Q & As relating to Christmas vacation and beginning of Hilary Term

What are the current UK Government rules relating to returning home for Christmas?

The Government’s plans for students returning home for the Christmas vacation can be found at the following [website](#). In here it is stated that UK students should plan to travel home between 3rd and 9th December and that all University courses that continue beyond this date should be delivered online.

Given that the University and College term ends on Friday 4th December, it is assumed that most students who can travel home will want to do so on the weekend of 5th December. Courses that run beyond 8th December (e.g. PGTC courses) should expect to see online content from this point onwards.

Similar to arrivals at the beginning of Michaelmas Term, we will be providing timed collection slots for those in accommodation on the Queen’s Lane site and at the William R Miller Building so that it is possible to allow people to pack up and leave their rooms in a Covid-19 secure way.

Will it be possible to take a rapid Covid-19 test before I leave for home?

The University is working to establish a rapid testing system (lateral flow device test) for students that wish to be tested before going home. This will involve taking two tests, 3 days apart in 7th- 8th week (precise timing and details to be confirmed). The test will be available to all but is entirely up to you whether you take it. It is hoped, however, to be particularly useful for students with family members who are vulnerable so that they can go home confident that they are not taking the virus with them!

What happens if I test positive?

You will then need to self-isolate in college for 10-days before leaving but this should still allow you to get home in time for Christmas. We will of course, provide support for students who find themselves in this situation.

Can I stay up beyond 5th December?

All students on 24-week contracts are expected to leave as normal, with the exception of those who are unable to get home due to border closures/travel restrictions/those with extended terms/other specific reasons. If you need to remain in college beyond 5th December, please discuss first with either your tutor (if academic reasons) or the Dean/Nurse (if welfare related) and once agreed, please then inform the Accommodation Manager. It is essential that the Accommodation Manager has this information by Monday 23rd November. Exceptions will, of course, be made for students that subsequently test positive.

Can I leave my possessions in my room during the Christmas Vacation?
Your possessions may be left in your room, but you must pack them all and label the cases/boxes. This will enable the College to deep clean your rooms over the vacation.

**What will I be charged for additional nights during the Christmas vacation?**

- If you’re on a 44-week contract – there will be no additional accommodation charge for staying over the vacation period.

- If you’re on a 24-week lease, then any additional days will be charged at the daily rate of £24.48 – this applies to any student residing over the Christmas break and for those returning early.

- Additional charges for staying up over the Christmas vacation will appear on your Hilary Term battels. If you find yourself in unexpected hardship as a result of having to stay in college over the Christmas vacation, please let us know. Applications can be made to the College and University hardship funds early next term.

**What college facilities will be available in college during the Christmas vacation?**

- The college Library will remain open 24/7 over the vacation, closing only on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year’s Day.

- There will be welfare support over the vacation period from the Decanal team as well as your common room welfare provision (some of this will be provided online). See [https://www.seh.ox.ac.uk/students/health-and-welfare](https://www.seh.ox.ac.uk/students/health-and-welfare) for contact details.

- The Lodge will be staffed 24/7 over the vacation as normal.

- Scouts will clean common areas over the vacation and closure period as well as deep cleaning unoccupied bedrooms.

- Catering on the Queen’s Lane site will continue until the end of 9th week (Saturday 12th December). At this point, it will cease until Sunday 10th January (beginning of 0th week).

- On Christmas Day and a few other evenings, it might be possible to arrange a ‘pot-luck’ meal for those who are having to remain in college over the Christmas Vacation (to be confirmed).

- Please note that ALL University facilities including welfare facilities and the libraries will shut between the evening of 18th December and morning of 4th January.

**What happens if I get Covid-19 over the Christmas vacation period?**

- The EAS Covid-19 testing service will be running as normal up until end of 18th December and the college will support you in arranging self-isolation etc.
• Between 18th December and 4th January, you should contact the NHS to obtain a test. Contact details will be provided via the Porters’ Lodge. If you test positive, the NHS will advise on isolation timings and arrange the track-and-trace system.

**What is the earliest date that I can come back into residence because I need to self-isolate?**

The earliest return date for self-isolation is Monday 4th January. Please note, however, that catering in college does not begin until Sunday 10th January.

**What is the date that I can return to my accommodation if I do not need to self-isolate?**

Your accommodation will be available from Sunday 10th January. As normal, you will be expected to be in residence by noon on Thursday of 0th week (14th January) of Hilary Term.