Dear Colleagues:

The Office for Education Abroad and the Office for Global Health, Safety and Security are delighted to report that, with careful health and safety planning as well as attention to geopolitical events, our first significant cohort of EA students in two years will be departing shortly. We thank you for your enthusiastic engagement and tireless efforts on behalf of our students.

This message is to share two important announcements, both new to Summer 2022 programming.

1. **Program Director Stay-Behind Policy on Faculty-Directed Programs**

The following outlines expectations regarding program directors’ responsibility for students on faculty-directed programs who test positive for COVID-19, have COVID-19 symptoms, or are otherwise required to quarantine/isolate at the end of the program and are unable to depart, as scheduled.

The University’s Risk and Security Assessment Committee (RSAC) has reviewed and approved the following criteria for determining when a program director leading a faculty-directed program will be required by MSU to stay in-country with a quarantining/isolating student. If any of the following criterion are met, the program director will stay behind with the student.

- The student is hospitalized and until continuity of support is assured by either activating a bed-side visit benefit or transferring responsibility for care to a trusted local partner
- The student is a minor (irrespective of severity of COVID symptoms or on-site provider)
- The program does not work with one of the following trusted providers: CEA, CIS Abroad, Arcadia, Accent
- The program operates in a location where it may be challenging for a student to access essentials like meal delivery while in quarantine/isolation (e.g., rural or remote location).

Should this situation arise, please consult immediately with the Office for Education Abroad and the Office for Global Health, Safety and Security to determine if the stay-behind policy should be activated and to receive approval to remain in-country with the student(s). Generally speaking, a graduate student cannot be left behind with a student in lieu of an MSU faculty or staff member serving as a program director.

The Center for Disease Control currently cites 10 days as the recommended length of stay; however, this varies by country and depends on individual circumstances. The exact length of stay will be assessed on a case-by-case basis using the information available to us at the time.

The university will reimburse program directors’ additional lodging and per diem at the rate used in the program budget and for the approved number of days. Airline ticket change fees and ground transportation (for example, extra parking days at Detroit Metro Airport) will also be reimbursable. Receipts will be required as defined in MSU’s Manual of Business Procedures.

2. **New Quarantine Coverage for Education Abroad Students**

All Education Abroad students are automatically covered by comprehensive international health insurance. Effective April 19, 2022, a new quarantine benefit has been added to this policy.
This benefit provides a maximum coverage of up to $2,000 for all covered expenses. The maximum benefit for lodging and meals is $150/day for a maximum of 10 days. Please note that students will need to present evidence that they’ve been ordered to quarantine by a doctor or government authority. Following public health guidance is insufficient. Students will pay out of pocket for any quarantine expenses and submit their receipts and a claim form to Chubb for reimbursement.

We hope these updates are helpful as you prepare to lead your program. Thank you again for your role in providing Education Abroad opportunities to our students.

Sincerely,

Office for Education Abroad
Office for Global Health, Safety and Security