

# THE ORACLE

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## Global plans for the future in uncertain times

Study abroad applications are now open for the summer of 2021, though plans are still COVID-19 pending.

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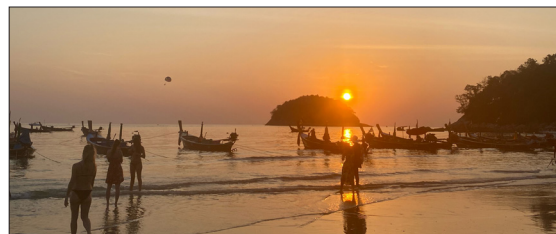
**A YEAR SINCE** students were recalled from their spring semester study abroad, applications have opened at Hamline for study away opportunities this summer.

"For right now, things look promising in certain countries, in other countries not so much. It is sort of like a waiting pattern that we're in," said Kate Meyer, faculty lead and study away coordinator in the Global Engagement Center (GEC). "Applications are open, but again, we advise students that it might not happen and to have a plan B ready to go just in case."

Since last spring, the GEC has been frequently checking international conditions to ensure safety and the best possible outcome for students. Their checking includes things like determining dormitory situations and social

distancing and event planning.

As of now, no country appears to have a vaccine requirement for entering. Currently, most airlines and countries are requiring either/both a COVID-19 test and/



**PHOTOS** | AUDRA GRIGUS, ORACLE

**TOP:** One of the many temples at the Ancient City located in Samut Prakan, Thailand. This was one of the many sights that a group of Hamline students saw during their study away during J-Term of 2020.

**BOTTOM:** A sunset view on Kata Beach in Karon, Thailand, a popular tourist destination.

or a quarantine period.

Prior to COVID-19, anywhere from 100-120 students would be traveling in any of the over 100 different partner options or 20+ exchange options Hamline has established. Partner options are still operating in some capacities, however, Hamline is not approving travel at this time and has not been for the past number of months.

Some programs and applications may require a down payment. The GEC understands the financial commitment this can be and a few years ago, Hamline made the switch to have students pay for the cost of the program and the application fee when the semester begins.

It works similarly now. If the program does not run as previously planned, students are not out their money on the Hamline side and the GEC works with the program providers if students have paid any fees with them. They work to waive it or put it toward a different term.

see **STUDY AWAY**  
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## Confronting patterns of inequity

A community conversation event discussed the necessity of supporting students of color and improving their campus experience.

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**THE FIRST COMMUNITY** conversation of the spring semester, titled "Addressing Student of Color Experiences in Higher Education" discussed one of the most relevant topics currently facing universities and students across the country. The event took place virtually on Feb. 24 and

brought in a variety of speakers and experts to talk about the realities of race and racial experience on college campuses.

The main speaker of the program was Lori Patton Davis, who has done extensive research on the subject and now teaches at The Ohio State University. In her presentation, Davis emphasized the importance of recognizing the different realities that white students and students of color face daily at universities, and the inequity that often results.

"It's important for all of us to understand the gravity of our social context," Davis said. "It's particularly real for those of us who experience the brunt of it."

Davis's presentation centered on these differences as well as how to approach and address them. One of the primary recommendations for how to do this was by not

being afraid to acknowledge the reality of this disparity and by sharing and communicating how students' experiences might vary.

"We're talking about calling attention to patterns of inequity," said Davis, "and about taking personal responsibility for disrupting those patterns."

In addition to Davis, the conversation also included the perspectives of Hamline professors, Mycall Akeem Riley '12 Hamline graduate and senior Rose-Marie Athley.

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### Our mission

To cover news, trends, events and entertainment relevant to Hamline undergraduate students. We strive to make our coverage accurately reflect the diverse communities that comprise the student population.

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# Study away

(continued from front)

"That has really helped with some of the early financial burdens and roadblocks... for students trying to figure out this study abroad," Meyer said. "A lot of our program provider friends have been very flexible because they also understand that even \$75 is a big chunk of money for a student so it's not going to be to waste. It will either be used for another term or hopefully, we can work to get it refunded."

Last spring, the GEC was able to scholarship students who experienced extra expenses due to flight fees or other needs.

"I think that is something we are going to have to do more going forward in the world that we are in. It just shows that emergency planning is critical," said Meyer. "So far Hamline has done a decent job but I think having more budgets to extract students should we need to without having to worry about finances is something I think is a win-

win for everyone."

Institutionally, professors are beginning to plan study away programs for the semesters in the near future. Hamline tries to offer three to four faculty-led study away programs each year.

Letitia Basford, Associate Professor and CTL Faculty Director in the Education Department, is in the process of planning a trip to England about global migration slated for this August. If COVID-19 conditions do not improve, the program will be postponed to the January term of 2022.

Ryan LeCount, associate professor and chair of the Sociology Department, has plans for teaching away in Hawaii in January 2022. He is also considering proposing a 2022 May term in Argentina.

"The pandemic has made it clear just how much it is possible to integrate remote interaction and learning into all that we have historically done in physical spaces together," said LeCount. "I have begun to imagine a lot of possibilities for the pre-travel portion of the courses in team building, course instruction and discussion, and even

"meeting" people, places and groups we might spend time with later — and doing all of this via Zoom or otherwise virtually. This might be a great supplement to what we've done in the past."

Leif Hembre, professor in the Biology Department, is also in the process of creating a study away program for January of 2022 in Belize. He has led this before in recent years. The latest of which was during the Zika virus. The organization this program works through, Monkey Bay, handled that situation carefully and safely.

"I think probably lots of students are eager to do some real stuff, not to say that we can't learn through distance learning but I know for myself being able to do actual experiences in the world is something I'm excited about and I'm happy that we're starting to do a little bit more now..." said Leif. "I'll be ready and willing academically to lead the course should it be allowed."

With any questions or concerns, the GEC can be reached at: gec@hamline.edu or by phone at (651) 523-2245.



PHOTO | AUDRA GRIGUS, ORACLE

The Buddha statue at the Ancient City located in Samut Prakan in Thailand. Ten students traveled with Professor Suda Ishida to study environmental journalism and report on real-world events.

Campus COVID-19 Count			
	Students	Employees	
Total current positive cases:	9	0	
Students in isolation on campus:	0	N/A	
Students in isolation off campus:	9	N/A	
Students in quarantine on campus:	3	N/A	
Students in quarantine off campus:	12	N/A	
Total cumulative cases (since Aug. 8, 2020):	144	20	
		As of 2/23/2021	

# Inequity

(continued from front)

This event was the first of three scheduled community conversations this semester. Each event is designed to encourage dialogue around important issues and engage students and staff alike in thinking about their experiences and the experiences of others.

“How do we talk about those differences in a way that allows me to be just as much informed about your experiences as you are being informed by my experiences,” David Everett said, the associate vice president of inclusive excellence at Hamline and the host and organizer of the event.

The importance of conversations like these is something that has been particularly stressed during the pandemic, which has limited the student interaction and community engagement that typically happens both in and outside of the classroom.

“It’s a huge challenge,” Everett said, “a lot of the really good conversations don’t happen in the classrooms, they happen in the dorms, in the student centers.”

With the community conversations, Everett hopes to provide an opportunity for similar conversations and to create a space where important topics can be discussed with the attention that they deserve.

“There has to be some level of intentionality about how we create those opportunities and moments,” Everett said. “It’s an opportunity to share and obviously to learn, but also to talk about what we do next.”

The upcoming community conversations will take place on March 24 and April 21. The topics will be “Leadership During Crisis” and “Engaging Immigrant and Refugee Experiences in the Hamline Community.”

## Upcoming community conversations

**Leadership During Crisis: How Leaders Navigate Contemporary Challenges**  
Wed., March 4, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Engaging Immigrant and Refugee Experiences in the Hamline Community**  
Wed., April 21, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Both of these events can be accessed by the same Zoom link.  
Meeting ID: 920 8408 3948  
Passcode: PtPhx9

## Clarification

On 2/24, the Oracle ran the story “Supporting BIPOC peers near you.” For this story, information related to each business should be attributed to their respective websites:  
[facebook.com/ghettogardner](https://facebook.com/ghettogardner),  
[blackgarnetbooks.com](https://blackgarnetbooks.com),  
[soulbowlmn.com](https://soulbowlmn.com),  
[trioplant-based.com](https://trioplant-based.com) and  
[goldenthymeonselby.com](https://goldenthymeonselby.com).

## Wesley AWARDS

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WHO HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE FOR YOU!

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Nominate a Fellow Undergraduate Student, Faculty Member or Staff Member  
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- Hamline’s mission, core values and vision
- Hamline’s dedication to high quality and vigorous academics
- Commitment to leadership, service and making the world a better place
- Commitment to advancement of diversity, innovation, integration, and transformation within the Hamline community

ALL NOMINATIONS ARE DUE MONDAY,  
MARCH 15th, 2021



For more information about the Wesley Awards, to view nomination guidelines, or to nominate the person of your choice, please visit the Dean of Students Office website at <https://www.hamline.edu/offices/dean-of-students/wesley-awards.html>.