



Christopher Maynard

Sam Houston State University

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dear Campus Community:

After discussion with the President's Cabinet, we have made the difficult decision to suspend study abroad programs for the remainder of the 2020-2021 academic year, due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, along with current travel restrictions/advisories across the globe. All SHSU summer study abroad programs (faculty-led, exchange and affiliated) that require travel to an international locale are cancelled. We are sorry that we have to cancel these programs, but our number one priority is the safety of both our students and faculty/staff.

While we are not able to offer our students experiences traveling abroad this summer, other programs are available that offer similar experiences. Please see below.

- **Virtual study and internship abroad programs.** Let study abroad opportunities come to you with a virtual program. Take courses from universities around the world and participate in virtual culture events, or complete a virtual internship with an international company. Find out more information at www.shsu.edu/dept/international-programs/study-abroad/virtual
- **National Student Exchange.** With NSE you can participate in exchange programs within the US while paying SHSU tuition. Both summer and semester exchange are available. Find out more information at www.shsu.edu/nse

My goal as an academic leader is for each and every student at Sam Houston State University to have the opportunity to have a study abroad experience. That is an ambitious goal; however, it is an appropriate one, because I know first-hand the transformative power of study abroad as an accepted high-impact practice. Students who study abroad have cultural experiences, academic and business experiences, and life experiences that better position them for the workforce. Simply put, study abroad positions you for future success.

While we are not pursuing study abroad in the 2020-2021 academic year, I have challenged the Office of International Programs to develop a robust plan for the 2021-2022 academic year and beyond. They will be working to provide

more resources and assist faculty and students in planning for the future. Now is the time for you to examine the best time to participate in study abroad. Please email studyabroad@shsu.edu to be kept informed of future opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Maynard". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christopher" and last name "Maynard" clearly legible.

Christopher Maynard,
Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs