

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

September 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Family Members:

Hello and welcome to the Office of Global Education at Boston College! Our office is responsible for facilitating all semester and summer study abroad experiences for undergraduate students. We also welcome exchange students each year from many of Boston College's partner universities.

While spending a semester or year abroad is exciting, a certain amount of preparation and care is advised prior to completing the Boston College study abroad application. Our office has carefully curated our website to provide answers to the most pressing questions you may have. Topics include [Academics](#), [Finances](#), [Diversity and Inclusion](#), amongst others. We ask that you, and your students, spend time exploring all that Boston College has to offer for global education.

We have thoughtfully constructed our education abroad advising to emphasize that students need to take initiative and responsibility for their abroad experience. We ask that students be mindful of the [process](#) to go abroad. We require students to complete an [Initial Advising Questionnaire](#) and attend one of our [Study Abroad 101 meetings](#). Completing these required components will allow students to apply to study abroad. However, we encourage students to go beyond these two basic requirements by [thinking critically about](#) what they want to accomplish abroad. We ask students to be cognizant of our one study abroad deadline of January 5. The deadline is for all [semester programs](#) and for all academic terms (fall, academic year, and spring). Students must apply by this date in order to be considered and should plan accordingly by attending a Study Abroad 101 early and asking any questions before the deadline.

Students interested in a [summer program](#) need to apply by February 5; summer program applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until programs are filled and we recommend that students do not wait to apply until the deadline.

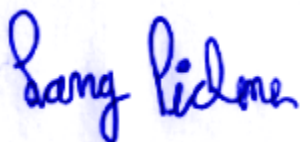
To keep students informed, we send out monthly newsletters updating the student community of upcoming events and deadlines. Our [website](#) is updated frequently and we maintain active social media pages with news and information pertaining to education abroad. We visit classrooms and host various events throughout the academic year, such as [eNav21](#), our hybrid study abroad fair and event series this fall. Our staff of [study abroad advisors](#), each with a specific region of expertise, are available to assist students in making their final program decisions.

When selecting programs, students should think about questions related to their time abroad such as: Are there additional academic requirements beyond what Boston College [requires](#)? What about language requirements? Am I selecting the correct term for my academic major? Have I spoken to a faculty mentor regarding my study abroad plans? We encourage students to go beyond these questions and consider other individual factors when choosing a program and term.

Students should be aware that some study abroad programs offered by Boston College may have higher GPA requirements, have limited places available per semester, and more generally, will be different than the Heights. Finally, we remind all that BC equally balances the number of students abroad per semester. Students should be flexible regarding which semester they can go abroad as they are not guaranteed to receive their top program or term abroad. Please carefully consider alternative choices and speak to an OGE advisor to learn more.

While we ask much from our students, we are available to help. We have a dedicated team of full-time advisors, support staff, and graduate students available. We do communicate directly with students regarding all matters relating to their time abroad. We ask that you encourage your students to speak to you about their plans and we encourage students to contact us directly to help facilitate the experience. We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,



Larry Pickener
Director, Office of Global Education
Boston College

