

International student mobility taskforce

Covid-19 Heatmap overview summary

18 August 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 5 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

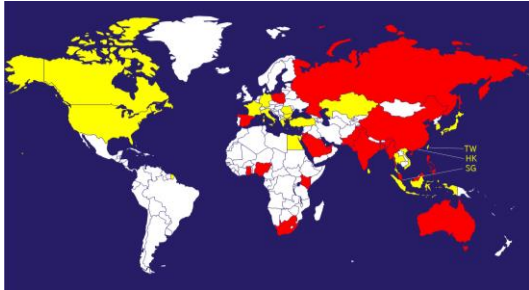
Five critical questions affecting all aspects of student mobility

- 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 Covid19 had an impact nationally-funded scholarships for international study?
- 5) are Visa Application Centres open?

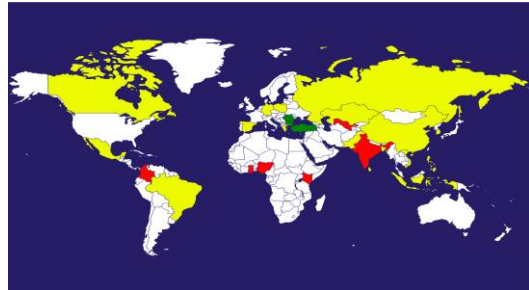
Key

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

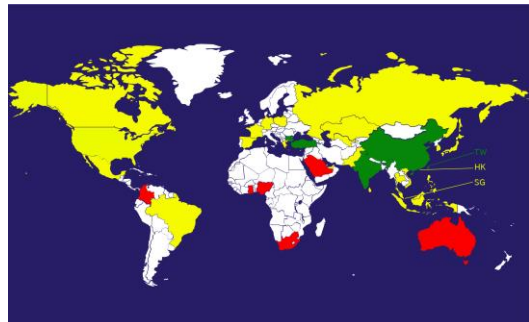
1) Are domestic students permitted to travel internationally?



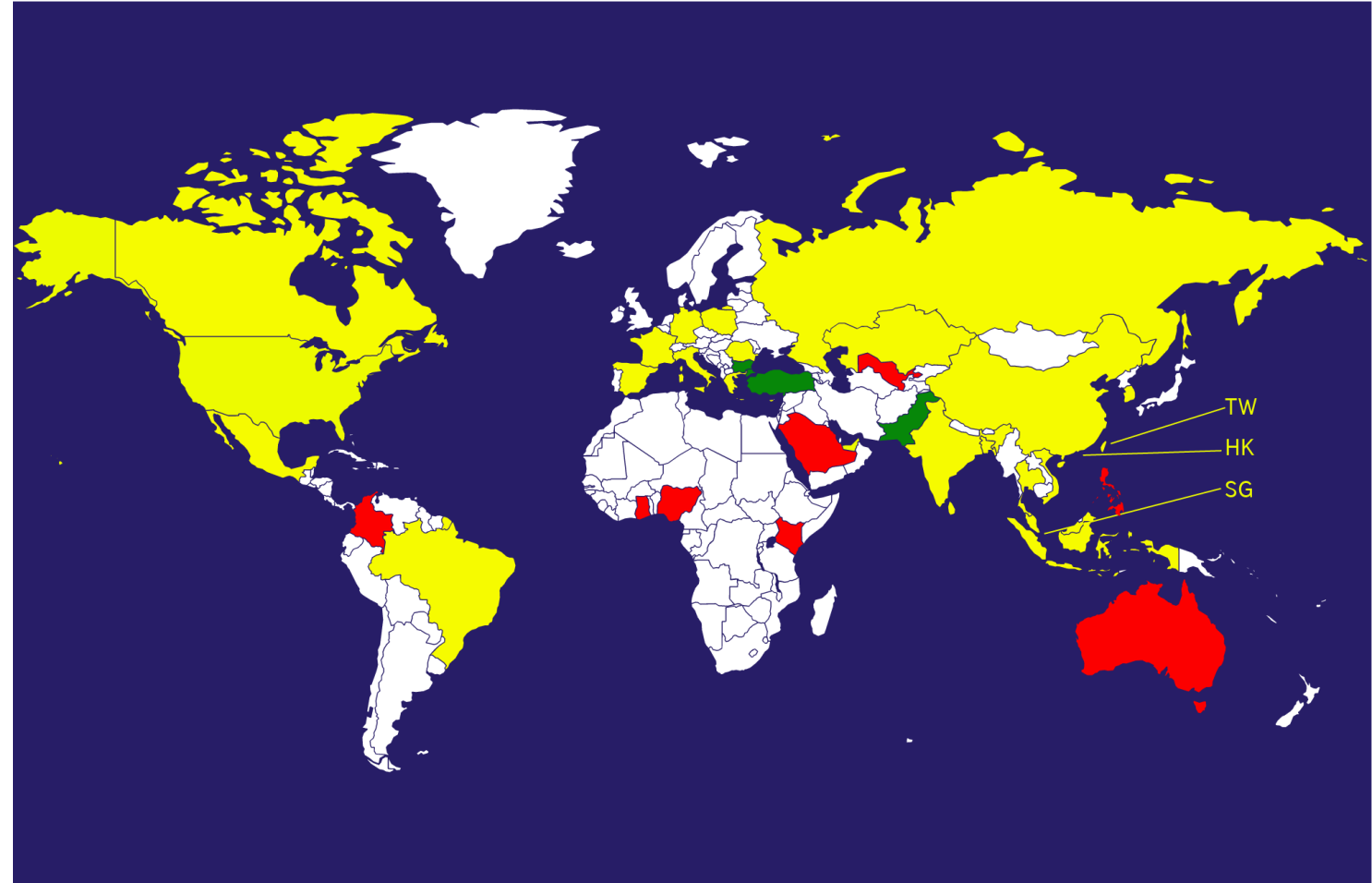
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NB: China and India appear to have gone from Green to Amber – this is not due to permissions, this is due to flight availability.

1) Are domestic students permitted to travel internationally?

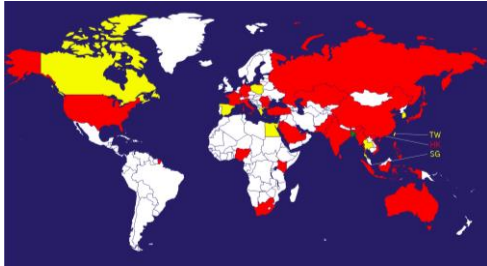
Some countries are now **open** for international travel, such as within the EU, China, Malaysia, Pakistan and Turkey.

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:

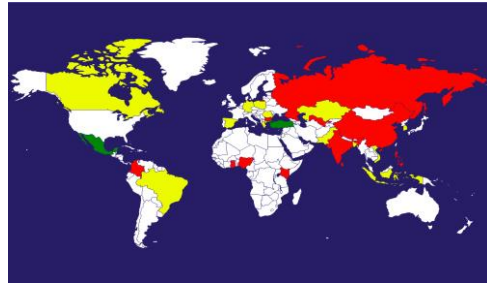
- Citizens advised against non-essential travel
- Steep flight costs and lack of available flights
- Visa centre closures

Some countries such as Nigeria and Saudi Arabia now have strict **travel bans** across the country

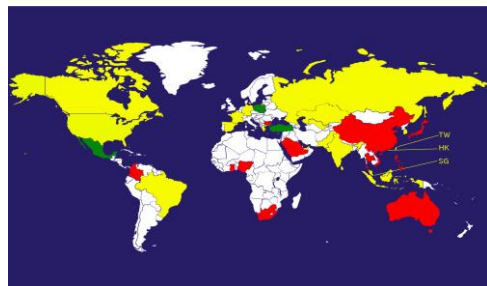
2) Are international students permitted to enter the country?



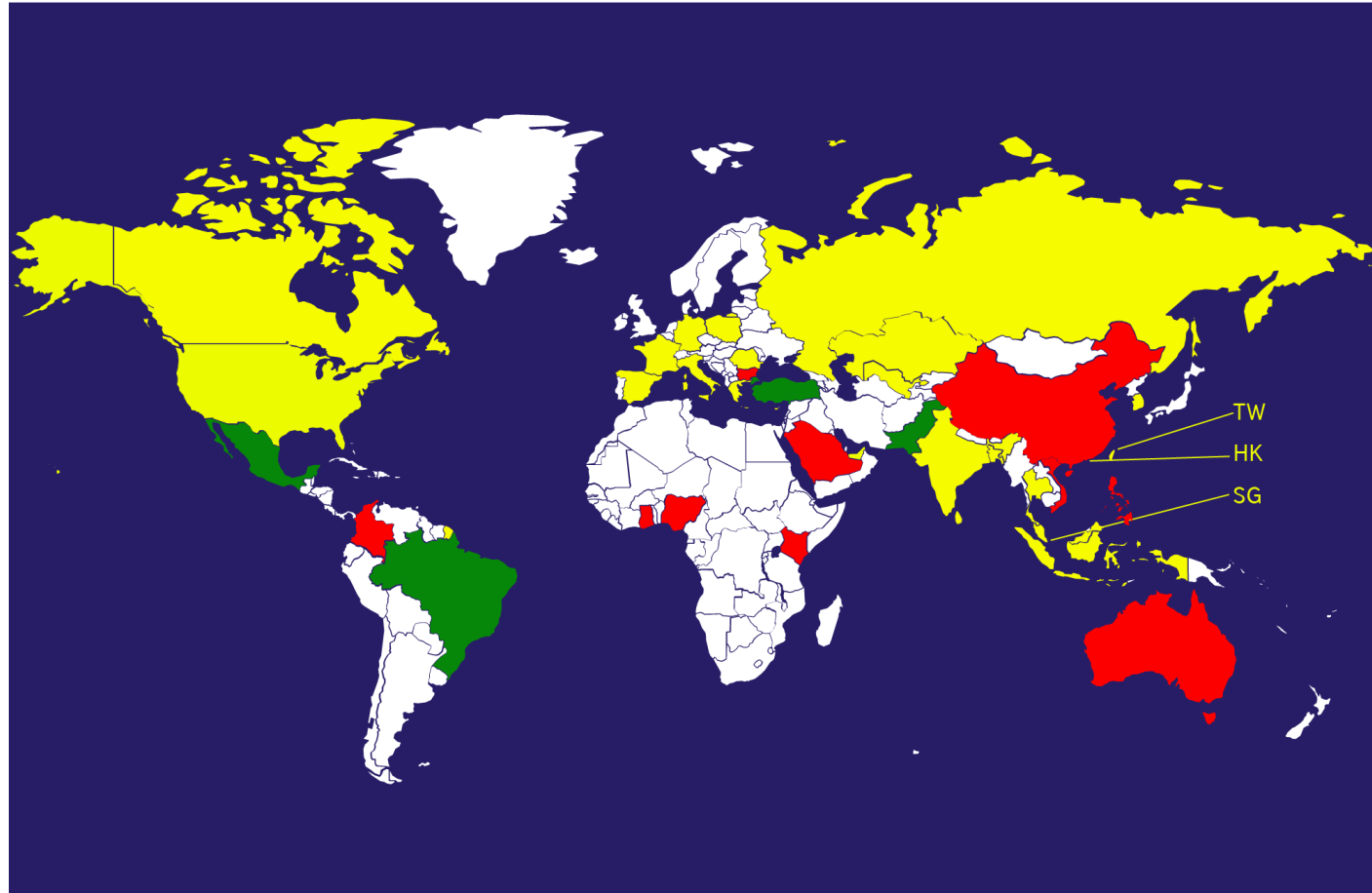
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2) Are international students permitted to enter the country?

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

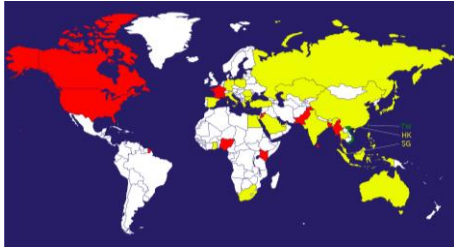
Examples

Russia has opened boundaries with three countries as for today – the UK, Turkey and Tanzania

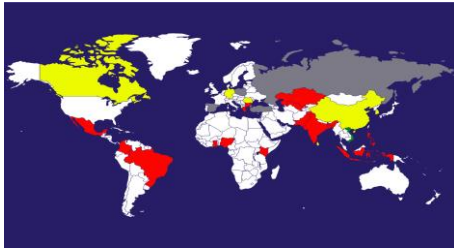
Nigeria has confirmed that airports will reopen from 29 August 2020 '

The federal government will no longer require individual states to have opened their internal borders before allowing international students to return to **Australia**

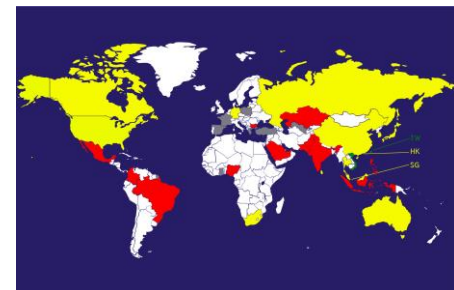
3) Are HE institutions open for face-to-face learning?



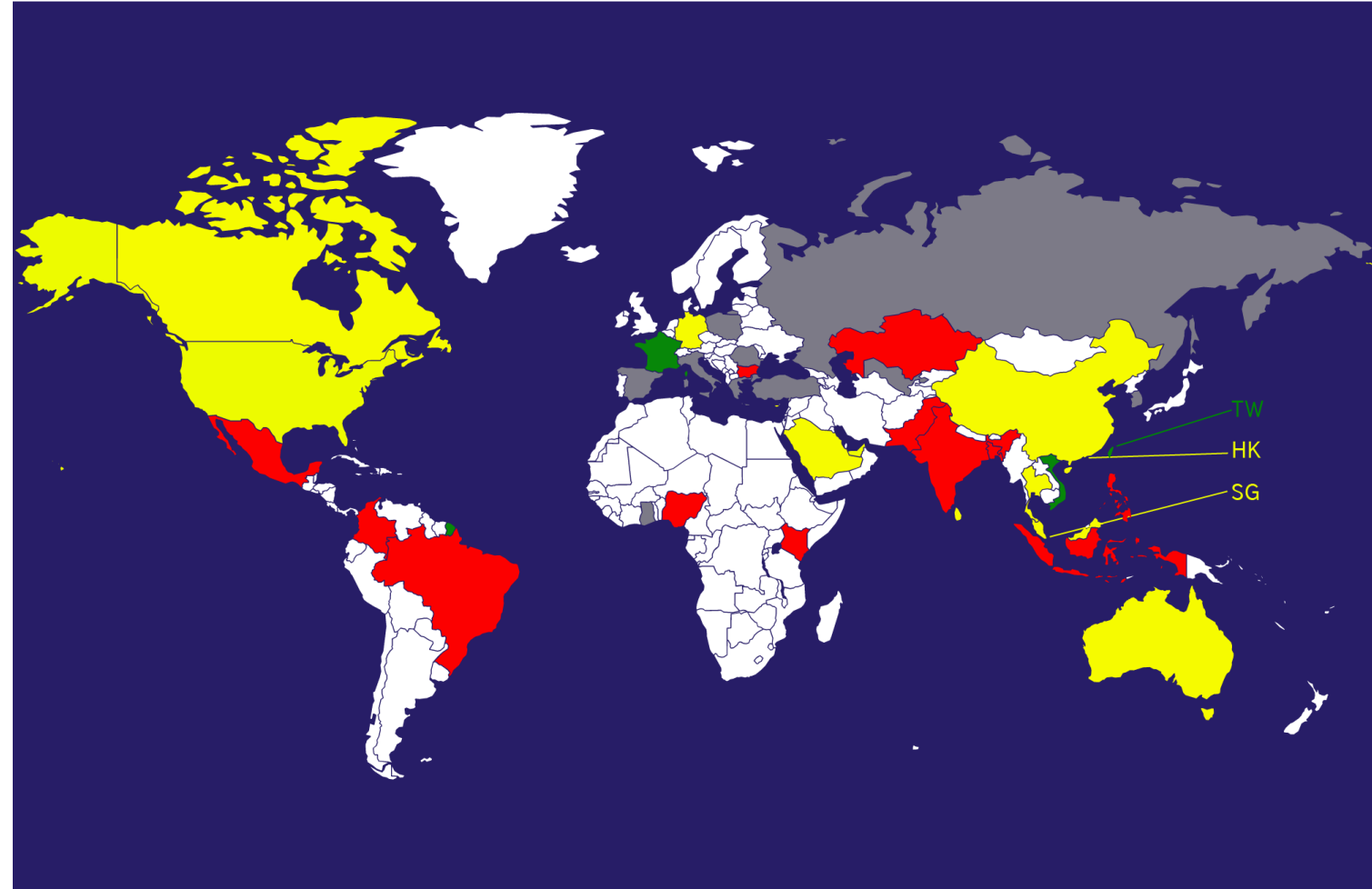
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3) Are HE institutions open for face-to-face teaching?

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

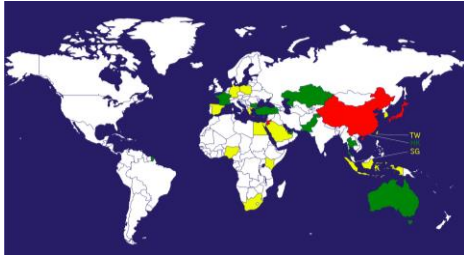
Of the institutions that were not currently open for face-to-face teaching at all, many have plans to re-open in September to some extent.

Examples

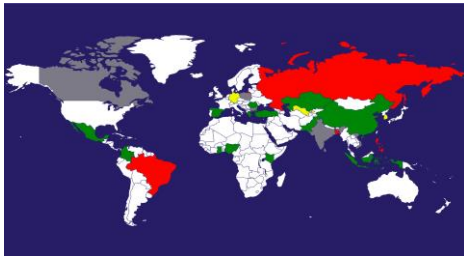
In **Taiwan**, full face-to-face teaching is in place. However, large scale gatherings are not permitted, and larger classes have been divided in two.

In **France** all HE institutions are closed for now but should reopen face to face teaching (respecting physical distancing / mask wearing obligations) when they reopen in September

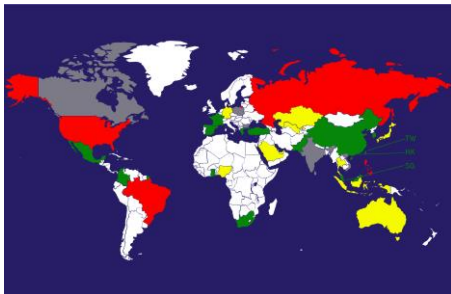
4) Has Covid-19 had an impact on nationally-funded scholarships for international study?



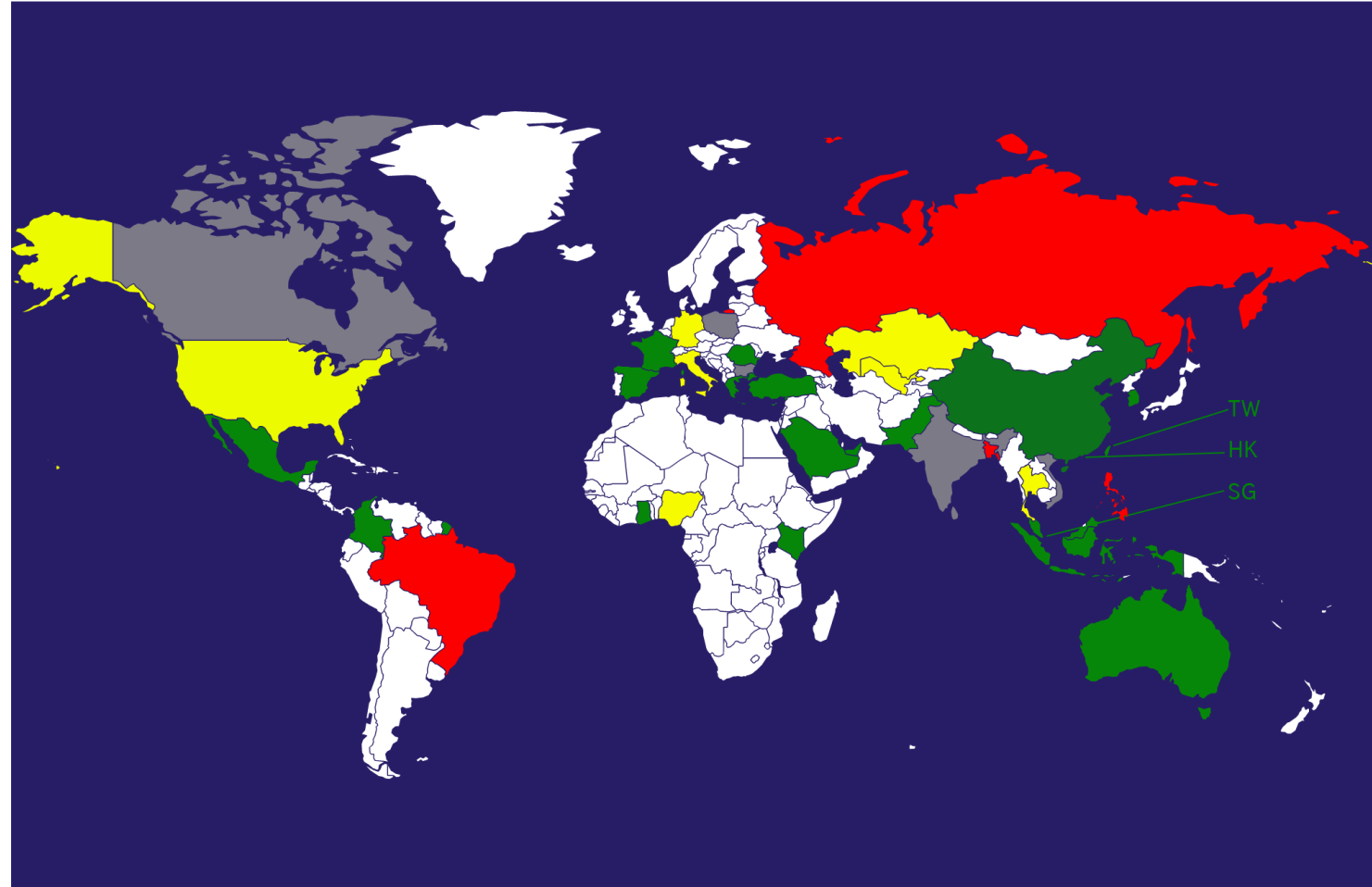
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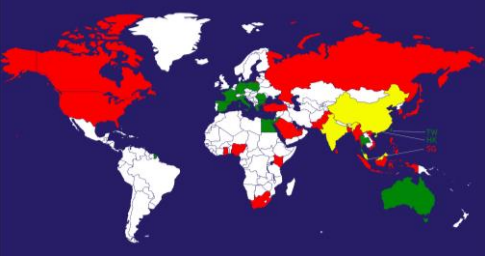


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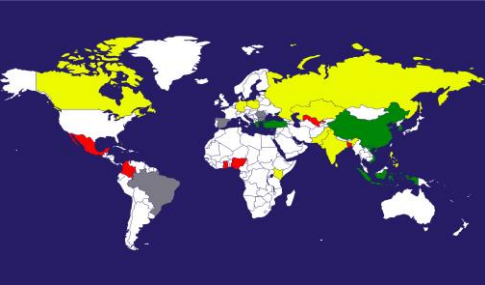
4) Has Covid-19 had an impact on nationally-funded scholarships for international study?

- 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.

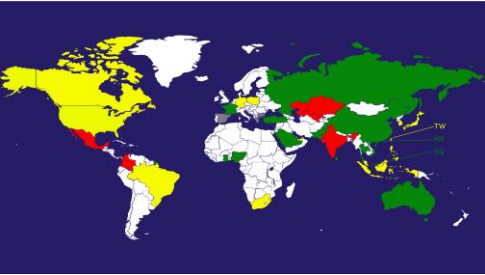
5) Are visa application centres open?



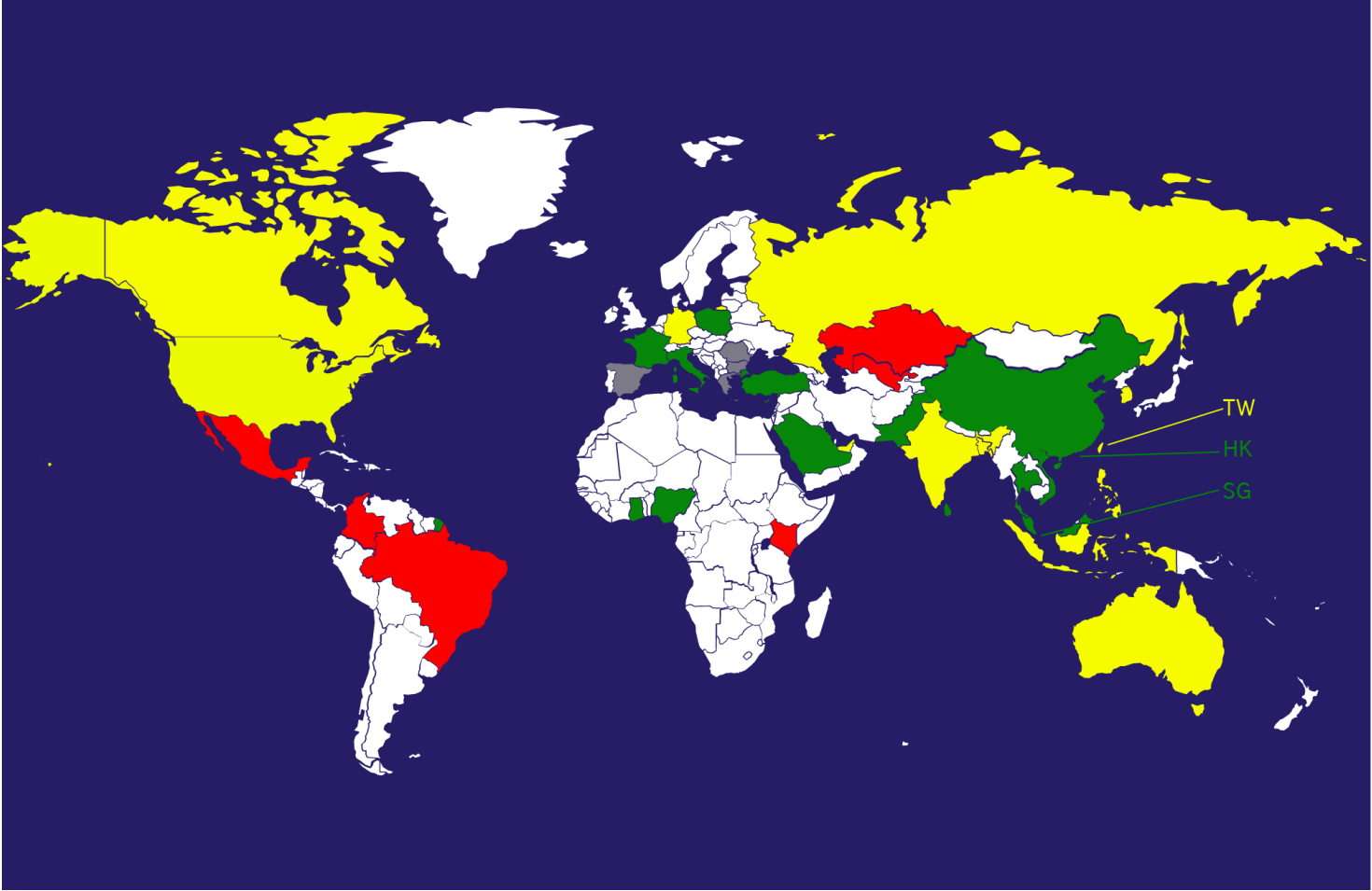
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5) Are visa application centres open?

- Many Visa Application Centres in are now 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.

Examples

Most VACs in the **USA** are now open but may have limited 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.

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

VACs in **Brazil** closed again on Friday 14th August. They will try to honour all existing appointments, but no new appointments can be made.

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 through to October 2020.
- 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