



## HILARY TERM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (UPDATED 25 JANUARY 2021)

These FAQs take into account Government guidance and the University of Oxford's policy at this time. Our approach will continue to be reviewed and updated and the arrangements described in these FAQs will be subject to change.

### 1. What are the current UK Government rules relating to returning after the Christmas vacation?

The Government's plans for students returning to college after the Christmas vacation can be found at [government guidance](#). Please find a summary below:

- The University/college will remain open – but with teaching for most courses now needing to move online with a few exceptions.
- Students on taught courses should aim to study remotely from home.
- The exceptions are mainly for students taking courses in the Medical Sciences Division, some in MPLS (chemistry, biochemistry) and a few others (e.g., MBAs, PGCEs and those taking profession qualifications this term). Details of which courses this applies to and the year groups, will be relayed to you by your department.

If you are **not** contacted by your department, you should only return to Oxford at this stage if you meet at least one of these criteria:

- You are an international student and have remained in the UK or have already arrived back, or have booked travel which cannot be rescheduled
- You have stayed in university or college accommodation over the Christmas vacation
- You require additional support, including if you are having mental health difficulties
- You do not have access to appropriate study spaces or facilities at home
- Students on taught courses who live in college accommodation, went home for the Christmas vacation, but do not have access to appropriate study spaces etc. at home may be allowed to return but this will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Please in the first instance contact your Tutor but also copy in the Tutor for Undergraduates ([t4u@seh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:t4u@seh.ox.ac.uk)) and the Dean ([dean@seh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:dean@seh.ox.ac.uk)) if you need to apply to return. **If you have already received permission from the T4U or the Dean since the 4 January, you do not need to contact them again.**

- Those who have remained in Oxford over the vacation should remain here (if they wish) but like everyone else, should be taught online.
- The decision on which students will be allowed to return will rest with the Tutor for Undergraduates and the Dean and they will then inform you and the Accommodation Manager asap.
- Postgraduate research students (PGR) can continue to work in their departments/remain in college accommodation if this is critical to their research – otherwise they should also aim to work remotely.

## **2. Are there any other changes that need to be taken into account during the new lockdown?**

- The Lodge is currently closed to all, save for Lodge personnel, until further notice. All mail can be handed over at the Lodge window.
- For those students in college accommodation, catering will be provided with breakfast served from 08:30 to 09:30 and one dinner sitting taking place at 18:30. Dinners can be booked as usual with no need to book for breakfast. Diners will remain in household bubbles. It will be necessary to rearrange the composition of the bubbles and details of these will be communicated to all concerned on Monday 11 January.
- Unfortunately, due to government guidelines associated with this lockdown, all gyms and leisure facilities are currently closed; the guidance states that ‘indoor gyms, climbing walls, dance studios and sports facilities must close along with outdoor sports courts, outdoor gyms, golf courses, outdoor swimming pools, archery/driving/shooting ranges and riding arenas.’
- The library will remain open 24/7 providing its usual high-level of online support for any reading material that you require in Oxford or at home. Please visit the Library’s website pages for full details.  
<https://www.seh.ox.ac.uk/discover/explore-teddy-hall/library>

In addition, we will allocate each household bubble a college space, either in a specific marquee on the QL site or in the Chough/Doctorow suite of rooms with the JCR and MCR open to allow access to coffee machines (further details to follow).

## **3. What about rent charges?**

- Given the UK Government guidance recommending that most students do not travel to Oxford for the start of term, the college will not charge rent to students unless and until they return on-site.
- For those on 24 week licences, 44 week licences and in Town House Properties, this means rent will not be charged from Thursday of 0th week unless you are in residence.

- This will be reviewed when government restrictions change (currently anticipated to be mid-February) and you will be informed of any amendments to this policy.

#### 4. How will testing work?

- For students who have remained in Oxford over the vacation and those who are returning, you are invited to take three lateral flow tests.
- The first two tests need to be taken 3 days apart with the third test 10 days after the first.
- Lateral Flow Devices (LFD), containing materials for three tests, can be collected from the Bursary 09.00-12.00 and 13.30 to 15.30, Monday to Friday. Simply email Lynne ([bursary@seh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:bursary@seh.ox.ac.uk)) to let her know when you will come along.
- If you want to pick the LFD up outside of these hours, email Lynne and she will leave your LFD in the Lodge for collection. You will need to log your results on the EAS testing service website and instructions for this and how to take the tests will be provided with your LFD.

#### 5. I think I may have Covid, how do I book a Covid PCR test?

- If you have any of the cardinal symptoms of Covid: persistent cough, fever, loss of taste/smell **or** any other symptom that is concerning you, you may [book a PCR test](#) through the University's Early Alert Service (EAS).

#### 6. If I am unsure about anything, who do I contact?

Please get in touch with your Tutor/Dean etc. or e-mail [covid19@seh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:covid19@seh.ox.ac.uk) if you need clarification on any of the above.

#### 7. With respect to activities, what's available?

- **Digital and learning resources** - the University has made a wide range of online learning resources and other content available:

Curious Minds <https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/curious-minds>

TORCH goes digital <https://www.torch.ox.ac.uk/whatson>

Oxford SPARKS <https://www.oxfordsparks.ox.ac.uk/>

COVID conversations <https://www.ox.ac.uk/event/series/covid-conversations>

History of Science Museum <https://www.hsm.ox.ac.uk/explore-galleries>

Pitt Rivers tour <https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=ns3yCKpUzSq&help=1>

- **The Botanic Garden and Arboretum** are still welcoming visitors (pre-booking required).  
<https://www.obga.ox.ac.uk/visit-garden>

- **The Oxford University Newcomers' Club** is run by volunteers whose aim is to help the newly arrived partners, including those of graduate students, to settle in and to provide an opportunity to meet people in Oxford. They are a globally diverse and inclusive group, welcoming people from all backgrounds. They are currently running a series of virtual events.  
[http://www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk/ounc\\_events.html](http://www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk/ounc_events.html)
- **The Oxford SU** is currently running a series of on-line events.  
<https://www.oxfordsu.org/activities/events/>
- **Online Rehearsal Service (ORS)** is a University-supported service (supported in 20/21 by the Van Houten fund), run by the Music Faculty and Humanities Division IT team to help students/staff rehearse from disparate locations. It is designed specifically to support music rehearsals for ensemble groups (of 2 or more dispersed groupings) and can be booked and used for free by any member of the University (staff or student). There is now a dedicated website for the service with a full description and FAQs.  
<https://www.humanities.ox.ac.uk/online-rehearsals>  
(please do not be put off by the 'access denied' message – you can access it by entering your SSO credentials.)