

April 14, 2020 – Financial support available for international students

Dear student,

Since COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic, the Australian Government has announced a suite of financial measures to counter the economic effect of this health crisis on our communities. ACAP recognises that this is a stressful time for many of our students. To help support you during this period, we have put together a list of support measures that you may be able to access. As the situation is constantly changing, it is worth noting that these are relevant as at April 7, 2020.

Special Benefit payment

- Some categories of visa holders (such as partner visas and temporary humanitarian visas), who are experiencing severe financial hardship and not able to claim other benefits, may be eligible for a 'special benefit' payment. You can find out more [here](#).

Student Visas

- If you are a student visa holder, there are new temporary provisions to help fill critical staff shortages during the current crisis, i.e. you may be able to work extra hours in selected supermarkets and aged care facilities. You will find more information [here](#). However, please note that from May 1, international students working in the major supermarkets will return to the [maximum 40 hours per fortnight](#).
- As you would know when you are on a student visa, you can work unlimited hours if your course is considered 'out of session'. Courses are considered 'out of session' during scheduled course breaks or if a student has finished their course as scheduled.

Access to superannuation

- On April 4, the Government announced international students who have been in Australia for longer than 12 months and who find themselves in financial hardship during the coronavirus crisis will be able to access their Australian superannuation. You can find out more [here](#).

State Based support

- Updated information and support for International students can also be found on these State based websites, [Study NSW](#), [Study Melbourne](#), [Study Adelaide](#), [Study Perth](#) and [Study Queensland](#) websites. Check them out to see if there is other support you can tap into.
- Earlier today, the Melbourne City Council pledged financial support international students living in Melbourne. You can read more [here](#). As the situation is changing rapidly, we encourage you to check your State and local government websites regularly to keep informed of any new financial measures and support.

Further information

- For further information and changes please keep up to date with the Australian Government portal for COVID-19 information which can be found [here](#).
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We understand that the current crisis is having financial consequences for many of our students and we hope this information will be helpful to those of you needing financial support.

We will be contacting every ACAP student over the coming week to find out how you are progressing with your studies, and how we can support you during this very challenging time. If you have any concerns with your studies in the meantime, please contact international@acap.edu.au.

Please continue to refer to the following ACAP web pages for further information and for access to useful resources:

- [COVID-19 updates](#)
- [ACAP Online Campus](#)
- [ACAP Library](#)

Stay safe and healthy,
The ACAP Team