

International student mobility taskforce

Covid-19 Heatmap overview summary

1st September 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 5000 students to the UK.
- These five 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.

<https://education-services.britishcouncil.org/service-catalogue/education-intelligence>

Summary

Five critical questions affecting all aspects of 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?

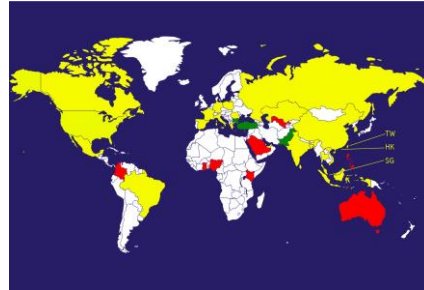
Key

- 100% No = **RED**
- Approx. 80% of pre-Covid levels Yes = **GREEN**
- Some flexibility/ case by case / we could influence = **AMBER**
- Not relevant = **GREY**

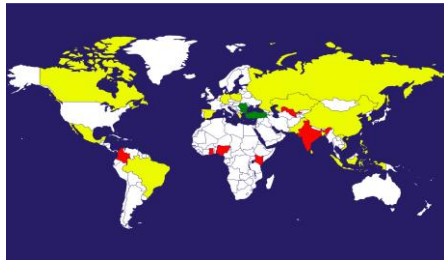
1) Are domestic students permitted to travel internationally?



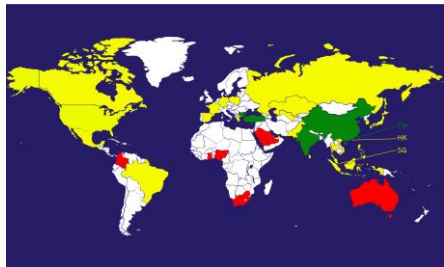
June 2020



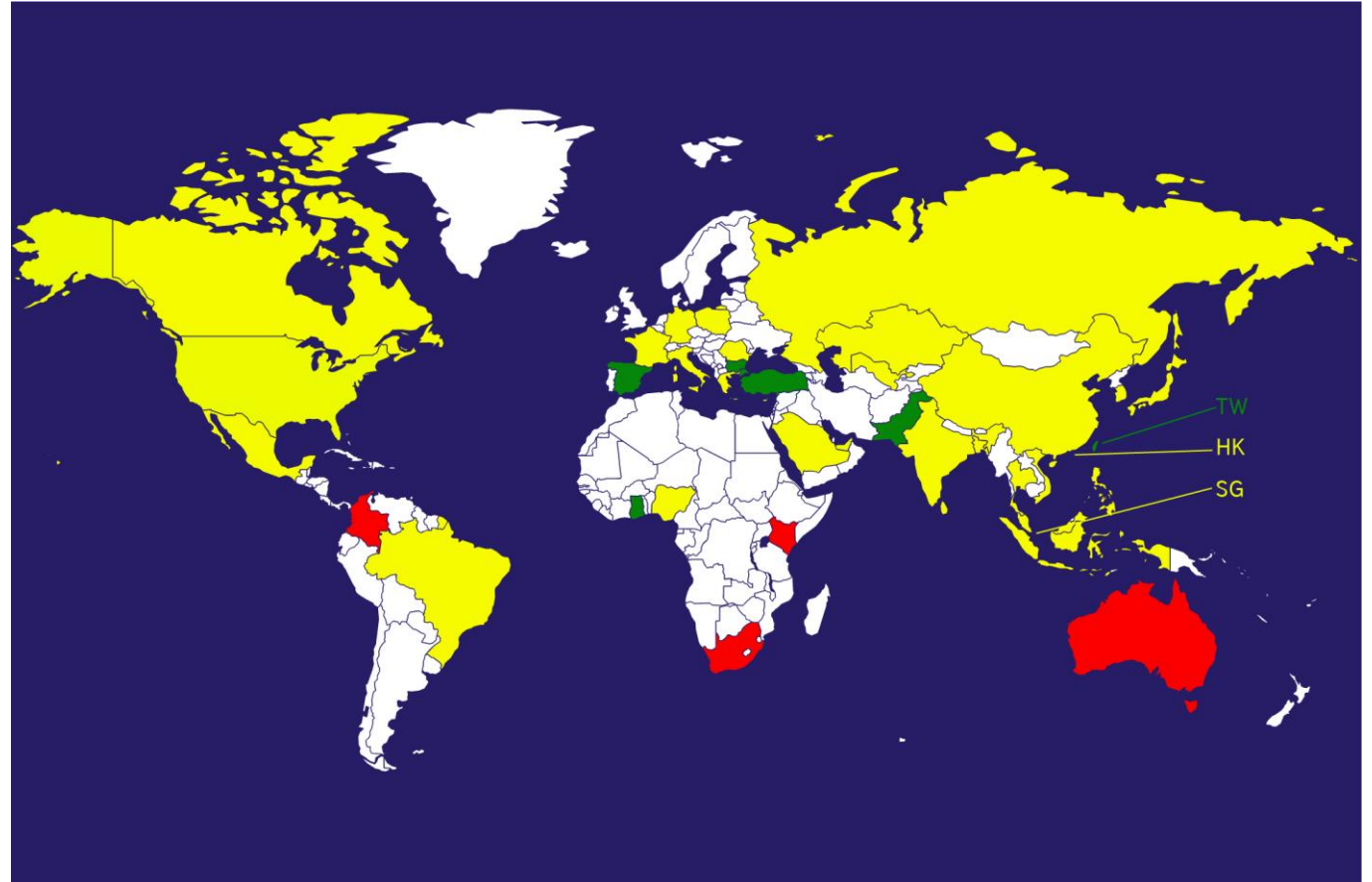
18 August 2020



14 July 2020



4 August 2020



1 September 2020

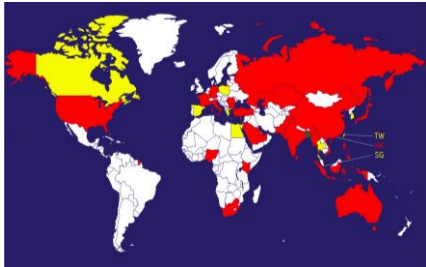
1) Are domestic students permitted to travel internationally?

Most countries now allow their students to travel internationally to study, however, the **Amber** countries indicate that there are still some obstacles in place.

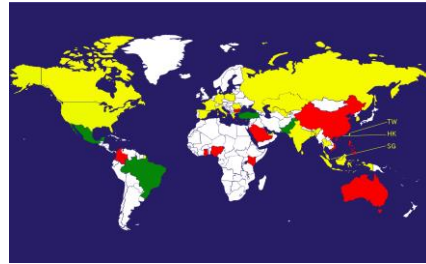
- Citizens advised against non-essential travel
- Steep flight costs and lack of available flights
- Visa centre closures
- Tuberculosis appointments difficult to book

In Australia, Ghana and South Africa students remain strictly forbidden to travel internationally.

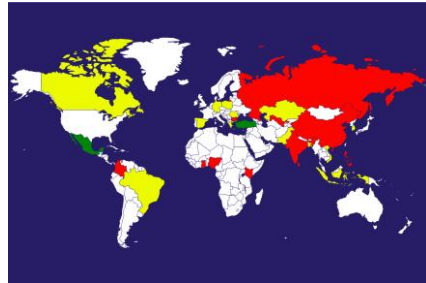
2) Are international students permitted to enter the country?



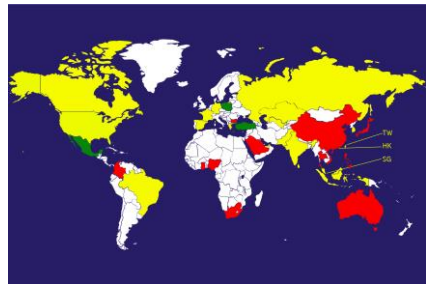
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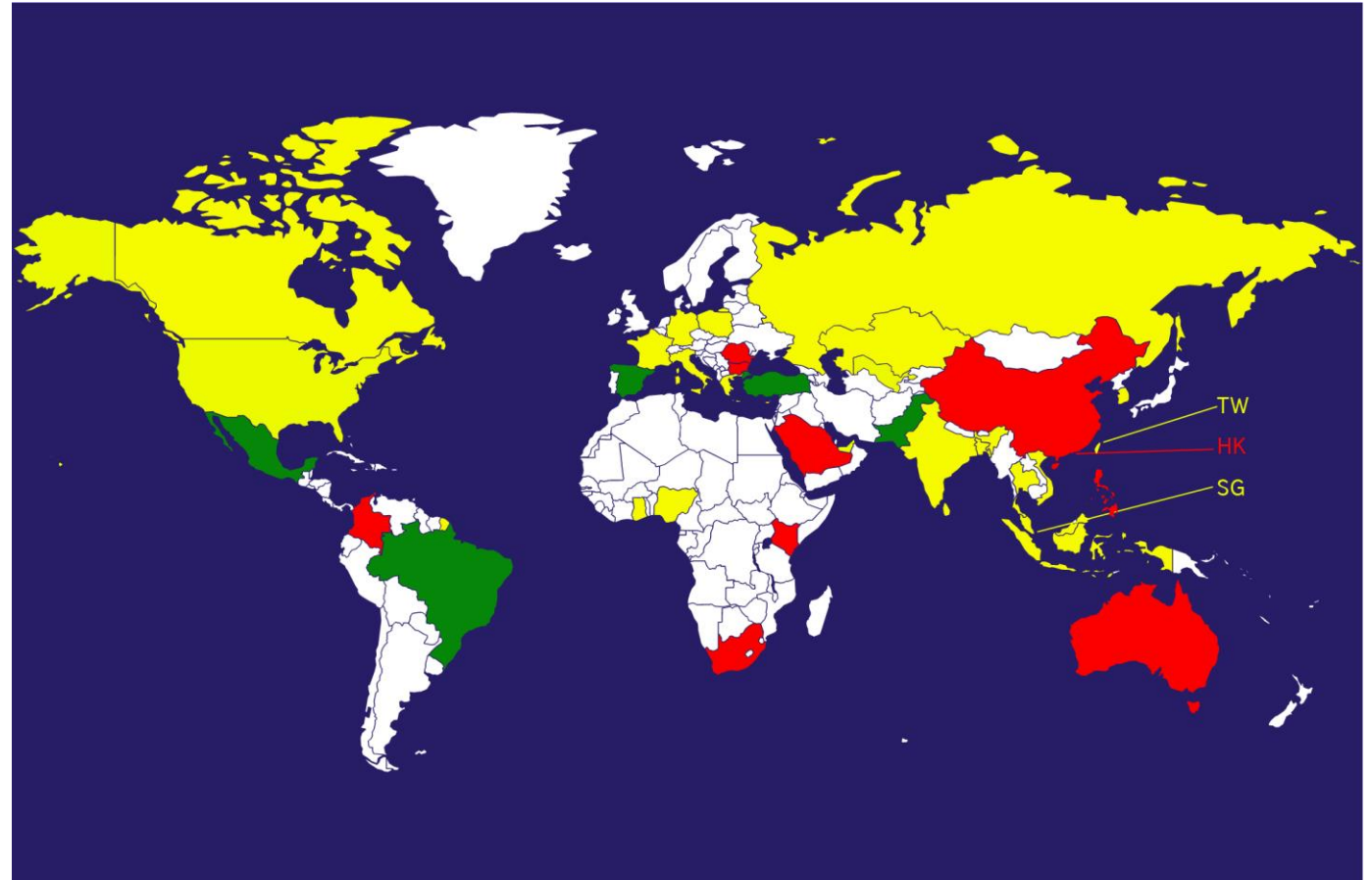
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2) Are international students permitted to enter the country?

Many countries' borders are still closed to anyone who is not a permanent resident or in employment in that country.

In countries where international students are permitted to enter, some restrictions remain in place:

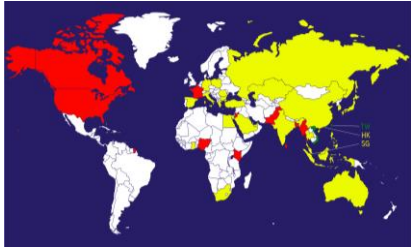
- Pre-departure Covid-19 tests / health checks
- Quarantine upon arrival
- Lack of flights and steep costs make travel challenging

September Examples

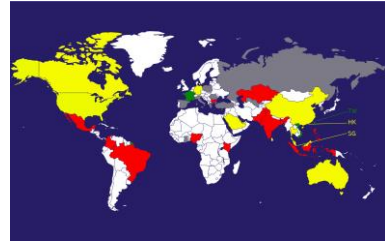
Australia, China, Hong Kong, Romania, South Africa, Saudi Arabia are still absolutely closed to international students.

Ghana has announced that international student arriving in Ghana must be in possession of a negative Covid-19 PCR test result from an accredited laboratory in the country of origin, and upon disembarking from the aeroplane, each passenger will undergo a mandatory Covid-19 test at the airport terminal, at a fee to be borne by the passenger. The test result will be available within 30 minutes.

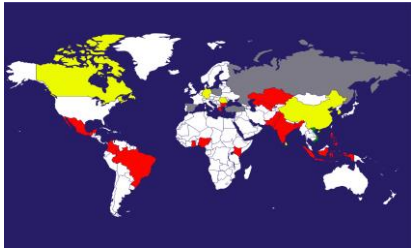
3) Are HE institutions open for face-to-face learning?



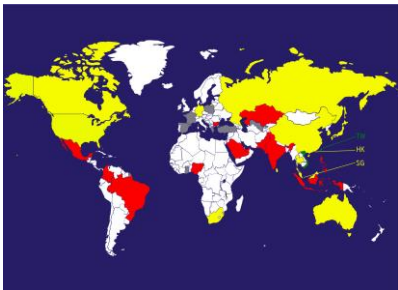
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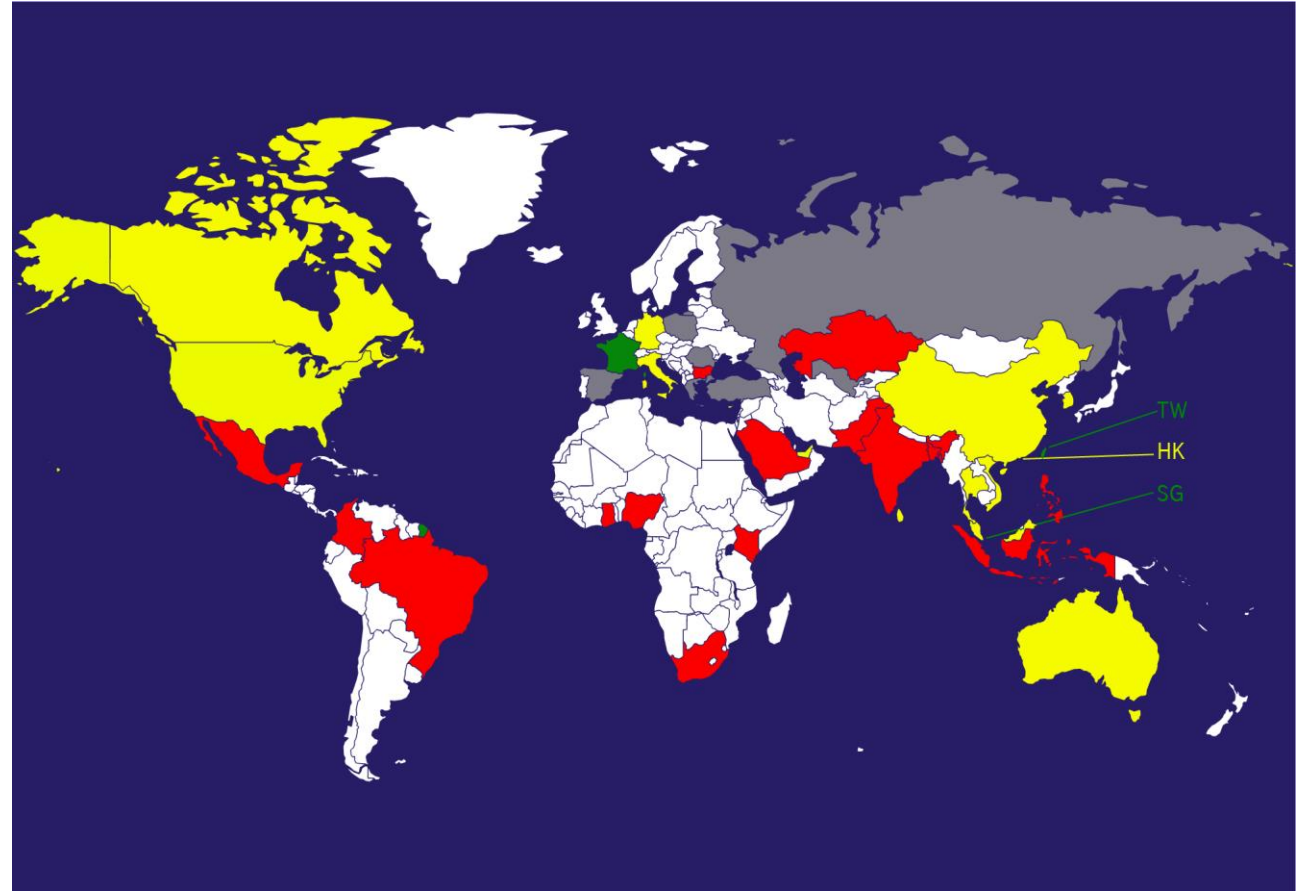
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3) Are HE institutions open for face-to-face teaching?

September Examples

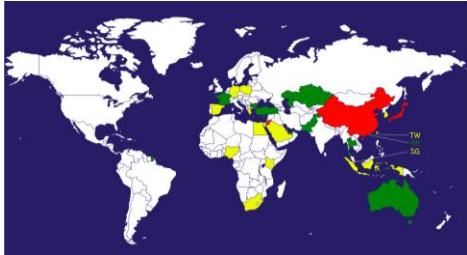
In **Taiwan, Singapore and France**, remain some of the only countries open to face-to-face teaching is in place.

Most countries are offering some form of blended learning approach to teaching and learning:

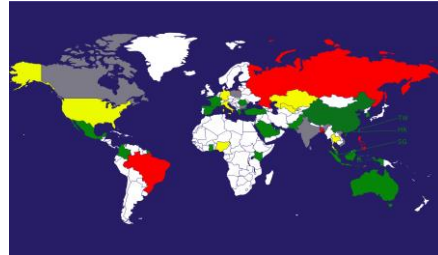
- Some students allowed on campus (e.g. those who need access to lab facilities)
- Blended learning – a combination of face-to-face and online
- Regional differences – in some countries, regions with low instances of Covid-19 have been able to open universities before the rest of the country

Campuses are strictly closed in **Bangladesh, India, Nigeria, Philippines** and **Pakistan**. We will be updating these countries in two weeks time.

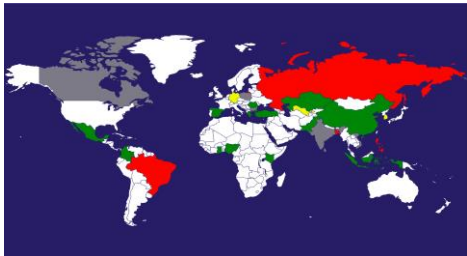
4) Has Covid-19 had an impact on nationally-funded scholarships for international study?



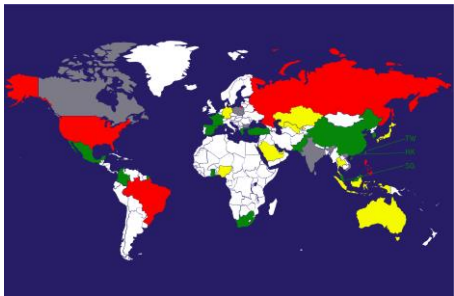
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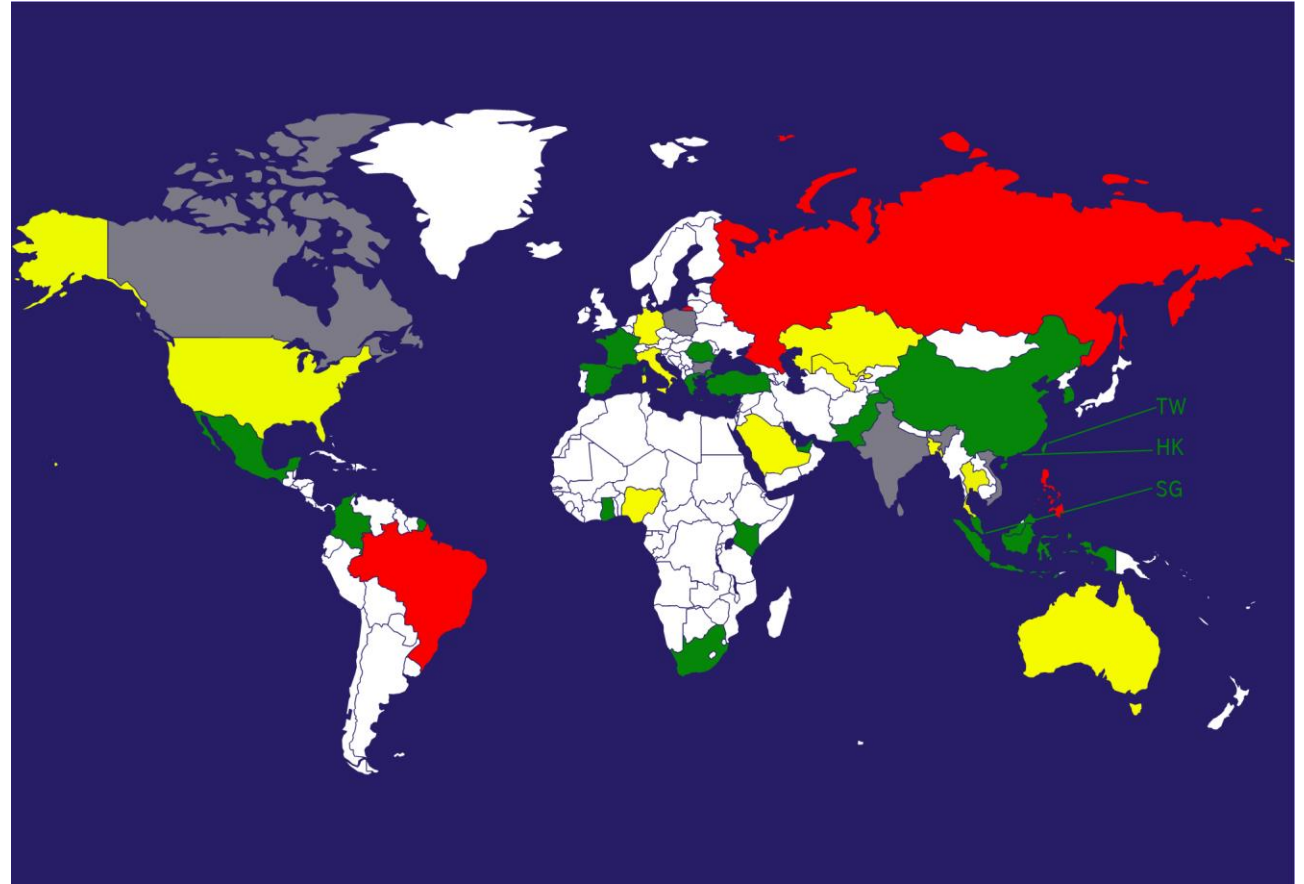
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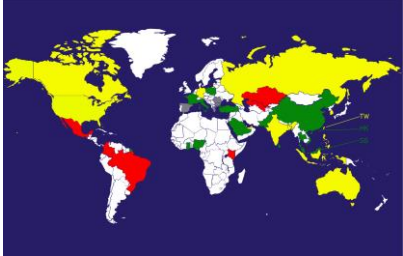
4) Has Covid-19 had an impact on nationally-funded scholarships for international study?

- 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.
- With the **USA** lifting of the Global Level 4 'Do not travel' health advisory on August 6, the Fulbright programme is resuming but on a case-by-case basis.
- 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.
- **Saudi Arabia's** Minister of Education Dr. Hamad Al-Sheikh has approved the continuation of studies of foreign scholarship students remotely at all academic levels until the end of 2020.

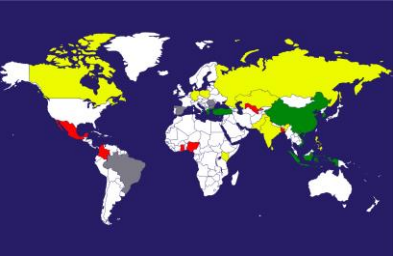
5) Are visa application centres open?



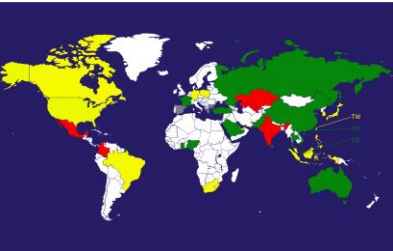
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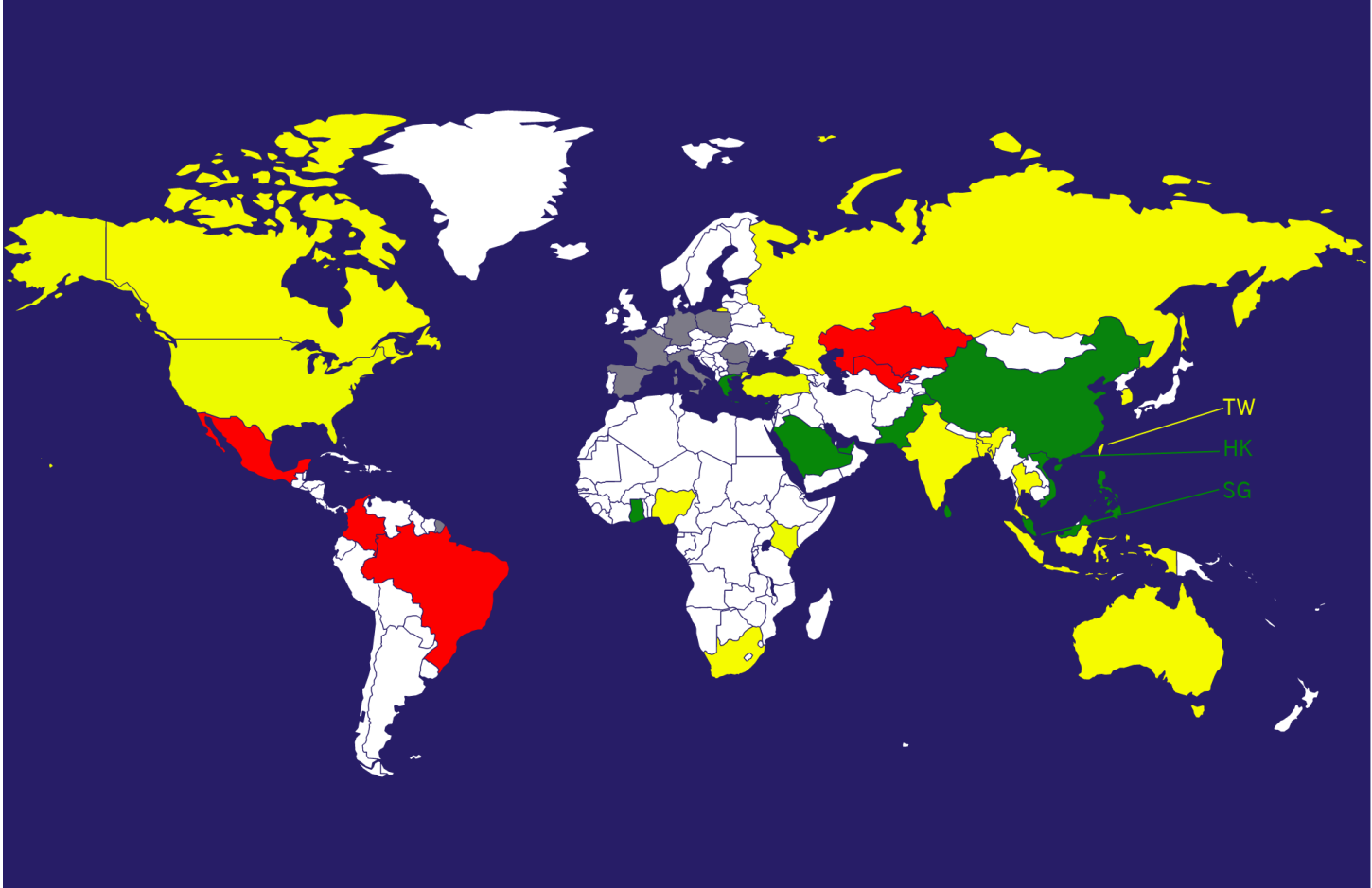
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5) Are visa application centres open?

September Examples

More and more VACS are fully operational. We measure fully operational as operating at 80% of pre-Covid levels. However:

- In the **USA** many VACs have limited opening hours and we are hearing widespread reports from the sector that students are having a very difficult time getting appointments.
- VACs in **Indonesia** is now open but with reduced capacity from 65 to 20 application per day.
- In Turkey VACs are open three days a week in Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir and Gaziantep and one to two days a week in other cities.
- **Nigeria** is reporting that although VACs centres maybe open – there are delays experienced in booking Tuberculosis appointments at the International Organization for Migration centre, earliest appointments available are in the first week of September. Phone scheduling system is not working efficiently.

NB: VACs across **Brazil** closed again on Friday 14th August but this week Sao Paulo has reopened on appointment basis only.

Closing remarks

- This is a snap shot to highlight the top line information around our global network.
- We intend update these heat maps on a bi-weekly basis from now to January 2021.
- The heatmap 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.
- For further information on the heatmap – contact Jacqui.jenkins@britishcouncil.org or if you would like specific country information - contact our people on the ground in these countries. <https://education-services.britishcouncil.org/people>

Thank you