

As further cases of coronavirus, COVID-19, are diagnosed worldwide, the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Public Health England (PHE) advice has been updated. The University's response to the outbreak continues to be based on this official advice and our [FAQs on Essentials](#) will continue to be amended to reflect the latest information. We will update you of significant changes by email.

The current advice has been extended to a number of parts of the world **beyond** China and South East Asia. In particular, please note:

- The PHE advice on [self-isolation without symptoms has been extended](#). In addition to Hubei Province in China, it now also applies to people returning from [Iran and specified parts of South Korea and Italy](#).
- The PHE advice on [self-isolation for those with symptoms](#) has also been extended.
- The FCO advises against **all** travel to Hubei Province and **non-essential** travel to mainland China (not including Hong Kong and Macao), and specified towns in [South Korea](#) and northern [Italy](#). Existing travel advice for [Iran](#) remains in place. The position remains that where the FCO advises against non-essential travel, all travel for University activity (e.g. fieldtrips and study/work placements) should be assumed to be non-essential.
- If you have already booked for travel as part of your studies for any of these areas in **February** or **March**, this should be cancelled. Please complete the Notice to Cancel Form available on the [Insurance website](#) as soon as possible. The [Insurance team](#) will cancel on your behalf so they can liaise with our travel insurance providers.
- If you have already booked for a visit **after the end of March**, you should complete the [risk management form on RISIS](#) as soon as possible and ensure the trip has been risk assessed using the [risk assessment form on the Health & Safety website](#).
- If you are considering travel for personal reasons (e.g. holidays or visiting relatives) outside the UK over the coming months please monitor events in the region prior to travel and follow the [FCO guidance](#). We do not know how things will unfold in different parts of the world and you must weigh up the risks of being quarantined elsewhere, or having to self-isolate on your return.

If you do need to self-isolate under the PHE guidance, it is very important that you let the University know by contacting [coronavirus-students@reading.ac.uk](mailto:coronavirus-students@reading.ac.uk) so that we can provide you with the right support. You should also notify your absence from any teaching or other academic sessions. Postgraduate research students should contact your PhD supervisor/School Director of Postgraduate Research Studies and, if you're on a Tier 4 visa, you must also inform the Doctoral Research Office.

With the situation likely to change further in the coming days and weeks, we will continue to monitor developments closely and update the FAQs if the government's travel and health advice changes. So please continue to check [these pages](#) for the latest information.

Kind regards,

Patricia Woodman  
Director of Student Services