Statement on 2022 Summer Study Abroad and COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Decisions

Studying abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic still involves many complicated and evolving factors that lead to the cancellation of a program. After careful consideration, we have decided to move forward with holding the UNO-Innsbruck International Summer School. UNO has granted a general waiver to our State Department Travel Advisory policy that allows programs to run in countries that are listed as Level 4 if the reason for the warning is due only to COVID-19 and we assess that we are able to effectively and safely operate our program. This is the case with Austria at the present time. However, the situation remains fluid, and if the Travel Advisory for Austria is heightened in the future, UNO may have to consider canceling the program at that time.

Regrettably, we have decided that we cannot move forward with our summer programs in France, Japan and Italy. We recognize this decision may disappoint our many enthusiastic students who had hoped for the opportunity to travel to those countries. Our goal is to offer these programs again in 2023. We will continue to stay vigilant and informed as we plan for travel to Austria, with the following in mind:

1. To minimize the health risk to all participants and our worldwide communities, we require all program participants, faculty, and staff to be fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19 and provide proof thereof.
2. We will monitor all guidance from the U.S. State Department, Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, local host governments and partners, and the University of Louisiana System.
3. It must be possible for U.S. citizens to travel abroad and return safely.
4. We must be confident that the pandemic is being managed safely and responsibly in the host country.
5. We will continue to develop our administrative and academic protocols as the situation evolves.
6. We will keep all participants informed as we make decisions about these protocols, program design and delivery.
7. All cancellation policies are in effect, including penalties if students cancel their program participation.
8. We will immediately let participants know if it becomes clear that we must cancel the UNO-Innsbruck program for reasons beyond our control.
9. Finally, if we are forced to cancel the UNO-Innsbruck program for reasons beyond our control, students will be refunded all fees paid to UNO except those monies that cannot be recovered from vendors by the university (i.e. housing), less any credit card convenience fees charged.