Education Abroad Summer/Fall 2021 Cancellation Announcement – Petition Process

On behalf of the education abroad team, I want to give you an update about education abroad during the Summer and Fall of 2021. Even though it is still early in the year, we think it is important to be transparent, so that students have time to plan: for registration, housing, finances, etcetera.

At this point, UNH leadership feels that it would be unsafe to fully open education abroad programming. There are a number of reasons for this decision:

- There is still much uncertainty about the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in the US and throughout the world.
- Several variants of the COVID-19 virus have emerged, and additional variants may occur. It is still unclear if and how reliable the current vaccines are in the fight against these variants.
- Governments of most countries continue to impose restrictions on U.S. travelers.
- The U.S. Department of State continues to rate most countries at the highest risk levels.

However, there may be extenuating circumstances in which education abroad experiences could be an option. In these cases, a student or unit (program director) may petition to the International Travel Risk Review Committee (ITRRC) for prior approval. Examples of possible exceptions are travel to a country that permits entry for study or internships and exchanges accepting U.S. students. All cases must be thoroughly assessed for risk and deemed to be acceptable irrespective of the country’s State Department rated risk level. Please contact your Education Abroad Advisor for information on the petition process.

Start planning for future study abroad experiences. It is never too soon to start conversations with your academic advisor and your education abroad advisor about all the different international educational experiences that are available. We anticipate that many UNH students are planning to study abroad the Spring of 2022, so make sure to start the process this Spring!

While waiting to travel internationally, have you thought about exploring North America? The National Student Exchange, The Washington Center and the Semester in the City programs offer some very exciting opportunities!

The world will open again, and when it does, UNH Education Abroad will be ready!

Leonie Meijer

Interim Director Education Abroad