

Understanding the Impact of Coronavirus Pandemic on Prospective International Students

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Students from Asia, especially China, account for a large percentage of international students enrolled worldwide. However, when the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) exploded globally, Chinese students faced the choice of whether to study overseas or not due to the potential threat to students' health. While some parents and students from Asian countries remain interested in Western education, they are extra cautious. Australia, Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom are still battling rising numbers of infected people due to the COVID-19 outbreak. And an increasing number of Chinese students deem that they have altered their plans for studying overseas due to COVID-19. A rising share of Chinese students says that they changed their plans due to health risks, safety, and immigration concerns. Moreover, Chinese students are confronted with other restrictions for studying abroad, including travel restrictions and online education concerns for the price of offline learning. This paper used questionnaire research, analysis based on the questionnaire results, and data from the public and private sectors. This study utilized the theory of push & pull to predict the trend of Chinese students' intention to study overseas during this epidemic crisis and their concerns: What are their perceptions about the outbreak? What are their plans? What are they worried about? What support are they looking for the university? Lastly, the authors give universities and government agencies recommendations, thus creating a more suitable studying environment and international students' policies.