

From: Bethel University <covid-19@bethel.edu>

Subject: COVID-19 Update: Study Abroad Changes for 2020-21 Academic Year

[PreferredName]—

As you prepare for fall registration, we want to let you know about a change to study abroad options that may impact your class schedule. For many Bethel students, the opportunity to study abroad is a transformative experience marked by personal growth, discovery, and a greater appreciation for God's world.

However, we must also acknowledge how COVID-19 has impacted our world. The recovery period for many countries will be lengthy, and it will take time for international travel to return to normal. It may be some time before our study abroad partner organizations are able to determine what is possible in terms of educational opportunities for students.

In light of this reality, **Bethel is suspending all semester-long study abroad options, including off-campus programs offered in the United States, for the 2020-21 academic year.** Students who are required to study abroad as part of their major should consult with their advisor.

We have not yet made a decision regarding interim study abroad trips due to their abbreviated duration. Because those trips are led by Bethel faculty members, we have more time to evaluate whether they can be offered in January 2021. We will communicate a decision regarding interim trips as soon as possible.

I recognize that for many of you, this is another piece of disappointing news that comes during a challenging time. However, we hope that the prompt announcement of this change will provide you with time to adjust your registration and housing plans for the coming year.

-Deb

Debra K. Harless
Executive Vice President and Provost

Bethel University
3900 Bethel Drive
St. Paul, MN 55112