Dear Tulane Exchange Partners and Students,

We write today to provide an update on Fall 2020 in-person inbound exchanges for non-degree seeking students studying at the undergraduate or graduate level. After careful consideration of a number of important factors including the continued rise and uncertainty of COVID-19 cases globally, evolving travel restrictions, U.S. embassy/consulate closures, and advice from the U.S. Department of State to pause exchange programs, Tulane has made the difficult decision to suspend all inbound in-person exchanges for the Fall 2020 semester. Given that the majority of the challenges related to arrival are for non-citizens, this suspension does not apply to U.S. Citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents participating in inbound exchange programs. Our hope is that providing clarity on this decision now will help students better plan their academic path for the Fall 2020 semester.

The Office of the Provost and Newcomb-Tulane College will review petitions for exceptions to inbound exchange cancellation in cases where the traveler has valid visa documentation and is not prohibited by the U.S. from entry into the U.S. due to COVID-19, and flights can be successfully arranged. To apply for an exception to the policy, fill out the Inbound Exchange COVID Petition Form.

We appreciate the importance of global engagement in our world today and will continue to make intercultural exchange a priority at Tulane. We recognize that many of our partners and students will be disappointed by this decision, however, the health, safety, and wellbeing of our students remains our highest priority. Please know that the Newcomb-Tulane College Office of Study Abroad and Freeman Abroad are here to support students and help them understand their options going forward.

For our partner institutions, please know that we are exploring the possibility of virtual exchanges, and request that interested exchange partner universities contact their Tulane counterparts to discuss further. We will update students if this option becomes a possibility.

Next Steps:

**Students on Inbound Exchanges through the Newcomb-Tulane College Office of Study Abroad:**

Moving forward, students have the following options: defer to a subsequent semester, withdraw their application, or petition to continue their Fall 2020 plans.

1. Students wishing to defer should contact their home university to request a deferral. Students who are approved by their home university for deferral to Spring 2020 or Fall 2021 will not need to reapply through the Office of Study Abroad. Students approved for deferral by their home university should then email Joanie Vicknair
(crystal@tulane.edu) indicating the term they would like to defer (Spring 2021, Fall 2021, etc.)

2. Students wishing to withdraw may log in to their Tulane application portal, select "My Home" from the Applicant drop down and choose "Withdraw" under their current active application.

3. Students wishing to petition for an exception should fill out the Inbound Exchange COVID Petition Form and should also notify the Newcomb Tulane College Office of Study Abroad by responding to this email.

Fall 2020 applications that are still outstanding after June 26, 2020 will be automatically withdrawn by OSA staff.

Students Studying Abroad through Freeman Abroad:
Freeman exchange students also have the option to defer to a subsequent semester, withdraw, petition, or engage in online learning courses at Tulane.

1. Students wishing to defer should contact their home university to request a deferral. Students who are approved by their home university for deferral to Spring 2020 or Fall 2021 will not need to reapply through Freeman Abroad.

2. Students wishing to withdraw may log in to their Tulane application portal, select "My Home" from the Applicant drop down and choose "Withdraw" under their current active application.

3. Students wishing to petition for an exception should fill out the Inbound Exchange COVID Petition Form and should also email the Freeman Abroad office.

Fall 2020 applications that are still outstanding after June 26, 2020 will be automatically withdrawn by Freeman staff.

We are optimistic about the possibility of offering inbound in-person exchange opportunities for the Spring 2021 semester, and remain eager to partner on virtual learning opportunities for our students during this time of limited mobility. Please know that we are here to support and grow our partnerships as we navigate these difficult times.

If you have any questions, please contact the Newcomb-Tulane College Office of Study Abroad osa@tulane.edu or Freeman Abroad at freemanabroad@tulane.edu.

Sincerely,
Newcomb-Tulane College Office of Study Abroad and Freeman Abroad