

**Consulate General of India
Saint Petersburg**

ADVISORY FOR INDIAN STUDENTS IN RUSSIA

1. Following the recent measures announced by the Russian Government, including imposition of a “non-operational” period till 30 April 2020, Russian universities have temporarily suspended on-campus operations and have switched to distance learning modules. There are currently 15,000 Indian students studying in 56 universities across Russia. The Embassy of India and Consulate General of India are in constant touch with University authorities, student representatives and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the well-being of Indian students and offer them support and advise during this difficult period. The Ambassador and Consul General have been conducting regular videoconferences with student representatives during the past two weeks to apprise them of the latest developments and receive feedback on their concerns.

2. The situation in Russia is rapidly evolving. Students are advised to remain in touch with their University authorities for the latest updates and local guidelines. The official online portal of the Russian Federation “Stopkoronavirus” (стопкоронавирус.рф) and the Russian Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing (Rospotrebnadzor) are useful sources for information on the situation in Russia, in addition to the WHO and the Government of India’s Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for global and India-specific information respectively.

3. ON CAMPUS SERVICES: As per the Decree issued by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education on 2 April 2020, Russian Universities continue to operate their hostels and oncampus housing facilities during this period, and no foreseeable disruption in housing for Indian students is anticipated. Universities also continue to operate on-campus health services and provide medical facilities for foreign students. Students are advised to familiarize themselves with the information provided by the Universities on seeking medical help during this period.

4. VISAS: The Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) has adopted temporary measures on 19 March 2020 to extend the deadline for renewal of visas and migration registration for foreign citizens, including students, by 90 days. As per the official statement released by the MIA, applicants are required to submit a free application for visa renewal at MIA’s regional office for extension. Students are advised to contact their university authorities incase their valid visas will expire within the next 60 days and initiate the process for automatic extension. The complete text of the order released by the Ministry of Internal Affairs dated 19 March can be found at <https://en.mvd.ru/news/item/19819921/>. Please contact us at cons.spburg@mea.gov.in / +79811359740 or vc.spburg@mea.gov.in / +79111928458 for any queries or difficulties related to extension of visas during this period.

5. TRAVEL: While Russia has not placed any bans on travel within the country, students are strongly advised to avoid all non-essential domestic and international travel at this juncture. It may be noted that currently there are travel restrictions and India has suspended all scheduled international commercial passenger flights. All domestic passenger flights within India are also currently suspended. However, these are temporary measures taken by the

Government in the interest of our countrymen and their near and dear ones. The Government is reviewing the situation and is constantly working on all the options. The latest Government of India travel advisories can be found at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare website: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/>. The Embassy and the Consulate continue to monitor the situation closely and we will provide updates on the resumption of commercial flights from Russia to India when available.

6. Students are strongly advised to stay put in their respective places during this time and follow safety guidelines and instructions issued by their universities. They should take due precautionary measures, including using face masks while stepping out to buy groceries and other provisions, washing hands regularly for atleast 20 seconds as per the WHO guidelines, disinfecting gadgets and commonly used surfaces like doorknobs, table tops etc. periodically. Avoid using common spaces in universities like recreational rooms, gyms, libraries etc. as far as possible. Maintain a healthy diet and engage in regular physical exercise. The Ministry of AYUSH has compiled a list of immunity boosting ideas for self-care that can be accessed [here](#).

7. Please continue to monitor the Embassy and the Consulate website for regular updates and information on the evolving situation concerning COVID-19. In case of any difficulties, problems or concerns please contact the Embassy/Consulate through the 24x7 Emergency helpline numbers or write to us at cons.spburg@mea.gov.in/+79811359740 or vc.spburg@mea.gov.in/+79111928458 and we will take up your concerns with the University authorities.

STAY SAFE! STAY HOME! USEFUL LINKS

Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation has released fifth version of the Interim Guidelines for the Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of New Coronavirus Infection (COVID-19) updated on 09 April, 2020, which may be accessed at <https://www.rosminzdrav.ru/news/2020/04/09/13675-minzdravrossii-vypustil-pyatuyu-versiyu-metodicheskikh-rekomendatsiy-pokoronavirusu>