

Travel Alert: Arrival of incoming students from non-EU / EEA countries currently at risk

In July, our Admissions Officer had to inform incoming students from non-EU / EEA countries and their parents / guardians about the difficult and disappointing news on the current situation as regards to visas and entry to Germany. Under the existing Corona travel restrictions, 50 of our incoming students could not enter Germany, regardless of whether they have a visa already or whether they do not require to have a visa to enter Germany in the first place. (NOTE: all second-year students **can** enter Germany). This update is related to the fact that, while there are exceptions made to the entry restrictions to Germany for “university students”, this does not apply to “high school students”. This issue came up at some embassies after July 1. Since then, the College has attempted to get clarification from German authorities on this and we are actively lobbying for an inclusion of our high school students into the list of exceptions. So far, these attempts have not been successful; while we are told that there may be updates to the policy, there is not timeline for this.

After presenting our students with different options, we can currently confirm that 36 of the new first-years still hope to come to RBC when the German travel restrictions are lifted, 10 already deferred to join us next year in August 2021 and 4 decided to embark their journeys in another UWC in August 2020.

We reach out in empathy with all students in such uncertain circumstances, hoping that a way forward can be found for them to embark on their UWC journey, either at RBC or at another UWC.

For additional information on the options students now have, please refer to Hubertus Zander’s email to the affected students from July 17th. We will keep you informed about further news and developments.