A little over a month ago we communicated with you concerning the fall 2020 study abroad semester. In the intervening weeks, we hope that you and your loved ones have stayed safe and that you have felt the strong sense of support from UR even as we work from home.

We know that, in addition to the unknown of study abroad, many of you have expressed concern about registration and housing if you do return to campus for the fall semester. We are gratified to see so many of you using the course preference system created for you to indicate the courses you would like to or need to take at UR if you end up staying on campus. If you haven’t yet completed the course preference form by logging into your Banner account, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Our colleagues in the registrar's office are using the course preferences and consulting with departments to adjust course enrollments and offerings. They are also working to make available a special registration period in June for students whose abroad plans may change, with details about this to be announced later in May.

Since late March, several programs in the southern hemisphere whose semesters start as early as June have determined to either cancel their programs or move to teaching entirely online. This has meant that some of our fall 2020 study abroad students have decided to defer their study abroad to a later semester or to cancel their plans.

Locations that have more time are doing the same thing as UR, assessing possibilities and hoping to be able to work in person. We continue to be in close contact with our partners around the globe. Our plan is to monitor all the necessary markers that would allow us to move forward with confidence, consult with various important health and safety resources such as the Department of State, the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization, and provide you with an update of our reading of the situation by May 15. We may write again on June 1 depending on the circumstances.

You are, of course, welcome to consult with our study abroad staff at any time if you have questions or concerns. Our housing and registrar's office remain available to you for questions as well.

With our very best wishes,

Ellen Sayles  
Associate Dean and Director of Education Abroad

Michele Cox  
Director of Study Abroad