



To the Duke community and Other Interested Parties,

Recent media reports have stated that Duke University has closed its study abroad programs in Israel due to the current conflict in the region. This is incorrect.

While the program has been cancelled for the summer of 2009, many factors were considered before the decision was made to withdraw this offering from the study abroad portfolio, the primary factor being lower than expected student enrollment. Student safety is a factor to be considered in all study abroad programs, and was considered in this instance. However, it was not the sole or deciding factor.

Duke Study Abroad will support the Israel program for the summer of 2010, and will, in the meantime, endeavor to address the concerns that led to this year's cancellation.

Duke will also continue to offer opportunities in Israel and the region for 2009. One such program, Taglit-Birthright Israel coordinated through Jewish Life at Duke, offers students an opportunity to visit and experience Israel with a group of their peers for 10 days during the summer. This program has been very popular, and Duke will be celebrating its 5th year participating in this program during this summer's trip.

We regret any disappointment those student who expressed interest in the Israel study abroad option may feel regarding this decision. We will work to find other opportunities that meet student needs and interests.

Sincerely,

Larry Moneta

Vice President for Student Affairs, Duke University

Mike Schoenfeld

Vice President, Public Affairs & Government Relations, Duke University