



ONLINE PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT
Examining the effect of international travel restrictions on individuals around the world

- 1. What is the research study about?** Researchers from UNSW Sydney are undertaking this new study aimed at examining your experiences with trying to return to your country of residence during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are interested in seeking those people who have been affected by travel restrictions (either by your home country or another country) and as a result have had to change travel plans.

We are interested to find out what happened, whether it affected your health and finances, the steps you took and your attitudes towards the support and information given. There has been very little work looking at the impact of travel restrictions on individuals and we are hoping to use this information to inform governments on how they can support people better in the future.

- 2. Who is conducting this research?**

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

- *Associate Professor Holly Seale, UNSW Sydney*
- *Dr Adam Craig, UNSW Sydney*
- *Dr Meru Sheel, Australian National University*
- *Philippa McDermid, UNSW Sydney*

Research Funder: This research has not received any external funding.

- 3. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria:** Before you decide to participate in this research study, we need to ensure that it is ok for you to take part. The research study is looking recruit people who meet the following criteria:

- Are aged 18 years and above
- Can read and complete the survey in English
- Have tried to return to your country of residence but have had your travel plans changed.

- 4. Do I have to take part in this research study?** Participation in this research is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. Your decision will not affect your relationship with The University of New South Wales. This Participant Information Statement tells you about the research study. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research. Please read this information carefully.

- 5. What does participation in this research require, and are there any risks involved?** If you decide to take part in the research study, you will be asked to complete the online survey, which will ask you questions about:

- The impact of the restrictions on your travel plans
- The impact of the restrictions on your health, wellbeing, and finances
- Where you sought information from, and whether it was satisfactory
- Your attitudes towards the support and information provided while you were overseas.
- The ways that support and communication could be improved.
- Basic demographic information

Some of the questions will ask you about your health, feelings, and attitudes. We will ask you to reflect on your time overseas and this may cause you some distress. If you are feeling worried or concerned, you can stop the questionnaire at any time. If this occurs, we recommend that you have a chat with a trusted family member or friend or get in contact with Open Counselling, an international organisation that provides information on emergency hotlines across the world (<https://www.opencounseling.com/>). The survey will not collect any information that will identify you. We expect the survey to take around 7-10 minutes to complete.



ONLINE PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT
Examining the effect of international travel restrictions on individuals around the world

6. **What are the possible benefits to participation?** The information we get from this research study may help to guide future approaches. You will probably not get any personal benefits from participating.
7. **What will happen to information about me?** Submission of the online questionnaire is an indication of your consent. By clicking the submit button, you are providing your permission for the research team to use your anonymous survey responses for the research study. The data collected during this study will be stored for 7 years after the completion of the research. No personal information will be collected in the questionnaire so none will be stored as data. The researchers may use the collected survey data for other projects or may provide it to other researchers who are interested in analysing the data. Your information will only be shared in a format that will not identify you.
8. **How and when will I find out what the results of the research study are?** The research team intend to publish and/ report the results of the research. All Information will be published in a way that will not identify you. You have a right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. If you would like a short summary of the study findings, please email Dr Holly Seale at h.seale@unsw.edu.au
9. **What if I want to withdraw from the research study?** If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. You can do this by closing the questionnaire. If you withdraw from the research, we will destroy any information that has already been collected. Once you have submitted the questionnaire however, we will not be able to withdraw your responses as the questionnaire is anonymous.
The information you provide is personal information for the purposes of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW). You have the right of access to personal information held about you by the University, the right to request correction and amendment of it, and the right to make a complaint about a breach of the Information Protection Principles as contained in the PPIP Act. Further information on how the University protects personal information is available in the [UNSW Privacy Management Plan](#).
10. **What should I do if I have further questions about my involvement in the research study?** The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you require further information regarding this study or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the study, you can contact the following member/s of the research team:

Research Team Contact

Name	Holly Seale
Position	Associate Professor
Telephone	02 9385 3129
Email	h.seale@unsw.edu.au

What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?

If you have a complaint regarding any aspect of the study or the way it is being conducted, please contact the UNSW Human Ethics Coordinator:

Complaints Contact

Position	Human Research Ethics Coordinator
Telephone	+ 61 2 9385 6222
Email	humanethics@unsw.edu.au
HC Number	Reference HC210418