

Experience of international undergraduate students learning remotely



Survey metrics

- Administered by Associate Provost for International Affairs and Operations, Davis International Center and Office of International Programs
- Administered October 31 to November 15
- Response rate = 281 of 678 (41%) invited undergraduates
- Students in following time zones

Time zone	East Coast	1-3 hours	4-6 hours	7-9 hours	10-12 hours	13-18 hours
Number	62	28	56	57	28	50
Locations		Other parts of North and South America	Western Europe	Eastern Europe, Eastern and Southern Africa	South Asia	East Asia, Australia/NZ

Key Survey Themes:

- Being abroad has had as substantial impact on the academic and co-curricular experience
- Challenges increase with geographic distance from Princeton
- Accommodations have been highly variable

What factors are impacting your academic experience?

Academic	Non-academic	Environmental
Timing of coursework components, especially office hours	Uncertainty about obtaining a visa to study in the US	Internet, VPN, and power disruptions
Limited peer-to-peer learning in study groups, group projects	Lack of motivation and limited peer engagement	Caregiving responsibilities for family members
Delayed arrival of or access to kits for lab classes	Changes to the calendar including shortened fall break	Limited time with family due to inverse schedules
Lecture and precept lengths have changed (some longer, some shorter)	Inability to maintain campus job remotely (financial hardship)	Distraction of living in a shared space with family or other students (no quiet spaces)
Access to library materials, printers	Responsibility for food prep	Severe lockdowns in some countries where people are not allowed to leave their homes for significant periods

Recommendations

Faculty-specific:

- Pre-record or live record all lectures and as many precepts as possible; post promptly; consider adjusting participation requirements
- If feasible, offer some office hours, labs, precepts or review sessions before 9am ET so students in Europe or Asia can join
- Increase flexibility around exams and assignments; see new policy on spring final exam period and take-home exams
- Keep in mind the challenges/limitations for international students as you plan and implement all aspects of the course

Academic

- Set policies and promote flexibility by faculty members
- Accommodate time zones differences for ODOC programs
- Improve access to academic materials
- Check-in with international students to solicit their questions and concerns
- Promote student rest during spring break

Thank you!

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