

Update: 22 June 2020

Covid-19 impacts on international student mobility – Latin America

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1

Respondent profile

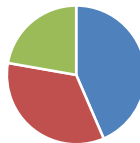
- A survey on overseas study plans in the context of the COVID-19 epidemic was distributed through British Council and agent channels across different countries and regions. Latin America had 4,772 respondents: 2,526 in Brazil, 882 in Colombia, 1,118 in Mexico, and 246 in Peru.
- A total of 181 of these respondents were already studying abroad, while 2,500 had applied to study overseas this year. Others had plans for overseas study but had not applied to go abroad in 2020.
- 24 per cent of the 181 current overseas students were in the UK, while 78 per cent of the 2,500 applicants had applied to the UK– split between undergraduates, postgraduates, and “other” (mostly language courses).

Overseas students, by country of study



■ UK ■ Non-UK

Applicants, by country of application



■ UK only ■ UK & Others ■ Others

Applicants, by intended level of study



■ UG ■ PG ■ Others

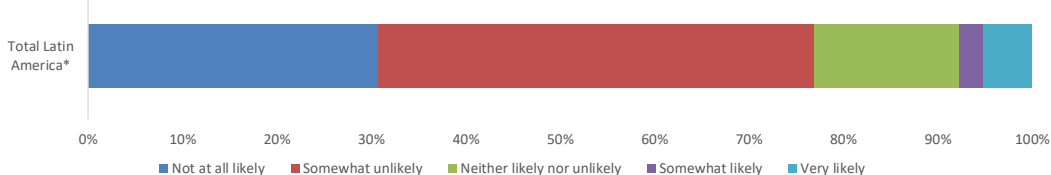
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2

Current overseas students' plans to continue

- Among Latin American respondents currently studying in the UK, most said that they did not plan to continue their studies. Excluding those whose course is due to end this term around 31 per cent said they were “not at all likely” to continue while a further 46 per cent replied “somewhat unlikely”.
- This is a substantially higher proportion than other regions, although the number of Latin American respondents studying in the UK was low (39 in total, excluding those whose course is due to end this term) so it is difficult to draw any strong conclusions here.

Likelihood of continuing current overseas course (students currently in the UK, excluding those whose course will end this term)



* "Total Latin America" refers to the average of across respondents from all 4 countries: Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. The number of respondents currently studying in the UK was too low to give reliable figures for individual countries.

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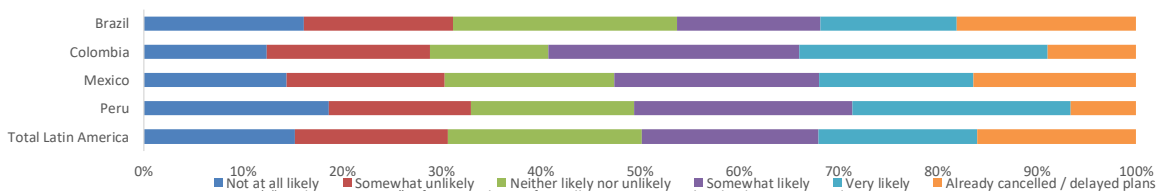
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3

Applicants' likelihood of cancelling / delaying overseas study plans

- Latin American respondents were more likely than most other regions to say they would cancel their overseas study plans. Almost a third had already cancelled or delayed their plans or were very likely to do so. Around 15 per cent said they were not at all likely to cancel or delay, while around half did not have a strong position either way.
- Different Latin American countries had similar total proportions of students in the two 'delay / cancel' categories, but those from Brazil and Mexico were more likely to say that they had already cancelled/delayed. Prospective undergraduates were slightly more likely than postgraduates to have a strong opinion in either direction, but both were less likely than those who applied for “other” courses (mainly language study).

Likelihood of cancelling / delaying overseas study plans (applicants to UK programmes)



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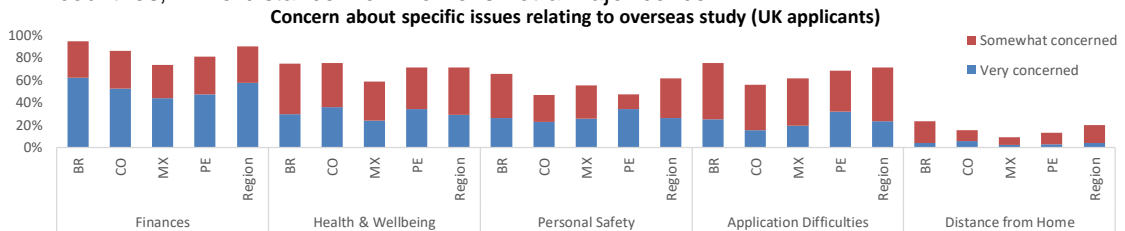
* "Total Latin America" refers to applicants from all 4 countries: Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru.

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4

UK applicants' attitudes towards specific issues

- In contrast to many other parts of the world (particularly East Asia), UK applicants' main concern in each Latin American country is not health but finance. 90 per cent of applicants from the region are at least somewhat concerned about this issue, vs 71 per cent who said the same about health and wellbeing. Finances were the top issue for all levels of study, but comparing the two groups they were a more important factor for prospective postgraduates.
- Application difficulties are also an important issue for applicants from all Latin American countries, while distance from home is not a major concern.



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* "Region" refers to applicants from all 4 countries: Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru.

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5

UK applicants' preferences if unable to go abroad

- Respondents were asked what they would prefer to do if unable to start their overseas course in September. Only around a third of UK applicants from Latin America would prefer to start online – with this being more popular among undergraduates (38 per cent) than postgraduates (30 per cent).
- Almost two thirds of all applicants said they would prefer to delay their course start. An Autumn 2021 start was the most popular option overall, particularly among Brazilians, although in Mexico and Peru a January start appeared to be the most popular option.



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6