The impact of COVID-19 on higher education worldwide

Resources for Higher Education Institutions

Updated 9 April 2020

Previous issue available here

This document is compiled by the IAU and provides information on the impact of COVID-19 on higher education around the world.

Thank you for sharing information you would wish to be taken up in the list.

Content:

- Open access solutions / Initiatives / tools................................................................. p. 1
- News by region and next by country................................................................. p. 6
  - International........................................................................................................ p. 6
  - Africa............................................................................................................... p. 6
  - Arab Countries ............................................................................................... p. 9
  - Asia and the Pacific.......................................................................................... p. 9
  - Europe........................................................................................................... p. 12
  - Latin America ................................................................................................ p. 14
  - North America................................................................................................. p. 15

- Actions by IAU Member Organisations .............................................................. p.17
  - International and Regional ........................................................................... p.17
  - National ........................................................................................................ p.19

Possible solutions: initiatives/tools for use by all

UNESCO

UNESCO portal on COVID-19 Educational Disruption and Response to provide immediate support to countries as they work to minimize the educational disruption and facilitate the continuity of learning, especially for the most vulnerable.


UNESCO’s 10 recommendations to plan distance learning solutions and ensure that learning remains uninterrupted during the COVID-19 outbreak.

UNESCO’s selection of national distance education platforms - classified by country - designed to support the continuity of curriculum-based study.


UNESCO’s list of educational applications, platforms and resources to help parents, teachers, schools and school administrators facilitate student learning and provide social care and interaction during periods of school closure. Most are free (in multiple languages):


UNESCO IESALC has published recommendations (in Spanish) for higher education institutions in relation to the COVID-19 health crisis. These include the dissemination of reliable information to avoid alarmism; the use of institutional portals and social networks to inform on the evolution of research; the facilitation of open access courses for a higher quality of health education; the coordination of actions with the recommendations of national authorities and; the preparation of a contingency plan at institutional level.


Agence universitaire de la francophonie (AUF)

The AUF (IAU Member) platform for distance teaching and learning:


AUF is producing a weekly update monitoring publications related to the pandemic from higher education and partners of the AUF and related specifically to the health sector.

https://www.auf.org/nouvelles/actualites/lauf-lancebulletin-de-veille-electronique-orientee-recherche-covid-19/

The American Council on Education (ACE)

ACE (IAU Member), has recorded a series of webinars this month related to the impact of COVID-19. They include a variety of topics surrounding finance in the higher education system. These webinars are available in the Engage library on the ACE website here.

Association of African Universities

The AAU (IAU Member) has made available a resource page to help higher education institutions plan for possible campus disruption by COVID-19,
Association of Indian Universities

The AIU (IAU Member) has created a platform for Indian Universities to share the e-content, approaches and strategies adopted by them for delivery of online content.

https://aiubloggroup.wordpress.com/

Bahamas Government

The Ministry of Education has made available to students a virtual learning portal due to the closure of schools in the context of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

https://www.bahamasvirtuallearning.com/

Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Philippines

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has issued Guidelines for the Prevention, Control and Mitigation of the Spread of the 2019-Novel Coronavirus Acute Respiratory Disease in Higher Education Institutions that provides information and guidance of all HEIs and CHED offices.


Higher Education Commission, Pakistan

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has developed a databank of online courses available at the national and international level and shared it with universities, while the university faculty has also been asked to prepare virtual courses for dissemination to students.


OneHE (IAU partner)

OneHE, a higher education organisation, are providing support and resources for academics to move to online teaching. They are using #Onlineteaching and #teachingonline to encourage academics to share through Twitter. https://onehe.org/online-teaching/

LinkedIn group: https://lnkd.in/gCEyY7a

The Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (IOHE)

IOHE shares with its members a compilation of online educational resources that is available and invites them to participate Starting on today in a series of webinars with experts in...
higher education that will address issues that respond to the expectations of the current situation caused by COVID-19, in the context of the Latin American region.

https://oui-iohe.org/en/resources/

Zhejiang University, China (IAU Member)

A Handbook for COVID-19 Prevention and Treatment has been produced:
http://www.zju.edu.cn/english/2020/0323/c19573a1987520/page.htm

European Association for International Education (EAIE) - (IAU partner)

Two resources for higher education institutions:

How higher education institutions can respond to COVID-19

Supporting students affected by coronavirus
https://www.eaie.org/blog/supporting-students-coronavirus.html

EAIE has also published 'Coping with COVID-19: International higher education in Europe', a report that offers some preliminary perspectives on the impact of the coronavirus on international education. This new report brings together the results, from the more than 800 survey responses from 38 different countries across the European Higher Education Area


Erasmus+

The Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange team is committed to supporting higher education institutions and students, as they adapt their working arrangements to slow the spread of coronavirus. They are offering free of charge training and courses as well as a Masterclass on "How to enrich online teaching activities in higher education through Virtual Exchanges"  

Erasmus Student Network (IAU partner)

Erasmus Student Network, has developed various initiatives to assess the impact of COVID-19 on student exchange in Europe:
https://esn.org/covidimpact
and to support students and higher education institutions:

Organization of American States (OAS) (IAU partner)
The call is open to institutions to incorporate their online courses into the Educational Portal of the Americas.


RedCLARA

In order to contribute to the search for a cure for the Coronavirus, the Latin American National Research and Education Networks united through RedCLARA, are making their data processing capabilities available to researchers and scientists, free of charge, for research in the search for a solution to the pandemic.


Scholars at Risk

SAR’s Dangerous Questions MOOC on academic freedom has a session starting on 20 April 2020.

Universities UK

UUK has released a resource Coronavirus (COVID-19) - information for universities

https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/Pages/coronavirus.aspx

University of Berghan

The research programme GRIP from the University of Berghan, an IAU Member, has launched a series of interviews on global inequality as a response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

https://www.uib.no/en/sdgbergen/135086/inequality-age-corona-virus

University of Helsinki

Resources for students made available by IAU Member, the University of Helsinki, Finland


World Digital Library

This open access resource from UNESCO and the Library of Congress contains over 19,000 articles on 193 countries.

https://www.wdl.org/fr/
News by region and by country

International

UNESCO

UNESCO monitoring of impact of COVID-19 on education


Institute of International Education (IIE)

This survey shows the effects that travel restrictions related to the outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus) are having on international student mobility, U.S. study abroad programs, and international student recruitment for the fall 2020 semester. More than 230 U.S. higher education institutions responded to this survey, which was conducted from February 13-26, 2020


COVID-19: Policy Statement - Science Diplomacy

Scientists from all over the world have put forward some proposals that could be promoted by the international community to take up the challenge of exercising multilateral governance in the health crisis of COVID-19. So far, the document has been signed by more than 300 researchers.

https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1RodblU8IgRSTB5rSLH-2Tyg6yMgtZrUI1nhJxfPiWQ/mobilebasic?pli=1


Africa

9 April

COVID-19 will leave no sector in any country in the world unaffected, and its consequences will be felt for years to come. At a time when huge efforts were being deployed to transform and improve higher education in Africa, there is a danger that COVID-19 will destabilise the sector, with serious consequences.

9 April

North African student unions and academic communities have launched several civic engagement and social responsibility initiatives, ranging from fundraising and awareness campaigns to consultancy guidance and medical initiatives, in an effort to deal with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.


26 March

In the wake of closures that took effect on Friday 20 March, a number of universities and higher education institutions in East Africa are revitalising existing e-learning platforms, while others are tentatively migrating into uncharted territory.


2 April

COVID-19 – A vindictive messenger for multilateralism


Cameroon

Heads of State universities and higher institutions of learning have been urged to use all the tools available to put in place a digital-learning mechanism that will enable students study. The call was made by the Minister of Higher Education, Professor Jacques Fame Ndongo on March 20. The various stakeholders look at measures to keep teaching, evaluating and carrying out research in the higher education sector.


Ghana

24 March

On 24 March, the Minister of Education, Dr Matthew Opoku Prempeh announced that the Ministry of Education has started the implementation of virtual learning programmes to enable students to have access to learning resources from home. The learning programmes will be rolled out on radio, television and online.


8 April

The Institute for Security, Disaster and Emergency Studies, ISDES has called on government to extend urgent support to foreign students caught up in the partially lockdown regions of Ghana over Coronavirus.
Kenya
8 April
Refugee students lead resistance to virus in their camp

Mauritania
4 April
Student unions have appealed to the government to allow Mauritanian students in neighbouring countries to return home

South Africa
9 April
“In South Africa, we are in the middle of a national curfew that has been described as one of the strictest globally. We have been occupied with finding new ways of organising everyday life and work in response to the global crisis caused by COVID-19 and ever-increasing restrictions.”

26 March
University shutdowns – What we learnt from 'going online' . Protracted student protests in South Africa over the past few years gave universities an opportunity to explore online education as an alternative to contact teaching and learning, and have put them in a better position to deal with current shutdowns necessitated by the need to contain COVID-19. An academic from the University of Cape Town shares her experience and that of her colleagues in the process of "going online".

Zimbabwe
6 April
The Zimbabwe government has made available an initial ZWS33 million (USS1.3 million,) in seed capital to state universities to make personal protective equipment (PPE) to ameliorate a national shortage of the materials needed to fight the coronavirus. The cabinet proposed that hand sanitisers and face masks be produced locally by institutions of higher learning and pharmaceutical companies.

**Arab countries**

**Egypt**

1 April

In Egypt mid-term university exams have been cancelled but second-semester exams are still on, although study will not resume until the end of the coronavirus outbreak, Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, minister of higher education and scientific research, said on 30 March.


**United Arab Emirates**

30 March

The UAE government decided on 30 March to extend the e-learning programme currently underway in all educational facilities across the country until the end of the academic year in June.


**Lebanon**

Learning Remotely as the Only Resort: How is Lebanon Doing?

https://www.al-fanarmedia.org/2020/04/learning-remotely-as-the-only-resort-how-is-lebanon-doing/

**Asia and the Pacific**

1 April

Asian universities face online assessment hurdles in virus crisis. Universities urged to take opportunity to introduce innovative ‘next-generation’ assessment and boost ‘academic productivity’.


8 April

Podcast: Asian universities moved online quickly, now what? What’s the next phase of the coronavirus response from universities in Hong Kong and China?

https://www.timeshighereducation.com/opinion/podcast-asian-universities-moved-online-quickly-now-what
Australia

6 April

Universities and research institutes are demanding changes to government bailout rules, as Australia’s dormant parliament reconvenes to legislate a A$130 billion (£64 billion) coronavirus bailout package.


7 April

Australian states going their own way on university admissions. Ministers failed to concur on when final exams should take place or how the ATAR should be adjusted to take account of the pandemic. Further negotiations are scheduled for May.


8 April

Virus threatens major source of universities’ income


Bangladesh

23 March

The University Grants Commission has urged all universities to continue their academic activities online during closure of higher educational institutions due to the coronavirus outbreak.

https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/conduct-academic-activities-online-during-closure-ugc-universities-1884748

China

8 April

China’s go-ahead for entrance exam seen as sign of confidence. A record high of 10.71 million students are expected to sit the in-person test, which will take place in most parts of the country on 7 and 8 July, postponed by about a month from its original date in June.
India

6 April

In fight against coronavirus, India’s universities have lagged far behind China’s.


Japan

Japanese universities are scrambling to deal with the impact of the coronavirus outbreak, with academics and university administration officials saying the situation rapidly became a major crisis soon after the 28 February announcement by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to close all schools and universities in Japan from 2 March.


Korea

23 March

Covid-19 puts Korean universities in anti-Chinese crossfire


Macao

A Specialized Subsidy Scheme for Prevention and Response to Major Infectious Diseases has been launched, with the aim of encouraging the teaching and research personnel of Macao HEIs to use scientific research and improve Macao’s ability to deal with epidemic prevention education, regional governance and crisis response to major infectious diseases. The scheme is open for applications until 4 September 2020.

Myanmar

25 March

University examinations have been suspended at all universities

New Zealand
25 March

With the move to COVID-19 alert level 4, the Ministry of Education and the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) have accordingly released guidelines for all Tertiary Education Organisations (TEOs) on dealing with students, staff and institutional services.


Pakistan
25 March

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has been working with universities to minimise the impact of the lockdown of universities on academic activities. Three specialised committees have been established to help arrange IT facilities, software, tech support, and curate substantive online content.


Turkey
1 April

The Turkish Council of Higher Education (YÖK) announced on 1 April that students studying in undergraduate and graduate programmes will be able to defer their registrations in the spring semester of the 2019-20 academic year.


Europe

European Association for International Education (EAIE)

EAIE has released a research and trends report on higher education institutions’ response to the COVID-19 crisis

Belgium

Flemish university colleges are planning the possibility to begin "limited contact teaching" as of 18 May, but only for "educational activities of primary importance." During these "limited contact" courses, strict conditions such as social distancing will have to be respected.

https://www.brusselstimes.com/brussels/102557/flemish-universities-move-to-limited-contact-on-18-may/

Estonia

25 March

On 25 March, it was reported that if the emergency situation is extended, Estonian universities are ready to postpone graduations and thesis presentations to August. If secondary school final exams are cancelled, students will still get a chance to apply to universities.


France

7 April

Coronavirus : ce que l’on sait concernant les examens à l’université et en BTS


Germany

German Academic Exchange Service: Information on the Coronavirus

https://www.daad.de/en/coronavirus/

Hungary

6 April

Coronavirus – Shanghai’s Fudan University foundation sends masks, protective clothing to Hungary.


Ireland
25 March

Face-to-face end of year exams have been cancelled at the country's higher education institutions. Students will be asked to self-certify that they are complying with the rules in online assessments and tests that will in many instances replace the exams.  

Spain

25 March

The Ministries of Education and Vocational Training and Universities agreed on changes in the timetable and in the university entrance examinations. The latter will be held between 22 June and 10 July in ordinary session and before 10 September in extraordinary session.  

United Kingdom

7 April

Hepi poll: most university students want exams to continue online.  

31 March

UK students' union calls on universities to cancel summer exams

https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/mar/31/uk-students-union-calls-on-universities-to-cancel-summer-exams

Latin America

Argentina

April 3

On April 3, the Secretariat of University Policies (SPU) signed Resolution No. 12 which recommends to National and Private Universities and University Institutes, "the readjustment of their 2020 academic calendar, taking into account the specificity of university education, guaranteeing courses in the regular modalities that normally take place in an academic year and maintaining the quality of the university system."  
https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-educacion-trabaja-para-que-las-universidades-no-pierdan-el-cuatrimestre
Brazil

23 March

At the regional level, the governments of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro suspended classes, cancelled mass events and reduced the supply of public transport.

https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-america-latina-51881075

23 March

Without face-to-face classrooms, university students from Sao Paulo have asked for the reduction and, even suspension, of monthly academic fees. The National Student Union decided to mobilize a campaign to demand that the price charged for face-to-face courses be equated to that of the distance education system.


Chile

26 March

Chile’s Deputy Secretary of Higher Education activated an Action Plan to support Higher Education Institutions and technical training centers and professional institutes to strengthen their distance education systems.

https://www.mineduc.cl/educacion-tp-capacitacion-online-para-la-educacion-superior/

Colombia

22 March

The Ministry of National Education of Colombia issued the Directive 04 of March 22, 2020 addressed to Higher Education Institutions and those authorized to offer and develop academic programs of higher education, which provides a series of guidelines for the development of academic programs with qualified registration in attendance mode, from the date until May 30, 2020.


Cuba

23 March

Classes are suspended for the next 3 weeks, and the fourth week coinciding with the school break, means a total suspension of one month. Classes will restart on 20 April.
North America

Canada

27 March

How Canadian universities are evaluating students during the coronavirus pandemic.


7 April

Québec Research Funds creates COVID-19 research network for scientific collaboration

https://sciencebusiness.net/network-updates/quebec-research-funds-creates-covid-19-research-network-scientific-collaboration

United States

28 March

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act signed into law March 28, 2020, provides almost $14 billion that will go directly to higher education institutions to support the costs of shifting classes online, and for grants to students for food, housing, technology, and other purposes.


31 March

US colleges that had already been wrestling with declining student enrolments before the coronavirus outbreak hit now face the prospect of an additional recruitment crisis that may leave some in “serious jeopardy”.

Actions by IAU Member organisations

Many IAU Member organisations have made available resources and information. Below you will find links to these resources.

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL

Agence universitaire de la Francophonie - AUF


https://www.auf.org/nouvelles/actualites/covid-19-établissements-denseignement-superieur-membres-de-lauf-partenaires-se-mobilisent/


https://www.auf.org/nouvelles/actualites/transfert-dexpertise-francophone-contexte-de-pandemie-coronavirus/

The Association of Commonwealth Universities - ACU


Association of African Universities- AAU

https://www.aau.org/covid-19/

Aurora Universities Network

https://aurora-network.global/event/reykjavik-aurora-biannual-2020/

https://aurora-network.global/the-fight-against-covid-19/


Digital University for environment and sustainable development – UVED

https://www.uved.fr/les-mooc/les-mooc-ued

European University Association – EUA


Inter-American Organization for Higher Education IOHE – OUI


https://oui-iohe.org/fr/ressources/

NAFSA: Association of International Educators

https://www.nafsa.org/about/message-nafsa-president-ravi-shankar-nafsa-2020

https://www.nafsa.org/professional-resources/learning-and-training/covid-19-crisis-how-international-immigrant-populations-higher-education-are-impacted

https://www.nafsa.org/about/about-international-education/public-health-and-international-education-whats-now-and-whats-next

https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/coronavirus-critical-resources

https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/coronavirus-critical-resources

https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/oflc-issue-electronic-perm-labor-certifications-response-covid-19

https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/sevp-covid-19-guidance-sources


UNICA Network of the Universities from the Capitals of Europe


Union de Universidades de América Latina – UDUAL

NATIONAL

American Council on Education


Asociación Colombiana de Universidades - ASCUN

https://ascun.org.co/noticias/detalle/solicitud-de-ies-al-presidente-de-la-republica
https://ascun.org.co/noticias/detalle/iniciativas-de-nuestras-ies-asiadas-ante-el-covid-19

Association of Indian Universities

https://www.aiu.ac.in/documents/index/Blog_Letter.pdf

Association of Universities of Bangladesh

https://wub.edu.bd/main/notice_details/123

Association of Universities in the Netherlands


Bavarian University Alliance – BUA


Committee of Vice-Chancellors (CVC) of Nigerian Federal Universities


Conference of Rectors of Roman Pontifical Universities and Institutions – CRUIPRO

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Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities - CRUE


http://www.crue.org/Comunicacion/Noticias/donacion%20material%20fungible%20covid.aspx

Japan Association of National Universities - JANU


National Association of Universities and Higher Education Institutions - ANUIES (Mexico)

National Association of Universities from Peru
https://www.facebook.com/ASUPasociaciondeuniversidadesdelPeru/photos/pb.1437218139781363/1437213673115143/?type=3&theater

Universities Canada

Universities South Africa