



February 25th, 2022.

Dear ACA students, parents, educators, and ACA family,

In the wake of the devastating news of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, I would like to share what ACA is doing to ensure your student's safety. Adventist Colleges Abroad has been operating for over 60 years, and students safety, well-being, and academic success have always been the driving factors behind our decisions.

I would like to share with you a few recent examples that testify to ACA's timely actions to ensure our students' safety.

1. In March 2020, Italy suddenly became the Covid-19 hotspot in Europe. The day after the Italian prime minister announced Italy's borders would be closing, we were able to get all of the 16 ACA students who still remained on campus in Florence on one of the last airplanes leaving that airport. By God's grace, none of their flights were cancelled, despite most other flights trying to leave Italy being immediately cancelled. And all students arrived in the United States safely and in good health. The ACA team spared no efforts or resources to get these students home safely. This was an historic evacuation for ACA and by God's grace, a success story.
2. Subsequently, all students remaining at other ACA programs were advised to return home immediately, before the United States closed its borders as well. Again, ACA spared no efforts or resources to help these students get home safely.
3. When it was safe to reactivate our study abroad programs, ACA and each host institution implemented many precautionary measures to ensure students' safety. I invite you to peruse our page <https://www.acastudyabroad.com/insurance/> to learn more about this.

I praise God for constantly blessing our efforts in ensuring ALL our students' safety as we operate our programs in a pandemic, and for allowing us, despite many challenges, to provide the necessary conditions for academic success.

And now our hearts are heavy as we watch the horrific images of the attacks on the Ukrainian population.

Here is what ACA is doing:

1. The ACA director is currently living and working remotely from Europe, which allows for faster and easier mobility to any of our programs in Europe, when needed.



2. In addition to advisors at the GC, at the NAD, and at each host university, the ACA director has also recruited the assistance of a European advisor who is fully immersed in the war news. She is a lawyer and an experienced journalist, who is the executive editor of a respected news journal in Europe. She has kindly agreed to keep the ACA director on speed dial, should there be any reasons for concern over the safety of our programs in Europe.

3. Each of the universities hosting ACA programs are in close contact with U.S. embassies in their country. They promptly follow any and all advisories by the U.S. Department of State directed at U.S. students studying abroad.

Now more than ever, Adventist Colleges Abroad's mission is of great significance in inspiring our young people to be understanding of other cultures, to be sympathetic with people who differ from them, and to use their God-given skills and passions to minister to others regardless of their language, origin, and culture.

I personally thank you for your support and confidence in what we do for your student. Your student's safety comes first and we won't spare any efforts to take all necessary actions.

I invite you to join me in prayer for the Ukrainian people, for the surrounding countries, and for our SDA schools abroad, as we ask God for protection, for a trusting heart, and for awareness of how we can serve Him better.

In His service,  
Dr. Esteves

**Sandra Esteves, PhD**  
Director  
*Adventist Colleges Abroad ~ learning without borders*  
ACA Website [www.acastudyabroad.com](http://www.acastudyabroad.com)