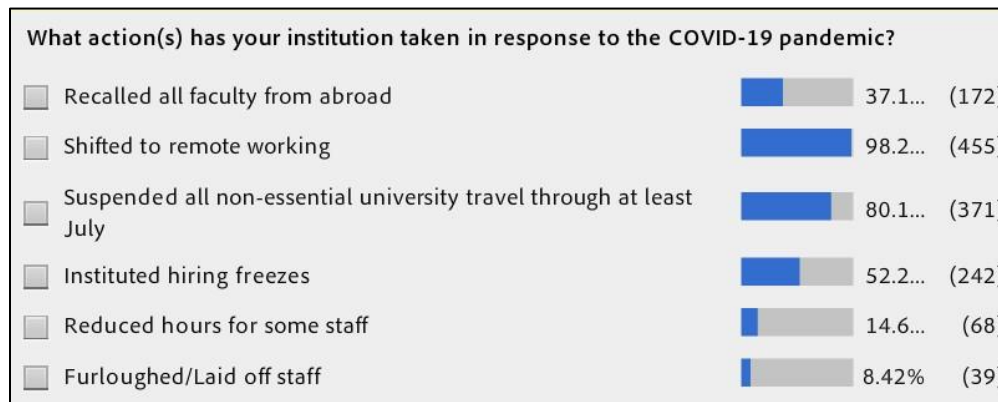
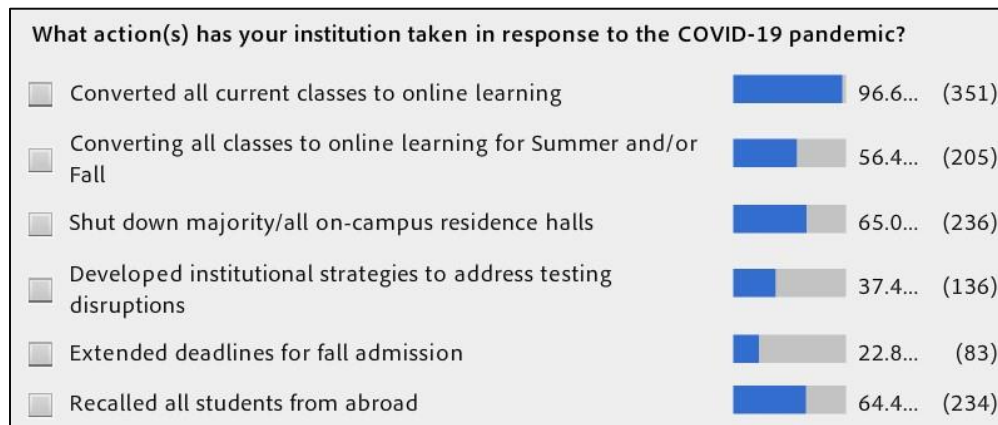


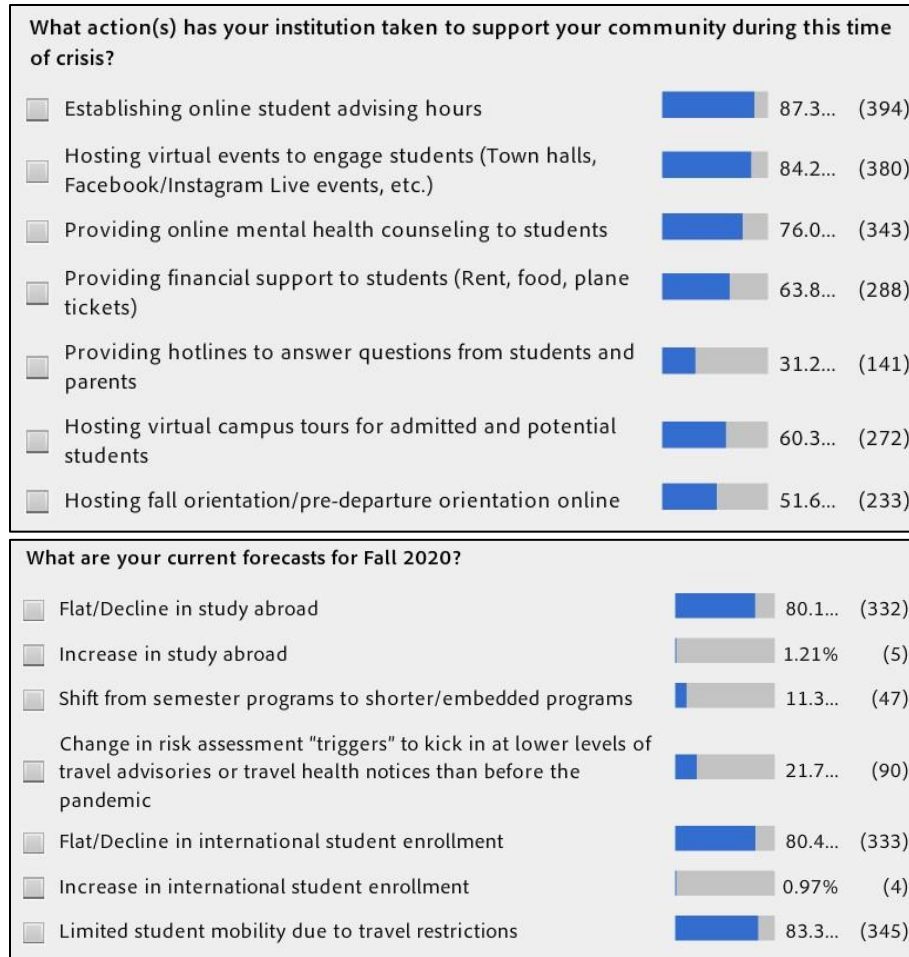
# Town Hall Transcript

## *Public Health and International Education – What's Now and What's Next*

### Poll Questions

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## Attendee Chat

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**David Barrutia:** <https://www.ibtimes.com/coronavirus-transmission-distance-13-feet-spreads-through-shoes-cdc-report-2957363>

**David Barrutia:** research yesterday mentions 13 feet

**Caroline White:** If you have questions for Dr. Chen, please post them here.

**Drew Gephart:** how long should schools/offices remain at home for us to continue to work remotely?

**Sara Kochuba:** Hi all. Would anyone be willing to share a timeline for decision making for fall 2020 study abroad? We are tentatively looking at June but that it TBD

**Addison Welsh:** Hi Sara, in the many institutions that I am working with, they are setting a deadline of June 15 - July 1 to decide on Fall programming. For others institutions that have fewer students going abroad, it is on a case-by-case basis

**Sara Kochuba:** Thanks @Addison

**Ana Gonzalez:** What is the truth behind having a second peak in the Fall/Winter?

**Bonnie Bissonette:** Why is Virginia's peak 2 weeks later than MD? Were they faster in getting non-pharmaceutical interventions in place?

**Heidi Sonesson 2:** Even if we have a resurgence in the fall, it seems that the question is whether we will have strategies for containing and mitigating circumstances. That is different than our current situation. Can this be addressed?

**Deborah Wilson-Allam:** When might we know that a fall resurgence is coming? What interventions does that depend on.

**Krishna Bista 2:** Thank YOU for inviting great speaker! Amazing

**Ana Gonzalez:** What is the best advice I can give to international students that are currently in the U.S. and hope to stay in the U.S. for their College journey. Should they just continue their education back home?

**Krishna Bista 2:** the follow up of this survey might be crazy! she said it was done last month, end of Feb

**Michael Schwartz:** But there was no lock down world wide with other outbreaks

**Elaine Del Rossi:** Excellent point

**Jeannie Jaworski:** I am confident that as soon as it is safe for travel to resume, it will be like a light switch. Our numbers will quickly resume to their pre-COVID-19 values. I do interviews with incoming first year students and they are all still interested.

**Michael Schwartz:** I hope you're right Jeannie.

**Addison Welsh:** Jennie, I am curious, while students are very resilient and interested in going abroad, with the economic impact, will students still have the means to study abroad?

**Michael Schwartz:** I agree with Addison. It's going to take families and institutions a while to recoup the lost income that could have been used to support study abroad.

**Jeannie Jaworski:** Addison - well THAT is a great question. But this is where we have to be myth busters to share that studying abroad can be more cost effective than studying on our campuses in the US.

**Bonnie Bissonette:** notice the flattening for 1-2 years after SARS. After this, it's likely to take much longer to recover

**Kara LaSota:** I also suspect that families will have more objections to study abroad than students do.

**Michael Schwartz:** Yep Kara. Families will be much more conservative.

**Maria Luisa Ferrand Estepan:** Agree - Jeannie and Michael

**Wissem Bennani:** Comparing this pandemic to small epidemics may impact the credibility of the data

**Ryan Donald:** I agree

**Kendra Calvert:** What are enrollment administrators hearing from prospective students about the option to study online in their home countries since travel to the US for fall 2020 is not a guarantee?

**sabrina bahir 3:** @Kendra Calvert, we are experiencing openness to it, but we are also putting into place transition plans from online to onground

**Kendra Calvert:** @sabrina Bahir 3 - good to know. I am hearing from some of our staff that it may be difficult to get visas if students start online and want to finish in person. how are you navigating this?

**sabrina bahir 3:** @Kendra Calvert-we haven't had issues with that in the past but it is a definitely concern and the school is creating legal language around that. If they start online, there is no guarantee that their visa will be approved for Spring.

**sabrina bahir 3:** @Kendra-feel free to contact me. [sbahir@thechicagoschool.edu](mailto:sbahir@thechicagoschool.edu)

Kendra Calvert: @sabrina bahir 3 - Thanks for the contact. Was about to ask. I am at kcalvert@ggu.edu (we are in SF, CA)

**sabrina bahir 3:** @Kendra-thank you! :-)

**Tina Rousselot de Saint Ceran:** We routinely allow international students to enroll online and then transfer to our on-campus grad programs. The only real challenge we experience is managing expectations for OPT. Visas are not typically a challenge.

**Eleonora Bagatelia:** I think the past outbreak surveys need to be crossed with economic downfall surveys, for us to be able to predict the future. This pandemic is crushing world economies

**Sara Kochuba:** This will impact our field for years to come. The disruption that occurred so quickly and so severely will leave many licking their wounds far into the future

**Krishna Bista 3:** Good questions!

**Randa Meyer:** I think international families will be conservative too about sending their students abroad. The U.S. is in the spotlight right now and how this pandemic has been handled; even when embassies and consulates open up again, I'm curious to whether the handling of this situation may push families to consider other destinations.

**Kendra Calvert:** @Randa Meyer - agreed. the US is a mixed bag in terms of how safe each location is.

**Jeannie Jaworski:** I am perhaps more concerned about what overall HEI downsizing will do to international education than what student interest will do to it.

**Kara LaSota:** Eleonora -- I think you're absolutely right -- there's really nothing in the historical data that is a reasonable comparison except the 1918 pandemic -- and there was a war on then.

**Dana Brolley 2:** have a few questions: 60 day overstay changes? US consulates opening for issuing visas? Any changes to OPT? expiring passports?

**Dana Brolley 2:** has anyone heard chatter about fall dates changes impacting new I-20s?

**Dana Poole:** @danaBrolley2 - me too!

**Sara Kochuba:** Is anyone advising students who do not already have passports to postpone fall 2020 study abroad? I am worried this will be a sticking point

**Sarah Singer:** @ Sara Kochuba: We are advising US students who do not have passport that they are unlikely to have sufficient time to obtain that passport as well as visa and to plan for a later semester.

**Sara Kochuba:** Thank you @Sarah Singer

**Michael Schwartz:** I'm hearing that embassies are closed so students can't get visas.

**Dana Brolley 2:** we have been told that some Chinese embassies are now scheduling appointments

**Tina Rousselot de Saint Ceran:** @dana brolley- I heard the same today, but haven't been able to confirm.

**Eleonora Bagatelia:** Jeannie Jaworski That is a very valid concern! share as well. It took IE professionals long time to convince Higer Ed that IE was necessary and now we need more understanding of the world, but IE is always a victim of budget cuts

**Ling LeBeau:** Any institution provides mental counseling to international students who have gone home?

**sabrina bahir 3:** @Ling LeBeau: Absolutely.

**Ling LeBeau:** I heard there are restricted regulations on the U.S. licensed counselor's service to students when they are abroad

**Tina Rousselot de Saint Ceran:** @Ling LeBeau- I've heard the same

**Cheryl Delk-Le Good:** A message I got from DOS Visa Consular said posts in China are changing on regular basis--interview dates but for those needing emergency appointments. Not for student visa apps.

**Jessica Schrader:** Counselors at my university in PA are only licensed to speak to students who are physically present in PA.

**Erin Parsons:** Is anyone hearing when TOEFL and IELTS might be able to be taken?

**Julie Johnston Hermann:** TOEFL has online (proctored) available in most all countries now.

**Alejandra Parra:** I understand there is an "at home" version of TOEFL that you can take (iBT)

**Cheryl Delk-Le Good:** And I believe IELTS does too!

**Chimin Lee Metzler:** ECA recommended that private sector sponsors follow the guidance issued as it relates to new programs being suspended for 60 days from 3/11/20. How does your institution determine the timing of sponsorship for new scholars on EVP? Is it business as usual? Does not sponsor any new scholars/programs until further notice?

**Michael Schwartz:** I had not heard that about TOEFL.

**David Barrutia:** Anyone creating virtual world like Minecraft?

<https://www.theverge.com/2020/3/31/21200972/college-students-graduation-minecraft-coronavirus-school-closures>

**Dana Poole:** @david Barrutia we are thinking about hosting our international end of semester event in a virtual space

**Alejandra Parra:** Yes, we are doing a Virtual Farewell as well

**Roxanne Lewis:** alejandra Parra What are you planning for your farewell? [Rlewis1@stetson.edu](mailto:Rlewis1@stetson.edu)

**Alejandra Parra:** Invite the highest GPAs to give a speech, and possibly a family member to congratulate him/her- also, mention accomplishments- use a festive background in Zoom....have one of our advisors give his motivational speech- invite our Vice President for FIU Global

**Kendra Calvert:** @Erin Parsons - we added Duolingo English Test to cover the countries that TOEFEL doesn't have take home options

**David Barrutia:** how is VR being used?

**sabrina bahir 3:** TOEFL at home: <https://www.ets.org/s/cv/toefl/at-home/>

**sabrina bahir 3:** Note that Iran and China do not have access to TOEFL at home.

**Kara LaSota:** We added English 3 because it's available where (and when) TOEFL/IELTS are not (also cheaper)

**Michael Schwartz:** VR has real possibilities.

**Patricia Juza:** <https://www.ets.org/s/cv/toefl/at-home/> - For information about ETS iBT TOEFL home edition

**sabrina bahir 3:** Kara, we are also looking at English 3 and Duolingo.

**Rachel Webb:** We temporarily decided to accept English3

**María Colín:** Is IELTS available online too? I heard from British Council that not yet

**Michael Schwartz:** English 3?

**Cheryl Delk-Le Good:** Michael, Google TOEFL ibT Special Home Edition and Other COVID-19 Updates

**Michael Schwartz:** Thanks Cheryl

**Maria Almendares:** We have been allowing Duolingo for undergrads and have now expended to allow for grad students until TOEFL can return to regular use.

**Rachel Webb:** <https://english3.com/>

**Kara LaSota:** @Sabrina -- our IEP director wasn't happy with the results of Duolingo -- felt it wasn't an accurate depiction of ability, but she's pretty jazzed about E3

**sabrina bahir 3:** @Kara LaSota-I'm not surprised. I have concerns about Duo also.

**sabrina bahir 3:** @Michael Schwartz: <https://www.english3.com/>

**Ana Gonzalez:** I have a student who would like to return to her home, but I am not sure if her country is taking flights. Where can I check if I can book a flight out and the arrival in her home?

**Kara LaSota:** @Anna Fragomen immigration has a really helpful list of travel restrictions that they update daily

**Kara LaSota:** [https://www.fragomen.com/about/news/immigration-update-coronavirus worldwide travel restriction information](https://www.fragomen.com/about/news/immigration-update-coronavirus-worldwide-travel-restriction-information)

**Tina Rousselot de Saint Ceran:** DOS also recommends contacting their Embassies within the U.S.  
<https://i1visa.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Embassy-Contact-List-for-EVs-Seeking-Repatriation-Assistance.pdf>

**Dana Brolley:** Any guidance for students currently in the US who are not able to remotely apply for renewing their passport?

**Cheryl Delk-Le Good:** Michael, just sent link to your email.

**Kendra Calvert:** Duolingo has corresponding TOEFEL scores to figure out the appropriate score. Only \$49 for students - <https://englishtest.duolingo.com/en>

**Michael Schwartz:** I'm skeptical of Duo also

**Alejandra Parra:** What about SSN for on-campus employment? Anyone dealing with that?

**Dana Brolley:** @alejandra also interested in SSNs

**Maria Almendares:** We require higher Duo scores than what they recommend as an equal TOEFL score.

**Dana Brolley 2:** the SSN offices are also closed and are currently not processing SSN applications

**Maria Almendares:** Students can also contact their embassy/consulate in the US for help regarding finding travel. We just heard today that Kuwait is scheduling repatriation flights for the end of April.

**Ana Gonzalez:** Thanks!

**Erin Parsons:** Thank you all!

**Michael Schwartz:** We have students from Latin America who cannot return home even if they wanted to.

**Tina Rousselot de Saint Ceran:** I spoke with SSA today. We're having to work closely on an emergency application process for visa holders who have never applied for social security cards.

**Dana Brolley:** Are institutions considering procedures for fall?

**gayle nadler:** [www.asirt.org](http://www.asirt.org) for country reports to gain a sense of local in country travel and road culture when traveling virtually

**Tina Rousselot de Saint Ceran:** We contacted our congressperson via the government liaison to reach an administrator and make arrangements.

**sabrina bahir 3:** @gayle nadler-thank you!

**Dana Brolley:** Changing procedures for fall term?

**Roxanne Lewis:** I am being asked to define the position value to the university...



**Roxanne Lewis:** so we all know that means they are looking at places to cut

**Tina Rousselot de Saint Ceran:** I understood from the SSA administrator I spoke with that mail in applications are not available for individuals over the age of 12 who have never applied for a social security card.

**Dana Brolley:** YES Ravi

**Dana Brolley 2:** they can only process new SSN applications in person

**Michael Schwartz:** Typical institution response. Love the \$\$\$ that international ed brings in but when hit with something like this, they won't support. Very short sighted.

**Tina Rousselot de Saint Ceran:** @Dana Brolley: Yes, correct. We're having to coordinate emergency appointments for 100+ at the local office.

**Dana Brolley 2:** and will return any SSN applications that have been mailed to them

**Dana Brolley 2:** we thankfully only have about a handful so far

**David Barrutia:** or economic recession

**Dana Brolley 2:** Will not process emergency SSN applications in our area

**Maria Almendares:** Keep in mind that a person has until the end of the year to apply for their SSN. So, unless they are leaving the US before the offices re-open, they can wait to apply.

**Ana Gonzalez:** We are hearing from current students who are facing devaluation and are very concerned about being able to afford their U.S. education

**Tina Rousselot de Saint Ceran:** Students were receiving the same message that SSA wouldn't process so we contacted our government liaison and worked with SSA via a congressperson. Instant response and willingness to help.

**Pamela Serota Cote:** Just wondering when schools will make decisions about Fall 2020. Hard to fathom we will be in a position to send students away.

**Tina Rousselot de Saint Ceran:** Our students can't wait because they are participating in CPT starting in a few weeks.

**Carolina De la Rosa Bustamante:** Are your institutions planning to continue to offer housing over the summer to students (international and otherwise) who cannot go home?

**Ana Gonzalez:** @Carolina - Yes

**Kara LaSota:** @Carolina -- yes, we are offering housing to those who can't go home (domestic and international)

**Tina Rousselot de Saint Ceran:** @Carolina- yes, our housing will be available this summer and houses primarily international students at this point.

**Kristina Bautista 3:** Please share some of your virtual events that you are hosting to engage with your International students during this time.





**Dana Brolley 2:** how can we assist short term scholars who have reached their maximum time but am unable to return home? suggestions?

**Maria Almendares:** Dana, They should have been automatically extended by 60 days (April or May end date). That will help some! Plus they will have the 30 day grace period. I hope that they can leave by October!

**Dana Brolley 2:** Thanks Maria!

**Maria Almendares:** Dana - EVP has sent great email info and posted updates online. Make sure to read through those at least weekly.

**Sarah Speir 2:** Any news of change towards opening up S.E.H. for F-1s based on COVID and impact on home country sponsorship?

**Sandy Soohoo-Refaei:** Hello, Ravi. I appreciate what you said about the need for us to redefine what study away would look like. I hope NAFSA will lead this important conversation. Same with student exchanges. Thanks, all, for organizing this Town Hall.

## Web Links

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[NAFSA Coronavirus Critical Resources](#)

[NAFSA Resources for Operational Resilience](#)

[University of Maryland Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health](#)