

February 21, 4.23pm

All staff email from Chief Academic Services Officer, Professor Marie Wilson

Colleagues, you will have seen the media reports announcing the one-week extension of the travel ban relating to the COVID-19 virus. In light of this extension, the University will continue with its current arrangements for flexible study and is communicating with impacted students daily.

Orientation will commence on 24 February for the 9,000 commencing students from 75 countries that are joining our community this year, and we have advised students impacted by the travel restrictions that we will welcome them on campus for face to face teaching until 13 March. We are also reaching out to those students impacted by the restrictions about their individual study plans and have arrangements in place for online and flexible study options in many cases.

Should staff receive enquiries from students impacted by the travel ban, please refer them to askcampuscentral@unisa.edu.au.

To ensure our students based in China can reliably access their study materials and library resources ISTS has provided a vpn service which operates from China. This vpn service enables students to use all the resources they need to undertake their study including email, course materials (learnonline, lecture recordings, e-readings, Library resources), Zoom (for virtual classroom and one-on-one sessions) and to do online exams. Students need to download a small piece of software to be able to use the service but this is straightforward and they have been sent the instructions on how to do it. The vpn service is already being used by our students in China. If you would like further information about the vpn service and the enhanced support being provided by the Library and ISTS for China based students click here: [IT Help Desk Support](#) [Library Support](#)

Next Monday, I will share updated FAQs for students and staff, and additional resources to assist course coordinators and tutors.

The TIU have developed a [checklist document](#) highlighting key things to consider when preparing courses for SP2 which will be delivered to our students flexibly in China. Staff can use the checklist to evaluate their course, alternatively the TIU can coordinate a review and complete minor course changes where required in consultation with course coordinators. If you require support, please contact the [TIU directly](#) or visit the TIU [website](#).

As we go into the weekend, I want to take this opportunity to thank the students who have been impacted by these restrictions for both their patience and for keeping in close communication with us during this time. We very much look forward to welcoming them onto our campuses. I also thank the many staff across the University who continue to work creatively and collaboratively to support our students in these unique circumstances.