I have received email from several of you asking about plans for Autumn Quarter 2020, scheduled to begin Tuesday, September 29. There have been several recent government decisions that have placed unprecedented restrictions on who can study in the United States. In addition, in the context of the pandemic, other travel restrictions have been put in place and embassies and consulates have been closed. If you are currently in your home country, the visa process may be significantly delayed. If you are already in the US, I recommend that you notify your program administrator of your location as this will make transitioning to Chicago a little less complicated.

Please move forward with the necessary documentation to request entry to the US in time to start classes at the end of September. The University of Chicago is making plans for Autumn Quarter instruction to be in-person, and if, as we expect, we are authorized to commence our programs in-person we will be delighted to welcome you to campus. If your relocation to the US proves impossible, we are prepared to defer your admission to your graduate program until Autumn Quarter 2021. In that case, both entry to your graduate program, and your fellowship support, will be automatically postponed for one year. Any student who begins graduate studies in Autumn 2021 will do so with full fellowship support as laid out in their original offer of admission.

The situation can change rapidly, and our Office of International Affairs is working hard to stay abreast of updates and share them with our campus community, so please be sure to check for updates frequently. Please also stay in touch with your graduate program as you navigate the system.

Sincerely,

Victoria Prince, Ph.D.
Dean for Graduate Education
Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs
Biological Sciences Division