

BSM Update-Monday March 16, 2020

Dear BSM Students, Families and Partner Institutions,

The safety and well-being of the students are our highest priority. BSM is monitoring the coronavirus (2019-nCov) situation carefully and is taking proactive and prudent measures to ensure the health and safety of the BSM community in accordance with frequently updated information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

Regards,
Prof. K Garrett

BSM Spring 2020 Semester Closure Update-Thursday March 12, 2020

Dear BSM Students, Families and Partner Institutions,

As you are no doubt aware, the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics program (BSM) made the decision to suspend in person classes and send students home yesterday at 4:00 pm CDT. Unfortunately, only hours later, the US government announced serious travel restrictions effective Friday March 13 at 11:59 Eastern. I am writing with an update on the status of BSM students.

Our Hungarian and American staff have been working through the night with individual students and families to help students change airline tickets and leave for the US or home country as soon as possible. All BSM students have been in touch with our staff and over 50% have either already left Hungary or will be leaving in the next several hours. I am grateful to our Hungarian staff who began this effort at 3:00 am local time and will continue until all students have made a plan.

The information we have received from DHS and the US Embassy in Budapest indicates that American students will be able to return after Friday as well, but given the uncertainty and changing landscape, we strongly recommend that all students leave as soon as possible to avoid any travel interruptions.

BSM hopes that we will be able to help all students leave on regular commercial flights in the next 24 hours but we are looking at several contingencies in the event that circumstances change. We will continue to provide updates as new information is available.

Although it is important to move quickly, we urge calm and are here to help wherever we can. When the dust settles, we will communicate plans for continued online instruction per our closure notice.

We wish all students a swift and safe journey home.
Regards,
Prof. K Garrett

BSM Spring 2020 Closure Update-Wednesday March 11, 2020

Dear BSM Students, Families and Partner Institutions,

The safety and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff is always foremost in BSM's thinking and planning. We're writing today with an update about the program's planning regarding COVID-19.

Although there are very few cases of COVID-19 confirmed in Hungary and we believe Budapest to be a safe place, the Hungarian government has moved to close all educational facilities and move to online instruction. This affects BSM as well and effective today, we are suspending in-person classes through March 20, 2020. Faculty and staff will use that time to plan for the switch to online instruction so that students will be able to finish the semester and earn credits from home. We realize this is a serious decision and we have not made it lightly. It is important that we make this decision while travel is still an option and students have the chance to get home.

We ask students to contact their families and home schools (a copy of this email will be sent to your home school) and begin to make arrangements to leave Budapest and return home as soon as possible. If you need assistance with changing travel plans, BSM has retained a travel agency that will work with you at no cost. You can contact them at TroyR@burschtravel.com and identify yourself as a BSM student. If you have any questions or need assistance you can be in contact with the BSM staff in Hungary or the abroad office at your home school.

You will be receiving more detailed information from the Hungarian staff about online instruction in the coming days. We encourage you to make sure to bring all course materials (notes, textbooks, etc) home with you for continued study.

The BSM community is strong because people care for one another and for the best interests of our students. We appreciate your attention to this message, and we ask for your continued support. If you have questions, you are welcome to contact our office at budapestsemesters@gmail.com.

Regards,
Prof. Kristina Garrett
Kristina C. Garrett (Tina)