywhere to avoid connections in China is possible

**Krittika Onsanit:** Note that when trying to book a flight to Beijing and Shanghai via Orbitz or Expedia that it didn't find these destinations in the flight search engine. Very interesting

**Josh Rubin:** This is slightly old now but nevertheless was helpful in dispelling some of the media hysteria:

**Josh Rubin:** [https://www.reddit.com/r/Sino/comments/ex984w/corona\\_virus\\_myths\\_and\\_facts/](https://www.reddit.com/r/Sino/comments/ex984w/corona_virus_myths_and_facts/)

**Tim:** Some good information here:

<https://multimedia.scmp.com/infographics/news/china/article/3047038/wuhan-virus/index.html?src=article-launcher>

**Brian McGuinness:** Anyone still traveling to Vietnam and or Cambodia next month?

**Lisa Hauck:** Are universities including offices such as Registration and Records all shut down in China?

**Josh Rubin:** My organization tracked using this website throughout the height of the outbreak:

**Josh Rubin:** <https://covid19info.live/>

**Lisa Hauck:** We are hearing from students that they aren't able to get transcripts sent

**Alyette Mangin Nixon:** we have several J-1 scholars able to book flights back to China. Air China

**Amy Weir:** Are many of you having to assist F-1 students on OPT who need to apply for STEM OPT from China, since they're stuck?

**George Dordoni:** ISSS question -- Student arrived from China at beginning of semester, self-quarantined and missed 1st two weeks of class. Since it was self-quarantine, no MD documentation exists for the RCL. What would you suggest?

**UCSB:** Re: students unable to return in spring. UCSB int'l office has worked with Summer Sessions and Registrar offices to defer readmission/reinstatement and enrollment for students who would have returned in spring

**Connie Childs:** George, can the student now get a letter from student health services attesting to the self-quarantine and that it was a prudent measure?

**Amy Weir:** George, could your Student Health Services Office help with this? Maybe someone there could produce the documentation.

**George Dordoni:** That's the direction we were hoping to go, Amy and Connie

**Lynda Duncan:** Can we legally ban an exchange visitor from travelling to China or can we only recommend.

**Ben Waxman:** Does Nafsa see any implications for CPT or OPT students?

**Patricia Juza:** Will these very helpful links that colleagues have been sharing in the chat box be collected into a document that can be shared out? Or, will we need to scroll through the whole chat to access the links?

**Susan Peters:** Do you have any recommendation for fundraising or soliciting essentials for donations to meet needs in China?

**john jensen:** What criteria, other than DOS warning levels, are institutions using to make determinations regarding cancellation or re-routing of study abroad programs?

**Lisa Lyman:** We've postponed summer study abroad programs to China until Summer 2021

**Erin @ NAFSA:** @Patricia- Yes, the links from the chat will be available in a transcript that we will post on the website

**Cassidy Hammond:** @susan Fedex will accept monetary donations and buy essentials and ship them

**Tom Martinek:** @John Jensen We use Drum Cussac reports available through our insurance (GeoBLue) to give more insight into health and safety concerns to inform our decision making

**Sara Kochuba:** we use intel from our insurance company

**Sara Kochuba:** what has also been challenging is the limitations on coverage for pandemics/epidemics for insurance...

**Ben Waxman:** Intead Recruiting Guidance posted yesterday:  
<https://services.intead.com/blog/adjusting-your-chinese-recruiting-10-insights-to-guide-your-plan>

**Alejandra Parra 2:** yes, that has been a challenge

**Tiffany Jacob:** @saraKochuba what are you finding regarding insurance limitations for epidemics?

**Melissa Golowski:** @ Sara, yes we've found that too

**Andrew Chen:** NAFSA China MIG has a mailing list and a WeChat group. We have offered open QA sessions and some internal discussions.

**Chris Van Velzer:** @Lisa Hauck: regarding your earlier question regarding whether universities and offices are open in China at the moment - the answer is a resounding "no." - in particular for major sending regions in BJ, SH, GZ, etc. Likely to be closed completely for at least another week or two.

**Melissa Golowski:** @Tiffany our insurance company doesn't cover anything based on CDC recommendations, and would only cover related medical incidents

**Alice Yang:** A few IE professionals hosted a Q&A online session on Feb. 5 (five hours before the US closed its border to arrivals from China and answered more than 40 questions raised by students and parents in China. Can we translate some slides of this PPT into Chinese so that more Chinese students and parents know what NAFSA is doing for them? China MIG would like to help with that.

**Kristen Cruz:** What are your universities doing regarding programs traveling to other Asian countries? Notably Japan, Vietnam and Thailand?

**Namiko Bagirimvano:** To Andrew Chen: I saw the QA sessions info but everything was in Chinese and I'm wondering if you are able to share the summery etc in English with NAFSAns?

**Melissa Golowski:** @ Kristen - we are not cancelling yet for spring/summer for those countries, but I'm also curious to see what others are doing

**Sara Kochuba:** @TiffanyJacob - our insurance has limitations for security evacuations for pandemics/epidemics. They will not evacuate due to covid-19. They will cover healthcare if a participant would become ill but not evacuate them unless medically necessary

**Sara Kochuba:** they would do a medically-necessary evacuation

**Hannah Belshee:** @Sara - which insurance do you have?

**Andrew Chen:** We can translate the questions into English. The answers and video are in Chinese by Chinese-speaking U.S. IE professionals.

**Vanessa Sterling:** Can we please be careful to make sure we are discussing mainland China (and thus not Taiwan, HK, and Macau)?

**Hannah Belshee:** @ Kristen - we aren't cancelling our programs in Japan yet either

**Jessie:** Are there colleagues from small liberal art college here? Our student reside on campus, and they are worry about summer housing if they cannot travel back to China. What did your institutions do to help those students?

**Sara Liang:** What types of messages are you sharing with your study abroad students who are studying around the world (not in China). What types of recommendations are you giving the students regarding travel and excursions? I am developing a resource for these students of recommendations for international travel during this time, but I'd love to see other examples.

**Ling Jin:** @Andrew Chen: how can we access the Q&A documents?

**Fumi Cheever:** @Kristen- Our Study Abroad in japan is still scheduled

**Sara Kochuba:** small liberal arts here

**Kater Lee:** We just had a large group of Chinese national students travel overseas for study abroad programs (1 week). They were given some additional questioning on entry into the 3rd countries, but nothing else. They have all been in the US since January and the start of the term.

**Andrew Chen:** Questions - can Chinese students get F-1 visa from outside of China? We have a high school student just got visa rejected on Jan 15. Now getting stuck in China. Can he get visa from Dubai?

**Dariusz Baran 2:** I am dealing with several Chinese universities, all have classes delayed and only online. Schools in Shanghai are closed to the end of this month.

**Hannah Belshee:** @Jessie - our institution is looking at giving students discount housing for the summer if they can't go home

**Karen Edwards:** We are a small residential college, and we are working to consider additional summer housing options

**Amy Weir:** Jessie, I work for a small, residential liberal arts college, and I think our housing office will allow students to stay over the summer, but for a nominal fee, likely.

**Mia Song:** Went to a PHL Airport tour last week. In Philadelphia, CBP said they would not target Chinese nationals for extra screening if they are traveling to other countries besides China though different airports may have a different response

**Tami Renner 2:** To second @sarahliaang, I am also wondering what communication is being issued to students who are traveling in coming months, and especially students planning study abroad to China starting in Fall semester?

**Melissa Golowski:** small liberal arts - We haven't discussed it yet, but I think we'd also be able to provide low-cost housing over the summer if necessary to our Chinese students

**Kristen Cruz:** @Jessie, @Amy, @Hannah we're doing the same. We're offering housing at a nominal fee for those who cannot return to their home countries. Small Liberal Arts here

**Vanessa Sterling:** Is NAFSA doing any advocacy with Dept of State to get clarity on how/why/when they will step down from Level 4 (and what their criteria might be)?

**Cindi Lewis:** I am interested in @vanessa's question too

**Liz Shearer:** We're helping students who were scheduled to study abroad in China in the summer or fall to switch to programs in other countries.

**Andrew Chen:** Document question and answer here:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dhUEj9UhgyqSYmejwF5sjlJufJsSmTcQz6Kg4Ko6JeY>

**Alice Yang:** Feb. 5th Q&A Online Session (in Chinese):  
<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/wTx4UPdlAmsrW3h2rKdelQ>

**Liza Carbajo:** Can you share what are you doing in terms of your contingency plan?

**Sara Kochuba:** we are doing soft advising to students to choose alternate programs for fall/

**Sara Kochuba:** does anyone know of any spring 2020 programs still accepting students?

**Jessie:** Will there be sessions/discussions in this year's National Conference focus on the ConV issues? I know the deadline has way passed, but it is helpful if we have that, at least a place for discussion and ideas exchange.

**Cindi Lewis:** We are also doing soft advising for alt locations for fall

**Andrew Chen:** Raw video here: <https://v.qq.com/x/page/v3060h91zrw.html>. Video with text here:  
<https://www.wholeren.com/4ddd9a2a95>

**Ying-Sing Lai:** At USF, we sent out Chinese message on Chinese student and scholar association through Wechat to provide resources and information

**Aleithia Stephens:** We are also doing soft advising for alternate locations for FA19

**Andrew Chen:** Raw video here also: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7spvtPsAiSQ>

**Kathy Hammett:** The annual conference committee is currently working on developing a plan for including/addressing the ConV issues.

**Elizabeth Leibach:** Our local tv station aired a very educational segment including an interview of a student on our campus and how we need to teach kids how to properly respond to Chinese students. We have to also consider our outlying community as well as our internal community on

campus. <https://www.lex18.com/news/covering-kentucky/uk-graduate-student-weighs-in-on-coronavirus>

**Andrew Chen:** Question again: Can some answer: Can Chinese student get F-1 visa from 3rd country while Chinese visa service is closed

**Kim Diehl de Yanes:** @Andrew Chen. Yes.

**Matt Byrnes:** Kathy Hammett - would you willing to share the plan for our conferences: GIC & CIEE Annual Conference? I'd be happy to participate and share info....

**Alice Yang:** Feb. 2nd Q&A Online Session (in Chinese):<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/wTx4UPdIAmsrW3h2rKdeIQ> (The date was Feb. 2nd. Sorry for the error.)

**SB:** @Kim where are these embassies specifically?

**Kathy Hammett:** Matt Byrnes - I will get with you.

**Kim Diehl de Yanes:** We know it has happened in the past. Students will need to reach out to embassies/consulates for their situations.

**Jessie:** Could someone send the link of the 5C's article? I didn't catch that

**Sara Kochuba:** <https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/coronavirus-critical-resources>

**Katie C:** In the past couple of years, our Russian students traveled to a third country to renew visas without issue. I provided a letter clarifying why bc wait times were long due to the closing of St Petersburg consulate. If you have students who need to renew a visa in a 3rd country, you should provide a letter detailing the situation.

**Erin @ NAFSA:** Here is a link to the 5 Cs article: <https://www.nafsa.org/ie-magazine/2019/3/1/managing-fears-effective-communication>

**Sara Liang:** Does anyone have an example of a message they are sending to individual study abroad students with general international travel advice in light of COVID-19? I am working on a message, but would love other examples.

**Andrew Chen:** @Kim Can you provide your contact info about 3rd country visa. Thanks

**Ling LeBeau:** U.S. embassy has resumed visa services in China

**Erin @ NAFSA:** @Tracey, Sound should be available through your computer speakers

**Marlene Arnold:** Ling, that is good news. When did they resume them?

**Ling LeBeau:** I believe a couple of days ago



**Nelly Wadsworth:** Can you share your decisions if you canceling programs in china in Summer?  
Thank you

**Jody Heckman Bose:** [ustraveldocs.com](http://ustraveldocs.com) still shows visa services suspended

## Web Links

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[NAFSA Survey - EVs from China Affected by Coronavirus](#)

[NAFSA Coronavirus Critical Resources](#)

[IIE Survey - Effects of COVID-19 on U.S. Higher Education Campuses](#)

[Managing Fears with Effective Communication](#)