



Dear 20J Swiss-Italy HOSP Study Abroad Students,

In light of the U.S. State Department's increased [travel advisory for Italy](#), as well as advice from the [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC), the University of Delaware has decided to cancel the Summer 2020 Swiss-Italy HOSP study abroad program. This decision aligns with the University's recent [restriction on University-sponsored travel to CDC level 3 countries](#).

We understand that this decision may disappoint you, and hope you know that it was not taken lightly. As you may be aware, the novel (new) coronavirus, known as COVID-19, continues to rapidly evolve. While there is no immediate threat at this time, we are taking this action now out of an abundance of caution for your safety and well-being. The following email outlines our responsibilities to you, as well as important actions for you to follow:

**1. Your summer tuition and program fee will be refunded.** You should see those charges credited, in full, to your UD student account in the coming days.

**2. If you have already purchased your flights, IGS will reimburse you for them.** To cancel your flights and seek reimbursement, you must do the following:

- Contact your travel agency or airline by phone and be aware that you may be placed on hold. Note that, typically, only the passenger and/or the credit card holder may make cancellations.
- Ask if your agency or airline has a cancelation fee waiver in place for Italy. [Several airlines](#) have extended this courtesy to passengers traveling to/from countries affected by COVID-19.
- If your airline does not have a waiver in place, you will initially be responsible for the original penalties and fees, whatever they may be. In this case, the Institute for Global Studies will reimburse you for this cost and for the cost of your ticket.
- In order to receive reimbursement for your flight, please submit the following to [studyabroad@udel.edu](mailto:studyabroad@udel.edu): (1) A copy of your original itinerary; (2) paid invoices or statements from the airline or travel agency showing any costs or fees incurred; and (3) proof of cancellation.

Reimbursement will be made to your UD student account after all materials have been reviewed.

**3. IGS will honor study abroad scholarship awards.** If you received a Delaware Diplomats scholarship to participate in this program, that same amount can be applied to the program fee of another UD study abroad program in which you participate, whether this summer or in the future. If you received an IGS need-based scholarship to participate in this program, that scholarship will also apply to another UD study abroad program, but on a proportional basis (for example 50% or 60% of the program fee--a similar percentage to what you received for this program).

**If you still wish to study abroad during Summer 2020, other options may be available.** We encourage you to explore the following and, if you are interested in

participating in one of these programs, please contact [studyabroad@udel.edu](mailto:studyabroad@udel.edu) by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on **Thursday, March 12**.

- [Ireland HIST/POSC](#)
- [Tokyo BHAN](#)
- [Paris HLTH Micro](#)

IGS staff will follow up with students who have expressed interest and provide additional information, including next steps on applying, acceptance and booking a new flight. Please note that capacity is limited, available on a first-come, first-served basis and is contingent upon the acceptance decision of the program's faculty director.

Again, please know that we share your disappointment in the cancellation of your program, and we hope that you will be able to study abroad at some point during your time at UD. You are a valued member of our community, and we are here to support you. For updates on the University's response to COVID-19, please visit the [UD website](#). Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to [contact our office](#).

Sincerely,

Lisa Chieffo  
Interim Director  
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