



Coronavirus response - Federation University Australia

Wednesday 31 March 2021

Dear Student,

Federation University is eager for all students to safely return to face-to-face classes in Australia. The past 12 months has been a difficult time for international education across the globe, and I commend and appreciate your commitment to your studies over this period.

Negotiations to bring students into Australia are underway at two levels of government in Australia, as explained below. While a timeline has not been finalised, discussions between most state governments, universities and the federal government are well advanced, which is a very positive step.

- **At the University level**, very detailed planning to accommodate the return of students from overseas has been undertaken. We have completed scenario planning of possible arrangements for flights, factoring in required pre-flight checks, commercial versus chartered flight situations, and for travel directly from departure cities or through international “hubs”.

We have identified the academic, pastoral care and social supports required for students in quarantine following arrival – and have scoped the required resources and made preparations to procure these. We have also planned for the support required as students move from quarantine into their more familiar accommodation.

- **At the state level**, Australian state governments are responsible for approving and regulating quarantine arrangements. Capacity in quarantine is limited and state governments tightly control availability. Until we receive approval for our students to use approved quarantine facilities, we cannot

enact university plans. There are active and advanced discussions underway between universities and state governments regarding these approvals.

- **At the federal level**, the Department of Home Affairs is responsible for border restrictions. Australia's borders are not currently open to international travellers unless they meet one of the defined exemption categories. The federal government have indicated on several occasions that they will consider plans submitted by the states for allowing the return of international students into this country, however no approvals have yet been given. We are hopeful that approvals will be granted for international students as soon as possible.

I genuinely empathise with your circumstances Student, and want to assure you that we are doing everything within our power to expedite approvals for your safe return. We continue to advocate at every level of government for defined timelines for the return of all international students, and will be in contact with you directly to commence planning and logistics as soon as these timelines are provided.

In the meantime, I encourage you to continue to engage with your studies and I thank you for your patience and commitment – and I look forward to welcoming you to Australia.

Warm regards,

Associate Professor Jason Giri

Dean, International



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