

Travel to and via Hong Kong

With recent protests and activity in and around Hong Kong, particularly impacting Hong Kong airport, the University has considered available information and provides staff and students travelling to and via Hong Kong the following.

The University has regard to and follows the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) travel advice.

DFAT travel advisories – general:

Official travel advisories are regularly updated, and travellers should review and apply the current DFAT smart traveller advice for all destinations and transit location prior to booking and prior to travel.

DFAT issues four levels of official travel advice:

- Level 1 – Exercise normal precautions
- Level 2 – Exercise high degree of caution
- Level 3 – Reconsider need for travel
- Level 4 – Do not travel.

Both before booking and travelling, current DFAT Advice level and [Smarttraveller](#) travel advice and [Official Bulletins](#) should be considered and recommendations actioned.

The University travel policies classify high risk destinations as levels 3 and 4 (refer below).

Specific Travel DFAT Travel Advisory for [Hong Kong](#)

Hong Kong overall – Official Advice – current 15/08/19 is Level 2 – Exercise High Degree of Caution

Last updated: 13 August 2019. Still current at: 15 August 2019.

Protests in Hong Kong continue. Intensified protests at Hong Kong International Airport have resulted in significant disruption, including the cancellation of flights. Check your flight status on the Hong Kong International Airport website or with airlines directly. For Australians requiring consular assistance, please contact the Consular Emergency Centre +61 2 6261 3305 or the Australian Consulate +852 2827 8881. Our level of advice has not changed - 'exercise a high degree of caution'.

Exercise a high degree of caution in Hong Kong. 'Flash mob' protests and random attacks on protestors have become less predictable and are expected to continue. Tourist and residential areas have been affected. There is a high risk of violent confrontation between protestors and police, or criminally-linked individuals. The risk is greater at night, on weekends and public holidays. We strongly recommend you avoid large public gatherings. Monitor local media and follow the advice of local authorities.

Specific University considerations for Hong Kong:

Staff and students are encouraged to review and consider their travel plans and potential interruptions which may result in considerable delays. In such circumstances, the University recommends you check your flight status before you fly to assess potential delays and how they might impact your plans.

Note: some airlines may offer cost free ticket changes to assist with rescheduling during disruptive event. These offers are usually only made available around 48 hours prior to departure. Travellers should check airport and airline websites and contact the booking travel agency or airline.

UniTravel has 24/7 contact centre to assist with rescheduling for bookings made via UniTravel: 03 9035 5666

A reminder regarding travel registration and booking requirements:

Staff – All international travel by staff on University business must be booked or logged via UniTravel. Further information about travel risk management services is available at: <https://staff.unimelb.edu.au/finance-purchasing-travel/travel/unitravel>

Management of travel arranged by third parties – If staff travel on University business is externally funded and must be booked via third party (e.g. conference organiser funds and arranges travel) staff are still required to register the details of their itinerary using the 'Log My Trip' function in UniTravel.

Graduate research students – All University-related international travel by graduate research students must be logged via *Student1* and assistance is available from local graduate research administrators. Specialist travel advisories are available from the University's subscription to *World Aware* (formerly Red24). Further information is available at: <https://gradresearch.unimelb.edu.au/being-a-candidate/travel-conferences-fieldwork>

Coursework students (Global Mobility Programs) – All mobility program related international travel by coursework students must be applied for and logged via Melbourne Global Mobility. Specialist travel advisories are available from the University's subscription to *World Aware* (formerly Red24). Further information is available at: <https://students.unimelb.edu.au/study-overseas>

Coursework students (General) – All other coursework student international travel must be logged and approved via the University's Student Travel Insurance registration system. Specialist travel advisories are available from the University's subscription to *World Aware* (formerly Red24). Further information is available at: <https://students.unimelb.edu.au/admin/insurance/travel-insurance>

Relevant University policies

[Employee Travel Policy \(MPF1300\)](#) and [Student Travel and Transport Policy \(MPF1209\)](#) (*policies*) The policies refer to high-risk destinations (levels 3 and 4 everywhere) and set out the procedures and risk assessment processes that must be followed to obtain approval to travel to high-risk destinations.

Staff and students are reminded to follow the relevant policy and ensure that for all travel:

- required travel documents (including visas) are valid and up-to-date;
- travel itinerary is registered with DFAT via the Smartraveller website. Travellers with citizenship of other countries should also consider registering their itinerary with the other country's travel advisory service;
- DFAT and other country official advices are carefully considered, including risk factors and characteristics identified that may apply to individual travellers;
- all university electronic assets vulnerable to hacking are not taken to high-risk destinations;
- all basic precautions are taken – see University of Melbourne [Pocket Guide for International Travellers](#) for further information; and

- prior to making any commitment to travel, travellers have communicated with their supervisors about their intention to travel and provided relevant information and obtained relevant approvals and insurances as per relevant policy.

Debra Tegoni
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Approval: Allan Tait, Chief Operating Officer