Dear Students,

Given the rapidly evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, the State University of New York (SUNY), which serves as central administration for the 64-campus SUNY system, is strongly recommending that all students participating in University at Albany study abroad programs return to the United States as soon as possible.

In an effort to complete the academic portion of UAlbany’s study abroad programs, we are working with our partner universities to help students continue their studies online for the remainder of the spring semester. However, there may be courses at the host institution that cannot be continued online, such as those with laboratory components.

Should the host institutions not be able to arrange continued online study for the remainder of the spring 2020 semester, UAlbany would need to work with students to seek other academic alternatives.

Your options include:

**Remain enrolled in your study abroad program and stay abroad against our recommendation:**

SUNY is strongly recommending that you return to the United States immediately; however, be advised that if you choose to remain in your current location, it is at your own risk and without SUNY or UAlbany involvement. You must make separate arrangements for your stay there. UAlbany, or your home campus, will work with you to ensure appropriate transfer of academic credit, if any, upon completion of your experience.

In order to remain at your current location:

1. You must sign and return the SUNY Acknowledgement Waiver form, linked [HERE](#). Please print and sign this waiver, and send an attachment or image of the waiver to studyabroad@albany.edu by **Friday, March 13**.
2. UAlbany will not withdraw you from your program abroad and will facilitate the recording of credits at the end of the term.
3. You will remain enrolled in your international health insurance plan, but should contact your insurance carriers providing health and repatriation coverage to determine if you can continue the coverage.
Return to the U.S.:

1. If you are not a UAlbany student, your home study abroad advisor has been notified of this decision.
2. You should return to your permanent home residence at this time. If for some reason, returning to your permanent home is not possible or advisable at this time, please contact your study abroad advisor to explore alternative plans.
3. Self-isolation is not required upon returning home if you are in good health and not experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 virus infection. If you are experiencing symptoms, please immediately self-isolate at home or elsewhere and contact your local county health department for further instructions and contact UAlbany Student Health Services at 518-442-5229 during regular business hours for further guidance.
4. We recommend that you update your return airline ticket as soon as possible, as finding flights home may become more difficult. Additional U.S. travel restrictions or quarantine requirements could be implemented at any time. While most international carriers are now waiving change fees, if this is not the case in your instance UAlbany will reimburse you for any change fees, with proper receipt.
5. When you have booked your return flight, please provide your flight itinerary to your study abroad advisor, Jay Stokes or Carmeisha Huckleby.
6. In addition to contacting your UAlbany study abroad advisor, all students must go to the URL below to provide information regarding their return
   https://www2.sysadm.suny.edu/studyabroadStudent/index.cfm

Academics
To explore academic options domestically, please contact John Donoghue. Additionally, you can also explore summer course offerings at UAlbany, transfer credit from other universities, or return to UAlbany in the fall by contacting Anna Karlsson. Please include the subject line “Study Abroad Urgent Request” in your email.

Finance
Any academic decision you make outside of continuing in your spring 2020 study abroad program coursework may carry financial aid implications, which will vary by individual situation. Again, UAlbany cannot guarantee that all financial aid implications can be mitigated, but we are working diligently to address any concerns. Please email Earl Tretheway, Rachael Cofresi, Meryl Schwalb, or Stephen Kudzin and include “Study Abroad Urgent Request” in the subject line.

Information while still abroad
If you are staying abroad and intend to engage in regional or intra-country travel, please make yourself aware of any local and/or national travel delays or restrictions given the virus’ progress. Further information is available by visiting the U.S. Department of State’s travel advisory, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization and local health ministry websites.
The University understands this is a difficult situation and we are here to support you throughout this transition. Thank you for your patience and understanding. We will continue to update you regularly as efforts to find academic solutions for impacted students continue.

(Please confirm receipt of this email and include your intentions by emailing your study abroad advisor, Jay Stokes or Carmeisha Huckleby.)
WHAT CONDITIONS APPLY TO THESE CHANGES AND MY DECISION TO RETURN OR STAY?

The Agreement and Acceptance of Risk for Study Away that you executed prior to your participation in the program remains in effect. Therefore, you released UAlbany, SUNY, its officers, trustees, employees, and agents from any and all liability, damage or claim of damages to or loss of your property, personal illness or injury, or death while participating in this program. This would include any issues that may arise in connection with the COVID-19 outbreak.

If you decline to return to New York State at this time, you are freely assuming any risk associated with or arising out of traveling, studying, conducting research, engaging in community service, participating in activities, and living abroad, including potential exposure to COVID-19.

WHY ARE THESE CHANGES TAKING PLACE?

This is a protocol we are adopting at the advice of public health officials with your welfare as our top priority. All SUNY campus study abroad programs are being cancelled and arrangements are being made for the return of all willing students and staff to New York State as a precaution given the concerns related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

I ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE AND UNDERSTAND THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ABOVE WHICH I ACCEPT:

Date/Time ___________________________ Signature of Student ___________________________ Print Name of Student ________________

Date/Time ___________________________ Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian_________________________ Relationship to Student ________________

Date/Time ___________________________ Signature of Campus Designee ___________________________ Print Name of Campus ___________________________

1 Signature of custodial parent or legal guardian is required for minors.