

## ACU Announcements

**Tuesday 10 March 2020**

Dear staff and students

The health and wellbeing of our community is extremely important to us, and we remind you to exercise good hygiene practices to help prevent the spread of illness and infection. We remain mindful of those people directly affected by COVID-19, and we hope for a swift recovery.

We are also conscious that this can be a confusing and anxious time for those indirectly affected. As the situation continues to evolve, we ask that you please stay engaged with our communications – you can visit [our FAQs page](#) at any time for up-to-date advice.

Due to the increasing global spread of COVID-19 we are seeing frequent changes in travel advice, and disruption due to visa restrictions, quarantine measures, and flight cancellations.

As your health and safety is our top priority, we have introduced some temporary travel restrictions and conditions for students travelling as part of a university program. We are also monitoring travel advice and considering temporary travel restrictions and conditions for staff.

### **International travel by students**

All international travel and new travel bookings by students will be suspended until 30 June 2020. ACU is monitoring the situation closely, and we will continue to review this guidance.

If you have university related travel planned within this timeframe and you have questions, please contact [AskACU](#).

### **International travel by staff**

Any international staff travel on university business will continue to be approved in line with DFAT travel advisories as detailed on the [Smart Traveller website](#) and in accordance with the following conditions:

1. The DFAT travel advice to the destination or transit country is not elevated beyond level 2 (exercise a high degree of caution).

2. The travel activity is time dependent, such as undertaking a research activity, attending a conference, or speaking at a seminar.
3. Medical facilities at the destination are satisfactory in the event of illness.
4. Accommodation facilities at the destination are satisfactory in the event of a 14-day self-isolation period.

Please note that the ACU's Rome Campus is closed until at least April 3, in line with the Italian Government closure of schools and universities.

### **Domestic travel**

There are no changes or restrictions to travel within Australia at this time.

### **Personal travel**

If you are heading overseas to destinations which have been affected by COVID-19, please note that your return to Australia [may be impacted](#) due to enhanced border control measures to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of the Australian community. We therefore urge you to review the need for personal overseas travel.

If you plan to proceed with your overseas trip to destinations which may have been affected, check the advice on [Smart Traveller](#), and remember to review the conditions of your personal travel insurance provider.

You also need to be aware that quarantine measures may change after you commence personal travel and you may be required to extend your leave arrangements in the event of a 14-day self-isolation period.

### **Insurance**

ACU's insurance coverage advice applies to staff and students travelling on university business, or for a university-approved activity. Your decision to travel must be based on travel directions provided by the university and the Australian Government's DFAT travel advisories on [Smart Traveller](#), of which there are four levels.

Please note that for any trips booked after 31 January 2020, which are travelling or transiting through countries/regions listed as levels 1–3 on [Smart Traveller](#) at the time of booking, that are later upgraded to a level 4 due to COVID-19, you cannot claim for deposits or cancellation costs under the ACU policy due to COVID-19 being considered a 'Foreseeable Event'. However, you will still be insured for medical costs whilst travelling.

If you book a trip to, or transiting through, a region/country already listed as level 4, there is no insurance cover for this destination. You cannot claim for medical, travel deposits or cancellation costs under the ACU policy.

For more details and the most up-to-date advice on ACU travel insurance visit [our FAQs page](#).

### **Additional information**

Please note that if you are a staff member or student, who does NOT wish to travel, either internationally or within Australia, you will not be compelled to do so.

If a staff member has questions or concerns which have not been addressed to date, please raise this with your line manager for escalation to the relevant dean or director.

In all other respects the university is operating as normal. It is safe to attend your ACU campus, and we will continue to make future decisions based on Australian Government advice.

### **On behalf of ACU's Incident Response Group.**

Australian Catholic University & the courses offered by the University are registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS). Provider registration codes: ABN 15 050 192 660 CRICOS Reg. 00004G.

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[Australia Catholic University Critical Incident Management Policy.](#)