



Office of the Vice-Provost, International

July 14, 2020

Dear graduate student,

I hope this message finds you well. We understand the last few months have been challenging as we have all taken steps to curb the spread of COVID-19. In March 2020, UBC made the difficult decision to cancel all student travel for university purposes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After careful consideration, UBC is extending this cancellation until 31 December 2020. This includes graduate student travel for university purposes including international research, professional placements and conference attendance. This decision is in line with the current advice of [BC CDC](#) and [Global Affairs Canada](#). It follows guidelines outlined in UBC's Student [Safety Abroad Policy](#).

We know that this may be disappointing news, and we share that disappointment. Although the situation is improving in some places across the world, both provincial and federal governments continue to advise against non-essential international travel since many countries are experiencing community transmission and have varying travel restrictions in place. Our highest priority continues to be the safety of our students, and in the current circumstances UBC and its partners would not be able to adequately support our students should they need assistance if they were to travel abroad.

For now, students are encouraged to work with their program to explore alternatives to international travel. If this is not possible, students may request special authorization to travel through the Student Safety Abroad program. To receive authorization students must demonstrate the necessity of the trip and present a well-developed safety plan. Please visit the [Student Safety Abroad website](#) to learn more.

UBC will continue to monitor the situation and government directives as they evolve, sharing any updates on international travel with students as they become available. We know that the steps we take today are temporary and we look forward to when we are able to get back to supporting students to engage in enriching international experiences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murali Chandrashekar', with a horizontal line underneath.

Murali Chandrashekar
Vice-Provost, International