



COVID OR NOT,
AUSTRALIA WELCOMES YOU
ALWAYS

Australia has been ranked as the third most preferred destination by Indian students. Exponential growth has been witnessed in the rise of application from Indian students, owing to their world-class academics, multicultural environment, and gain vocational skills.

It is intelligible that the COVID-19 pandemic and the travel restrictions that followed have muddled with the travel plans of students joining Australian universities.

In order to protect the welfare of the Australian community, Australia has stringent border controls in place. **Department of Health Secretary Brendan Murphy stated that Australia is unlikely to fully open its borders in 2021.**

1 ONLINE LEARNING

Australian Universities had been practising online classes long before the pandemic. The country also owns a list of top online universities. Universities believe that the challenges to one's education should not be where you are from or where you are.

It has been a popular study mode offered for a growing variety of subjects. Generally, in Australia, the professor who teaches the subject usually does not verify attendance at lectures. Lectures are rarely 'compulsory' in that way. If classes are registered and made open to students, one can learn in the online mode.

Online learning offers students flexibility in their learning and is widely appreciated. (Some) **Universities have allowed a schedule that let students to potentially study full-time as an on-campus student while physically attending only 4-8 hours of classes each week.**

The Universities or educational providers have also waived the limits on how much online study international students can do. Ever since the pandemic hit, the state has taken measures concerning and supporting each strata of the Australian community.

2 TRAVEL

There are only very few flights available to and from Australia and one might not be able to fly at this time. **Restrictions on travel are subject to modification.** Check the airline website or contact the airline directly for the next steps including other travel options.

- Citizens, permanent residents, and others with exemptions are permitted to enter Australia provided they pay for and complete a 14-day hotel quarantine.
- Students traveling to Australia are required to self-isolate for 14 days in your local accommodation.



3 STUDENT VISA ARRANGEMENT

The government has implemented a range of visa reforms to help students and to ensure that Australia remains a high-quality and friendly destination for international students.

- Resumed permitting student visas in all locations outside Australia
- The government has waived the fee required to lodge a further on the student visa application to complete their studies.
- Visa holders who are studying online outside of Australia can use their studies to meet the post-study work visa requirements.
- If graduates with an active visa are unable to return to Australia due to the pandemic, they are eligible to apply for a post-study work visa outside of Australia.
- Applicants are offered leniency and more time to provide their English language result, as the pandemic has restricted their access to services.
- Flexible time frames have been set to provide English language test results, biometrics collection, and health checks.
- Students will not be in breach of visa conditions if they have an approved course deferral or are studying online.
- Even if your studies are continued online, all student visa applicants must have appropriate health care at the time of their visa grant and maintain it during their stay in Australia.
- Students must not work more than 40 hours a fortnight while the course is "in session," regardless of whether they take classes physically or online.

4 UNIVERSITIES

- Universities/Education providers can issue a new CoE and enroll students to study online.
- Different universities offer support to students such as - deferral of fees, studies or payment, food and accommodation support, etc.

The current COVID-19 regulations are under continuous scrutiny. A range of additional steps, such as the further extension of student visa exemptions may also be considered if and when applicable.
