The impact of COVID-19 on higher education worldwide

Resources for Higher Education Institutions

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


European Association for International Education (EAIE)

How higher education institutions can respond to COVID-19


Supporting students affected by coronavirus

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

Times Higher Education

Coronavirus could be ‘make or break’ for universities’ finances


OneHE
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/](https://onehe.org/online-teaching/)

LinkedIn group: [https://lnkd.in/gCEyY7a](https://lnkd.in/gCEyY7a)

A Handbook of COVID-19 Prevention and Treatment has been produced by IAU Member Zhejiang University, China. Information about the Handbook can be found at [http://www.zju.edu.cn/english/2020/0323/c19573a1987520/page.htm](http://www.zju.edu.cn/english/2020/0323/c19573a1987520/page.htm)

### Africa

15 March

Six countries announce closures of universities. Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Sudan have followed Algeria in closing universities temporarily as part of wider efforts to halt the communal spread of the coronavirus in North Africa.


15 March

Both Ghana and Senegal have closed universities and schools in a bid to contain the outbreak of COVID-19.


20 March

African universities urged to put classes online urgently


### 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 Friday, March 20. With all institutions of learning shut down for at least a fifteen-day period, the various stakeholders looked at measures to keep teaching, evaluating and carrying out research in the higher education sector.


### Nigeria

28 February
Coronavirus - Nigerian Universities On Red Alert
https://allafrica.com/stories/202002280577.html

South Africa
9 March
How South African universities are preparing for coronavirus
https://mg.co.za/article/2020-03-09-how-south-african-universities-are-preparing-for-coronavirus/

Sudan
15 March
Sudan has suspended higher education institutions for a month over coronavirus concerns
https://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL8N2B81FM

Arab countries
4 March
At least five countries—Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates—have called for the temporary suspension of all classes at schools and universities in an effort to halt the virus’s spread.

Qatar
9 March
Qatar announces closure of schools, universities over coronavirus

Asia and the Pacific
20 March
Universities shut down across South and Southeast Asia
Returning students add to new spike in coronavirus cases
Armenia
1 March
Shortly after the first novel coronavirus case was confirmed in Armenia, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has announced that all educational institutions, including schools, universities and kindergartens, will be shut down for 1 week in an effort to prevent a possible outbreak.
https://armenpress.am/eng/news/1006858.html

Australia
9 March
More Australian universities are tightening their belts as coronavirus travel bans threaten their financial reserves, but jobs will largely be spared.

10 March
Australia has recorded its first coronavirus-related campus closure, after a staff member visiting from overseas tested positive to the virus. Southern Cross University has closed campuses in two states

Azerbaijan
2 March
Azerbaijan closes down schools, universities due to coronavirus upon Cabinet of Ministers’ decision

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
With the outbreak of the coronavirus epidemic, many universities across China have still not reopened and no date has been set for teaching to resume. Many institutions are putting in place ‘holding courses’ taught online. This is further to the government announcement
postponing the start of the spring semester in Higher Education Institutions and HEIs have been asked to take various measures, including deploying online courses.

The Open University of China (OUC) has mobilized its digital educational resources to support students at all education levels to continue studying at home, to publicize measures aimed at preventing the spread of the virus, and to meet the needs of diverse learners.

The Vice-Minister of Education announced special policies to help university graduates in Hubei province (provincial capital Wuhan) in enrolment into postgraduate studies as well as government-funded recruitment programs.

At least 350 Zimbabwean students are reportedly stuck in Wuhan, China, which has been identified as the epicentre of the coronavirus, with many of them having taken to social media platforms such as Facebook to plead for assistance amid food shortages and mental distress.


6 March

Here are the top ways colleges and universities are coping with the spread of coronavirus:

https://www.npr.org/2020/03/06/812462913/6-ways-universities-are-responding-to-coronavirus?t=1584713298564

India

6 March

Coronavirus: Govt asks colleges, universities to avoid large gatherings


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

29 February
More universities in Seoul are seeking to replace in-person classes with online lectures due to fears over coronavirus infection.

South Korean universities have postponed the start of the spring semester, scheduled for next Monday, by two weeks under the recommendation of the Ministry of Education. With the COVID-19 crisis escalating, a dozen universities in the capital have decided to keep students away from campuses for longer by offering remote learning for the first two weeks, after the new semester begins on March 16.

https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200228008800315?input=2106m

Macao

The government has announced the suspension of teaching at higher education institutions due to the coronavirus. Distance and online teaching activities is encouraged at HEIs, but campuses remain open for information purposes.

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.

New Zealand

The Ministry of Education has posted information about coronavirus for higher education institutions and students, including international students.

Pakistan

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has released a Safety Message for the Academic Community in Pakistan as part of the public awareness campaign to combat the corona virus.

March 1

Schools, colleges and universities in Sindh to remain closed until March 13


13 March

Schools, colleges and universities in Pakistan to remain closed till April 5 amid coronavirus outbreak


Sri Lanka

13 March

All universities closed in Sri Lanka due to Coronavirus precautionary measure
**Thailand**

The Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI), Thailand has released an **Announcement on Vigilant Measures Against the Spread of Coronavirus** in English, Thai and Chinese languages.

12 March

Universities in Thailand have begun to move their classes online to help limit the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the country. The move is in line with an instruction by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, which recommends all universities provide appropriate methods of instruction that can help limit risks associated with the disease.


17 March

**Thailand To Shut All Schools, Universities To Prevent Spread Of Coronavirus**


**Turkey**

18 March

**Turkey to begin remote university classes on March 23**


**Europe**

**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**

Erasmus Student Network, a non-profit international student organisation which mission is to represent international students and provide opportunities for cultural understanding and self-development under the principle of Students Helping Students, in this difficult time of COVID-19 pandemic, developed various initiatives to assess the impact of COVID-19 on student exchange in Europe:

[https://esn.org/covidimpact](https://esn.org/covidimpact)
and to support students and higher education institutions: 

**Denmark**

11 March

Denmark’s Prime Minister has announced that the country will close all kindergartens, schools and universities for two weeks to slow the spread of coronavirus.

https://www.thelocal.dk/20200311/denmark-to-shut-all-schools-and-universities-to-fight-virus

**Finland**

Government preparing to close schools and universities

Finland’s government is preparing to invoke emergency powers to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus ... Borders will be closed, schools and universities shut and public gatherings limited to 10 people


**France**

12 March

Closure of schools and universities announced by the government

https://etudiant.lefigaro.fr/article/ecoles-colleges-et-universites-seront-fermes-a-partir-de-lundi_1c89c8aa-6496-11ea-8210-d54d5d03f1f8/

**Germany**

German Academic Exchange Service: Information on the Corona virus - as of 17/03/2020

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

**Greece**

10 March

Greece will shut schools, universities, daycare centers and other educational establishments on Wednesday for a two-week period to contain the spread of the coronavirus, the country’s health minister said on Tuesday.
Ireland

12 March

Ireland will shut schools, universities and childcare facilities until March 29 in response to the spread of the coronavirus, acting Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said on Thursday.


Italy

The Italian government announced on 4 March that all schools and universities are to close in Italy until mid-March due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Norway

12 March

Norway shuts all schools and universities to fight coronavirus pandemic


Poland

11 March

All Polish schools will close starting on Monday to curtail the spread of the coronavirus, Poland’s Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said on Wednesday. ... Morawiecki added that also universities, museums and cinemas will be closed.

https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-poland-education-idUSW8N29104L

Portugal

12 March

Many universities, including the University of the Lisbon, have suspended classes for an indeterminate period.

https://www.portugalresident.com/portimao-registers-two-further-cases/


Spain
9 March

Madrid and Basque Country close schools, colleges and universities.


United Kingdom

13 March 2020

Actions being taken by universities in response to coronavirus


15 March

Coronavirus: Scottish universities and colleges announce new measures


19 March

Schools shutdown creates UK university admissions uncertainty


Coronavirus: emergency research funds required, warns Russell Group


23 March

Coronavirus (COVID-19) - information for universities

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

Latin America

Argentina

16 March

Classes at all levels were suspended for 14 days and an online platform was launched for the continuity of teaching activities. Resolution 106 provides for the creation of the programme “We continue to educate” (“Seguimos educando”, in Spanish)
(www.seguimoseducando.gob.ar) in order to “collaborate with the conditions for the continuity of teaching activities in the national education system”. The measures include the transmission of educational programmes on public television in the mornings and afternoons. Furthermore, the navigation on this website is free and does not consume data.

https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/226751/20200316?busqueda=1

16 March

By means of an official resolution (Resolución 104/2020), the government recommends to universities, colleges and higher education institutions of all jurisdictions to adapt the conditions in which academic activity is carried out in the framework of the emergency in accordance with the recommendations of the Argentine Ministry of Health. This implies the transitory implementation of teaching modalities through virtual campuses, communication media or any other digital media available to them, the rescheduling of the academic calendar; the reduction of groups or classes so as to occupy no more than 50 % of the capacity of the classrooms; among other alternatives available to the competent authorities.

https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/226749/20200316?busqueda=1

Bolivia

12 March

Classes are suspended until 31 March. A special cabinet will be created to deal with the disease and a public infrastructure will be set up in Santa Cruz to deal with cases of coronavirus.

https://www.eluniverso.com/noticias/2020/03/12/nota/7778457/bolivia-suspende-clases-vuelos-hacia-europa-coronavirus

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-américa-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
15 March 15

All municipal schools will suspend classes. With respect to universities and other higher education institutions, the Minister of Education said that the measure does not include these institutions and that each institution continues with the protocols established for COVID-19, so that each house of studies may, if it so decides, decree the suspension of activities. Some institutions are using virtual classroom platforms to deliver content to their students, while schools are seeking to implement a platform that fulfills the same function.


Colombia

20 March

President Ivan Duque announced the declaration of a national quarantine to deal with the coronavirus pandemic. The measure begins 24 March 24 and will be in effect for 19 days. All classes have been suspended nationwide.

https://www.portafolio.co/economia/gobierno/noticias-colombia-hoy-colombia-cuarentena-total-ivan-duque-539281

Costa Rica

16 March

In accordance with article 180 of the Constitution, a State of Emergency is declared throughout the country and the school year is suspended. This declaration of emergency shall remain in effect during the term established by the Executive Branch, according to the reports issued by the National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Care.

https://www.elmundo.cr/costa-rica/se-decreta-estado-de-emergencia-nacional-y-se-suspende-curso-lectivo/

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.


Dominican Republic

17 March

The Minister of Education, Antonio Peña Mirabal ordered the suspension of teaching on Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 in order to carry out a national preventive day of deep cleaning
and disinfection in all public and private schools in the country. Universities and colleges have taken individual measures to close down institutions or health facilities to prevent the spread of the COVID-19.

https://hoy.com.do/ministerio-de-educacion-suspende-docencia-lunes-y-martes-despues-de-elecciones/

Ecuador
12 March
The Secretary of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (Senescyt) agreed with the universities, polytechnics and higher education institutions to suspend academic activities at the national level from March 12. For its part, Espol (Coastal Polytechnic School) also informed its university community that from 16 March to 17 May classes will be in virtual mode and access to its campus will be limited. In addition, it will promote teleworking or other modalities for the personnel with whom it is possible.

https://www.eluniverso.com/noticias/2020/03/12/nota/7778493/senescyt-suspende-actividades-universitarias-nivel-nacional-espol

El Salvador
11 March
Salvadoran President, Nayib Bukele, decreed that the entire national territory is in quarantine for 30 days ... all public and private school activities are suspended for 21 days.


Guatemala
16 March
Among the measures taken is the suspension of classes throughout the country and for all levels of education in the public and private sectors. The suspension of classes began on 16 March and will be maintained for 21 calendar days.


Haiti
20 March 20
President Jovenel Moïse declared a state of health emergency in Haiti on 19 March 19 ... Schools, universities, places of worship and industrial zones are closed. Gatherings of more than 10 inhabitants are prohibited.
Honduras

13 March

The authorities of the Council of Higher Education (CES) agreed to suspend classes at the country's 21 universities for a period of 21 days. The measure came into force on 16 March and will end on 6 April.

[https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1363803-466/universidades-de-honduras-suspenden-clases-por-21-d%C3%ADas-debido-al-coronavirus](https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1363803-466/universidades-de-honduras-suspenden-clases-por-21-d%C3%ADas-debido-al-coronavirus)

Mexico

March 14

The suspension of classes from 20 March to 20 April covers the universities affiliated with the national education system, both public and private, which are more than 4,000 institutions.


Panama

11 March

The rectors of the universities and other higher education institutions agreed to suspend classes in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health. The classes will be developed with the use of virtual platforms to avoid crowding the classrooms. In the case of teachers and administrators, each university has the power to take its own measures. The measure will be in force until 7 April but could be extended, depending on the provisions that will be adopted from the Central Government on the behavior of cases of coronavirus.


Paraguay

11 March

Paraguay decided to suspend classes in the country's schools and to ban events and activities involving crowds of people for 15 days. Educational activities were interrupted at all levels of education, in coordination with the Ministry of Education and Science, universities, colleges and other training institutions.

**Peru**

11 March

The Government has arranged to reschedule the start of classes in public basic education institutions (including out-of-school programmes) for 30 March. Private educational institutions will also have to suspend their activities until the same date.

http://www.drelm.gob.pe/drelm/noticias/el-gobierno-dispone-la-postergacion-del-buen-inicio-del-ano-escolar-hasta-el-30-de-marzo/

**Uruguay**

15 March

One day after the "health emergency" was declared due to the advance of the coronavirus in Uruguay, the Executive Branch decided to suspend classes. The measure runs for public and private education, at all levels, and for at least two weeks.


**North America**

**Canada**

11 March

Universities prepare for possibility of moving online as coronavirus pandemic spreads


Coronavirus fears prompt Ontario university to move classes online — should others?


18 March

Canada suspends federal student loan payments during COVID-19 crisis


**United States**

5 March

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have issued guidance in response to the global outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) advising all higher education institutions to “consider postponing or cancelling” upcoming foreign exchange programmes and to consider asking current programme participants to return to their home country
IIE survey of effect on international student mobility to and from USA

[link to IIE survey]

9 March

The Trump administration’s waiver of online course rules to help US colleges cope with the coronavirus outbreak does not appear to cover foreign students

[link to administration's waiver]

March 10

Coronavirus: classroom closures quickly multiplying in US. Following the University of Washington and Stanford University last week, additions already this week include Amherst College, Columbia University, Harvard University, New York University, Princeton University, Rice University, the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Southern California.

[link to classroom closures]

19 March

More than 10 associations that represent a wide swath of U.S. higher education released a list of actions by the federal government they said were necessary to help students and colleges.

[link to associations' list]