

Cronin Office of International Education

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March 23, 2020

Dear Summer 2020 Study Abroad Applicants:

As you prepare for your spring semester to resume, we know you have many questions about the summer ahead. The International Education team continues to assess the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on summer study abroad. The purpose of this message is to communicate with those of you who have either expressed interest in, or committed to, summer study abroad so you are aware of global developments and Bentley decisions since our last communication:

- On March 19, 2020, the <u>US State Department</u> issued a <u>Level 4 Global Health</u>
 <u>Advisory</u> advising US citizens to avoid international travel. Many countries have taken similar sweeping measures to restrict travel.
- Bentley canceled intensive faculty-led international courses for March and May.
- Bentley suspended spring semester study abroad and required all students to return home.

While we remain cautiously optimistic that SOME summer study abroad programs MAY proceed, there have been many cancellations and restrictions:

- Bentley's summer 2020 London Internship Program is canceled.
- Bentley will suspend study abroad in any country with a <u>CDC Level 3 Travel Health</u>
 <u>Notice</u>. As of this writing, Level 3 countries include most of Europe, including Ireland and the UK, China, Malaysia, and South Korea.

PLEASE RESPOND TO THIS MESSAGE TO LET US KNOW IF YOU INTEND TO WITHDRAW OR PROCEED:

- Withdraw from summer 2020 study abroad
 - The \$50 application fee will be credited to your student account, if applicable.
 - The \$500 enrollment deposit will be credited to your student account, if applicable.

- o You will no longer receive updates from our office.
- Proceed with caution to consider participating in summer 2020 study abroad
 - o Many of you applied for programs that are no longer available. We will advise you individually on how to identify alternatives, and how to take precautions as you move forward. Request a Zoom advising appointment here.
 - Additional program cancellations may occur without notice. Creating a contingency plan is essential.

We know that this is a difficult time for all students. Please know that we are here to support you. We are available to address any study abroad questions or concerns via virtual drop-ins, Zoom advising appointments, email, or phone. We appreciate your patience, adaptability, and flexibility in these unprecedented times. The health and safety of Bentley students is our top priority. Our updates for study abroad students will continue to be posted here: https://www.bentley.edu/coronavirus.

Best,

Cronin Office of International Education

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