Dear Student,

YOUR APPLICATION FOR FALL 2015 MARIST INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS (MIP) HAS BEEN CONDITIONALLY ACCEPTED.

What does conditional acceptance mean? It means your application has successfully passed the first round of review. The next steps:

- Approval from the Office of Student Conduct (applications are undergoing review at this time).
- You complete all secondary application materials.
- Your application be accepted by the overseas institution.
- You complete the current semester successfully in good academic and judicial standing.

PLEASE READ ALL OF THE FOLLOWING VERY CAREFULLY:

COMPLETE POST-ACCEPTANCE FORMS ON HORIZONS

Log in to your Horizons application now to complete and upload information to the "Post-Acceptance" section of the database. Please submit a printed copy of your passport signature/photo page to the MIP office as soon as you are able.

PRE-DEPARTURE PAGE (PDP)

In a few days you will receive a link to your MIP Pre-Departure Page (PDP). The PDP provides instructions, forms, and next steps toward preparing for your program (e.g., fees and estimated costs; overseas application and other forms; calendar; course offerings; course planning and approval form; passport and visa requirements, etc.).

OVERSEAS COURSE ENROLLMENT

All MIP participants are required to enroll in a full course load--equivalent to 12-16 Marist credits--in the abroad semester.

Prior permission must be received from the dean, Marist International Programs, to enroll in more than 16 Marist credits for the abroad semester. Send your request to enroll in more than 16 Marist credits by e-mail (from your Marist account) to your MIP coordinator. Include in your request your full name and CWID.

PRE-DEPARTURE PLANNING MEETINGS

Pre-departure planning meetings will be announced shortly. Most group meetings are scheduled during Wednesday activity hours. Group meetings provide opportunities to meet and share contact info with other program participants. The meetings also complement the PDP as a forum for airing and discussing questions with your program coordinator. Meetings may run from 20-60 minutes. Students are strongly encouraged to attend pre-departure planning meetings. By their nature, these meetings cannot be repeated.

FOXMAIL IS VITAL

Virtually all communication from MIP is through FOXMAIL (your Marist e-mail account). Monitor your e-mail frequently and read messages carefully so that you do not miss important MIP info, instructions, and updates. It is your responsibility to ensure that your FOXMAIL account does not fill up and reject MIP mail. Please communicate with MIP through FOXMAIL. MIP does not send messages to Marist students' non-Marist mail accounts. For questions or concerns re: FOXMAIL please visit the IT page on the Marist Web site or contact: HelpDesk@marist.edu

PROGRAM DEPOSIT

Confirmation of participation in the Program is through a non-refundable deposit of $300 through the MIP on-line Payment Gateway. The Payment Gateway will open Friday, February 13 and close Friday, March 6, 2015 at midnight. This is the link to the Payment Gateway: marist.edu/international/payment.

PROGRAM DATES AND COSTS
A program "cost sheet" including fixed and estimated costs, and program dates, will be linked from the PDP.

**OVERSEAS APPLICATIONS, FORMS, ESSAYS**

The MIP application was a first step toward study abroad. Your coordinator and the PDP will outline next steps, including application to the overseas institution. The forms you receive on-line or at pre-departure meetings must be completed in full: NEATLY, IN BLACK or BLUE INK, by DEADLINES, and according to university standards for appropriate GRAMMAR, PUNCTUATION, and SPELLING. Sloppy work will be returned for correction and re-submission. Seek assistance from campus services such as the Learning Center (proofreading), or the Writing Center (composition), if necessary.

**DO YOU HAVE A PASSPORT VALID AT LEAST 6 MONTHS BEYOND YOUR PROGRAM END DATE?**

Check the expiration date on your passport now. If necessary, renew your passport immediately. Your passport should be valid for 6 months beyond the end of your program (depending on the requirement of your host country). Passport application and renewal instructions are provided by the US Department of State: [http://www.travel.state.gov/](http://www.travel.state.gov/)

**VISAS**

- Visas are issued by foreign governments through their consulates abroad. Consulates are usually located in major US cities such as New York City. In many cases, a consulate appointment is required in order to submit a visa application. Some consulates require that visa applications be submitted electronically, or by mail only.
- A student visa is required for study abroad in most countries. A visa is usually issued as an official stamp affixed to a blank page in the passport, or as a separate document, or it may be issued electronically. The visa application process, fee, and visa format vary from country to country. The PDP will include a cost estimate for the visa.
- A visa cannot be applied for without a valid passport in hand. If you do not have a passport, or your passport is expiring in the upcoming months, you must apply for one immediately and you may need to consider expediting your new passport -- see the US passport application instructions and fees information at: [http://www.travel.state.gov/](http://www.travel.state.gov/)
- The visa application process usually takes several weeks to complete. Many consulates require that visas be applied for within the 90 days prior to the official program start date.
- The student visa is permission to enter a particular country, specifically for study. Documentation of overseas university acceptance/enrollment, and proof of funds, etc. are normally required.
- The visa application process will be discussed in web-based pre-departure materials and in MIP pre-departure meetings.

**IMPORTANT: YOU CANNOT APPLY FOR A VISA AT THIS POINT: IT IS TOO EARLY TO APPLY AND YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED DOCUMENTATION NECESSARY TO COMPLETE YOUR VISA APPLICATION.**

**FLIGHTS**

Booking and purchasing round trip air tickets is each MIP participant's responsibility. The PDP includes suggestions re: booking travel to your program site. Do not book your flights until your program housing check-in and check-out dates are confirmed. (Consulates usually suggest that you do not book your flight until your visa is granted.) Most overseas flights are overnight (flights to Australia usually arrive 2 calendar days after US West Coast departure). Airlines usually charge a fee to change travel dates. If you arrive too early you will need to book a hotel/hostel for yourself; if you arrive late you will miss orientation. After you purchase your flight tickets please forward your flight itinerary to your MIP coordinator.

**MIP HANDBOOK**

All MIP semester/academic year program participants must read the MIP Semester Program Student Handbook as early as possible. It is linked from the "What to know before you go" page on the MIP web site.

We at MIP are looking forward to assisting you as you prepare for your adventure abroad.

Again, congratulations and see you soon!

*Marist International Programs*

*Hancock Center 2007*