

October 27, 2020

Hello everyone,

How are you doing this semester? I guess you are all working hard with online classes. It's been a big change to adjust to but I'm inspired to see how hard Togaku students are working!

I'm sure that you may feel frustrated and disappointed that you won't be able to study abroad next Spring. I feel the same. However, we have to stay positive and optimistic that things will be different in the future.

There are three important things you can do now to help get over your disappointment and plan for the future. Join, Prepare, Engage.

### **Join**

Why not join us for some virtual internal exchange events? We have hosted online sessions with students from the United States and we will also share our experiences with students from China in December. You'll also have an opportunity to learn from your "sempai" by listening to their advice about study abroad. We also plan to introduce you to some virtual study abroad programs and internships so keep checking TG Navi regularly for details.

### **Prepare**

Second, why not start your preparations to study abroad? Keep up your language training; there are lots of online tools you can use to study English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese and even Welsh! Save money; study abroad can be expensive so use this time to try and save a little every week to help pay for your travel. Research about where you want to go; use the online resources on the IEC Teams page and take a virtual tour of our overseas partner universities on Google Earth!

## **Engage**

Finally, you can become part of our Togaku Abroad community, follow us on social media; post, retweet and connect with your fellow Togaku classmates. Why not post your favorite travel memory or photo? Let's create an international community at Togaku!

As we have learned during the pandemic, a classroom doesn't have four walls, we can connect with people overseas virtually and still learn about other cultures, build friendships, and improve our skills.

The IEC faculty and staff look forward to helping you make your study abroad dreams come true!

Stay safe, stay positive, stay optimistic!

Dr. Sarah Louisa Birchley  
Director, International Exchange Center

