

International student mobility taskforce

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# Heatmap overview summary

December 2020

# Key outcomes of inward mobility task force

- Covid-19 is rapidly changing the international education environment
- The British Council set up a Covid-19 Inward Mobility Taskforce to pull together the critical information about how Covid-19 is impacting inward mobility to the UK at the global level – drawing on the insights we have via our in-country network and our respective teams (Study UK, IES etc) - in all countries that send more than 2500 students to the UK in 2018/19.
- These six heatmaps aim to help inform UK stakeholder (HMG and the education sector) how to best to work with each country given local policies and practice.
- These heatmaps provide a live global snap shot of the Covid-19 environment – further in-depth information can be found via our IES county reports.

# Summary

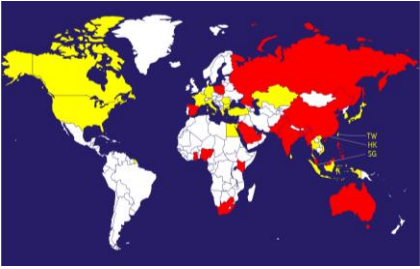
## Six country specific questions on how Covid-19 is impacting student mobility

- 1) are domestic students permitted to travel internationally?
- 2) are international students permitted to enter the country?
- 3) are HE institutions open for face-to-face learning?
- 4) has Covid-19 had an impact nationally-funded scholarships for international study?
- 5) are visa application centres open?
- 6) are students returning home from the UK required to quarantine?

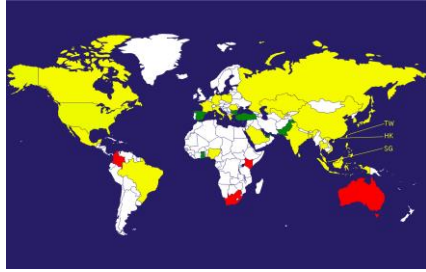
### Key

- 100% No = **RED**
- 100% Yes = **GREEN**
- Some flexibility/ case by case / we could influence = **AMBER**
- Not relevant = **GREY**

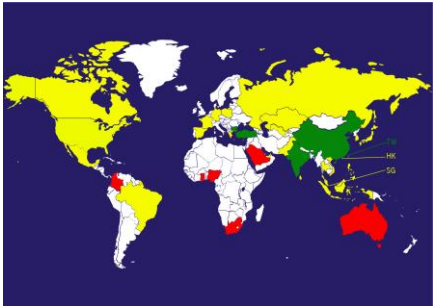
# 1) Are domestic students permitted to travel internationally? (map 1)



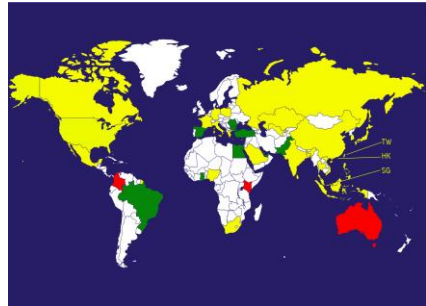
June 2020



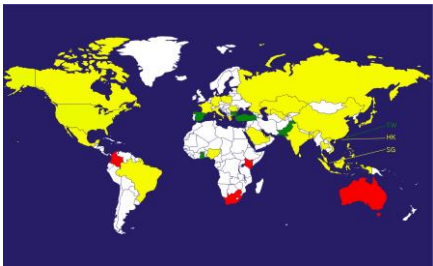
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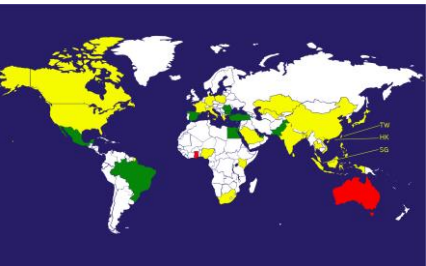
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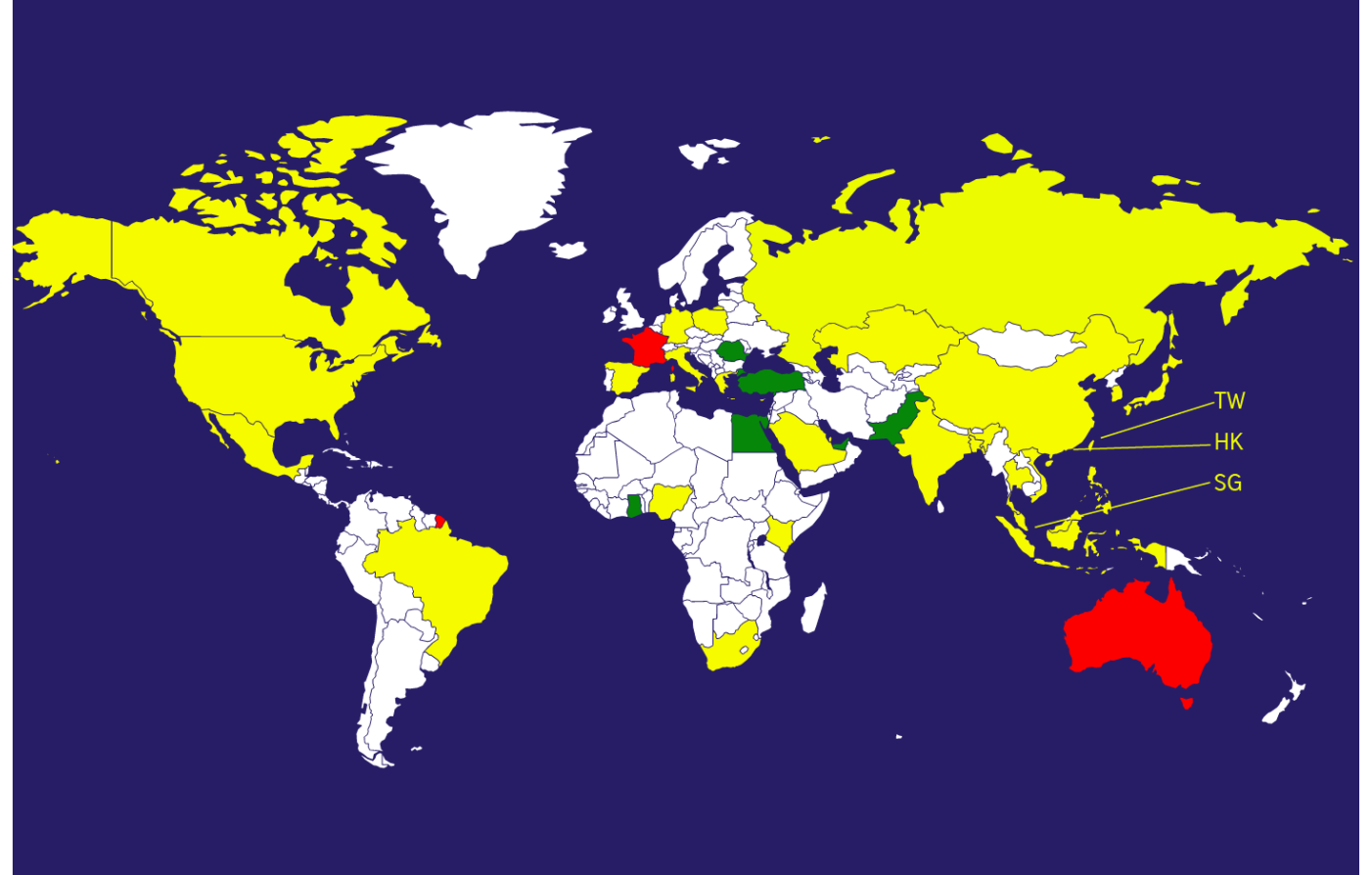
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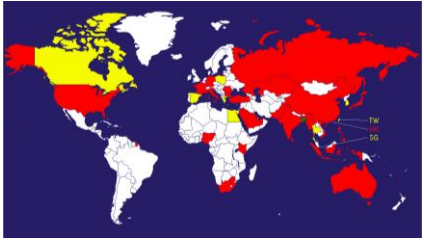
# 1) Are domestic students permitted to travel internationally?

Amber: Most countries are now permitting international students to travel. However, although in many countries domestic students are officially permitted to travel internationally, the Amber countries indicate that there are still some obstacles in place:

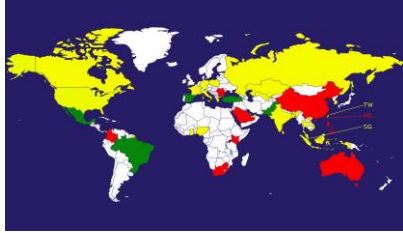
- Citizens advised against non-essential travel
- Steep flight costs and lack of available flights
- Visa centre closures (map 5)

Red: Australia, Ghana and now France currently have a ban on their student's travelling for international study.

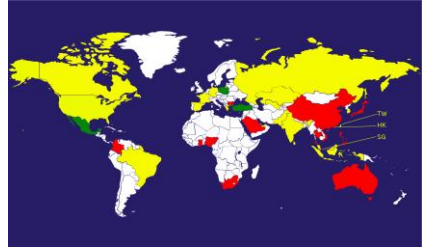
## 2) Are international students permitted to enter the country? (map 2)



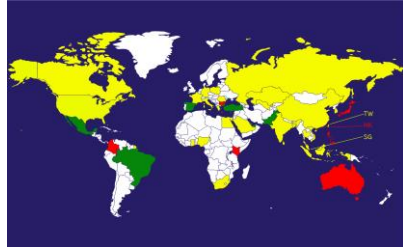
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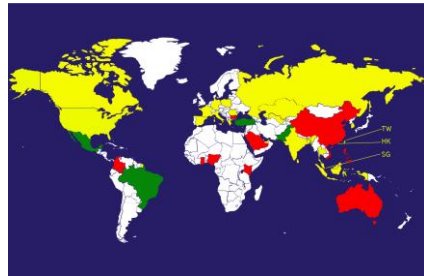
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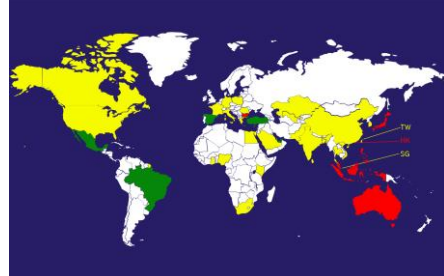
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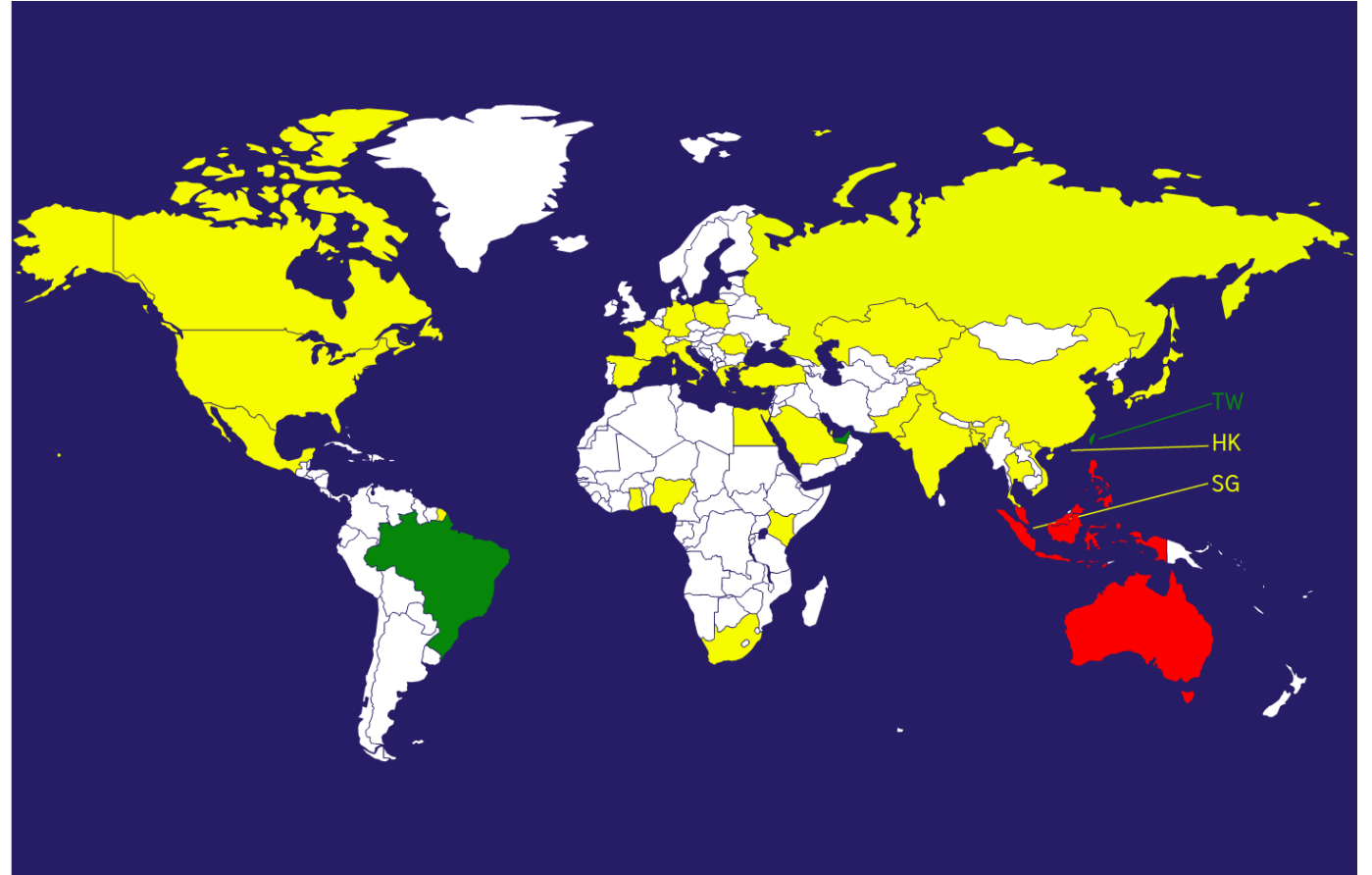
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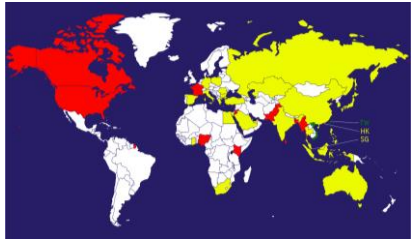


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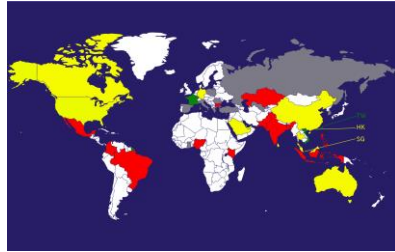
## 2) Are international students permitted to enter the country?

- Red: A number of countries in the Asia Pacific Australian borders are still closed to anyone who is not a permanent resident or in employment in that country.
- Amber: In countries where international students are permitted to enter, some restrictions remain in place:
  - Pre-departure Covid-19 tests / health checks
  - Quarantine upon arrival
  - Lack of flights and steep costs make travel challenging
- Green: As with last month Brazil, Mexico and Turkey now have no restrictions.

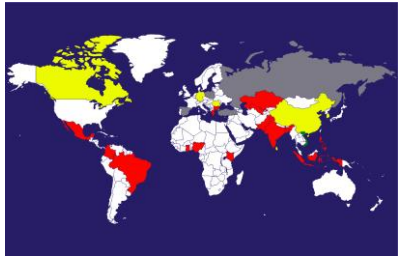
### 3) Are HE institutions open for face-to-face learning? (map 3)



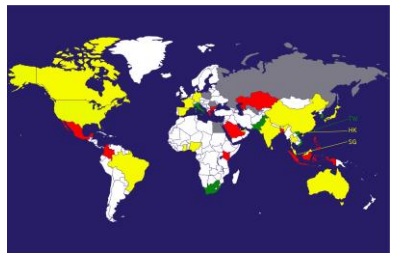
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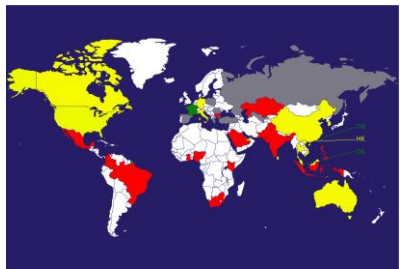
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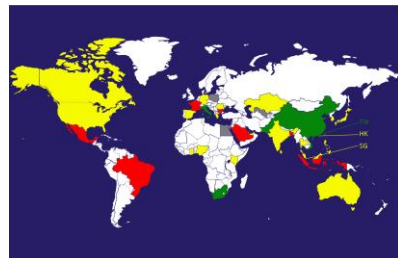
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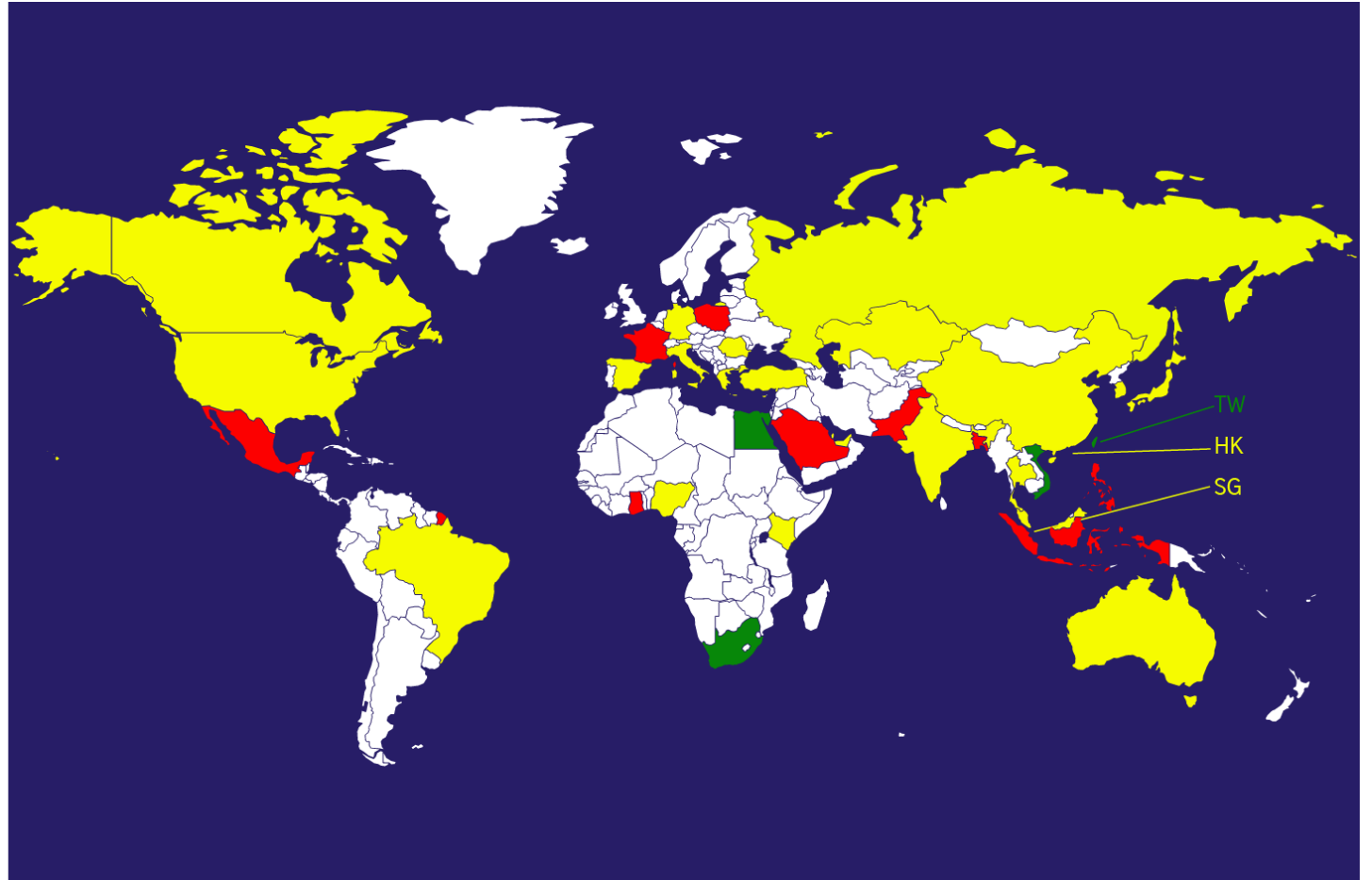
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### 3) Are HE institutions open for face-to-face teaching?

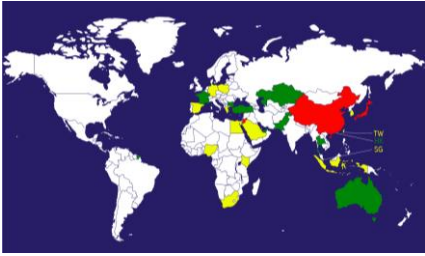
Red: Bangladesh, France, Indonesia, KSA and Philippines now joined by **Poland and Mexico** have strictly no face-to-face teaching.

Amber: Many countries are offering some form of face-to-face teaching:

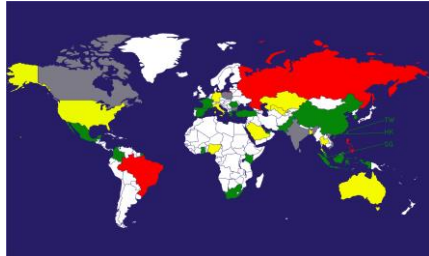
- some students allowed on campus (e.g. those who need access to lab facilities)
- blended learning being rolled out where HEIs have the resources
- often Covid-secure libraries and study spaces can remain open

Green: South Africa and now Vietnam, are open for face-to-face teaching.

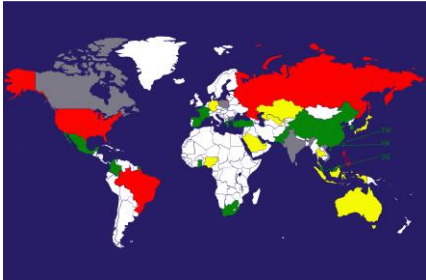
## 4) Has Covid-19 had an impact on nationally-funded scholarships for international study? (map 4)



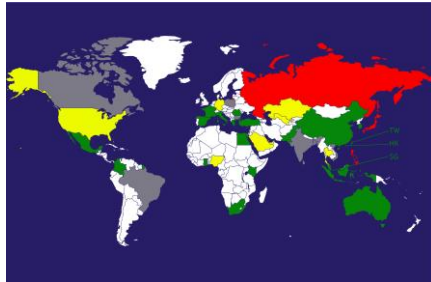
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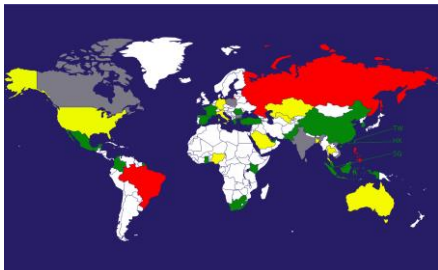
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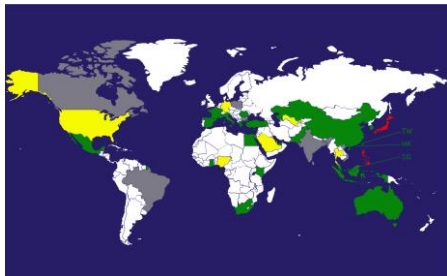
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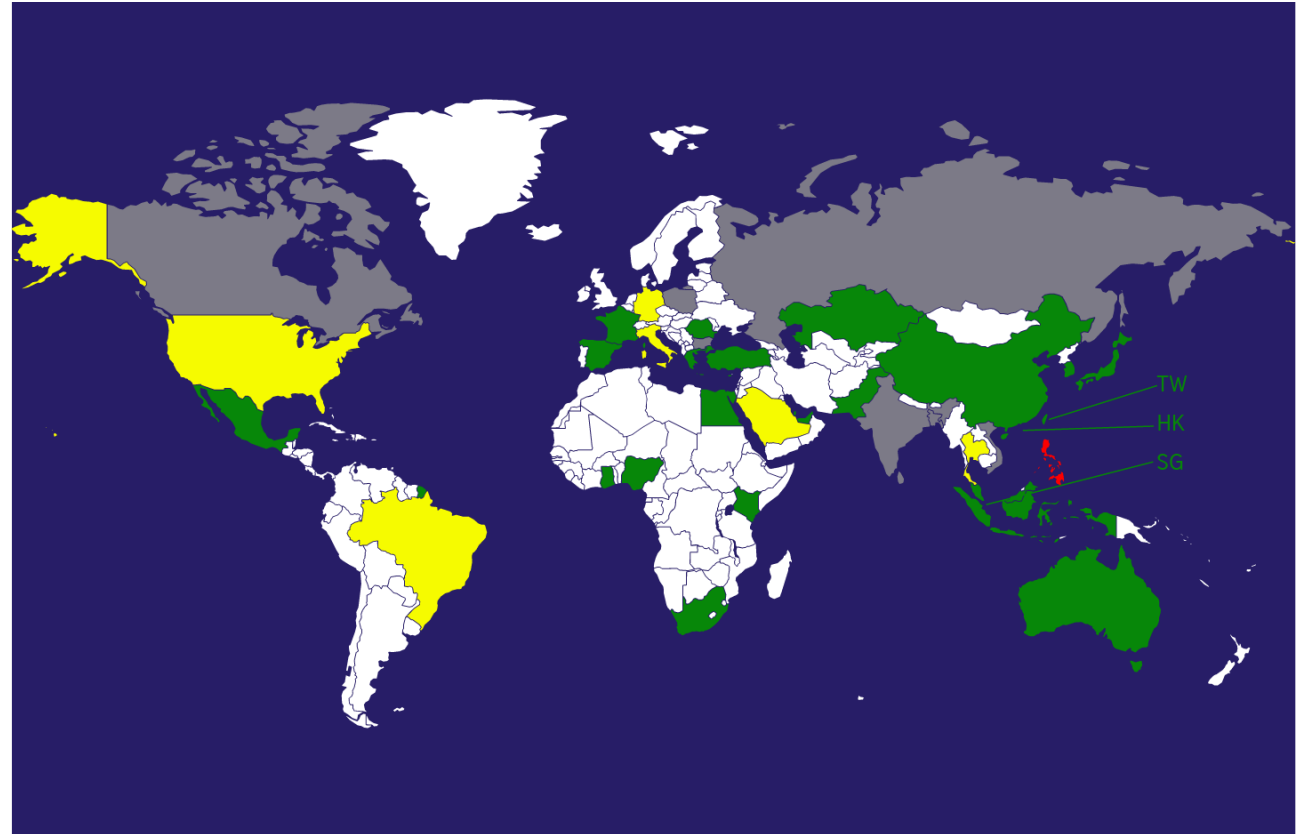
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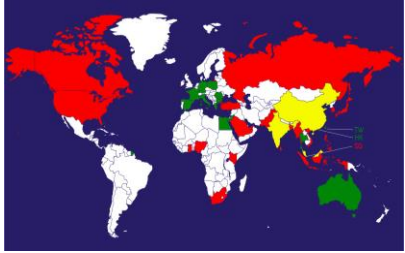


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## 4) Has Covid-19 had an impact on nationally-funded scholarships for international study?

- Many nationally-funded scholarships for international study are still operating, although some are offering fewer scholarships than normal.
- However, some (such as **China's Scholarship Council**) are offering the option to defer or change study destinations.
- The **Korean** Student Aid Foundation has clawed back some of the living expenses from students while they stay in Korea, but will continue full support for tuition fees even for online learning. However, it could be subject to change, we are keeping an eye on it.
- Some countries are reinstating scholarships for January 21 (Gilman scholarships in the **USA**) but to a restricted range of countries.
- In **Australia** NCP are offering funding for virtual mobility projects

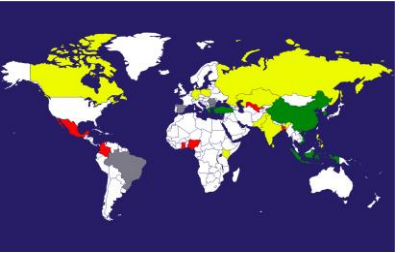
## 5) Are visa application offices open? (map 5)



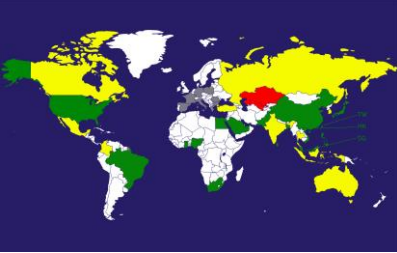
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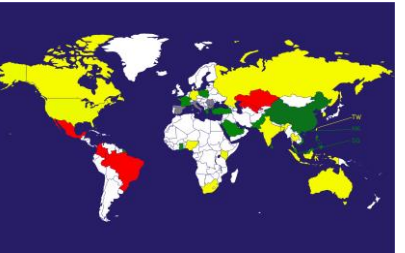
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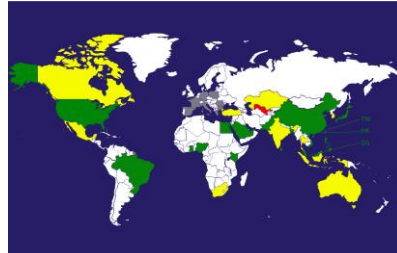
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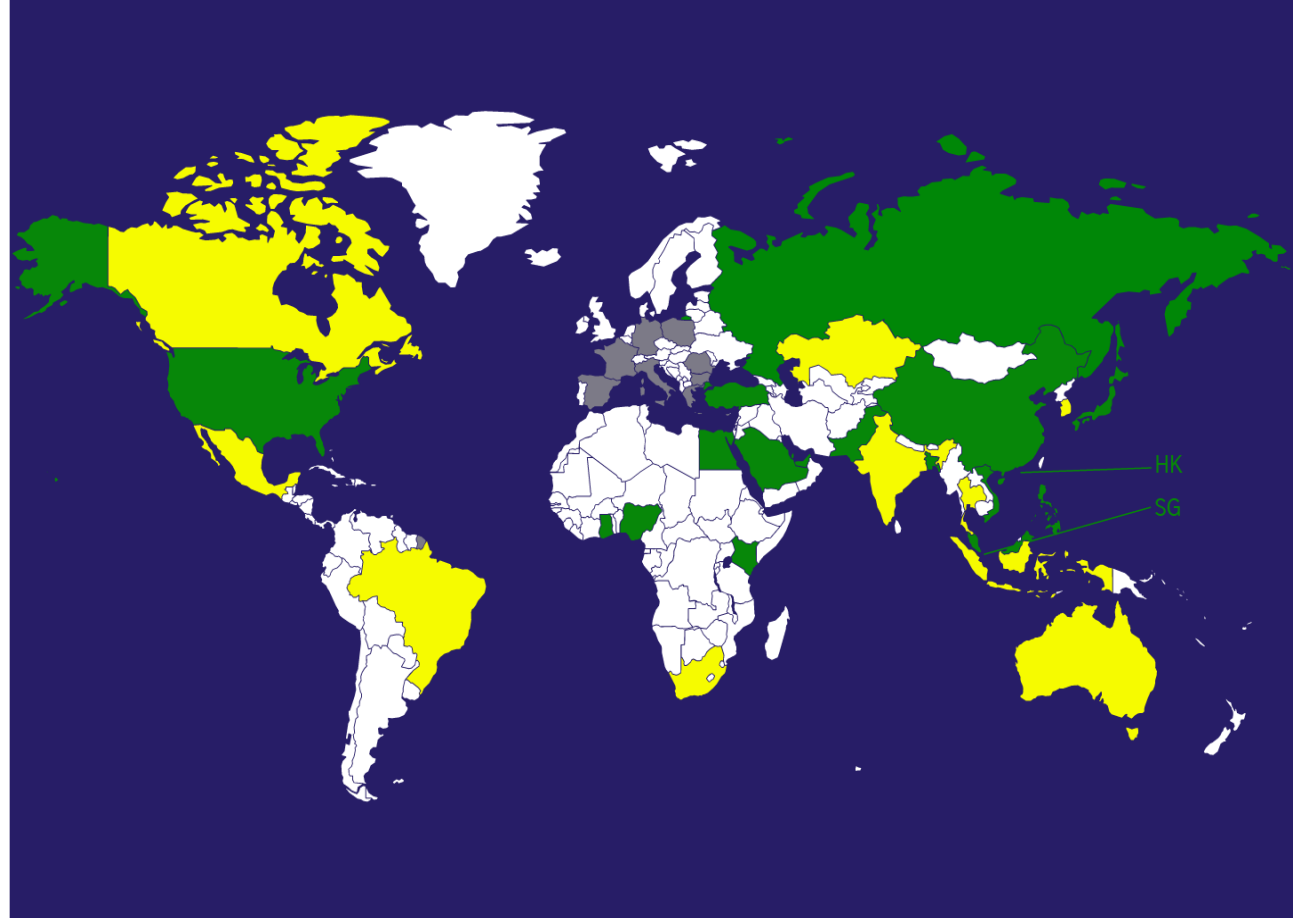
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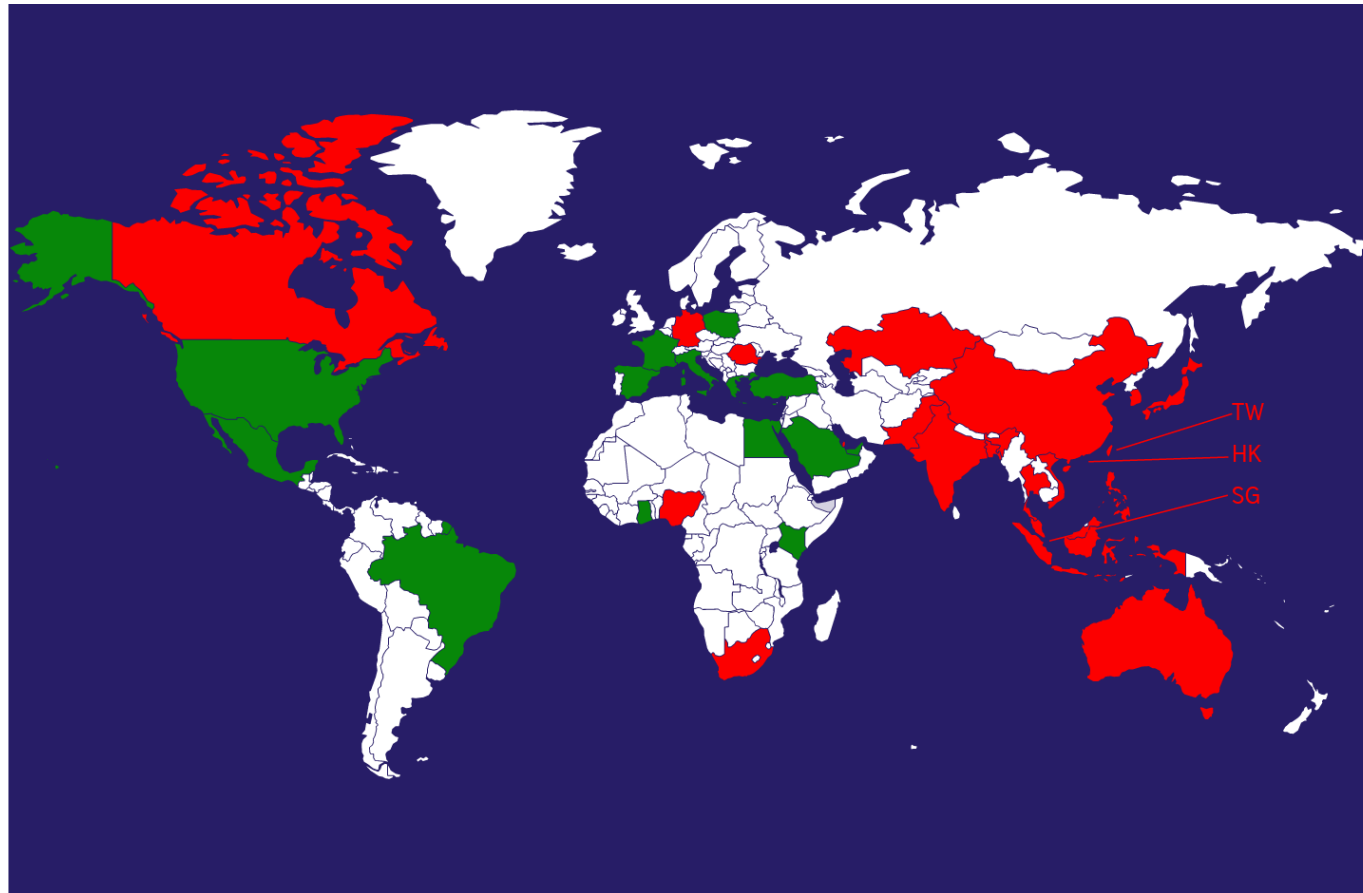


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## 5) Are visa application centres open?

- Most VACs are now fully open or partially open
- Some are offering a limited service (re-opening in only a few cities) or offering services by appointment only. Social distancing measures are a concern in countries where fingerprints are a requirement for visas.

## 6) Are there any quarantine restrictions in place for people returning to your country from the UK?



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Countries marked in Green do not require returning students to self-isolate, although they may require travellers to take a test, for example:

- **Cyprus, Italy, Ghana, Kenya, Pakistan** require a mandatory negative Covid-19 test that has to be taken within a set time period (normally around 72 hours) of the travel date.

Countries marked Red require citizens to quarantine or self isolate. A variety of measures are being implemented to prevent Covid travelling across national borders, for example:

- **Singapore** requires all incoming travellers to serve their 14-day Stay-Home-Notice (SHN), and will be subject to a test before the end of the SHN.
- **China, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines** and **Australia**, require all travellers arriving to go into government approved mandatory quarantine for 14 days from arrival, with limited exceptions

\***South Africa** places the UK as a High Risk location so travellers are not permitted to enter South Africa from the UK unless it is an exceptional case/diplomat or business.

## Closing remarks

- This is a snap shot to highlight the top line information around the globe.
- We intend update these heat maps on a monthly basis while Covid continues to have an impact on international student mobility.
- The heatmaps will be openly available, and UK Stakeholders are able to access further information about each question and these can be found on IES country reports.

**Thank you**