



The University of Vermont

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Living/Learning B-101

633 Main Street, Burlington VT 05405

802-656-4296 • Fax: 802-656-8553 • uvm.edu/oie

June 1, 2020

Dear students planning to study abroad Fall 2020,

In a March 30 communication, we indicated that the University would decide by June 1 whether to allow semester study abroad to proceed for programs commencing July – October. Conditions globally, as further detailed below, remain largely unchanged as of this time. Therefore, UVM is rescinding your study abroad approval for Fall 2020. You will not be charged the study abroad fee.

We recognize that this is very disappointing news. If you would like to defer to Spring 2021, and/or discuss study abroad in a future term, please reply to this email or call us to schedule an appointment at 1-802-664-0053 (Google voice is in use while we are working remotely). A decision regarding Spring Study Abroad will be announced in November, 2020.

You were advised in March to prepare for this possibility. Therefore, the remaining steps for you to complete will be minimal:

Notification of program: If you are enrolled on an external or direct-enroll program, **please notify your program/host university directly of your withdrawal, and notify them if you would like to defer.** We will inform exchange partners, ISEP and the Buckham program, of fall cancelation; we will solicit their input on whether deferring to a future term is possible for the program in which you were placed and will notify you once we hear from them.

Course registration: Though we advised you in March to register for on-campus courses here at UVM, in the event you did not do so and/or need additional guidance, please reach out to the student services advising staff of your UVM School/College.

Factors influencing the decision to cancel Fall 2020 study abroad:

- At this time, the US Department of State Global Health Advisory Level 4: Do Not Travel is still in place, recommending against all international travel. This advisory is due to the following:
 - o Significantly reduced commercial airline flights for departure from many countries;
 - o Many countries have implemented travel restrictions and mandatory quarantines, closed borders, and are prohibiting non-citizens from entry;
 - o Reduction of U.S. consulate and embassy staff in some locations which will inhibit the ability of the U.S. government to assist foreign nationals in those locations.
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control maintains a Level 3 global warning to avoid non-essential travel due to the following reasons:

- o People with serious chronic medical conditions are at increased risk for severe disease;
- o There may be limited access to adequate medical care in affected areas;
- o U.S. citizens and residents may have difficulty returning to the U.S.
- Many consulates globally remain closed, and therefore it is not possible to apply for visas.
- Airline flight availability remains limited, reducing travel opportunities.

UVM highly values study abroad experiences as part of our students' education, and regrets that the current circumstances require us to take this step.

Sincerely,



Kim Howard
Director
Office of International Education