

May 5, 2020

Hi FOCUS Australia students,

As Drs. Richard and Klotz wrote earlier, we had made the difficult decision to postpone travel for GO due to COVID-19.

We will start to make plans for the FOCUS Australia program to run in May 2021 – you would still be able to participate in this program, however, I do want to note that, for current May 2021 anticipated graduates: you would complete the OFFR course during the program so that after the program is completed, your graduation requirements would be completed but that your final conferment of your degree would be August 2021.

**If you would like to reserve your spot in the May 2021 FOCUS Australia program, please let me know by May 13 (next Wednesday).**

Alternatively, you can participate in a different Winter 2020/2021 program – note that applications are open on [go.susqu.edu](http://go.susqu.edu) until May 10. We would work with you as much as we can to ease the application process. Winter programs that are accepting applications:

**Czech Theatre and History** - Dates: December 29-January 14 - Cost \$5,500 - Program size: 16 students, space available: 3

**GO Cuba** - Dates: January 2-16 - Cost: \$5,250 - Program Size: 16 students, space available: 7

**GO New Orleans** - Dates: January 1-15 - Cost \$3,550 - Program size: 16 students, space available: 7

**Sherpa Life and Culture** - Dates: December 18-January 10 - Cost \$6,500 - Program size: 8 students, space available: 3

**Shane Sanders or I would be more than happy to have an advising session with you via phone or zoom to talk about the Winter 2020/2021 options.**

We are as disappointed about this situation as we are sure that many of you are - and we have made this difficult decision on the basis of what we feel is in the best interest of your personal health and wellbeing and tried to allow for as much time as possible to make this decision.

As is in the e-mail below, we will reverse the deposit and program fee from your account; SU aid will also be reversed. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact [sfs@susqu.edu](mailto:sfs@susqu.edu).

Sincerely,

Molly Roe, Director of Global Opportunities  
Shane Sanders, Short-term Programs Coordinator  
Scott Manning, Dean of Global Programs

Focus Folk,

Given our recent conversations, I am certain this announcement will not come as a surprise to you. In consultation with the GO office, we have made the decision to postpone the 2020 Focus

Australia program to May /June 2021. The COVID-19 situation in Australia is in many ways far better than that of the US or Europe with many fewer cases or deaths but they achieved this by aggressive lockdown measures including a ban on any non-Australian citizens entering the country and imposing a 14-day isolation on anyone who arrives. As it stands, there are almost no flights in or out of the country. The Australian federal government has also locked down inter- and intrastate travel for the foreseeable future. There is no indication that they will be opening up for international travel any time soon- a position reinforced by my conversations this week with some friends and colleagues in Australia.

So, the money you already paid for the 2020 program will be refunded to your student account and the GO grant reversed as appropriate so that it can be applied to the future program. SU will then re-bill you next year, most likely in March. Your current applications will be moved to the 2021 program so you do not have to reapply.

We know this is a disappointment to you all but we are still looking forward optimistically to a successful trip next year. Please be in touch if you have any questions

Best wishes

Drs. Richard and Klotz