May 18, 2020

Dear Fall 2020 Study Abroad Students,

Please read this entire letter carefully as each paragraph contains important information.

We hope you are all safe and in good health as we all continue to face a very challenging global crisis. Loyola University Maryland and our Office of International Programs (OIP) have been following very closely the spreading of Covid-19 around the world. This global health crisis may last for many more months both here and abroad, and it is difficult to assess when it will be safe to travel domestically and internationally. The Department of State Global Health Alert is still at “Level 4: Do Not Travel”. Many embassies and consulates worldwide are still closed and are not processing visas. Some countries have created even more demanding visa requirements for visiting internationals in light of Covid-19. In addition, even though many countries are trying to progressively reopen there are many unknowns: how will foreign countries, universities, and airlines accommodate foreign students in light of Covid-19, and what will be the welfare of our students should there be a ‘second wave’ of the virus as predicted by many medical experts?

Consequently, Loyola has had to make the difficult decision to close all fall 2020 study abroad programs. This includes your program. If you are interested, we can try to send you to study abroad in the same program in the spring of 2021. However, we will need to confirm with our partners abroad if they can accommodate the fall overflow into the spring. Please let me know if you are interested in studying abroad in the spring. If it is possible for you to go in the spring, you will need to save certain courses for abroad. All students must be able to demonstrate that they will be able to take a full load of 15 credits abroad.

Please email me by Monday, June 15, 2020, if you are interested in going abroad in your same program for the spring 2021. If you are still interested, we hope to have more information after June 15 about the availability in your program.

Some other programs may have limited spaces to take additional students. If your program cannot accommodate you and you wish to be considered for another program, please indicate this in your email.

Loyola’s Records Office and Academic Advising and Support Center (AASC) will work directly with you to register you, in Baltimore, for the fall of 2020. AASC will manually register you and adviser permission will be waived as study abroad students have already discussed their registration options either with their adviser or with OIP.

Please email AASC at aasc@loyola.edu with the list of classes for which you want to be registered, in Baltimore, for the fall of 2020. Once again, please keep in mind that you will need
to save enough course options open to take abroad if you wish to study abroad in the spring 2021.

The University is currently working to develop housing plans to support students whose programs have been closed. These plans will include working to provide housing through Loyola on a space-available basis. You will receive a separate communication next week from Student Life with more information about the next steps. It is important for you to update your intent and share if you will request housing through Loyola or if you want to secure your own housing. Please note, the University is committed to working toward reopening our campuses on time and in person for the fall semester, though we will, of course, only do this if we can ensure a safe return to campus for our community. We look forward to having you as a member of the Loyola community this fall.

We are very sorry you will not be able to study abroad next fall semester. This decision had to be made as your health and safety remain Loyola’s top priorities. Please email ASSC regarding your registration at Loyola, read carefully the housing instructions you will soon receive from Student Life, and let us know if you have any question about your planned study abroad courses.

Best regards.

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