

Frequently Asked Questions – for International Students and the current situation with Covid-19

I am overseas at the moment. Can I travel to Liverpool?

The whole of England is currently in a period of national lockdown (which commenced on 4 January 2021) and is currently expected to last until at least mid-February and potentially longer.

LJMU is therefore advising international students not to travel to the UK at this time.

The website will be regularly updated whenever changes take place to lockdown rules and restrictions <https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/microsites/moving-forward/information-for-students>

If you are still in the process of planning your travel to Liverpool but have not yet booked a travel ticket, we advise that you do not continue with your travel plans until the situation here changes. We are ready to fully support you to study online from overseas until further notice. We realise that this may be a huge disappointment to some who were making travel plans, however we are fully invested in creating a supportive online learning environment with hope that you may be able to join us in the UK later in the Spring. We must stress the importance of online attendance. If you fail to attend classes online, this could result in the removal of funding or sponsorship for your course or result in your removal from the course entirely.

Flights from South America

From 4am on 15 January, direct flights from Brazil to the UK are prohibited. Visitors who have been in or transited through Brazil in the previous 10 days cannot enter the UK. British and Irish nationals, and third country nationals with residence rights in the UK* arriving in the UK from Brazil will need to self-isolate along with their households on their return. Check the [latest guidance](#) for [England](#), [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#).

**From 1 January onwards people with residence rights include: holders of Indefinite Leave to Remain; holders of existing leave to enter or remain (i.e those with biometric Residence permits) or an entry clearance/visa that grants such leave e.g. students, workers, etc (excluding visit visas); holders of EU Settlement Scheme ("EUSS") leave; those who have rights of entry under the Withdrawal Agreements (including returning residents with a right of residence under the EEA Regulations and EEA frontier workers); family members of EEA nationals with rights under the Withdrawal Agreement.*

What if I have already booked a ticket and it cannot be changed?

We advise you to contact your airline in the first instance. We will support your arrival in any way we can and are able to offer a free airport collection service up until Sunday 28th February with a prior booking. Please note that your booking must be 4 days in advance of your arrival to guarantee a collection. You can access the booking form [here](#).

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All those entering the UK after 4am on Monday 18th January must provide a Negative COVID test result, obtained within 72 hours of departure. Please see here for further information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-people-travelling-to-england#take-a-coronavirus-test-before-you-travel-to-england> Test results must be presented in English, Spanish or French. Translations will not be accepted.

Further to this, we advise that you take a careful note of the requirements set by your individual airline as they may have additional requirements in place.

I am currently in the UK but want to travel home, can I?

If you wish to travel home that this is permitted but before you travel you must:

- Check any travel restrictions in place in your home country and any advice given by your Embassy or Consulate in the UK (For example, will they allow anyone to arrive from the UK?)
- Get permission from the Faculty Registrars to study remotely overseas by emailing FacultyRegistrars@ljmu.ac.uk
- Seek approval from your sponsor where applicable (many sponsors have already required their students to return home)

Can I study remotely the whole of 2nd semester?

If you would like to request formally to study remotely for the rest of the semester please can you email:

FacultyRegistrars@ljmu.ac.uk.

Academic Registry is maintaining a record of all requests.

I am unable to pay the second instalment of my tuition fee. What can I do?

If you are experiencing financial hardship and are unable to pay the second instalment of your tuition fee by the deadline (31st January 2021) please contact our Finance team on studentfinance@ljmu.ac.uk to advise.

It may be possible, depending on your own personal circumstances, to pay the amount in more instalments. Please note, in the majority of cases you will be expected to pay something by the

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deadline. A payment plan will normally only be considered from students experiencing an unexpected/unforeseen financial hardship and may require you to provide evidence.

I am struggling with paying for my living costs, is there any financial help available?

If you are an international student on a Tier 4 visa or Student route visa, the visa rules require you to demonstrate that you have the funds available to you to pay for your tuition fees and living costs without needing to rely on part-time work (although part-time work is permitted). However, LJMU understands that during these difficult times many students are facing financial problems.

LJMU has been awarded some additional funds by the Office for Students to help all students, including international students, who have been adversely affected by the Covid 19 crisis.

Please note, these additional funds are limited and only available to support students in the short term with their living costs. The fund is not available to pay tuition fees.

Any international student can apply to the Student Support Fund for financial help for living costs, however priority will be given to those who: -

- Are currently living in the UK – if you are living outside of the UK, you are unlikely to be awarded a grant
- Can demonstrate an unexpected/unforeseen financial hardship
- Are in their final year of studies

You can complete an online application for the 'Student Support Fund' via the My LJMU Portal, under the My Services tab. You will need to submit additional documents in support of the application.

Please note, the Student Support Fund awards small grants only for short term financial help. This is not a long-term solution.

Students who need more than a short term living cost grant may need to consider other options available to them, such as taking a Leave of Absence and returning to the course when in a better financial position.

Taking a Leave of Absence from studies may impact on your visa/ immigration status. For further information and advice on visa implications please contact the International Advice Team on internationaladvice@ljmu.ac.uk.

My visa is expiring soon but I am unable to travel home, what should I do?

If you are currently in the UK and not able to leave for example, your flight has been cancelled and you cannot make an immigration application before your permission expires you can contact the Coronavirus Immigration team (CIT) on cihassuranceteam@homeoffice.gov.uk to explain that you need more time for reasons related to Coronavirus. This applies to anyone in the UK with a visa expiring between 1st December 2020- 31st January 2021.

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This is called Exceptional Assurance and whilst it is not immigration permission, the guidance says that it offers "short-term protection against any adverse action or consequences after your leave has expired". You are not regarded as an overstayer during the period when you are waiting for a decision.

You can find more information here, including information you need to include in your email here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents>

I need to self-isolate on arrival in the UK, can you help?

From Monday 18 January at 4am, all travel corridors with the UK will be suspended.

This means all people arriving into the UK from 18 January will need to self-isolate.

The UK Government has recently changed the length of time that travellers entering the UK will need to self-isolate for, this is now 10 days (it was 14 days).

There is also some provision for a reduced self-isolation period after a minimum of 5 days of self-isolation, if you take a Covid test and it reveals that you are negative.

LJMU has announced they will be providing a Covid test free of charge to our International students arriving or returning in January.

Students will need to bring along proof of their arrival flight date to be eligible for the test.

Please do not book an International Student Return Test if you are not a returning international student.

Please note, due to the ever changing situation, please consult the webpages below for the most up to date information on self -solation in the UK.

To find out more information about the International Student Return Test and self isolation support please see here:

<https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/microsites/moving-forward/information-for-students/the-academic-year/international-students>

Read the information about self-isolation rules on the Government website here:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate-when-you-travel-to-the-uk/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate-when-you-travel-to-the-uk

Also on the Government website [HERE](#).

My Entry Clearance Visa Vignette will expire before I can travel to the UK, how do I get a new one?

If you have been granted your Entry Clearance vignette (visa) to travel to the UK but it will expire before you are able to travel, you will need to apply for a replacement Entry clearance vignette (transfer)

To apply for a visa replacement (transfer) if you are unable to travel to the UK within the validity of your entry clearance visa, go to <https://www.gov.uk/transfer-visa> and then follow the instructions for a visa transfer <https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/country-selection>

The visa replacement costs £154

I can travel to the UK on my Entry Clearance Vignette (visa) but it will have expired by the time I can collect my BRP?

In some instances, if you are able to travel to the UK within the validity of your Entry Clearance but will not be able to collect your BRP from your chosen Post Office before the visa expires as you are required to self-isolate for 10 days.

You should report that you are unable to collect your BRP once you arrive in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/biometric-residence-permits/collect>

You should be able to collect the BRP once you have completed your self-isolation

I need to apply for my student visa how do I do this?

Please see our webpages on information for applying for your student visa as well as a step by step guide to completing the Study visa application form out of country here:

<https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/discover/student-support/international-student-support/study-visas>

I am from an EU or EEA member state or Switzerland, do I need to apply for a visa?

Please see the detailed information on our webpages about Brexit and information for European students and what action you may need to take before the end of the Brexit Transition Period.

<https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/discover/student-support/international-student-support/information-for-eea-and-swiss-students>

Further Information

UKCISA (UK Council for International Student Affairs) have lots of useful information for international students on their website. You can read more here: <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/>

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