Dear Tulane Community,

We write today to provide an update on Fall 2020 study abroad. The safety and risk concerns of our students are our top priorities. After careful consideration of a number of important factors including international travel warnings issued by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the U.S. Department of State, the continued rise and uncertainty of COVID-19 cases globally, student health and safety concerns, evolving travel restrictions, the cessation of visa issuances, and the impacts of academic calendars around the world, Tulane has made the difficult decision to cancel study abroad for the Fall 2020 semester. Making this decision now gives our students more time to consider their options for a fall semester at Tulane, and our academic units will be in a better position to plan academic opportunities for our students.

We know so well the importance of global engagement opportunities in our world today and will continue to make intercultural exchange a priority at Tulane. We recognize that many of our students will be disappointed by this decision. Although we understand and empathize with your disappointment, we must place the health and safety of our students and our responsibility to best manage this global crisis above all other considerations. 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.

Next Steps:

**Students Studying Abroad through the Newcomb-Tulane College Office of Study Abroad:**
Moving forward, students have the option to defer to a subsequent semester or withdraw their application entirely. Students wishing to defer should email their study abroad advisor or osa@tulane.edu indicating the term they would like to defer to (Spring 2021, Fall 2021, etc.). Students who defer to Spring or Fall 2021 will not need to reapply through the Office of Study Abroad. Students wishing to withdraw should log in to their Tulane application portal, select "My Home" from the Applicant drop down and choose "Withdraw" under their current active application. **Please either withdraw or defer your application by Friday, 6/19/20. Fall 2020 applications that are still outstanding after this point will be automatically withdrawn by OSA staff.**

**Students Studying Abroad through Freeman Abroad:**
Freeman study abroad participants may also defer to a subsequent semester or withdraw their applications entirely. Students wishing to defer should email their Freeman Abroad advisor or freemanabroad@tulane.edu indicating the term they would like to defer to (Spring 2021, Fall 2021, etc.). Students who defer to Spring or Fall 2021 will not need to reapply but will have the option to change host university preferences if they want to do so. Students wishing to withdraw should log in to their Freeman Abroad application portal and choose "Withdraw" under
their current active application. **Please either withdraw or defer your application by Friday, 6/19/20. Fall 2020 applications that are still outstanding after this point will be withdrawn by Freeman Abroad staff.**

Given the exceptional circumstances, students registered to study abroad through a Tulane-approved program were able to register for Fall 2020 on-campus classes as well as for the Fall study abroad program for a total of 31 total credits -- 12 study abroad “placeholder” credits and 19 on campus credits. When you withdraw or defer your study abroad program, the 12 “placeholder” credits will be dropped from your schedule if you haven’t already dropped them yourself. All students may still make adjustments to their on-campus course registration schedule at this time. Residence Life will release information about housing options in the coming weeks.

The Office of the Provost and Newcomb-Tulane College will review petitions for exceptions to the study abroad cancellation in cases where studying abroad would not increase risk to a student’s health and safety. Tulane students may also pursue study abroad through the non-Tulane leave of absence process. Please contact your study abroad advisor if you plan to petition or if you would like more information on the leave of absence study abroad process.

We will continue to update students on all related academic and safety decisions as the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds. We remain optimistic about the possibility to offer study abroad opportunities for the Spring 2021 semester. Please know that we are here to support you in navigating these difficult transitions. Your flexibility and resilience are impressive.

If you have any questions, please contact your Study Abroad Advisor at the NTC Office of Study Abroad or at Freeman Abroad.

Sincerely,

Newcomb-Tulane College Office of Study Abroad and Freeman Abroad