

Dear Students,

I write on behalf of all of us at the Institute for Global Studies to say that we celebrate you and are thinking of you during this tumultuous time. The past few weeks have been extraordinarily trying. For most, COVID-19 has brought an abrupt end to your semester abroad and untimely goodbyes to new friends, family and professional networks. You have navigated long security lines, new health & safety recommendations and shifting global policies with ease. Through it all, you have demonstrated immense strength, resilience and adaptability. We are so proud of you.

We understand that the coming days and weeks will likely be difficult for you, as you acclimate to life at home, online courses and a new reality. You are not alone. **Remember, we're here for you.** 

- Resources for all UD Study Abroad returnees can be found on our <u>website</u>. In addition, we invite you to contact us if you have concerns about your program or your return. Email us at <u>studyabroad@udel.edu</u>, call (302) 831-2852 or direct message us on <u>Instagram</u> and <u>Twitter</u>. While our staff are currently working remotely, we continue to monitor and respond to messages on a frequent basis during regular business hours.
- If you are feeling anxious or overwhelmed, the UD Center for Counseling & Student Development is available at (302) 831-2141, or call UD's Helpline 24 hours a day at (302) 831-1001.
- If you are experiencing food insecurity, we encourage you to visit the <u>UD Dean</u> of <u>Students website</u> for additional resources.
- For those completing their courses online, we recommend reading the following <u>University advice</u> for online learning. If you do not have reliable access to the internet, you should check in with local providers. Several major companies have announced that they are planning to offer free connectivity.

We encourage you to reflect on your time abroad by entering the <u>UD Study Abroad</u> <u>Photo & Video Contest</u>. The deadline to submit your favorite memories is Sunday, April 5.

We are sending you positive thoughts and encouragement as you (and we) continue to travel (*virtually*) through uncharted territory and learn daily how interconnected our world truly is.

Sincerely,

Lisa Chieffo Interim Director

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