

THE
FORUM
ON EDUCATION
ABROAD

January 18, 2012

Linda Specht
Director, Office of Terrorism, Finance and Sanctions
Policy Bureau of Economics and Business Affairs
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Jeffrey R. Braunger
Program Manager, Cuba Travel
Office of Foreign Assets Control
U.S. Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Treasury Annex -Second Floor
Washington, D.C. 20220

Daniel Restrepo
Senior Director, Western Hemisphere Affairs
National Security Council
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Specht, Mr. Braunger, and Mr. Restrepo:

I am writing on behalf of the nearly 600 institutional members of the Forum on Education Abroad to urge favorable action on the applications of those study abroad program provider organizations that have submitted applications for licenses to develop and implement academic programs in Cuba under section 515.565 (b) (1)-(3) of the Cuban Assets Control Regulations (CACR), administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

The results of a recent survey of our members indicates that a number of program provider organizations have waited for nearly a year for a decision on their license applications. Study abroad program provider organizations play a significant role by partnering with colleges and universities to offer academic options abroad for students. Students are therefore being adversely impacted by the delay in the processing of licenses because they have fewer options to participate in study abroad programming in Cuba.

I urge you to do whatever you can to facilitate the processing of these applications to benefit our students, fulfill the goals of academic and cultural exchange, and support President Obama's advocacy of purposeful travel to Cuba.

Sincerely,



Brian Whalen
President and CEO