

Dear Applicant,

**Please read the message below very carefully, as it contains important information about your Samford Abroad program application.**

As you may already know, university sponsored international travel has been cancelled through August 6. We are looking forward to the next meeting of the Samford University International Travel Advisory Committee, which is tentatively scheduled for the first week in March. This is the committee that will determine the viability of your program and make recommendations to University leadership. I know I mentioned in my previous email that we hoped to give acceptances by March 1. However, because they are meeting after March 1, we will not notify students of acceptance until after that meeting and decision by University leadership. I anticipate that we will provide notification by early to mid-March, 2021.

As I mentioned previously, please discuss with your family to determine whether you will commit to your program if the program moves forward and you are accepted. **I encourage you to investigate and monitor the requirements and conditions in the UK so you can make an informed decision concerning your participation.** If the committee determines that your program is viable and will move forward, then we will need to act quickly to get rosters finalized. We will have to quickly arrange flights, work through immigration requirements and visa applications, and take care of other program logistics and will need a finalized roster as soon as possible. Because of this, I anticipate that you will be given just a few days to either commit to your program or decline your acceptance. We are trying to give as much time as possible for the situation with the pandemic to improve, while balancing the need to move forward with planning and immigration requirements for your internship program. **You will be notified of a decision on your application via your Samford email. If you do not respond to your acceptance in the specified time frame, we will move to the next person on the waitlist.** Please be prepared to respond when prompted, and monitor your email closely for communication from us, so you do not miss the notification.

Since we normally accept students much earlier than March for the fall semester program, we will have a lot of material to cover with you in a shortened period of time to ensure you are prepared for the semester in London. As such, **please continue to reserve Thursday convos (10am) for pre-departure sessions, starting on March 11 through the remainder of the semester.** It is likely that we will have a pre-departure session for each and every one of the remaining Thursday convo times during the spring semester. Attendance at these sessions is a condition of participation in the semester in London program. You will be provided a more detailed schedule of the pre-departure sessions in the first session on March 11. I anticipate the sessions will all be virtual.

Of course, the possibility remains that the International Travel Advisory Committee will cancel the program you have applied for. If this occurs, please note that our office is committed to providing an early opportunity to apply to a future program for students who have applied to programs that have been cancelled due to COVID-19. If you were accepted and committed to a program in 2020 that was canceled, we will continue to offer conditional acceptance for a future program.

I think you should also be aware of program modifications and new requirements that may exist due to the pandemic. Program modifications may include a change in the academic offerings, program dates, and hybrid courses and internships. Students may be required to adhere to cleaning or other modified

protocols in shared areas of the Daniel House. Travel outside of London and the UK may be restricted by Samford or by local laws. Activity schedules will likely require flexibility on the part of students and staff. Please note that **program participants may be required to provide proof of vaccinations and/or negative COVID-19 test results.** These may be entry requirements of the destination country or they may be requirements of Samford. I do not know of any specific requirements at this point, but I want to prepare you for the possibility that vaccination against COVID-19 may be a condition of participation in your Samford Abroad program.

Thank you for taking the time to carefully read this email. I know I always send you lengthy emails, but I want to be sure everyone has the relevant information and updates. I'm hopeful that we will be able to return to studying abroad soon! In any case, I will keep you posted on any developments, and please feel free to email me with any questions.

Warm regards,

Jill

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