September 2019

To the families of our UT students,

I am writing to give you a personal description of a special UT opportunity that is available to our students this coming Summer 2020. It is a 4-week faculty-led study-abroad program in London, England called the ‘Emerging Technologies’ Maymester. To be considered, families may want to discuss this between now and November 1, 2019 (application deadline).

I am the faculty-director of the Emerging Technologies program and the instructor who will be traveling with the students.

I assume that you are reading this because your son or daughter is interested in applying. I am a parent myself, and I understand that you want to be careful in your decision making - weighing factors such as cost, relevance to academics and career, health & safety and international travel itself. I hope to give you some thoughts about this and to give you access to me for any questions that you have during the process.

What first started as an exploratory-trip with students in 2007, is now a unique and powerful architectural-engineering experience for emerging young professionals. The heart of the program is a series of immersive daily visits to top engineering, architecture and construction firms in London. Many of these firms are considered to be among the top companies of their kind in the world. No other university offers a study-abroad program like this. The level of engagement for students with professionals at the offices includes multi-hour presentations and small-group discussions as well one-on-one mentoring for each student with one of the London professionals for a research projects of the student’s choice. Every student returns from this trip with state-of-the-art knowledge, strong confidence in their ability to engage with top professionals in technical topics, and a widely-expanded understanding of the world and their potential in it.

UT Austin works with a London on-site provider that manages our program logistics - including the choice of high-quality housing and providing 24/7 assistance. UT Austin also arranges international health insurance as well additional 24/7 on call support for medical, health, safety and security matters.

Applying to the program does not guarantee a seat in the class, but we are very thoughtful about the selection process. I understand that in order to apply to the program at all your family will want to discuss the financial feasibility and the life-learning benefits. There are 2 websites for you to learn more about the details of this program and to see photos and content from previous trips:

(Instructor website)  http://www.utlondon.info/

(UT website)  http://www.engr.utexas.edu/academics/undergraduate-education/study-abroad/short-term-programs

Thank you for considering this opportunity for your son or daughter.

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