

Center for International Affairs
10900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-7031
phone 216.368.2397
fax 216.368.0544
www.case.edu/international

November 20, 2015

Dear CWRU Study Abroad Students and Parents:

The recent tragic events in Paris and elsewhere highlight the need to assure you that Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) and its partner universities overseas have proper protocols to ensure a safe and secure environment for each of our students who are overseas and a communications plan so we know how to contact our students in any situation.

So you can understand the lengths we go through to assure a safe study abroad experience, let me outline the comprehensive safety steps that are taken by the CWRU Office of Education Abroad. The key to safety starts by partnering with institutions and organizations that are well known to our office. Each of our programs either has CWRU faculty on the ground or we have partnered with an institution that has undergone an academic and safety review. We are confident that our partners or CWRU faculty on-site are present to support students and keep our students safe.

In addition to knowing and trusting our partners, students themselves need to recognize that they will stay safe by preventing problems and avoiding certain situations. Each student goes through a thorough pre-departure orientation, which highlights health and safety issues and explores case studies on how to react if something were to occur. We, of course, provide emergency contact information. Additionally, each of our students has CWRU provided supplemental emergency and medical travel insurance that can provide financial support during a crisis or medical emergency. Our insurance will pay for emergency evacuation should a crisis occur. The Office of Education Abroad also collects emergency information from each student so that we can locate students quickly.

The Office of Education Abroad closely watches the Department of State travel advisories and registers every group going abroad with the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) which provides alerts to students. Students studying abroad for a semester or year are instructed to register themselves. Should anything happen while our students are abroad, we receive notifications and begin our process to confirm the safety of our students and provide students support should they need it. Just as there is no absolute guarantee of safety at all times in the U.S., we cannot provide a blanket guarantee of safety in every situation overseas. However, as you can see from the above, we can assure students and parents that safety and security are of highest concern for our university, protocols are in place, and we take every precaution to keep our students safe and informed.

CWRU continues to encourage our students to participate in education abroad experiences in order to gain global understanding, valuable skills, and empathy with our fellow citizens throughout the world. While the events in Paris are tragic, we do not currently anticipate that any of our planned study abroad

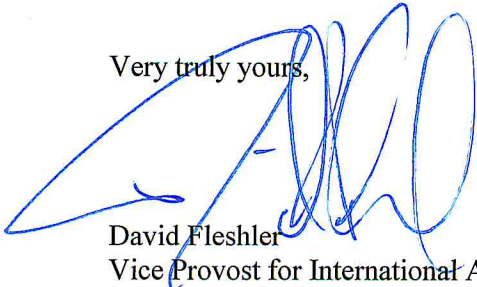


November 20, 2015
Page Two

programs will be interrupted or postponed. We are following Department of State advisories and study abroad best practices across the country, and, like most other universities in the U.S., we have no plans to pull study abroad students from, or suspend programs in, Europe. We can assure you that we will continuously watch the situation, and we will not hesitate to suspend a program should we feel that the situation is unsafe.

I appreciate the concerns you have regarding study abroad and the safety of our students. Please feel free to contact me personally, or the Office of Education Abroad, at any time to learn more or to express any concerns you might have. We are here to help our students have the best, and safest, experiences possible.

Very truly yours,



David Fleshler
Vice Provost for International Affairs
Case Western Reserve University
studyabroad@case.edu