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March 16, 2020

Dear Accepted Fall and Academic Year 2020-21 Study Abroad students,

As of this writing, we are expecting all 2020-21 study abroad programs to continue as planned. We know that you have questions during this extremely uncertain time, and we hope this message will answer many of them. We appreciate your patience as we have worked to adapt to this unprecedented situation.

Fall Course Registration

We know that some of you are on the fence about studying abroad, given the rapidly changing progression of COVID-19. **To allow you the flexibility to move forward with your study abroad planning and to maintain a solid academic back-up plan at Bentley, all fall and academic-year study abroad students will be permitted to register for on-campus Bentley courses while remaining enrolled in your study abroad program.** You will receive registration info from the Registrar per usual.

Fall Housing at Bentley

At this time, the housing selection process for the 2020-2021 academic year is underway. All students have received their housing selection time, and housing selection starts on Tuesday, March 17th. At this time, we are unable to add students to the housing selection process. However, if programs are canceled or if you decide to withdraw on your own volition, we will work with you to secure fall housing over the summer. The Residential Center will have a better idea of housing assignments after Thursday, June 18th. Please e-mail the Residential Center at housing@bentley.edu to request housing if you decide to return to Bentley in the fall.

Committing to Study Abroad

We are extending our commitment deadline until **Monday, June 1st**. By this date, you must notify our office of your plans to either formally commit to study abroad OR withdraw from study abroad.

- If you choose to commit to studying abroad officially, please log in to BentleyAbroad and **read and sign the "Commitment Agreement"** which will be posted **after your Program Meeting**. Students who sign the Commitment Agreement will be automatically dropped from their fall Bentley courses beginning on Tuesday, June 2nd.

- If you choose to withdraw from study abroad and remain on campus, please notify our office and do not sign the Commitment Agreement.

In the meantime, it would be extremely helpful to know how you are feeling about your plans to study abroad next year. **Please complete this [short survey](#) by Monday, March 30th.**

Pre-departure planning

All mandatory program meetings will be conducted virtually via Zoom and will begin the week of March 23rd. You should have already received an updated Outlook invite from our office. If applicable, you should proceed with your host program application per instructions found in your Program Roadmap in BentleyAbroad under Pre-departure Resources.

We are advising students to move forward with visa applications if required by your host country. You will hear from your Study Abroad Advisor about your visa application process and should look for visa updates in your BentleyAbroad portal under Pre-Departure Resources.

Advising

Study Abroad Advisors are available for virtual appointments, and you can schedule them online per usual. All appointments will be conducted via Zoom, and you can find your advisor's Zoom room link in [BentleyAbroad](#).

We will also hold **drop-in Zoom chat sessions** for any quick and/or general questions at the following times. Click [here](#) to join the Zoom room and begin chatting.

- Monday 3/16 2-4pm
- Wednesday 3/18 2-4pm
- Friday 3/20 2-4pm

As we have seen in the past weeks, the situation can change rapidly, and we are constantly monitoring and responding to each new development. We will continue to provide updates via email and our [website](#) as we take new measures to support our students at every stage of the study abroad process. We welcome any questions and are committed to guiding and advising you through this time of uncertainty.

Best regards,

The International Education Team

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