November 16, 2015

Dear Student, Parent, or Guardian,

The health and safety of every Global Seminar student is our highest priority. In light of the terrorist attack in Paris, we would like to share our health and safety policies and procedures. Last year, almost 1,000 UCSD students safely studied abroad all over the world. UC San Diego would not sponsor this study abroad program if we felt it was unsafe. While we must always be alert to risks, we cannot allow the fear of terrorism to stop us from studying abroad.

The professional staff at Study Abroad, UC San Diego continuously monitor the security situation. We work closely with UC risk management, our local partners in Paris, and I Jet, a security organization that advises UC. Our office also regularly reviews the US State Department web site for any sign that the US government considers travel to France to be unsafe. This is called a travel warning, and it has a very specific meaning. It is the highest level of caution. Such a travel warning advises against travel to a country. It is essential to note that no travel warning has been issued for France.

UC San Diego will not run a Global Seminar a program in France if the US State Department issues a travel warning. If a travel warning is issued prior to departure for this or any other Global Seminar destination, then students will receive a full refund on the program fee. If a travel warning is issued by the US State Department during a Global Seminar, then the students will be evacuated free of charge, and the program fee will be refunded.

Please note that occasionally, well-meaning media stories may incorrectly say that the government has issues a warning against travel to a particular country. There is only one reliable source to determine if a travel warning is actually issued, and that is the US State Department web site. The public can view the list of current US State Department travel warnings at the following web site: http://travel.state.gov

Professor Cecil Lytle is leading this Global Seminar. Dr. Lytle has lived and taught extensively in Europe, and has lead the Jazz in Paris Global Seminar many times previously. He knows the local culture, customs, and has extensive contacts in the local community. Professor Lytle is familiar
with the country and knows his whereabouts in the city. He will be available to advise students on site.

Sadly, sudden violence can happen anywhere, including California. Paris is safer than many US cities and crime rates are very low. Students will receive pre-departure and on-site orientations that will address health, safety and cultural adjustment. There will be 24/7 health and safety support from our study abroad partners in Paris. These full-time professionals are French, and they understand the local culture and are well versed in health & safety procedures. They will serve as a resource to the students on issues of health, safety, and cultural adjustment. Students will be informed to be aware of their surroundings, and how to notify local authorities in the event of an emergency. The student housing is located in a middle class neighborhood and will offer internet access so you can stay in touch with your student. All students will be covered by international student health insurance, and by the University of California business travel insurance plan. In the event of a natural disaster or geopolitical emergency, this insurance would pay to evacuate the students from France. We have never had to use this service. While we do not expect to need to use this insurance, you should feel confident that we have closely considered safety and security when we selected and as we prepare the Global Seminar.

We believe that the learning opportunity that awaits students in Paris, France will be truly remarkable. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jim Galvin
Director, Opportunities Abroad and Faculty-Led Programs