



In this guide

Know the 'rules'

Stay informed

Staying healthy while travelling

Travel experience

Access support

Student and Scholarly Services

Contacts

See links throughout this guide.

COVID-19: travel advice for students

Graduate Research, Graduate Coursework and Undergraduate students

Introduction

As coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to develop, responses by country, local authority, host organisations and event organisers change and evolve. Changes are likely to occur at short notice. Subsequently, travellers and their supervisors (i.e. subject coordinators, graduate research supervisors) should continue to review and re-evaluate the need for any scheduled or planned international travel.

This guide provides a summary of key travel policy, processes, guidance, alerts and support services, to identify, assess and control travel risk, including risks associated with COVID-19.



Until further notice, all international travel **related to a student's studies, research program, or as part of a university activity**, should be re-considered and only undertaken where determined as essential.

For the purposes of this document, 'essential' relates to travel and associated activities deemed essential for the completion of your studies or research.

1. Know the ‘rules’

Where students engage in travel related to their studies, research, or as part of a university activity, the University expects that they will do so in compliance with the conditions detailed in sections 5.1–5.8 of the [Student Travel and Transport Policy](#) (MPF1209)

Risks associated with off campus activities, including international travel and activities such as field work, must be considered in accordance with University’s [Health and Safety Policy](#) (MPF1205)

Decisions about international travel are based upon the regularly updated Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) [Smartraveller travel advisories](#).

Student travellers must also review and consider travel advisories published by other countries for which the traveller holds citizenship or residency, as these may influence your travel options.

If you consider your travel as essential, and would like to apply for approval, please see the detailed advice regarding student travel available on the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): student advice and support page](#).

Students may arrange self-funded travel related to their studies, or as part of a university activity, using their own preferred travel agent or airline. Students are not required to use the university’s travel agent for self-funded travel. However, all University-funded travel must be booked via the University’s travel agent, UniTravel.

If you are studying overseas through an Exchange program, a Short-term program or undertaking [Study Away](#) for graduate researchers, you will automatically be registered for travel insurance. All other students must register for [travel insurance](#).

The University provides travel insurance for approved travel, including student travel. Prior to travel, travellers should review the University’s travel insurance policy and any published exclusions, restrictions or limitations to ensure their travel and associated activities are covered by the policy.

2. Stay informed

Given the dynamic nature of travel risks it is essential that student travellers and their supervisors (eg. subject coordinators, graduate research supervisors) continue to monitor relevant information leading up to and during travel. Travellers and supervisors can best be kept informed by subscribing and reviewing for each travel destination:

- DFAT Smartraveller advisories,
- travel advisories published by other countries for which the traveller holds citizenship or residency, and
- [World Aware](#) travel for any student travel.

Travellers and their supervisors should also review the most current DFAT smartraveller advice on COVID-19.

All student travellers should access [WorldAware](#) travel alerts

Travel insurers may apply restrictions or limitations to travel insurance coverage for foreseeable risks-events. The University’s travel insurer, Chubb has applied limitations for COVID-19. Travellers should review the University’s travel insurance policy and any published exclusions, restrictions or limitations to ensure their travel and associated activities are covered by the policy.

Local authorities, host organisations and conference organisers may restrict or cancel events of mass gatherings of people in response to COVID-19. Student travellers should monitor closely any local requirements and announcements from host organisations and conferences for any changes that may impact of the purpose of the travel.

3. Staying healthy while travelling

Travellers should include health considerations in their travel planning. Plan for travel vaccinations at least 8 weeks prior to departure. Consider any pre-existing conditions, fitness for travel and medications that may be required whilst travelling.

Travellers with pre-existing conditions should consult a GP or travel doctor for confirmation of fitness for travel.

Consult travel advisories for general advice about health and vaccinations.

Travellers should reconsider travel plans they are experiencing illness, especially symptoms of respiratory illness.

Travel may be restricted during health screening at borders and transit points at any time during a traveller's journey

Travellers should follow the advice of local authorities at their destination.

Travellers should also minimise the risks of exposure to infections by practising good hand hygiene.

Travellers should monitor health closely. If symptoms develop (fever, cough, sore throat, tiredness or shortness of breath), travellers should arrange to see a doctor for an urgent assessment.

Importantly, once you are travelling the University has limited capacity to provide advice on local English-speaking doctors and health services.

Travellers and supervisors should review and take into account DFAT-published information about COVID-19 implications for international travel.

4. Travel experience

Travellers should expect to experience additional health screening at borders, including during airport transits. This may result in delayed transit times.

Travellers may be subject to quarantine or self-isolation based on requirements of local authorities. This may occur as a result of immediate past travel destinations and/or current health conditions.

Travel restrictions may be applied or changed by local authorities at destinations at very short notice, and travellers may be refused entry or have a visa cancelled upon arrival.

Restrictions imposed by local authorities may prevent travellers from attending or participating in planned or scheduled activities.

Australian Border Force may apply restrictions on entry to Australia at short notice. This may impact on a non-Australian citizen or non-permanent resident's ability to re-enter Australia following international travel.

Airlines responding to local authorities and other changing circumstances may cancel, reschedule or re-route at short notice.

Student travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the terms and conditions of their airline tickets, airline restrictions and ticket cancellation policies.

5. Access support

To access support while you are travelling, we recommend you follow the directions on the [University's travel insurance page](#).

You can also find support information via:

- [WorldAware Travel Alerts](#)
- [University's Travel and Off Campus Risk webpage](#)