To: Spring 2020 Study Abroad Students  
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 4:40 PM  
Subject: Penn Abroad Spring 2020 Students - Response Required by Sunday March 22

Dear Penn Students Currently Abroad and Emergency Contacts:

*Your response to this email is requested by Sunday March 22*

In light of the recent advice issued on March 19 by the US Department of State raising travel guidance worldwide to Level 4 (Do Not Travel), Penn Abroad is writing today to request your urgent attention and action to this message.

Our records indicate that you would like to remain abroad, or you may have not provided us an update yet regarding your decision-making. Regardless, we want to provide you with important considerations in light of recent notifications from US and foreign governments imposing increasing travel restrictions, and encouraging their citizens to return home or prepare to shelter in place should they choose to remain.

Given the global uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, *Penn strongly urges all students to depart their abroad locations immediately.* Please consider the following issues:

- **Mobility is decreasing.** In the last week we have seen several countries impose entry/exit restrictions, internal travel restrictions, mandatory self-isolation periods, and significant flight cancellations or suspensions until further notice. Should you choose to remain abroad, it is a real possibility that a travel restriction may prevent you from departing your abroad location on a timeline of your preference, and it may also prevent others from being able to get to you if needed. We do not know how long travel restrictions will be in place, and you will need to strongly consider whether you would be comfortable remaining abroad unexpectedly for an extended period. It is highly unlikely that Penn or ISOS will be able to evacuate you should this become necessary. ISOS capability to perform both medical and security evacuations may be limited in your location.

- **Housing situations may change rapidly.** Students in university or program-affiliated housing need to strongly consider the implications of this rapidly changing situation and whether you may lose access to your housing should your university or program require student departure. Students in private housing may also be affected if your housing location is impacted in any way by COVID-19. Should you choose to stay, develop a housing contingency plan in the event your current housing location is no longer available. Your housing contingency plan should be nearby to your current location in the event of internal travel restrictions at your abroad location.

- **Access to food, toiletries, medicine and other necessities is critical.** Many locations worldwide, including locations within the U.S., are implementing various degrees of social distancing and lockdown procedures within cities. Individuals who fall ill are also being asked to self-quarantine for two weeks. As mobility and access to goods within your abroad community may become limited, it is critical that you prepare for a period of at least two weeks where you have full access to all needed essentials. Store closure, road closure, and other restrictive measures may prevent you from seeking necessities you may need if you choose to stay abroad.
• **Medical care varies worldwide.** For all students who remain abroad, you will continue to be covered by International SOS health insurance for the duration of your abroad program. Should you feel ill at any time, you should contact International SOS for support. After your official program end date, however, your continued access to International SOS will be limited as you will no longer be considered on “Penn-affiliated travel.” If you take a Leave of Absence but remain abroad, you are also no longer considered on “Penn-affiliated travel.” It is critical you consider whether medical facilities in your abroad location are equipped to provide quality care and access to medication in a rapidly changing public health situation.

We understand that some students are remaining abroad due to academic considerations or a lack of clarity from your host program regarding online learning options. We appreciate every student’s commitment to your academic careers, and we know it is a challenging decision to depart a program if you are not certain about your academic plan. Home School advisors continue to work with all returning students to discuss implications of this disruption on your academic plan. **Even if the details are not firm at this time, we strongly encourage departure and continuation of these conversations as you return home.** A full or partial tuition credit continues to be available to students who receive no or partial academic credit as a result of leaving an abroad program early due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

We understand this email contains a lot of information and difficult decision-making. We encourage all students to discuss this email with a parent, guardian, or individual who assists you in decision-making. This message has been sent to your emergency contact(s) for their information. You are also strongly encouraged to direct further follow-up questions to your Global Programs Manager.

Finally, we would like to ask you to please take an action as follows:

• **Share your intentions with us.**
  o It is essential that we hear from every abroad student to know whether you will remain abroad or depart. This will assist us in tailored follow-up.
  o Please complete this brief questionnaire as soon as possible, but **no later than March 22**.
    • Direct Link: [https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4ZUT5Xor5oct9BP](https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4ZUT5Xor5oct9BP)
  o Please complete this survey again even if you have already submitted it prior. Much has changed in the world since we deployed this survey on March 3, so we are re-checking with every student still abroad to learn whether or not your intentions have changed.

• **If you will depart,**
  o Follow the instructions at the bottom of this email for flight booking.
  o Penn Abroad is fully reimbursing economy fares for all departures booked by April 1.
  o Make sure you are aware of flight availability and travel restrictions for your current location and destination location. You should depart sooner than April 1 if there will be impacts to mobility for your specific location put into place in the days ahead.

• **If you will remain abroad,**
  o And you have already signed and returned the CDC Level 3 – Waiver to stay,
    • Email your Global Programs Manager to re-confirm you are remaining abroad even after reading the contents of this message.
  o And you have not yet signed the CDC Level 3 – Waiver to stay or if you are in a non-CDC 3 location,
    • Sign and return the attached “Covid-19 Waiver to Stay” to your Global Programs Manager as soon as possible but no later than April 1.
- All students remaining abroad, regardless of location and CDC level, must now sign a “Waiver to Stay.”
  - You will continue to have access to International SOS for the duration of your abroad program.
  - You may depart at any time after April 1, however it will be at your own expense.

Thank you to all students currently abroad for your patience as we continue to monitor a truly unprecedented global situation. Penn Abroad remains committed to supporting every abroad student through this difficult period. We urge you to strongly consider all points within this correspondence, follow-up with questions, and notify us of your intentions as soon as you are able, and by no later than Sunday March 22.

Sincerely,
Penn Abroad