

International student mobility taskforce

Heatmap overview summary

15 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. We will be including data on all countries that send more than 2500 in the future.
- 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

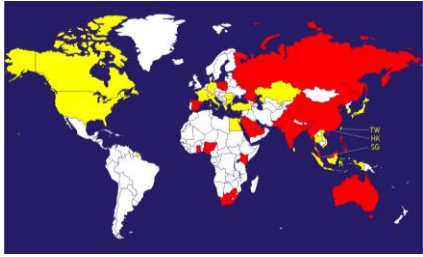
Five critical questions affecting all aspects of student mobility

- 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?

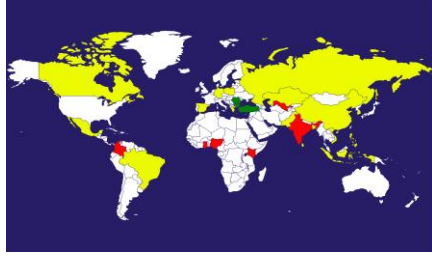
Key

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

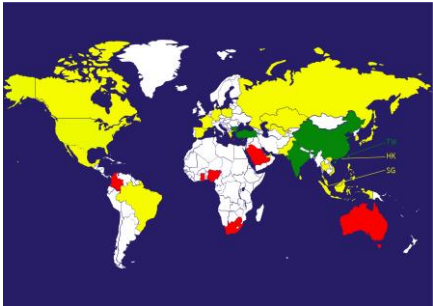
1) Are domestic students permitted to travel internationally?



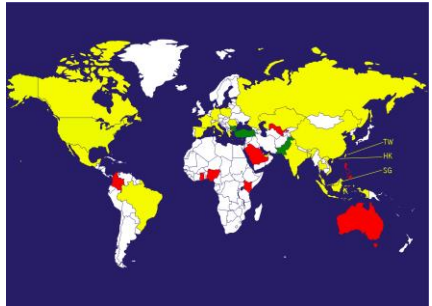
June 2020



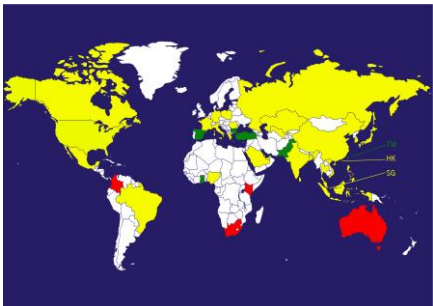
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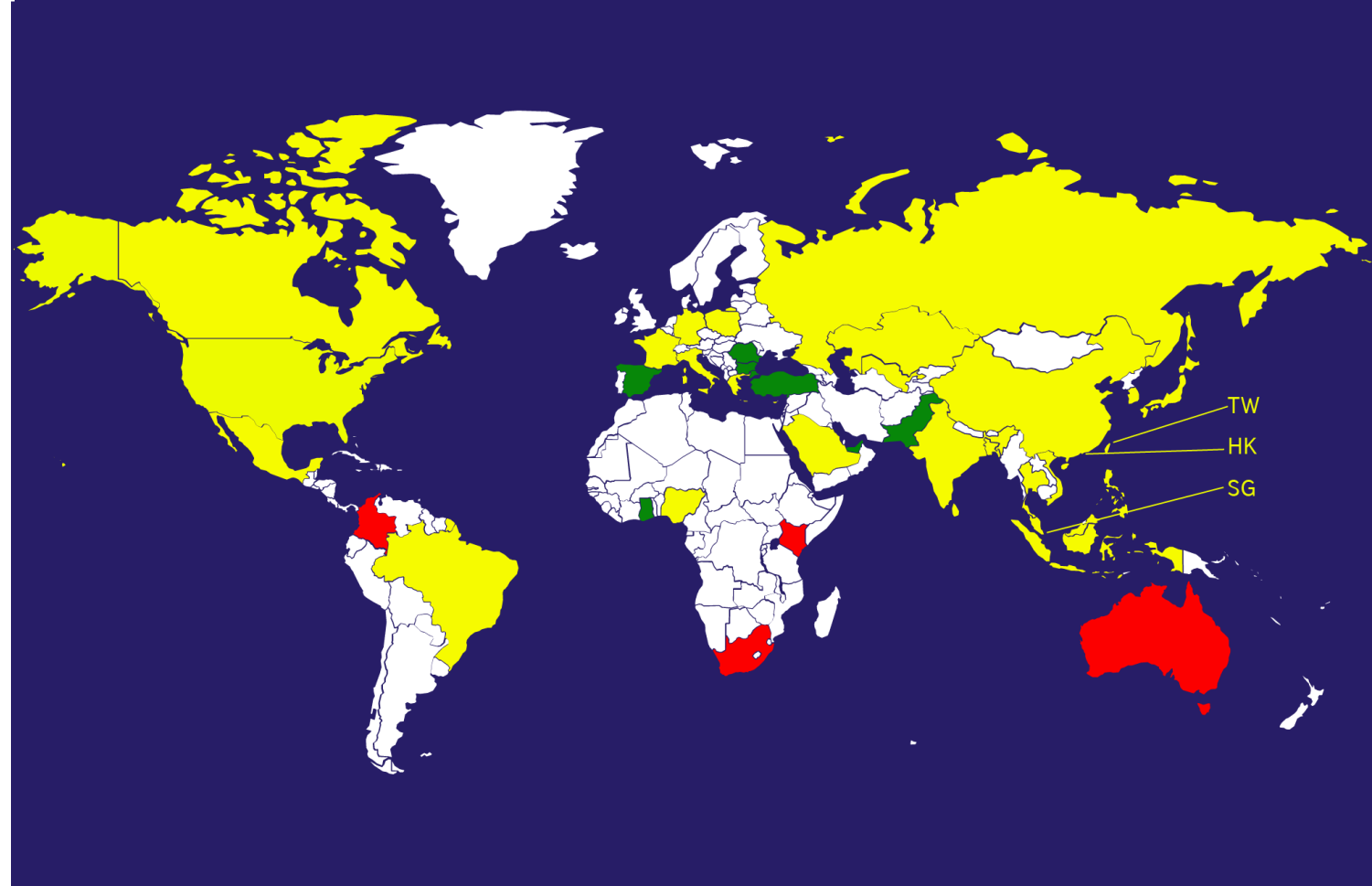
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1) Are domestic students permitted to travel internationally?

Some countries are opening up for international travel, such as within the EU and Turkey.

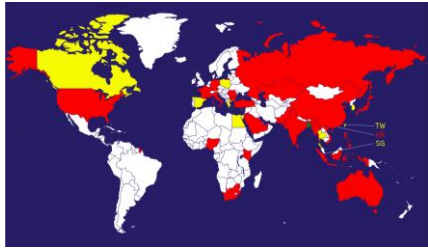
However, although in many countries domestic students are officially permitted to travel internationally, the Amber countries indicate that there are still some obstacles in place:

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

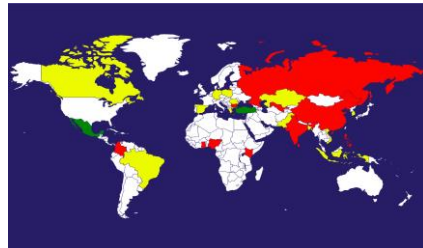
Countries including, **Australia**, **Colombia** and **South Africa** still have strict travel bans on their students traveling internationally.

Saudi Arabia has eased some restrictions for international flights, thereby allowing international students to travel from 15 September 2020.

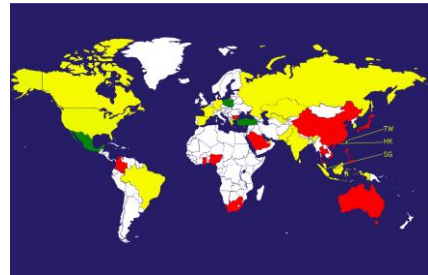
2) Are international students permitted to enter the country?



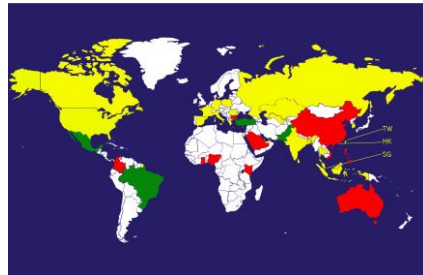
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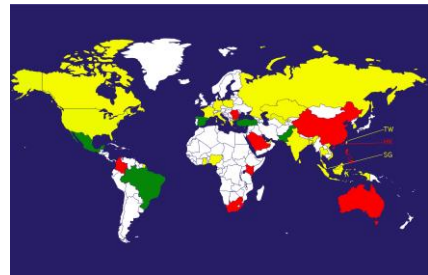
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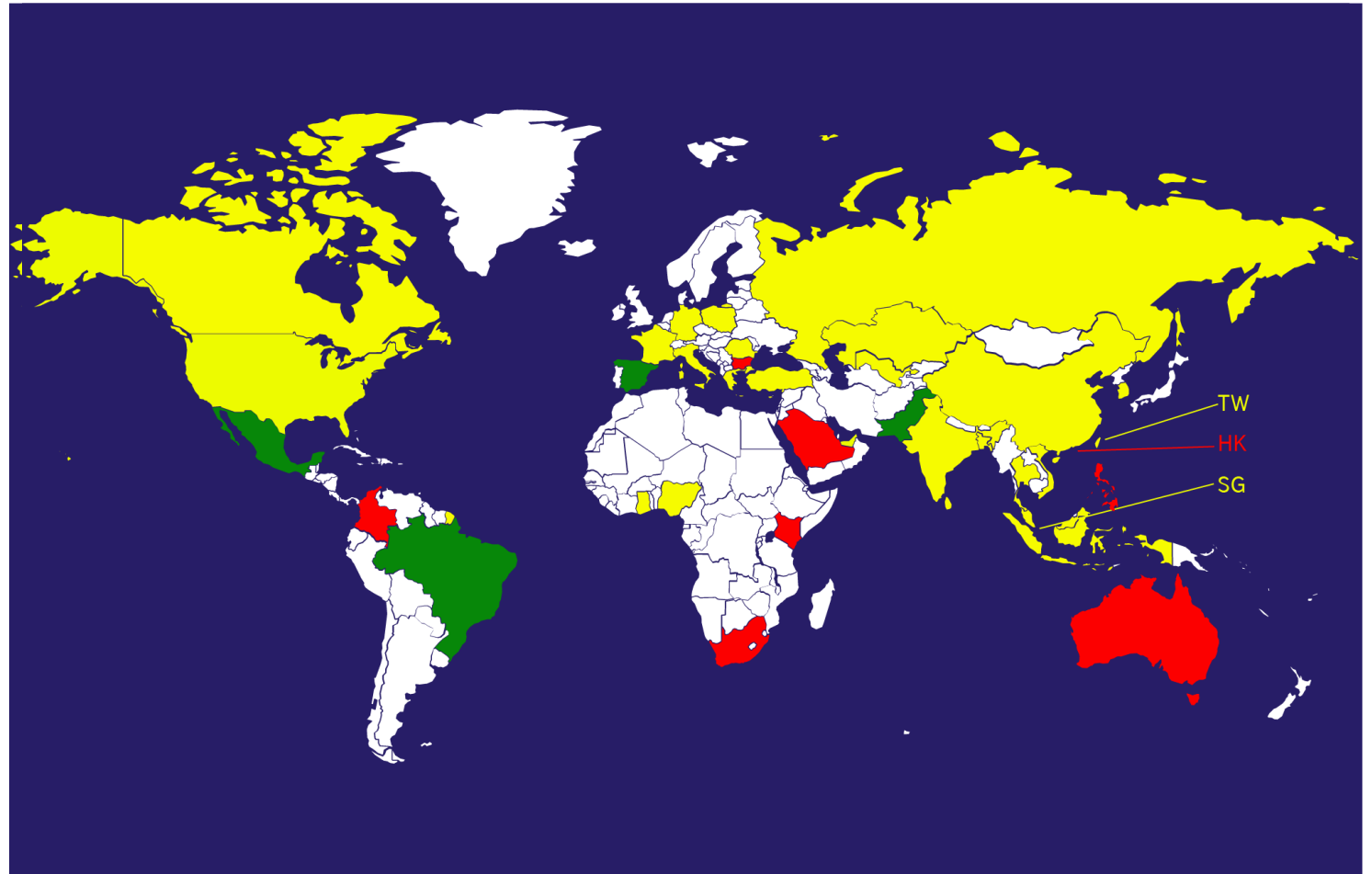
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2) Are international students permitted to enter the country?

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

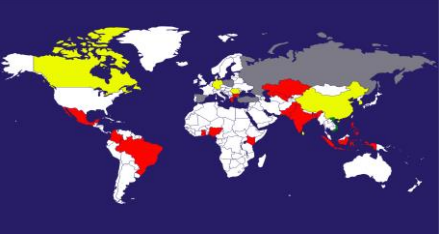
In countries where international students are permitted to enter, some restrictions remain in place:

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

China, Hong Kong SAR, South Africa and the Philippines are still absolutely closed to international students.

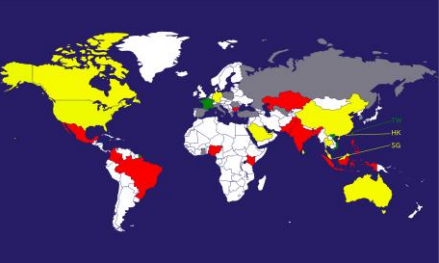
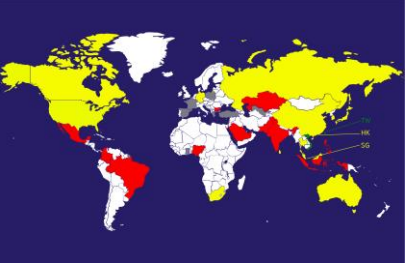
On 15 September **Saudi Arabia** announced it will open the borders for inward mobility students from GCC but wider International Students will not be permitted to enter until 1 January 2020 .

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



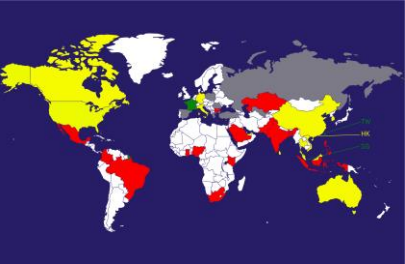
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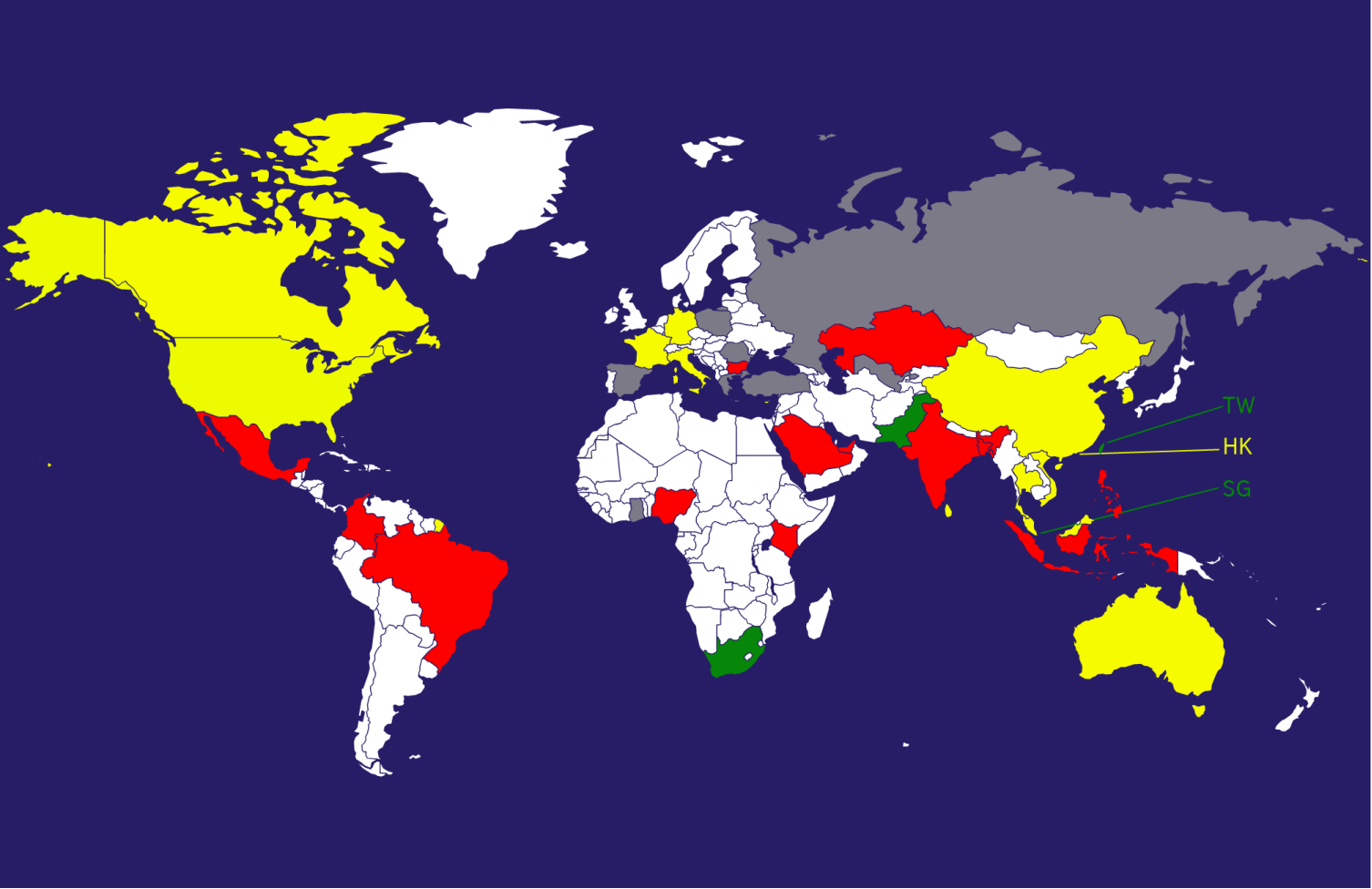


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3) Are HE institutions open for face-to-face teaching?

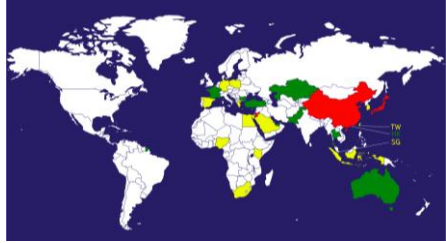
Several countries are offering some form of face-to-face teaching:

- Phased re-openings
- 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

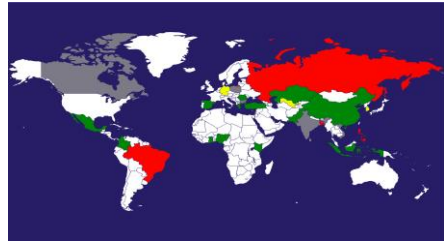
Interestingly **South Africa** is not permitting students to travel internationally, or international students to enter, but their universities are open for face-to-face teaching.

Pakistan, Singapore and **Taiwan** are also open for face-to-face teaching.

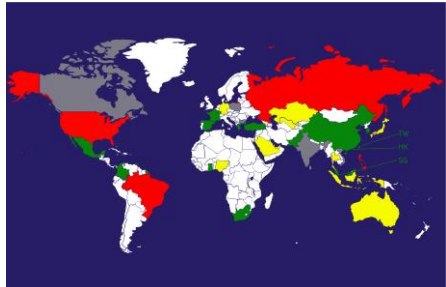
4) Has Covid-19 had an impact on nationally-funded scholarships for international study?



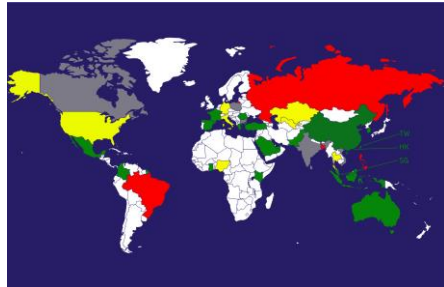
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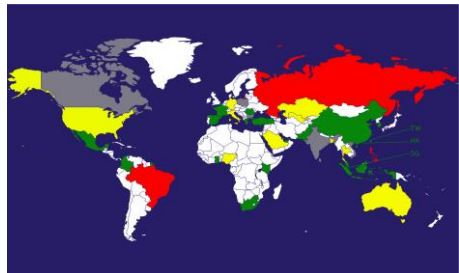
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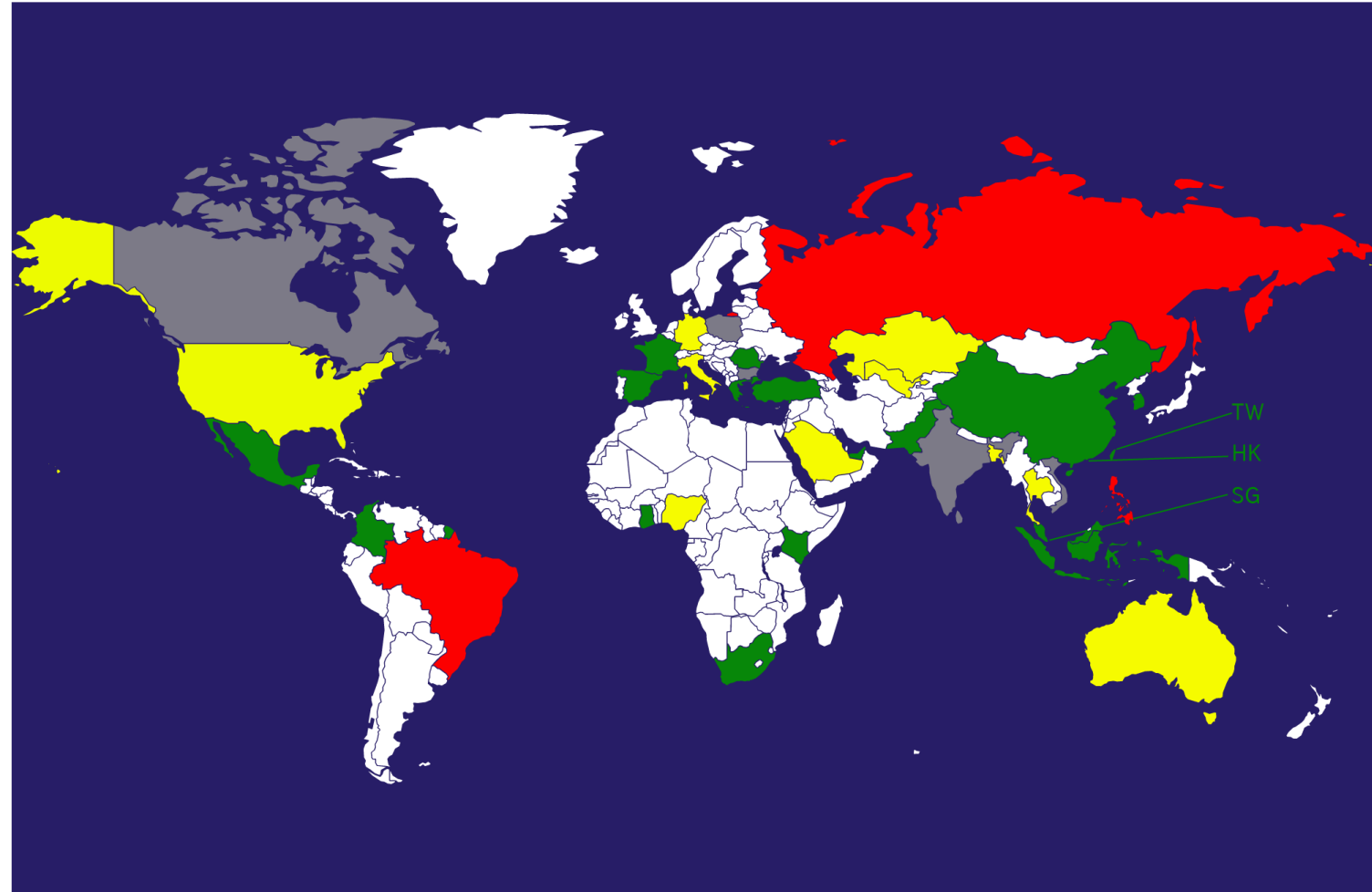
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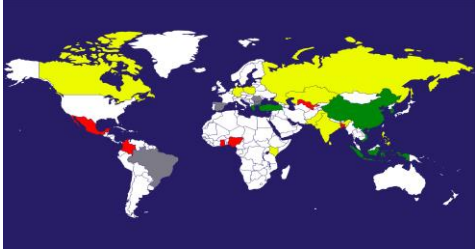
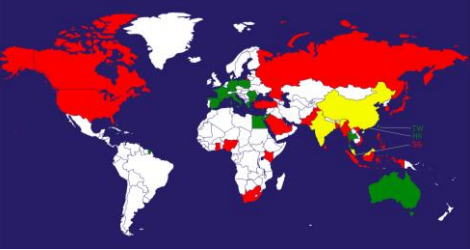


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4) Has Covid-19 had an impact on nationally-funded scholarships for international study?

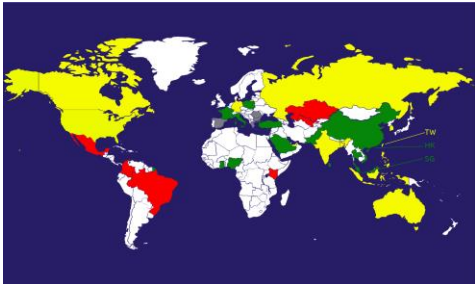
- Many nationally-funded scholarships for international study are still operating, although some are offering fewer scholarships than normal.
- However, some (such as **China's Scholarship Council**) are offering the option to defer or change study destinations.
- Other countries have not yet confirmed 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 centres open?



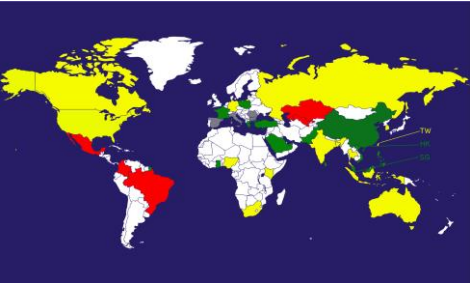
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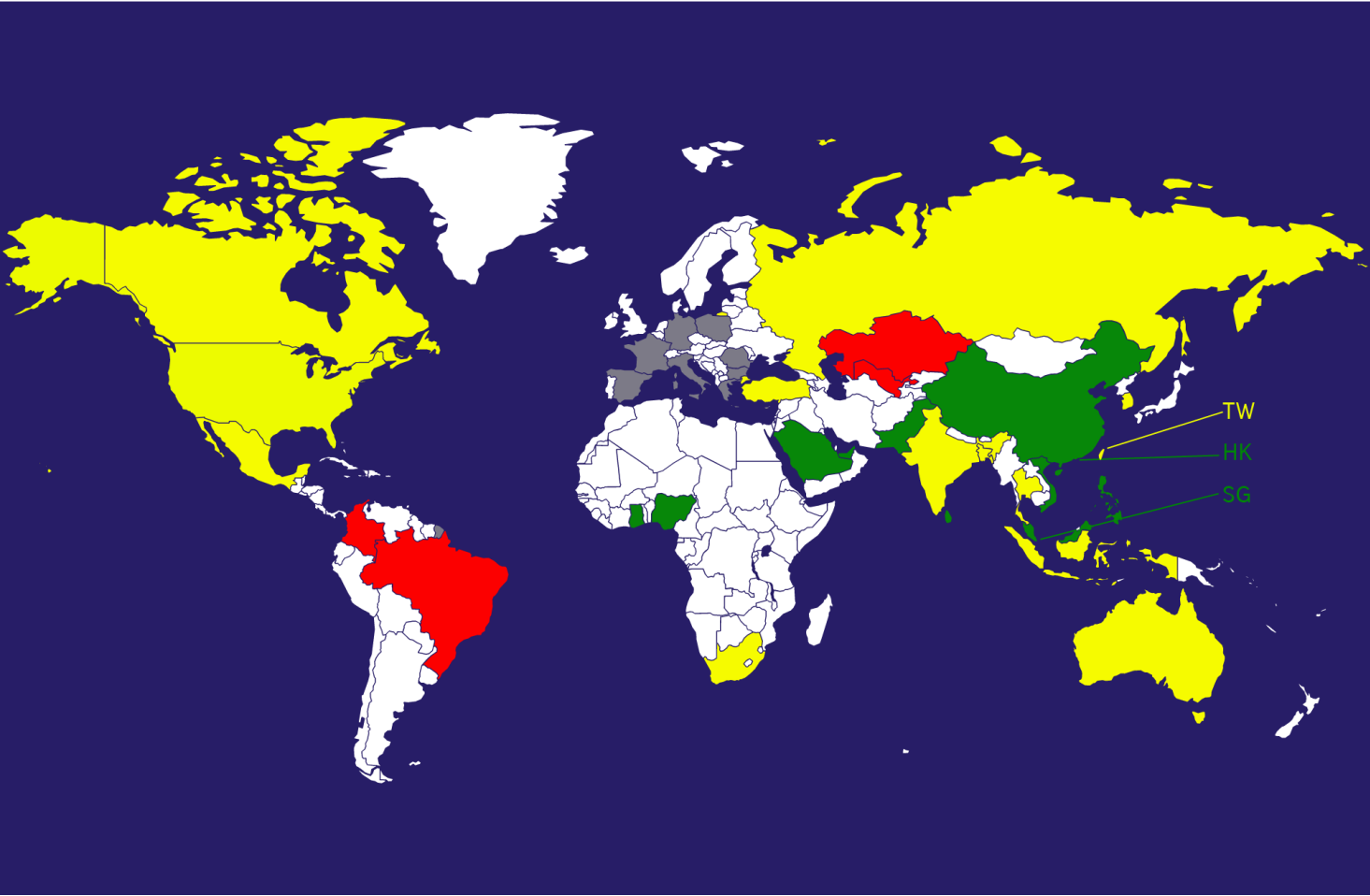


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5) Are visa application centres open?

- 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**.

Closing remarks

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

Thank you