Outbound Exchange and Study Abroad Students

Students going abroad for a semester or a school year, either through an exchange or study abroad program, are automatically enrolled in GeoBlue Student Travel Health Insurance. GeoBlue is mandatory and you cannot opt out of this travel insurance. Please contact your program coordinator at the UNC Study Abroad office [1] for GeoBlue insurance details.

Outbound Exchange

If you have your own health insurance plan, GeoBlue will be a supplementary travel insurance while you are out of the United States.

Exchange students are paying University fees with their travel exchange program. This means that the health insurance premium is attached to your tuition unless you waive out. Therefore, you must take an action to either waive or enroll in the Student Blue Health Insurance.

- If you do not want Student Blue while you are abroad, you can waive it using the GeoBlue plan, or your own domestic policy.
- You can enroll in Student Blue and be covered for the entire semester.
- You cannot enroll in Student Blue then drop the coverage during your travel dates, and sign back up when you return.

Study Abroad

If you have your own health insurance plan, GeoBlue will be a supplementary travel insurance while you are out of the United States.

Study Abroad students are not assessed university fees with their program and are therefore not required to waive the student mandatory plan. However, you are eligible to purchase the Student Health Insurance Plan for the entire semester directly with Blue Cross Blue Shield. Student Blue should be purchased before the policy effective dates (fall ? August 1; spring ? January 1) to ensure coverage for the entire semester. To
enroll contact BCBS at email@studentbluenc.com [2] or call 888-351-8283.

- You cannot enroll in Student Blue then drop the coverage during your travel dates, and sign back up when you return.

**Returning to the United States**

When you return from your Study Abroad or Exchange program and your GeoBlue travel insurance terminates, this is considered a qualifying life event, which allows you to purchase the Student Health Insurance for the remainder of the current semester. BCBS will provide the pro-rated insurance premium. You will have 30 days to enroll in the UNC System Student Health Insurance Plan after your travel insurance terminates. Contact BCBS directly to set up the qualifying event enrollment at email@studentbluenc.com [2] or call 888-351-8283.

**Traveling with Student Blue**

BCBS Global Core website students can find a provider/facility near them, review benefits, and submit claims.

The medical evacuation / repatriation component of Student Blue is managed by GeoBlue. Student Blue has emergency travel services if you are traveling outside of the United States. Student Blue works closely with GeoBlue to provide Medical Evacuation and Repatriation (MERE) in the event the student or PostDoc needs to return to the United States. The MERE member guide provides an overview of what the plan covers, general exclusions and instructions to contact GeoBlue’s Global Health and Safety Team.

**Source URL:** https://campushealth.unc.edu/charges-insurance/insurance/outbound-exchange-and-study-abroad-students

**Links**
[2] mailto:email@studentbluenc.com