Dear Siena Biomedical Research Students and Emergency Contacts,

I am writing to you with some unfortunate news regarding Temple’s Biomedical Research Program in Siena.

Education Abroad has been informed by IES Abroad, our on-site partner in Siena that they have reluctantly made the decision to cancel their summer 2021 in-person programming in Siena. In light of this decision, we are unable to offer your program in Siena this summer and must sadly cancel the program for summer 2021.

Additionally, as you may know, the Italian Government has designated each of their twenty regions into zones, each with its own restrictions and regulations in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Most recently, Siena, located in the Tuscany region of Italy has been re-designated as an Orange Zone, which has introduced a number of additional ordinances with tighter restrictions due to a substantial increase in cases of the Brazilian variant as compared to other areas within Tuscany. Currently in Siena, institutions of higher learning, particularly in a practical research or laboratory setting, are restricted and it is unclear when such restrictions could be lifted. After much discussion with our colleagues at the University of Siena about the recent designation and anticipated implementation of further restrictions in Italy we worry that the essence of the program and hands-on experience within the hospital could be lost if restrictions in Siena remain. This issue is compounded by IES’s decision to cancel their summer program in Siena, too.

We know this news is disappointing and we share your sadness and frustration about the loss of this learning opportunity. We have provided you with guidance on moving forward below.

Program Deposits

If you have already submitted a program deposit, as per our cancellation policy, Temple students will have the deposit refunded to their Temple account and will appear as a $200 credit to be applied to a future summer or fall semester balance. Non-Temple students will not have a future balance at Temple, and will therefore receive a refund directly, and are strongly encouraged to sign up for direct deposit (instructions in your online account, after acceptance) in order to avoid delays with processing any refunds. Otherwise, refunds for non-Temple students will be distributed via physical check in the mail. More information related to Refund Policies and Procedures can be referenced on our website.

Study Abroad Summer 2021

Temple Rome Summer Session I

We can, however, share that students are currently studying in Rome this semester, and borders remain open, which is promising in terms of the likelihood of summer programs proceeding in Rome.

If you are interested in applying to Temple Rome Summer Session I, you may want to review the Temple Rome Summer 2021 Program Updates page to read a message that recently went out to Rome summer applicants so that you are as informed as possible on such a decision. Similar messaging is forthcoming for all other Temple Summer programs.
If you would like us to copy over your application to Rome summer I, please let me know no later than **Tuesday, March 9th**. We hope, if you choose to, you will have the opportunity to study abroad through another Temple program, however, the uncertainty of the pandemic makes it difficult to predict at this time which programs will be offered this summer.

**External Summer Programs**

While Temple does not have an alternative STEM-related research program, we do work with external program providers that are still planning to offer research opportunities this summer. While promising, it is important to note that these programs are facing the same operational challenges that the University of Siena and IES Abroad have faced related to being able to offer in-person programming and government mandated quarantines, which may also result in program cancellations in the coming weeks or Temple’s inability to approve your participation. Regardless, I have highlighted some programs so you can explore your options, and noted the program’s deadlines below:

- [Arcadia STEM Summer Research Dublin](#)
- [Arcadia STEM Summer Research Glasgow](#)

Arcadia’s deadline for both of these programs is **March 31st**.

If you are interested in pursuing one of these external programs, **you must first submit Temple’s Request to Study Abroad** before completing Arcadia’s program application. **Temple Students**: if you are interested in pursuing one of these programs, please let me know by **Tuesday, March 9th** so that I can open a Request to Study Abroad for you. More information on the [external program process and application and eligibility requirements](#) has been linked for your reference. Of course if you are interested, I’d be happy to meet with you to discuss any of these options.

**Study Abroad in Future Terms**

Alternatively, if you would like to defer your study abroad experience to a future term for which we are currently accepting applications, please let us know and we can open that application for you and have a number of your application materials copied over for your new program application. Applications for all Temple, External and Exchange programs are currently open through spring 2022, and we anticipate opening applications for summer 2022 programs before the end of the fall 2021 semester. Once we open applications for next summer, we will reach out to you to complete a brief survey indicating your interest to have a number of your application materials copied over for summer 2022.

Again, we are so sorry to relay this news, which we also would like to note is being sent at the same time to whomever you indicated as emergency contacts in your application. We look forward to working with many of you on plans to study abroad on another summer program or in a future term, and we wish you and yours continued health and safety.

As always, please contact us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Melinda