

International student mobility taskforce

Heatmap overview summary

29 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 2500 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.

Summary

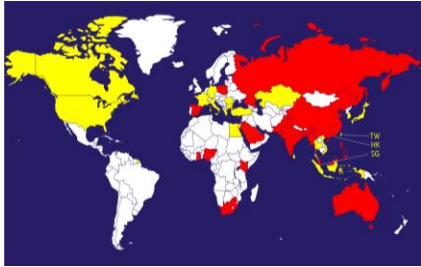
Five critical questions affecting all aspects of student mobility

- 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?

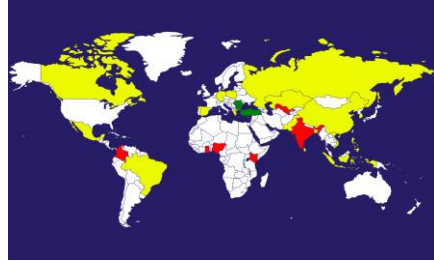
Key

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

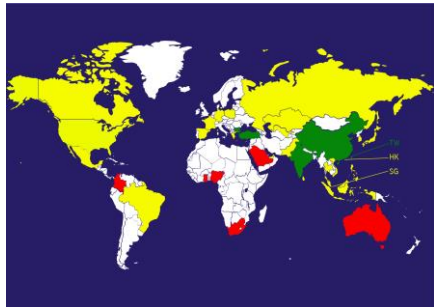
1) Are domestic students permitted to travel internationally? (map 1)



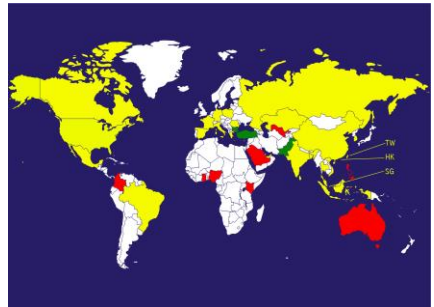
June 2020



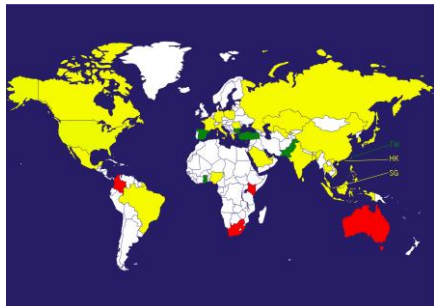
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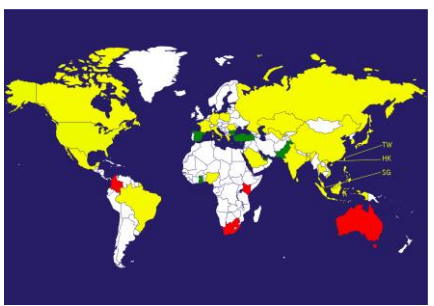
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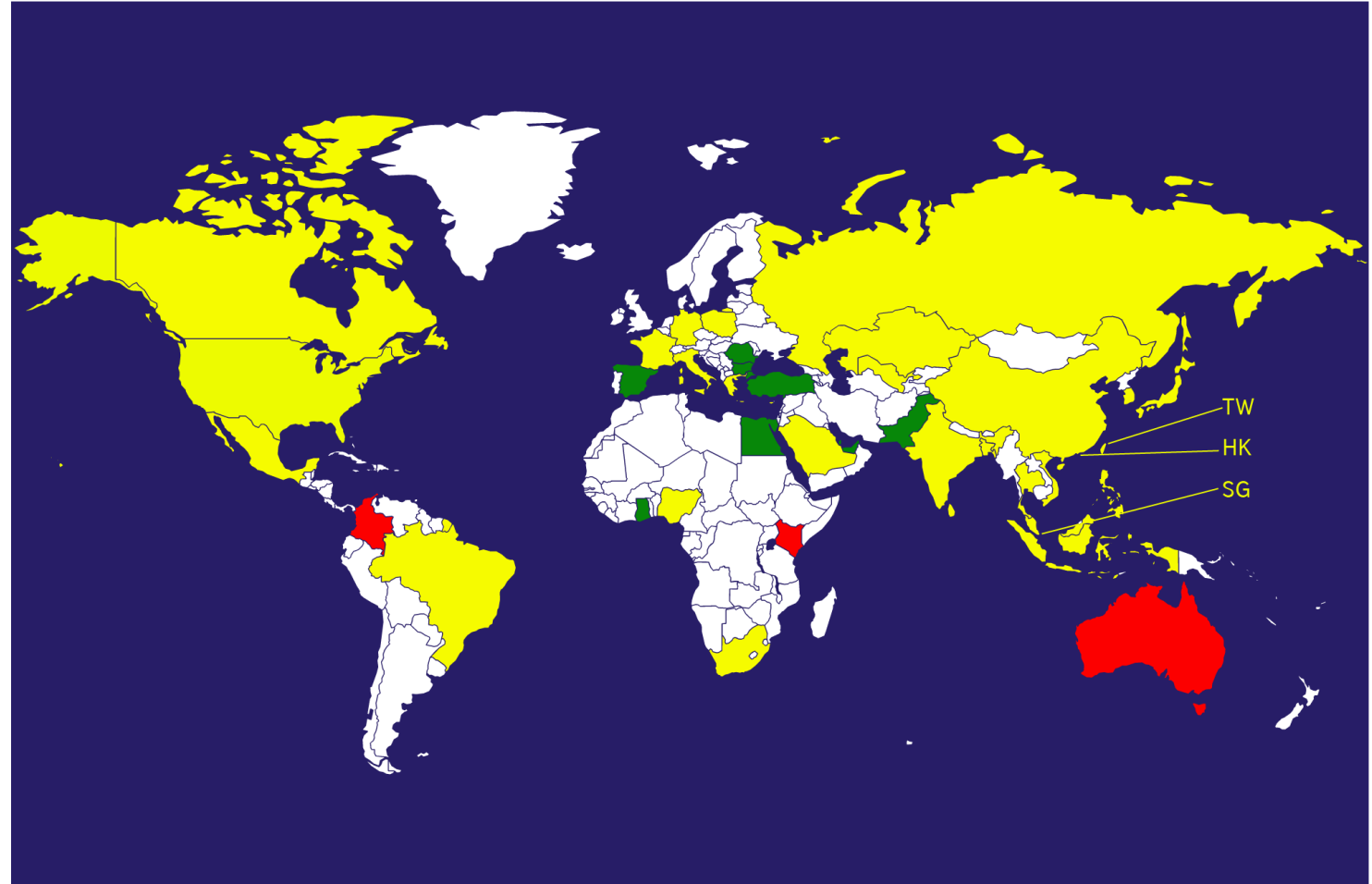
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1) Are domestic students permitted to travel internationally?

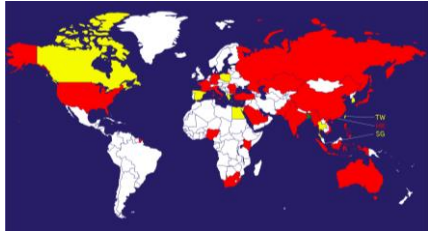
Most countries are now permitting international students to travel.

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:

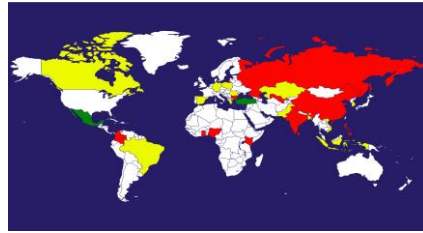
- Citizens advised against non-essential travel
- Steep flight costs and lack of available flights
- Visa centre closures (map 5)

Australian state and territories are currently under different levels of restrictions to contain Covid-19. The disruption to overseas travel has caused a massive drop in passport applications.

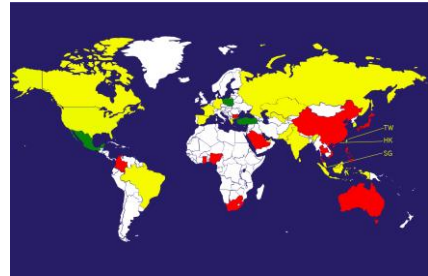
2) Are international students permitted to enter the country? (map 2)



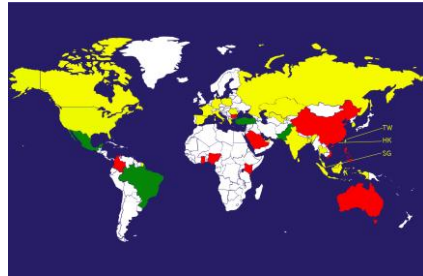
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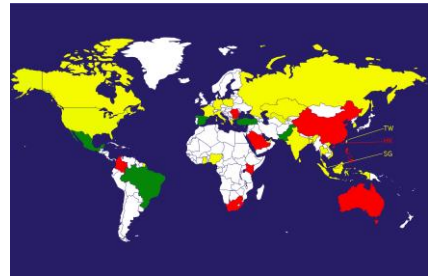
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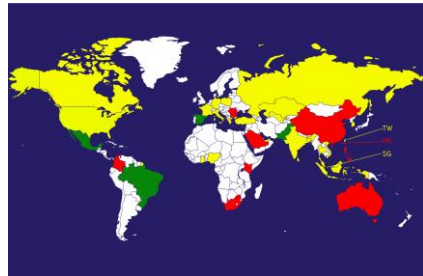
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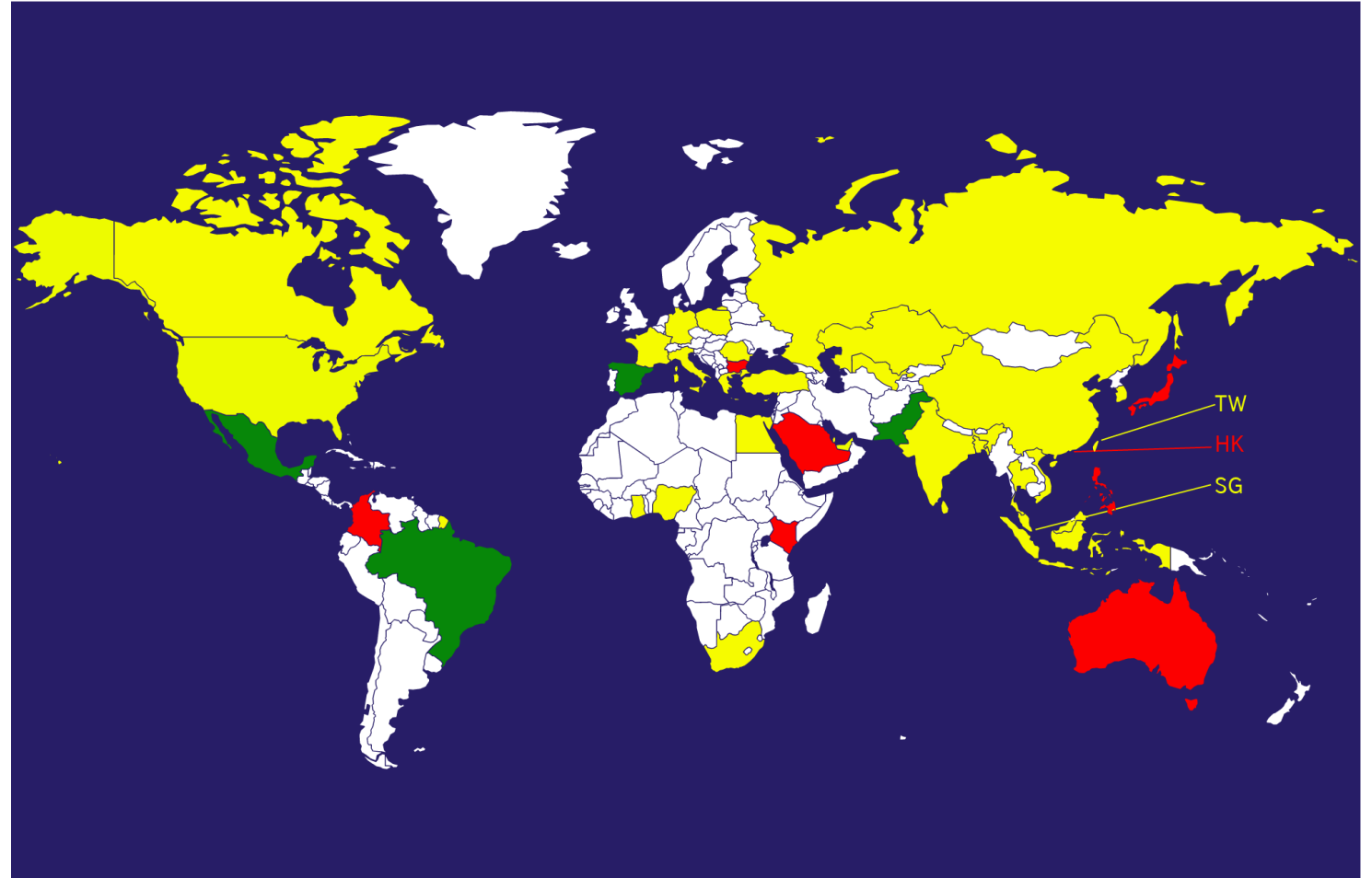
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2) Are international students permitted to enter the country?

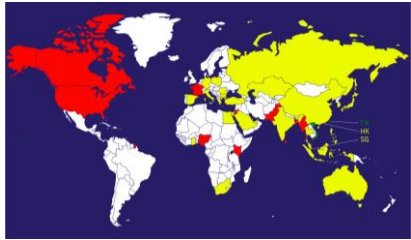
Many countries' borders are still closed to anyone who is not a permanent resident or in employment in that country.

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

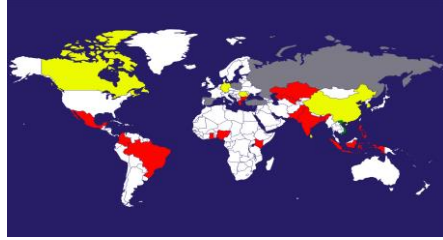
- Pre-departure Covid-19 tests / health checks
- Quarantine upon arrival
- Lack of flights and steep costs make travel challenging

Japan and the **Philippines** continue to close their borders to international students.

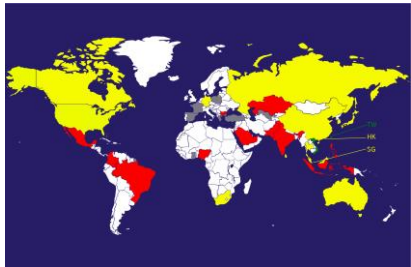
3) Are HE institutions open for face-to-face learning? (map 3)



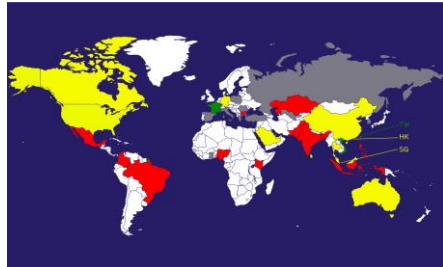
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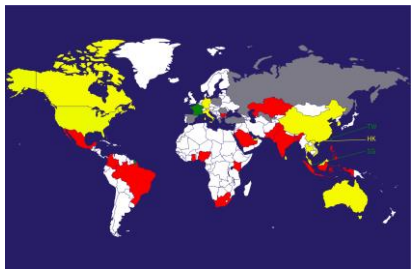
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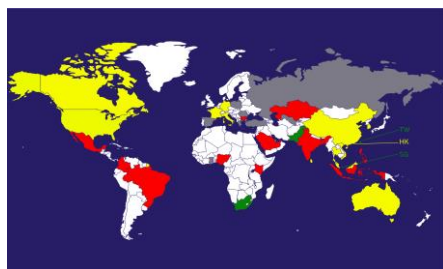
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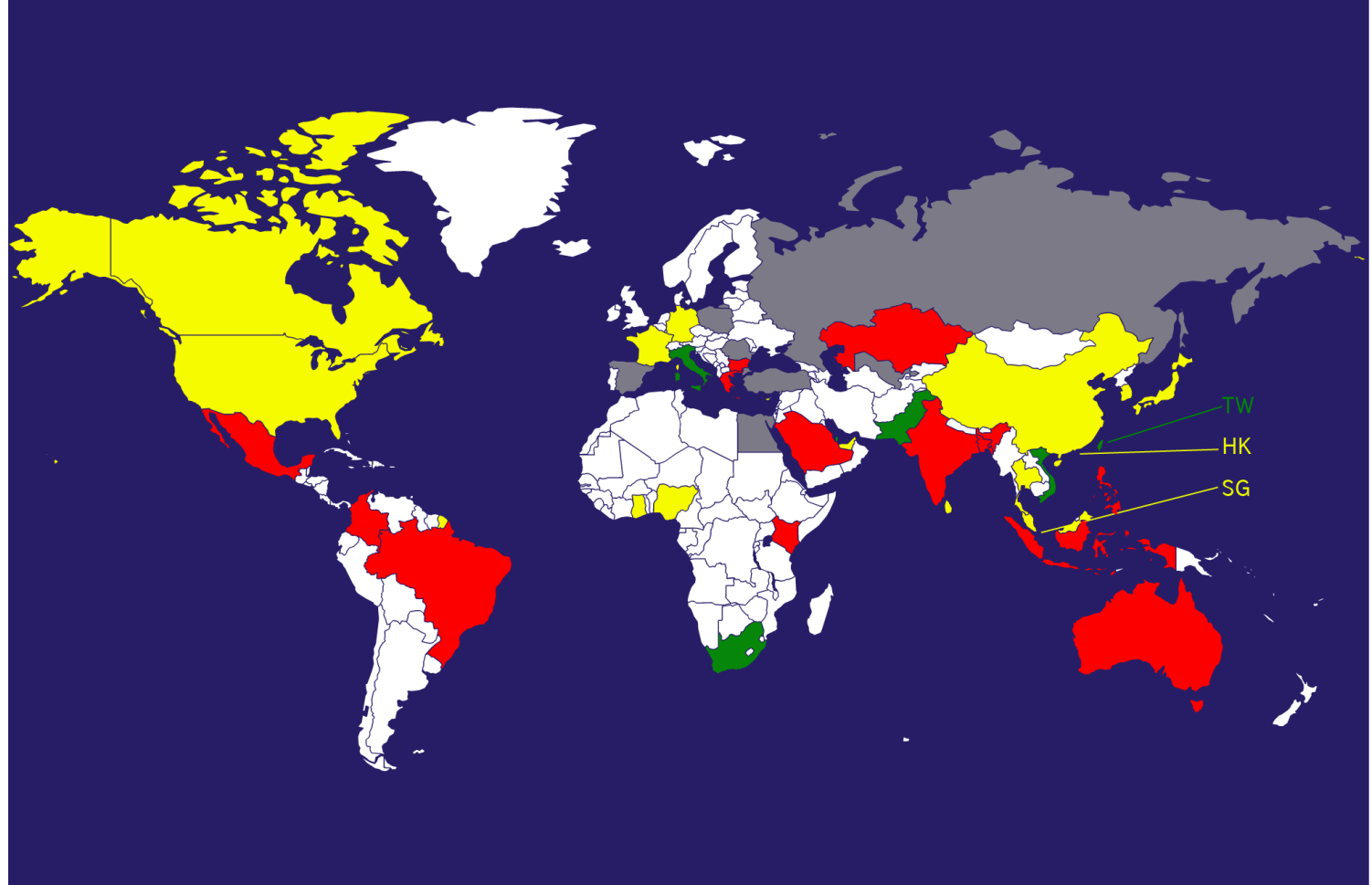
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3) Are HE institutions open for face-to-face teaching?

Several countries are offering some form of face-to-face teaching:

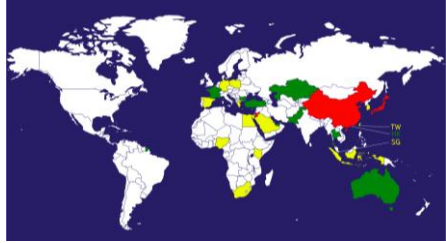
- Some students allowed on campus (e.g. those who need access to lab facilities)
- Blended learning – a combination of face-to-face and online
- Regional differences – in some countries, regions with low instances of Covid-19 have been able to open universities before the rest of the country

Italy has now resumed some face-to-face teaching but will also continue online activities with a blend of appropriate mixed solutions, particularly addressed to international students.

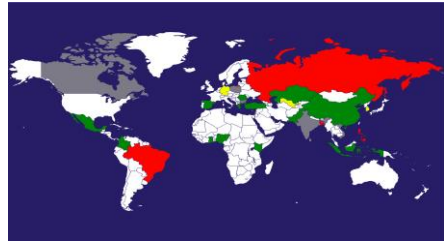
Vietnam has gone 26 consecutive days without any community transmission of the virus. Therefore, all HE institutions are open for face-to-face teaching. However, institutions are required to come up with their own check-lists to ensure safety for students. It's a similar situation in Taiwan.

Despite local outbreaks in **Pakistan** face-to-face teaching resumed on 15th September 2020.

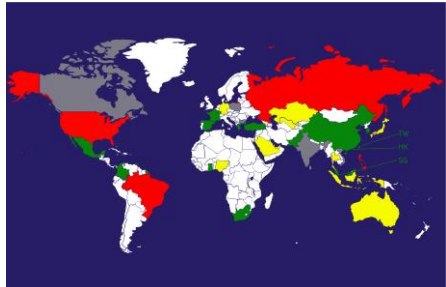
4) Has Covid-19 had an impact on nationally-funded scholarships for international study? (map 4)



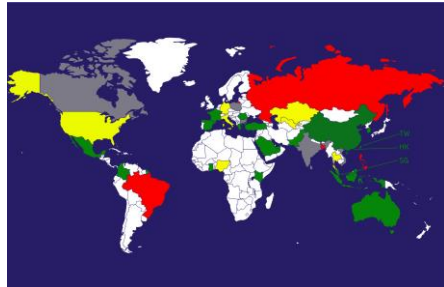
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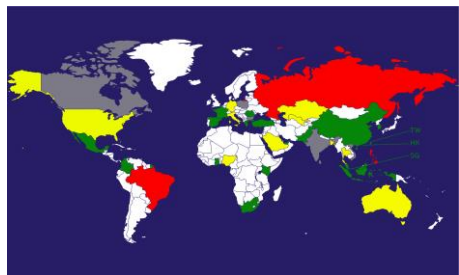
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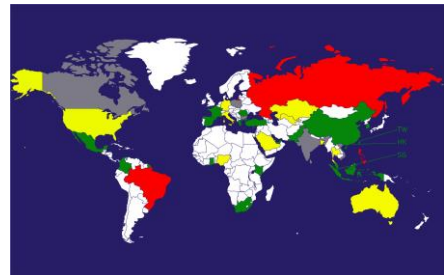
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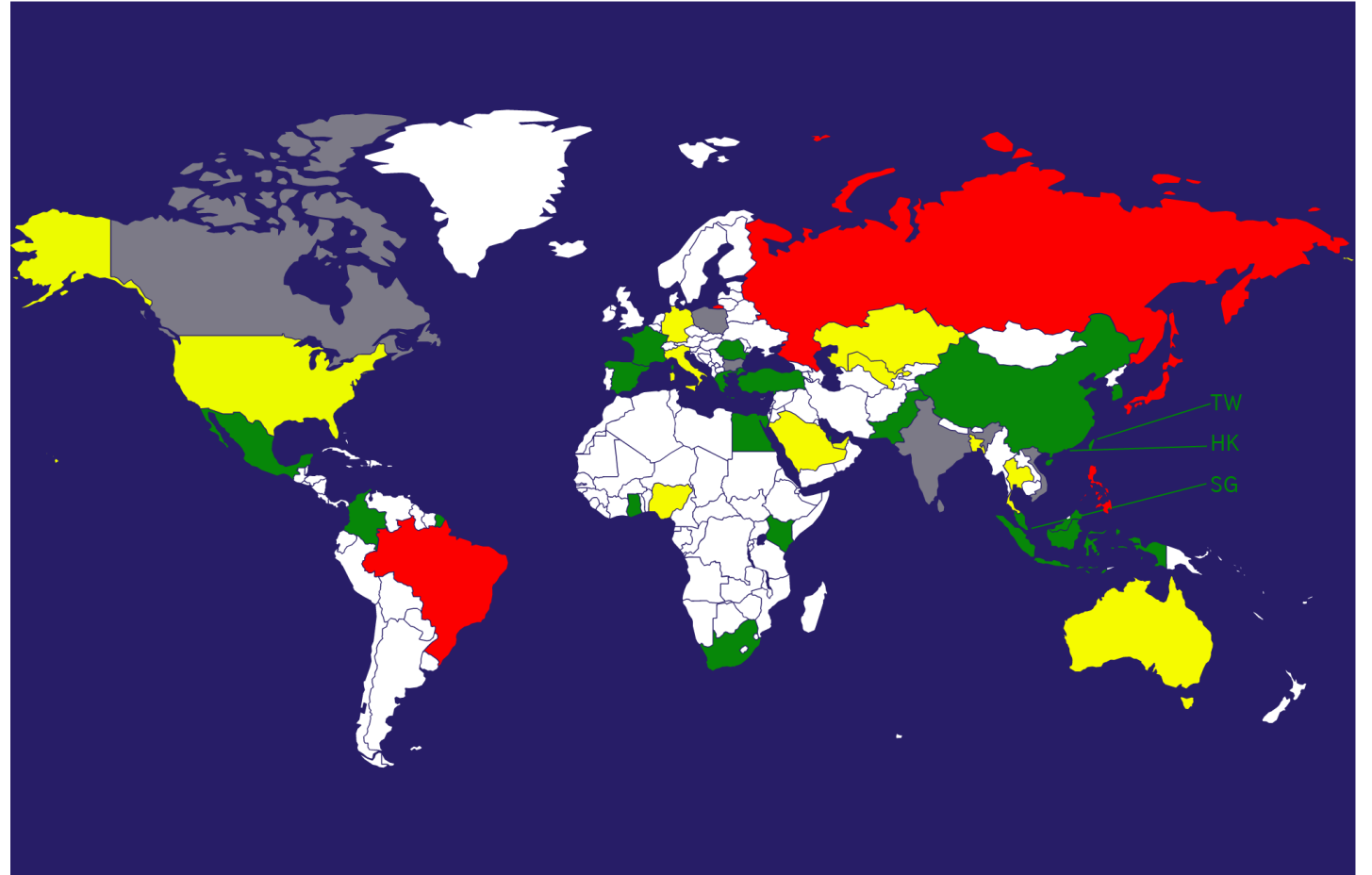
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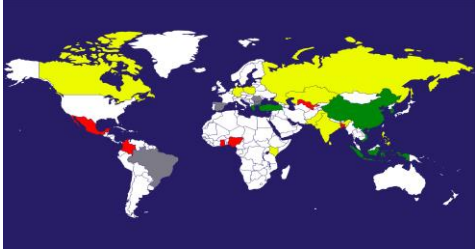
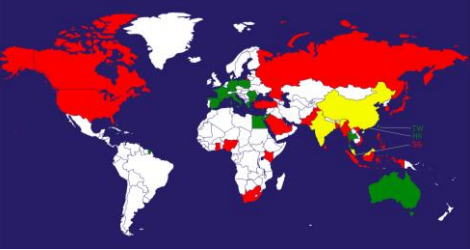


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4) Has Covid-19 had an impact on nationally-funded scholarships for international study?

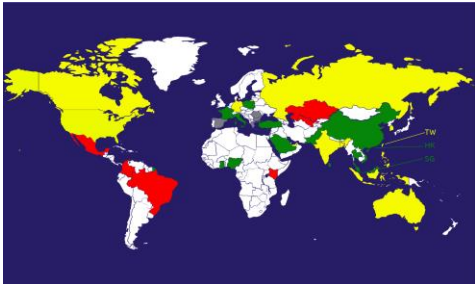
- Many nationally-funded scholarships for international study are still operating, although some are offering fewer scholarships than normal.
- However, some (such as **China's Scholarship Council**) are offering the option to defer or change study destinations.
- Other countries (e.g. **Saudi Arabia** and the **USA**) have not yet confirmed if funding will be available for blended learning.
- 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.

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



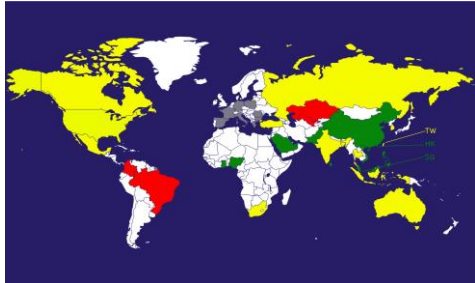
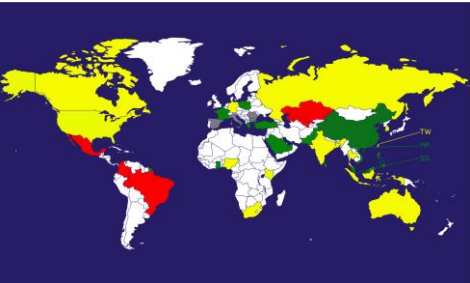
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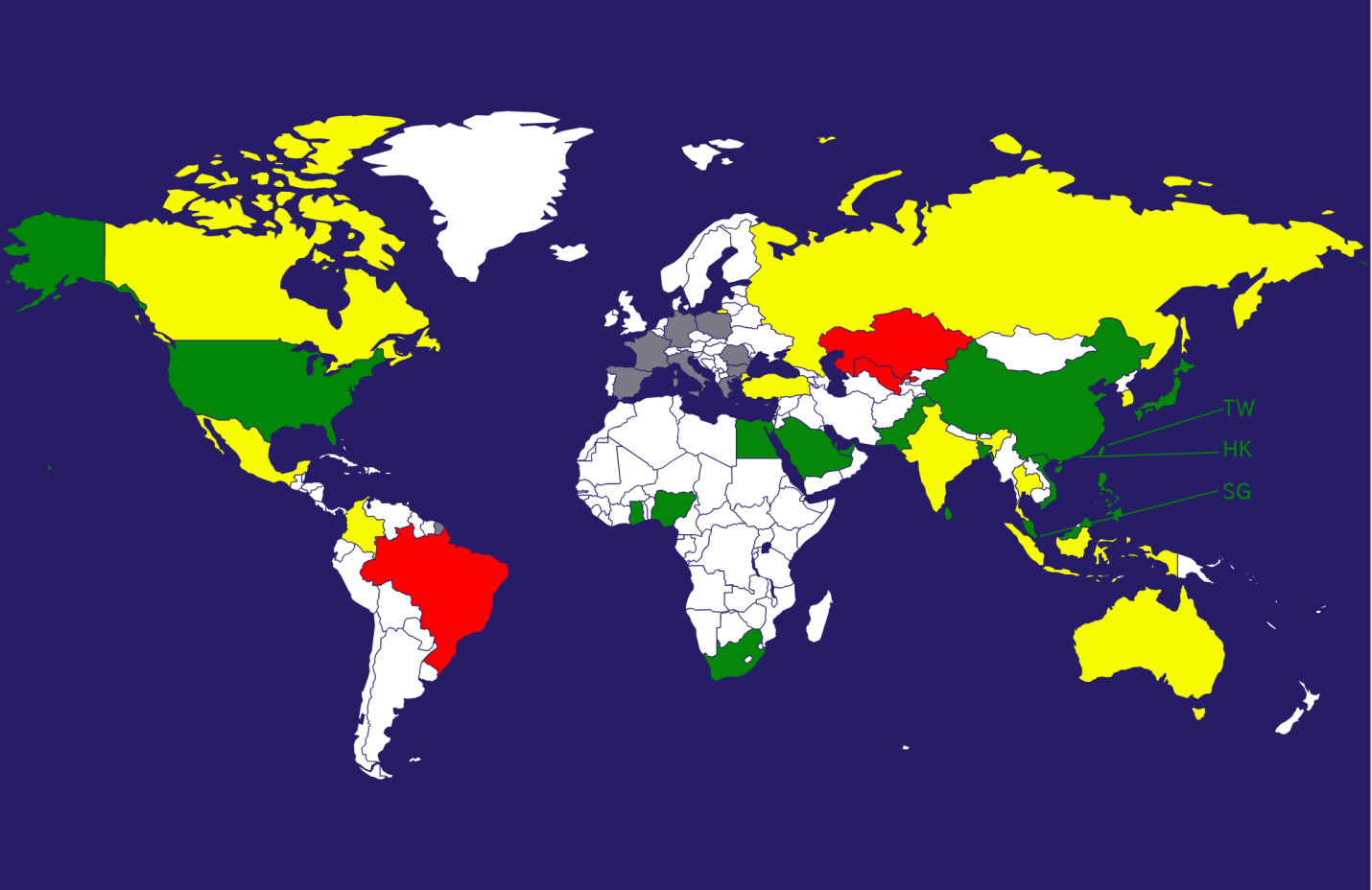
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5) Are visa application centres open?

- Many UK visa application centres remain closed.
- Visa application centres in several countries are beginning to reopen.
- 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.
- Visas are not currently necessary for **EU students** in the **UK**

Reports on Visa Application Centres have improved with many countries now working at 80% of pre-Covid levels - yet we are receiving anecdotal feedback that there are issues to address.

Closing remarks

- This is a snap shot to highlight the top line information around the globe.
- We intend to update these heat maps on a bi-weekly basis from now through to January 2021.
- 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