

Feb. 3, 2021

Dear campus community,

I am eager to welcome everyone back to campus for the start of spring classes. I have shared this sentiment many times over the last few months, but I am proud to serve an institution that cares so deeply about one another — even during a global pandemic that continues to cause us so much uncertainty and worry.

While we will continue to follow [updated safety protocols and special COVID-19 policies](#) that were in place last fall, I am optimistic that this semester will bring us a step closer to normalcy.

We are committed to offering on-campus, in-person summer research experiences to students, beginning **May 26**, as part of the College's Summer Collaborative Research Program. Off-campus, student-faculty research will also be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Other career-discerning experiences (e.g. EPIC Advantage) will also be considered on a case-by-case basis. Those include off-campus, in-person internships, micro-internships, field study and practicum programs, certification and training courses.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to safely accommodate college-sponsored travel in the spring. Under current circumstances, we cannot ensure the health and safety of our students and employees without restricting travel. This means that we are cancelling the Japan Studies program planned for later in the spring. We regret the loss of this impactful experience for both Earlham students and those from other GLCA schools.

As we considered summer research and travel, several factors framed our decisions including safety related to travel, planning time, administrative limitations, and non-refundable cost commitments (and timelines). Of course, changing circumstances related to the virus could still change these plans, so expect updates from me throughout the spring terms.

Please see the attachment on this e-mail for additional details and protocols about our anticipated summer program offerings. Applications for EPIC experiences will not be available until mid-February. Students can check the [CGCE website](#) for updates.

Thanks to the many people involved in developing these plans and protocols, ably led by Mike Deibel, Dean of Faculty.

With hope and gratitude,

Anne

Anne M. Houtman
President
Earlham College and Earlham School of Religion

Rules and regulations for anticipated summer 2021 learning experiences

Research

For the summer, we will be permitting on-campus, in-person summer research as part of the Summer Collaborative Research Program as well as other programs such as McNair. In order to minimize risk, the following restrictions apply:

1. All research must begin on May 26.
2. All student researchers must have a rapid COVID test at the start of the research
3. Research must follow current classroom and lab COVID protocols (e.g., 6' distance, masks) that are in place for spring.
4. We will continue to maintain a closed campus. This means that non-Earlham collaborators will not be allowed on campus during this period, nor will student-faculty groups be permitted to conduct research in the community. Additionally, students who have been accepted to participate in on-campus summer research will not be permitted to work or live off campus during this time period.

Off-campus, student-faculty research will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Participating students may not reside on campus. All participants will be expected to arrive with a recent negative COVID test, as required when returning to campus for the spring semester.

Independent Student Experiences

For the EPIC Advantage program, we have no scheduled group programs at this time. We will be approving, on a case-by-case basis, in-person domestic Independent Student Experiences (internships, micro-internships, field study and practicum programs, and certification and training courses). International Independent Student Experiences will only be considered for students returning to a country in which they have legal residence allowing the ability to work or intern. We will also continue to honor requests for funding for virtual experiences. Because we are currently planning to maintain a closed campus, students engaging in in-person experiences that occur outside of campus may not reside on campus.

Similarly, in-person **Richmond Residency placements** will also be considered on a case-by-case basis. In-person participants may not live on campus. Some partners may consider virtual placements as well.

The **McNair program** will proceed this summer with in-person, on-campus or off-campus research experiences approved on a case-by-case basis.

The **Freeman Asia program** will remain suspended for summer 2021, given that international placements for U.S. citizens are not tenable at this time.

Please note that applications for in-person EPIC Advantage experiences and for all Richmond Residency placements are not yet open and will likely not be available until mid-February. Please watch the CGCE website for updates.

Community Engagement

For any students planning to engage in Bonner Summer of Service or other community-engagement placements, the same policies will apply. In-person activities will be considered on a case-by-case basis, but participants may not live on campus. If someone is engaging in entirely virtual placements, on-campus housing will be an option as this would be consistent with our closed campus policy.

August Wilderness

The August Wilderness Program will proceed. All participants will be expected to arrive with a negative COVID test administered within ten days, as required when returning to campus for the spring semester. In addition, students will then receive a rapid test upon returning to campus for the fall semester.