



Novel Coronavirus - Information for Students

What do I do if I am unable to return to Australia to continue or commence my study due to the coronavirus travel restrictions?

You should contact your Education provider to discuss possible deferment of studies and other issues relating to your study, should you be unable to return to Australia to continue your study at this time.

If you require additional time to complete your studies (beyond your visa expiry date) you will need to apply for a new student visa with a new Confirmation of Enrolment through your nominated provider. You should apply for a new visa around 6 weeks prior to your current visa expiring. You are encouraged to speak with your education provider and check the Department's website at:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500>

Prospective students need to check Australian Government travel advice before applying.

If I am currently in mainland China and have a valid visa, can I still come?

Students will only be allowed to enter Australia if they have been outside China for more than 14 consecutive days prior to travelling to Australia.

This is a temporary measure. Arrangements will continue to be reviewed.

Can I transit through another country from China?

If you attempt to travel to Australia from mainland China within 14 days of your departure, either directly or by transiting through another country your airline will not allow you to board the flight.

If you do arrive in Australia and it is determined you were in mainland China within the relevant period, your visa will be cancelled and you may be placed in an alternative place of detention for a quarantine period.

The Department does not recommend transiting through another country prior to arrival in Australia, as travel restrictions for countries (including Australia), may change without notice.

I want to lodge a visa application for study in Australia.

Students can apply online at: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500>

Student visas continue to be processed.

I am in Australia, my student visa is expiring, can I get an extension?

Student visas cannot be extended. There are a number of visa pathways open for student visa holders to remain in Australia (including applying for another new student visa or a visitor visa), provided you meet all necessary visa requirements.

More information can be found at: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500>.

I am on a Bridging Visa in China awaiting a decision on my visa application – what should I do?

Do not attempt to travel to Australia.

Bridging visas are not able to be granted if you are outside Australia. If your Bridging visa expires and you are outside Australia, you will need to apply for another visa once the travel restrictions have been lifted.

If your bridging visa is expiring, and you are outside Australia and you have applied for a visa that can only be granted while you are in Australia (such as a subclass 485 Temporary Graduate visa), you will need to

apply for a new visa that enables travel to Australia once travel restrictions lift. Please continue to check the Department's website for advice on arrangements.

Will the travel restrictions affect eligibility to meet the Australian study requirement or additional periods of stay under the regional initiatives for Temporary Graduate visa holders and others?

The Department will consider possible future concessions, on a case-by-case basis.

Where can I get further information on study options and assistance?

In the first instance, you should contact your provider for assistance and information regarding your studies. You should read the Department of Education, Skills and Employment's website www.dese.gov.au for regularly updated factsheets as well as factsheets in Mandarin.

You may also wish to visit Study Australia's website www.studyinaustralia.gov.au for more information on support services available to international students. You should contact the Department of Home Affairs if you still have questions about your visa via the online enquiry form:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/departmental-forms/online-forms/australian-immigration-enquiry-form>