

To: Spring 2020 Study Abroad Students
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 3:37 PM
Subject: Penn Abroad COVID-19 Update

Dear Penn Students Abroad:

Penn Abroad is following up to the [message circulated to the Penn Community on March 11](#) indicating an extension of spring break, followed by a move of the remainder of the Penn academic term to online learning and assessment.

As we shared yesterday, Penn Abroad remains here to support you. We have continued conversations today with International Risk Management and Campus Health regarding how this latest message should be interpreted by Penn students currently abroad.

We want to start by assuring you that the guidance for students currently abroad has not changed since yesterday (March 10). Penn is continuing to strongly urge all in CDC Level 3 countries to depart. These countries are China, South Korea, Iran, and Italy. For all other students abroad, unless there is an underlying health condition that would make you more susceptible to complications from the flu, you are not considered to be at an increased risk if you remain in your abroad location.

Many students continue to express concern about making a decision to remain abroad or depart while policies for remote learning at their host university remain unclear. To assist you further, we are **extending the deadline for Penn-facilitated financial support for departure to Wednesday, April 1**. Please remember:

- Your program does not need to move to online learning for you to be able to depart. Students may depart their abroad location at any time. A tuition credit will be provided for any courses you will not be able to complete as a result of the academic disruption this term.
- You may still depart after April 1 should you choose, however you will not receive financial support from Penn to do so unless your abroad location changes to a CDC Level 3 at a later date.
- If you have already booked your departure and utilized your one-time Penn-facilitated departure funds, any changes to your departure plans will be at your own expense.

We want to assure you that Penn is doing everything we are able to gather information from partners and encourage remote learning wherever possible. Unfortunately, while some institutions will offer this as an option, it remains that some may not, or may still not have a plan in place by April 1. We strongly encourage you to talk to your Home School Advisor about your options in order to make the decision that is most suitable for you personally at this time.

We acknowledge that your semester abroad has certainly been a challenging and atypical one for many. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued patience as Penn continues to move through this unprecedented time. We are hopeful that the extension to April 1 will assist many as you continue to plan your next steps. Should you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact Penn Abroad.

Kindly,

Kristyn

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