

*Dear Fall 2020 and Academic Year 2020 Study Abroad Applicants:*

*These last several weeks and months have required difficult decisions be made across the university. Unfortunately these challenging decisions have not only affected the spring 2020 semester, but will also impact future terms as well. To this end, it is with much disappointment that we announce today that Penn is suspending its inbound and outbound semester abroad programming for fall 2020. This was a difficult decision to make, and certainly a decision that was not made lightly. We know many of you were looking forward to your abroad term, and we were looking forward to supporting you through your journey.*

*Penn Abroad worked with Penn leadership, campus partners, home schools, and our abroad partners and providers as we worked through this decision. Several factors needed to be considered to ensure that any decision made was being done so in the best interest of Penn students. This included international travel and government advice including the US government (including CDC and Department of State) on health and travel safety restrictions for US travelers, suspended visa issuance from consulates and embassies, foreign government travel and quarantine requirements, restrictions imposed on visitors, and information on when these restrictions may be lifted. Each program also needed to be reviewed to better understand the impact of COVID-19 for fall programming, and to identify programs abroad that have either scaled back their opportunities for students, who aren't accepting students for Fall 2020, or have closed.*

*While our global climate is too uncertain at present to move forward with student global mobility in the upcoming fall 2020 term, we are looking ahead to the future and when we will once again see our global programming thrive at the University of Pennsylvania. We hope you will continue with us in your global journey at that time. To help us prepare for the future, we are asking all fall and academic year 2020 applicants to **please complete the following by June 30:***

- *Email your Global Programs Manager to indicate if you will:*
  - ***Fully withdraw your Penn Abroad application and not pursue a future term abroad at this time.***

*Penn Abroad will contact your host institution and fully withdraw your application to your host program. Penn Abroad will absorb any unrecoverable costs to your host institution. You are responsible for any personal unrecoverable costs, such as flights, housing, etc.*

- ***Defer your abroad term to spring 2021, same program.***

*Penn Abroad will coordinate with your host institution to manage the deferral process. Your Global Programs Manager will indicate whether any additional steps will be needed for your host program application. Within the Penn Abroad application, Wharton and Engineering students will need to re-submit the home school academic approval form. All other parts of the Penn Abroad application for Wharton and Engineering students will carry forward to spring 2021. For College and Nursing students, all parts of your application including your home school approval will carry forward to spring 2021. For students applying to programs where we have more demand from Penn students than space*

*available on the program, admissions preference will be given to applicants that needed to defer their abroad term from fall 2020 to spring 2021.*

- ***Defer to fall 2021 or beyond, or change programs for spring 2021.***

*Your Global Programs Manager will advise on what additional steps you will need to take both within your host university application and within the Penn Abroad application. This will include needing a new home school academic approval.*

*Once more and on behalf of the entire Penn Abroad team, we are sorry to share this disappointing news with you today but are hopeful that you will be able to continue to explore global opportunities at Penn with our team when it is suitable again to do so.*

*Kind regards,  
Penn Abroad*

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