

March 12, 2020

Dear Student,

I hope you are doing well. On the evening of March 11, two important changes occurred that affect students abroad. [President Trump made an announcement](#) to suspend all travel by foreign nationals, and special procedures for US citizens, leaving the Schengen area of the European Union for the United States, beginning at midnight on Friday, March 13. Please note that the suspension of travel does not require US citizens to leave before midnight on Friday. In addition, the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\) raised its travel advisory for the EU member states](#) to level 3 (do not travel), its highest warning level. Based on these two developments, many of our study abroad providers have determined to suspend in-person instruction for their programs operating in the EU. Most of the providers are also requiring students to depart their program sites. We ask that you follow the below instructions:

1. As soon as possible, students should follow their study abroad provider's instructions and arrange for a return to the US. Your providers may cover the costs of change fees for your airline tickets, and you should consult with them about such a possibility. In some cases, purchasing a one-way ticket from your location or through the UK may be less expensive than change fees for an existing ticket. In addition, there may be restrictions on which airports you may fly through in the US due to special procedures related to President Trump's announcement. We will update you as we learn more about those special procedures.
2. We are requesting that students return to their homes for the completion of their programs. Students should not return to Sewanee for the remainder of the semester. If you decide to stay in the EU to complete your program with the agreement of the study abroad provider, you do so at your own risk and waive all University responsibility for your continued stay. Before making a decision to stay in the EU, you should consider future travel restrictions that the US or EU member states' governments may impose, access to health care including coverage of health insurance, and potential quarantines for those who contract COVID-19. Please notify Scott Wilson if you plan to remain in the EU.
3. Once you arrive home, we ask that you self-quarantine for fourteen days. While we do not expect that any of you have contracted COVID-19, many persons can be asymptomatic carriers of the virus. In order to prevent further spread of the virus, we ask that you follow this important request.
4. Our study abroad program providers are working diligently to provide modes of instruction that will allow you to complete your semesters and receive full credit. Under these exceptional circumstances, the University will accept coursework that is completed online under the direction of the study abroad providers with a grade of C or better, the same regulation for transfer of standard coursework. There may, however, be some limitations on completing courses that entail significant fieldwork, laboratory work, internship work, or direct lessons such as musical lessons. Where courses cannot be completed online and to the extent possible, the study abroad providers and the University will attempt to provide instruction to complete a standard course load of 14-16 credit hours.

On your return trip, please pay attention to hygiene including washing hands often and, if possible, sterilize your seats and tray tables. These modest efforts can provide some protection on your way home.

For more information about strategies to protect yourself during the COVID-19 outbreak and to learn about Sewanee's response to the situation, [please see our website](#).

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we work toward your safe return to the US and a completion of your coursework.

Sincerely,

Scott Wilson

Assistant Provost and Director, Office of Global Citizenship

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