



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

To: Students Interested in Studying at NYU Accra, and their Families

From: Nancy Morrison, Vice President, Global Programs
Josh Taylor, Associate Vice Chancellor, Global Programs

Date: October 9, 2015

Re: Spring 2015

New York University has been closely following the outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa and its potential impact on operations at NYU Accra.

While the outbreak clearly remains an enormous public health issue in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea -- based on the current situation on the ground in Accra, and more broadly, in Ghana, the University expects to resume courses in Accra this January.

Since the beginning of the Ebola outbreak, there has yet to be a confirmed case of Ebola anywhere in Ghana, or in any bordering country (view map: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/09/140925-mapping-the-spread-of-ebola>). And though the situation in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea continues to be profoundly concerning, the spread to neighboring countries has not, as many expected, transpired, and there continue to be no travel warnings in effect for Ghana. Furthermore, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on September 30 that it believes that Nigeria, which had 20 cases and eight deaths over the summer, has successfully contained its first Ebola outbreak.

That said, should conditions in Ghana and/or neighboring countries change between now and the start of Spring semester courses, the University will revisit this decision. In the event of a cancelation, students should be assured that if they have purchased non-refundable or non-changeable tickets to and from Accra (for the beginning and end of their studies), the University will ensure they are reimbursed for those expenses. Please note that this guarantee will only apply to a student's original flight to Accra, and their return back home at the end of the semester; it will not apply to other travel that students may choose to book during the semester. Students should not plan any regional travel until they arrive in Accra, so that they can consult with NYU Accra staff. And, of course, travel to countries such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea should be considered off-limits.

Students at NYU Accra consistently tell us how much they enjoy their experience in Ghana, and we don't expect this spring semester to be an exception. However, that is not to say that we will operate as we always have.

NYU Accra will offer expanded health services next semester. In addition to a visiting nurse, who is on site three days a week (and on call 24/7), we are partnering with an NYU School of Medicine faculty member, Dr. Sari Soghoian, who is currently a full-time Attending Physician at Accra's Korlebu Teaching Hospital, to provide additional access to health care in case the need arises. Additional information on Ebola and its transmission can be found on the website of the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention here:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>.

We will also require all students studying at NYU Accra to have an active mobile phone. As they do each semester, NYU Accra staff will invite in local telecommunications providers at the start of the semester so that students are able to sign up for local service. Special arrangements can be made for students for whom having a local mobile phone would present financial difficulty.

As part of NYU's emergency planning for all its global sites, NYU has a standing arrangement that enables it, if conditions warrant, to activate a rapid site evacuation. Such an evacuation would come at no cost to students. Those interested in attending NYU Accra should be aware that if the University determines that students should leave the region, the evacuation will proceed quickly, as any significant delays could make it more difficult to secure flights.

Students scheduled to study in Accra will receive a special pre-departure briefing, which will include detailed information on the Ebola virus, how it is spread, and what precautions one should take to minimize risk. In the interim, if you have any questions about how the situation in West Africa could effect your study away decision, please contact Jessica Levin, study away advisor for NYU Accra, at jal19@nyu.edu, or at 212.998.4284.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns, and know that we are working closely with our colleagues at NYU Accra to make sure you have a phenomenal – and safe – experience.