Dear Student,

You are receiving this message as according to our records you are currently on an international placement. If for any reason this information is incorrect please notify the relevant contact (see attached) here at The University of Manchester as soon as possible.

As you will be only too aware, a range of measures are being put in place worldwide in order to contain the spread of the Coronavirus. The situation is changing rapidly with some of you in places where there are widespread closures and there is significant disruption to normal daily life and others where the impact has so far been relatively minimal.

We appreciate that you will be trying to determine the best course of action for your particular circumstances and recognize that some of you are not British nationals and will therefore also be monitoring advice from your own countries and the situation there. Some of you have written to us indicating that you are very keen to remain on your placement internationally whilst others are contacting us to ask whether you are permitted to leave. Whilst we are aware that some Universities around the world are recalling all their students from some or all countries, at this stage The University of Manchester will not cancel placements/recall students unless this is predicated by FCO Advice (ie. the FCO advice for relevant countries moves to ‘advise against all but essential travel’ (and the narrative indicates ‘consider leaving’) or ‘advise against all travel’) or by specific guidance issued by professional bodies. In part this position is because the situation in the UK is also changing rapidly.

The attached information is provided to enable you to make a personal decision about your next steps and whether or not you return to the UK/your home country. Please read it carefully.

Key things to note:

- We are not currently requiring you to leave your placement location, but you may choose to make a personal decision to do so particularly if your placement is closed/providing remote provision and/or there is Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) guidance ‘advising against all but essential travel’;
- The attached document provides information to assist you in making a decision. It includes information on academic arrangements (more specific information will follow from your School), financial considerations, immigration, insurance and health considerations;
- If there are options to do so remotely you are reminded to continue to engage with your placement as far as is possible;
- It is imperative that you comply with any local guidance and additional laws being put in place in response to the pandemic;
- If the FCO moves to ‘advise against all travel’ for your location you will be recalled.

Actions for you to take:

- Carefully consider your personal circumstances taking into account the sources of information provided;
If you decide to return to the UK/your home country please let the relevant contact (listed on the attached document) know – confirm your date of departure and whether or not you are able to continue with your placement remotely;

If you decide to remain at the current time please advise the relevant contact (listed on the attached document) if your placement has been adjusted eg. you are completing your studies online. Please update your address details via My Manchester if you need to change your accommodation location for any reason.

Support available to you:
We appreciate that many of you will be finding this situation very difficult. Support is available to you from your Schools so please do reach out to them. You can also access a range of useful resources and signposting to other sources of help and support here: http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/taking-care/
[If you are participating in the International Exchange Programme then your advisers in the International Programmes Office are available, as always, to support you. You will have received a separate email from the IPO in this regard.]

The IPOincidentsupport@manchester.ac.uk email account will be monitored between 9.00am and 6.00pm UK Time over the weekend and we will seek to provide a response to any questions/concerns not covered by this communication as far as is possible given the current circumstances.

If there are further updates to the above guidance we will be in touch. This advice is current as at 21:00 UK Time on 13/03/2020.

Take good care,
Caroline

Dr Caroline Whitehand
Manager, International Programmes Office

In an emergency situation if you are a Manchester student studying/working overseas please contact AIG on +44(0) 1273 727 416 or UOM.travelclaims@aig.com. The University also operates a 24 hour emergency helpline on +44 (0) 161 306 9966