



24 February 2020  
SUPRA  
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University of Sydney

Dear Dr. Michael Spence AC

As the Co-President of SUPRA, I'm writing to you on behalf of the postgraduate students at the University of Sydney.

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the current compulsory fee structure in place for students forced to study off-shore due to Covid-19 travel ban.

While our primary concern is to advocate on behalf of our fellow students, we also understand that the travel restrictions are complex for the University to navigate. We appreciate your efforts and are pleased that the University has taken our advice and offered significant academic accommodations for the affected students.

Attending the University of Sydney carries a prestige that is valued by many international students. However, it does not seem reasonable to pay for online courses at the same tuition rate of those attending face-to-face. Further to this, students are facing unexpected economic pressure as the travel restrictions continue including; impacts on employment, cost of paying for housing in Sydney and China or a third county, and airfares (many have changed their flight several times in just the last two weeks). Most of us are under great economic and academic pressure in addition to the regular challenges of being an international student.

We believe that the tuition fee should be lowered for students who are affected by the travel restrictions and the University should, consider subsidies for students who have been in a third country for 14-day quarantine.

Both the University of Adelaide and the University of Western Sydney have offered subsidies and have lowered the tuition fee for all the affected students and the University of Melbourne is considering a similar response.

Again, we would like to thank you for all your effort and support regarding the COVID-19 and the travel restrictions. Please do not hesitate to contact me to continue this conversation and the evolving impacts on international students.

We wish you all the best in 2020 and all your endeavours in UCL in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Minran Liu