

December 22, 2020

This FAQ is specifically for Spring/April 2019 and Fall/September 2019 students and is related to the new program orders announced on October 30, 2020, via manaba+R. Students are encouraged to read this FAQ along with the October statement.

### **1. What happens to my program if travel restrictions become tighter next year before I go to ANU in July?**

GLA will monitor any changes to the travel situation and will release a new statement about the program by the end of February or March (please check the university email and manaba+R). For travel restriction updates for Japan and Australia (including for RU and ANU), please check the following websites.

#### **[Japan]**

##### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan**

Border enforcement measures to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e\\_001053.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html)

Phased Measures for Resuming Cross-Border Travel

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/cp/page22e\\_000925.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/cp/page22e_000925.html)

##### **Japan Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare**

Japan updated press conference about COVID-19 Policies

[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/newpage\\_00032.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/newpage_00032.html)

##### **Ritsumeikan University**

Collated Links and Information related to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

<http://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/news/detail/?id=475>

Beyond Borders: Frequently Asked Questions from International Students & Frequently Asked Questions About Study Abroad

<https://global.support.ritsumei.ac.jp/hc/en-us>

#### **[Australia]**

##### **Department of Home Affairs**

COVID-19 and the border

<https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/coming-australia>

##### **Australia National University**

COVID-19 advice

<https://www.anu.edu.au/covid-19-advice>

**2. If I take a leave of absence next year for a full year, what would be the consequences? Can I return to my regular program?**

The regular Leave of Absence (LoA) policy will apply to any students who take a leave of absence next year or during COVID-19 restrictions. GLA will work with all students upon their return from LoA to resume their studies as seamlessly as possible.

**3. When is the deadline for an application for the leave of absence? What is the procedure?**

Deadlines to apply for the leave of absence are as follows. Please contact the GLA Office for more details.

- Spring Semester – May 31
- Fall Semester – November 30

**4. If I choose Option 1, will taking the Research Seminar remotely compromise my Thesis planning?**

GLA is committed to ensuring that all students can meet all objectives of the Research Seminars regardless of which Option they choose or the mode of delivery of classes.

**5. If I change to the single degree will it be possible to switch back to the dual degree track at some later time?**

No. Once you declare a change to the single degree program that change becomes permanent and cannot be undone.

**6. Will I still be able to obtain the dual degree even if all ANU courses ended up being online?**

Yes. The dual degree is awarded for completion of program requirements. Normally, you would meet your program requirements by completing courses in-person. However, if courses are delivered online, then this will not at all compromise your fulfilling program requirements.

**7. Can I count on AAC for program support during my stay at ANU?**

Yes. The AAC will help you confirm that GLA requirements are being met, and the GLA Office will support you administratively in Australia regarding your student status in Japan. For concerns related to courses or program requirements at ANU, speak to the ANU program coordinator at [bapa.bell@anu.edu.au](mailto:bapa.bell@anu.edu.au).

**8. What are the implications of the different program options for career planning in Japan?**

The New Program Order and Option 1 for both April 2019 and September 2019 Cohorts will allow you to be in Japan for one year before your expected graduation date. This will give you one year before graduation for career planning and job hunting. To ensure proper time management to help you secure a job offer in Japan, including career consultation and employment support, visit the Career Center of Ritsumeikan University.

<http://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/career/>

**9. Can I still do an internship?**

In principle, internships are offered every year and students may choose to complete an internship as fits their interests and program requirements. Internships require careful planning, however, and disruptions have been caused by COVID-19. Please discuss with an academic advisor for further details.