



*Cronin Office of  
International Education*

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Dear Spring 2020 Study Abroad Students and Families,

We write today to provide additional background on how Bentley is evaluating the safety of international programs due to the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). **Although the situation is constantly evolving, we expect most study abroad programs to continue as planned.**

Bentley follows U.S. State Department Travel Advisory and Centers for Disease Control Warning level alerts, as well as World Health Organization advice, to determine whether a location is safe. In addition, we listen carefully to local intelligence from our partner universities and affiliates. We continue to monitor each study abroad location and their academic contingency planning.

**In the case of an elevation to Level 3 by the U.S. State Department or CDC, Bentley will suspend study abroad in that location.** This designation led to Bentley's suspension of study abroad in Italy. In the event of an advisory level change in other countries, the Cronin Office of International Education will send detailed guidance to students. In parallel, we will work with partner universities to communicate options for completing academic requirements.

While abroad, students should continue to:

- **Update your phone number and address in BentleyAbroad.** We will use this information only for emergency purposes.
- **Take general precautions** such as handwashing and avoiding areas with high levels of infection, as these are still the best way to minimize risk and slow the spread of any virus.
- **Seek information from trusted sources** mentioned above, but educate yourself equally with non-U.S. sources such as the World Health Organization and your host country's Ministry of Health or equivalent.
- **Maintain healthy habits** and regular activities such as adequate sleep, good nutrition, exercise and avoiding risky behaviors.
- **Keep perspective.** Relative to previous viral outbreaks, this illness has generated an accelerated level of public concern. While this virus and its dangers should not be minimized, they should not be exaggerated either. Much COVID-19 news coverage has focused only on new infections, downplaying cases of recovery.
- **Engage with local peers.** Building bridges between nations and cultures is perhaps more important today than ever.

All coronavirus updates from Bentley are available at [www.bentley.edu/coronavirus](http://www.bentley.edu/coronavirus), and study abroad updates from our Cronin Office of International Education are posted there as well. We will continue to email and post updates as they are available.

Thank you for your patience as we continually assess and adapt to ensure that you continue to have a safe and transformative study abroad experience. The health and safety of our students and the entire Bentley community remains the university's top priority. Please contact your study abroad advisor if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Natalie and the International Education Team

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