



**ASSOCIATION OF  
AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION  
REPRESENTATIVE IN INDIA**

Registered under Societies Registration Act XXI 1860  
Registration No. S-31213 of 1997

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## AAERI's Recommendation in light of the Current Circumstances

- Delay July 2020 intake by 6 Weeks.

### Attention Requested:

- Department of Education, Skills and Employment, Canberra, Australia.
- Department of Home Affairs, Canberra, Australia.
- Universities Australia

Petition submitted through the office of Counsellor (Education and Research), Australian High Commission, New Delhi, India on 20th March, 2020. A copy has also been forwarded to the office of Minister-Counsellor Home Affairs.

## The Background

The COVID - 2019 pandemic does not need any background or the introduction and it is a fact that globally all are impacted directly and indirectly. AAERI is monitoring the situation within South Asia and is appreciative of the steps taken by the Australian Government & Australian Education providers to safeguard the interest of the International students studying on their campuses.

## The Current Scenario - South Asia (India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan)

1. Travel restrictions - Most countries have put travel restrictions and at this time all arrivals have to undergo tests and undergo quarantine or self-isolation for a period of time.
2. India is under partial lockdown. The facts are:
  - Schools, Colleges and the Universities have been closed till further notice. **The Year 12 board exams have been postponed mid-way today and this will delay results.**
  - Public gatherings, events, seminars have been cancelled. **This impacts the various student open-days and exhibitions.**
  - The life in the city has been brought to a stand-still and there is expected further lock down.
  - **English proficiency tests have been cancelled** in certain cities.
  - The state and central governments have advised "work from home" where possible and social distancing. **This is having an impact on the education agencies representing Australia.**
  - Most State Governments in India and also Nepalese Government has issued directives for closures of Coaching Centres – **Would delay students preparing to take English tests.**
  - With General slowing down and work from home operations at Banks, \ **Education Loan processing will be delayed.**
  - Due to travel restrictions, Australian Universities are not able to attend to in-country representative events in South Asia.
  - Students require a min of 3 months for getting requirements and completing the visa process.
  - Australia bound students are forced to consider UK/ Canada that commences in September which gives them more time now.



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Considering the above facts each student will face a minimum delay of 6 to 10 weeks in processing not only for the admissions / GTE compliance but also their Visa applications.

There is a need to take some proactive steps taken at this time can reassure the market and create some buffer. Even if the travel restrictions continue for 6 months as reported, we can still have an intake at end August or early September 2020. This will be beneficial for all stakeholders especially to the students who are keen to study in Australia.

**AAERI's Recommendations:**

1. **The Australian Education providers** may delay the July 2020 intake by 4 to 6 weeks. This will help the South Asian international students to arrive on campus in time.
2. **The Department of Home Affairs** may take steps to fast-track the student Visa applications from 15th July 2020 to 15th August, 2020. Most students are likely to lodge the visa applications post 15th July, 2020.
3. **The Department of Home Affairs** may streamline all visa applications for rest of the year irrespective of the University's risk assessment level.

Issued by AAERI (Association of Australian Education Representatives in India) ([www.aeri.in](http://www.aeri.in))

Further communication pertaining to this petition can be made with:

- Mr Ravi Lochan Singh, President, AAERI. ([ravi@globalreachonline.com](mailto:ravi@globalreachonline.com))
- Mr Balaji Govindachari, General Secretary, AAERI. ([balaji@eoaindia.com](mailto:balaji@eoaindia.com))

**OFFICE BEARERS:**

<b>President:</b> Mr. Ravi Lochan Singh	<b>Vice President:</b> Mr. Bubbly Johar	<b>General Secretary:</b> Mr. C.G. Balaji	<b>Treasurer:</b> Mr. Kishore Beengi	<b>Secretary:</b> Mr. Rupesh Patel
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