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February 29, 2020

Dear Spring 2020 Bentley Study Abroad Students,

As the outbreak of coronavirus continues to evolve, I am writing to keep you informed. On the evening of February 28, the Centers for Disease Control increased the travel warning advisory for Italy to Level 3: Avoid Nonessential Travel and today the US Department of State increased its Travel Advisory Level for Italy to Level 3: Reconsider Travel. Today we notified all Bentley students currently studying in Italy to depart. Their study abroad programs are coordinating remote continuation of their studies. We advise all Bentley students to avoid traveling to Italy.

Bentley has also cancelled spring break international courses to ensure that no member of our community experiences delays or difficulties reentering the U.S. While none of the countries hosting these programs fall under the CDC's current travel advisory, due to the rapidly changing international travel restrictions we felt it was the most prudent course of action to make sure students and faculty are able to return to campus on March 16 to continue their course and work obligations.

Before planning personal travel during weekends or academic breaks, stay aware of changing conditions and consider exploring your own host country as an alternative! Wherever you may travel, we recommend you utilize AlertTraveler and/or U.S. Department of State, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization to inform yourself of the potential for travel interference including entry restrictions, exit screenings at airports and/or quarantine measures based on your citizenship, past travel history or destination country.

We have full confidence in our partners and affiliates around the world to continue to support you, and we have full confidence in you as Bentley ambassadors in the world. Continue to maintain your healthy habits. In these unprecedented times remember that you DO have control to manage the risks most common to students: excessive alcohol, automobiles, and risky behavior. Your personal actions have the largest impact in minimizing your risk, and we are proud that Bentley students are nothing if not PREPARED!

Please reach out to your study abroad advisor with any questions or concerns. Bentley will continue to post updates on our response to the coronavirus at www.bentley.edu/coronavirus.

With best wishes for a healthy and rewarding learning experience,

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