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Dear Fall 2020 Study Abroad Students and Families,

We hope this message finds you healthy and safe as you close the books on a very challenging semester. We applaud the flexibility and perseverance you demonstrated these past few months and appreciate your contributions to the classroom. For our International Education team, it has been the bright spot of our virtual days to connect with each and every one of you. As this semester comes to a close, we have continued to monitor the worldwide developments of COVID-19 and its impact on our international partners and affiliates. We anticipate that the realities of COVID-19 will continue to be present at home and abroad into the immediate future.

Therefore, **Bentley University has made the difficult decision to suspend fall 2020 study abroad and exchange programs.** Bentley and the Cronin Office of International Education does not take this decision lightly and took into consideration guidance from U.S. State Department, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and internal and external risk management intelligence. As always, the safety of students is our top priority. Even under best case scenarios that forecast the possibility of non-essential international travel, the demands of social distancing that will be required for public health and safety would significantly impede the cultural integration that is so integral to the study abroad experience.

This pandemic has illustrated the interconnectedness of our world and how the need for engagement across borders is still strong. We remain committed to supporting your global learning, and will advise and support you to plan for a study abroad experience in spring 2021 or beyond. As we adapt study abroad plans, we ask that you take the following next steps:

- If you know that you will not pursue a study abroad semester in spring 2021, withdraw your application in [BentleyAbroad](#) now.
- If you would like to request a space for spring 2021 study abroad, join our [Study Abroad Q&A Webinar on Friday, May 15 at 1:00 p.m. EDT](#). While we do not need to reevaluate your eligibility, we do need to determine program capacities and efficiently match available spring spots with eligible students. We will do our utmost to support accepted study abroad students to find a suitable program. More information about the specifics of this matching process will follow in the webinar and by email.

We understand that you will have many questions about spring 2021 next steps or future study abroad options. [We will host a Study Abroad Q&A Webinar on Friday, May 15 at 1:00 p.m. EDT. We invite you to submit your questions by Wednesday, May 13 at 4:30 p.m. EDT so that we can address as many topics as possible in this format.](#) For those who cannot attend, we will record the webinar and recap the salient points by email.

If you have questions about your Bentley fall schedule, please make an appointment with your academic advisor via the online portal in Workday. A decision about 2021 intensive faculty-led international courses will be made by the start of the academic year.

You are welcome to [contact your study abroad advisor](#) with individual questions and concerns. All of us in International Education and across campus remain committed to supporting you. We will navigate through these uncertain times together.

Sincerely,

Natalie and the International Education team

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