
From: Lynn Cooley, Dean of the Graduate School <grad.dean@message.yale.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 3:15 PM
Subject: Upcoming Winter Break and Holiday Plans

Yale

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

A Message from Dean Cooley

Copied to: DGSs, Chairs, registrars

In this message: Winter break; travel guidance and resources; well wishes

December 14, 2021

Dear graduate students,

As we move into the winter holiday season, I want to acknowledge what an exceptional semester this has been at Yale. While we are still dealing with the COVID pandemic, I am very proud of what we have achieved together – continued research into ideas that will advance human knowledge and provide practical solutions for today's challenges, no matter what transpires around us.

This has not been an easy time for many of you, I know. The ongoing pandemic and the losses we have experienced within and beyond our community have made the stresses that often come with the end of the semester all the more acute. I hope you can use this winter break to relax and reflect; to celebrate according to your traditions, to breathe, and to restore your energies.

Some of you will be looking forward to seeing family and friends – have a wonderful time visiting with your loved ones. Others of you may not be able to reunite with family either in the U.S. or

abroad. At a time when there is so much emphasis on gathering, winter recess can be bittersweet for those who are not able to go home. To our students with family in China, southern Africa, and everywhere else the recent travel restrictions have created impediments to winter break travel, my thoughts are with you.

If you are staying in New Haven for the break, I hope you will try to enjoy the city and some of the nearby nature areas. If you can, connect with others who will be in town to make the break a little more festive. The Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) started a [Winter Buddy Break Forum](#) through Yale Connect as a way for international students to make plans together and enjoy the holidays. They have also posted a nice [Jamboard](#) of movies, TV shows and podcasts you may wish to try while you have some well-deserved time off.

If you are leaving New Haven, please remember that travel is still considered to be a risk in terms of potentially contracting the virus or being delayed in your return to campus in time for the spring semester. I encourage you to [review this message](#) from the Office of International Affairs (OIA) – it contains useful advice and resources for traveling in the U.S. or overseas. Also consult the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) website](#) and the [university travel information site](#) for updates.

I wish all of you a relaxing and uplifting winter break, and I look forward to seeing you in the next semester.

With warm holiday wishes,

Lynn Cooley

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