



# International Students in Australia: COVID-19 response factsheet

The Australian Government recognises that COVID-19 is affecting international students in Australia, who are friends, colleagues, classmates and members of the Australian community. This factsheet highlights the steps taken by the Australian Government and Australian universities to help international students.

## **Australian Government:**

The Australian Government has introduced changes and flexibility in regulations to help international students. The Prime Minister has announced that States and Territories will put a six-month ban on evictions for both residential and commercial tenants during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Australian Minister for Education, the Hon Dan Tehan MP, has announced the following measures which will help Indian students in Australia:

- International students who have been in Australia for more than 12 months who find themselves in financial hardship will be able to access their Australian superannuation.
- International students will be able to work up to 40 hours per fortnight.
- The Australian Government will increase flexibility for a number of regulations to make it easier for international students to continue their studies in Australia.
- The Government will be flexible in cases where COVID-19 has prevented international students from meeting their visa conditions (such as not being able to attend classes).
- International students working in aged care and as nurses have had these hours extended to support these critical sectors.

## **Australian Universities:**

In addition to government measures, Australian universities have established independent emergency monetary funds and food banks to help international students facing hardships. Till date, Australian universities have committed over 110 million AUD (approx. 500 crore INR) to assist students.

- Deakin University has announced up to \$25 million in additional targeted support for international students experiencing hardship
- Monash University has set up a \$15m package that offers up to \$7500 per student, as well as \$500 emergency grants.
- Flinders University has established a \$12.5m support package.
- RMIT University has established a \$10m support package.
- Curtin University has established a \$8m assistance package.
- Western Sydney University is giving current international students (who are onshore in Australia) a 10 per cent fee reduction.
- Australian National University has pledged \$21 million.
- Queensland University of Technology's emergency student fund offers up to \$1000 to students facing financial hardship.
- Charles Sturt University has opened applications for student support grants.
- The University of Melbourne has established an emergency fund.
- Murdoch University has a \$2m assistance fund for students who have been affected financially and a bursary worth \$25 a week to reduce food bills for international students.
- Macquarie University is offering loans of up to \$1000 to disadvantaged students, in addition to an existing loan and grant scheme that offers up to \$2000.
- James Cook University has established a food pantry.