International Student Crossroads: Demand for an on-campus education amidst COVID-19

The research examined nearly 6,900 international student applicants’ attitudes and motivations for studying abroad in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on study opportunities, commencement dates and modes of delivery.

### Expecting to commence studies as planned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consciousness with regards to delivery of course*</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>I don’t know</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defer entry to study face-to-face</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online but transition to face-to-face</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdraw</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Current mindset regarding online delivery

- **Defer entry to study face-to-face**: 38%
- **Online but transition to face-to-face**: 33%
- **Undecided**: 12%
- **Online**: 10%
- **Withdraw**: 2%
- **Other**: 7%

### Postgraduate perspective

#### Undergraduate perspective

- **Defer entry to study face-to-face**: 72%
- **Online but transition to face-to-face**: 11%
- **Undecided**: 12%
- **Online**: 3%
- **Withdraw**: 1%
- **Other**: 1%

### Concerns with online delivery compared to in-person teaching

**Top 3 concerns**

- Lacks the international exposure I was hoping to gain: 69%
- Standard of teaching quality: 47%
- Preference for my personal learning style: 49%

### Destination country perceptions

- [UK](#), [US](#), [NZ](#), [Canada](#), [Australia](#), [India](#), [China](#), [Bangladesh](#), [Vietnam](#), [Indonesia](#), [Singapore](#), [Malaysia](#), [Philippines](#), [Hong Kong](#), [Sri Lanka](#)

### Respondent data: 6,900 students

- **Coming from**
  - India
  - China
  - Bangladesh
  - Vietnam
  - Indonesia
  - Singapore
  - Malaysia
  - Philippines
  - Hong Kong
  - Sri Lanka

### Going to

- **Australia**: 27%
- **Canada**: 12%
- **UK**: 10%
- **USA**: 9%
- **New Zealand**: 8%
- **China**: 3%
- **Singapore**: 1%
- **Indonesia**: 1%
- **India**: 1%
- **Philippines**: 1%
- **Vietnam**: 1%
- **Bangladesh**: 1%
- **Hong Kong**: 1%
- **Sri Lanka**: 1%
- **Other**: 1%

### Study status

- [Other holder](#)
- [Applicant, pending offer](#)
- [Current international student – applied for further study](#)
- [Study in home country](#)
- [Study on hold](#)
- [Withdrawn](#)

### Key takeaways

- The majority of international student applicants remain determined to study abroad despite the travel restrictions caused by COVID-19 options.
- Students are overwhelmingly in favour of studying face-to-face in their study destination.

### Recommended actions

- Provide clarity where possible as to how and when face-to-face teaching will resume.
- Build in capacity for large cohorts of students commencing face-to-face studies from January to May 2021.

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