

Message from the Vice Chancellor of AUT – Coronavirus

Hello,

I want to update you on the Coronavirus situation and reassure you of AUT's responses. While there are no confirmed cases in New Zealand, I know many people are worried about the Coronavirus outbreak and the Government's travel restrictions.

We're working closely with relevant Government agencies, and the University has plans in place as needs arise, and change. The University will be operating as usual but has stepped up support for our community, including those in affected areas.

While this is a complex and challenging time, we're committed to ensuring the welfare of all our students and minimising disruption to your studies.

To our New Zealand-based students

You may have some concerns; this situation doesn't just affect our international students but is unsettling for everyone. We'll keep the website and student app updated, but if you do have any questions or concerns please contact the [Student Hub team](#).

To our international students who are already here in New Zealand

For those of you who are concerned, or are from countries affected by the virus and still taking the precaution of self-isolation for 14 days, please stay in contact by completing the [online form](#) so we can support you if you need it.

To our students in China who are yet to travel to New Zealand

We're committed to doing everything we can to support you during this uncertain time. Please complete the [online form](#) and we will contact you to ensure you can continue your studies while away from campus. New Zealand's Department of Immigration is currently updating their advice on student visas and we will update our website as soon as this information is available. We're looking forward to welcoming you on campus as soon as possible.

The risk of this virus to New Zealand and New Zealanders is low. The health of our students and staff is always our first priority. As we prepare for the arrival of everyone to start the semester, you'll see extra precautions such as the provision of hand sanitisers and additional cleaning protocols. It's important we all follow the [Ministry of Health's advice](#) regarding basic hygiene practices and that we keep up-to-date with current guidelines and are sensible.

I also want to remind people that along with being sensibly cautious as per these guidelines, be informed and caring. This virus is not the fault of any one country, or any one population, and we will not benefit from uninformed blaming or shaming.

As things change, we will make sure we keep in contact with you.

On behalf of all AUT staff, we're very much looking forward to the start of the semester and everyone being on campus together again as soon as possible.

Derek McCormack
Vice-Chancellor