

Travel Guidance for Students Returning to School

This guidance is designed to provide Staff and Students with as much information regarding safe travel back to Bristol ahead of a return to face-to-face teaching from the 8th of March.

As per the letter from the Minister for Universities Michelle Donelan which can be found [here](#), students are advised to limit travel wherever possible, and to not return before they are asked to. In this case a return to in person teaching will commence in a phased manner from the 8th of March.

Please contact your course leader as to when you will be required for in person teaching.

Some courses and their projects will remain online for the rest of the term and for those reasons you may not wish to return for in person teaching. Please liaise with your tutor as they will be able to assess any possible implications of you not returning.

Travelling to Bristol from within the UK

Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland/Ireland/The Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man (also known as The Common Travel Area)

Under the 'Stay at Home' regulations, students are permitted to return to their term-time accommodation, including travel to and from the devolved administrations, subject to any local rules in place within the devolved administrations. This includes family or others within their household or support bubble who travel with the student to transport them back to their term time address.

Students can travel by private vehicle or public transport but should make sure they follow safer travel advice.

Advice for students using private vehicles:

- avoid car sharing with anyone outside their household or [support bubble](#).
- rigorously follow the safer travel guidance for passengers to reduce the risk of transmission to others where this is not possible.

If you are using public transport students should:

- plan and avoid busy times and routes.
- rigorously follow the Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer travel guidance for passengers [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safer travel guidance for passengers](#)

You must also, where possible, make use of any community testing located in your area, these will most likely consist of a Lateral Flow Test, taken before you travel to Bristol.

If you are travelling from an area that is currently undergoing surge testing, you must ensure that make use of this testing and get tested before you travel. These will be PCR tests rather than Lateral Flow Tests.

If you test positive you must not travel and instead must self-isolate with your family immediately and [follow the guidance for households with a possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

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Key messages are:

- Hands. Face. Space.
 - wearing a face covering unless exempt
 - keeping your distance from people from other households when you travel, where possible
 - washing or sanitising your hands regularly
 - avoiding the busiest routes and times, as well as busy times such as rush hour
 - downloading the [NHS COVID-19 app](#) before you travel and checking in where you see official NHS COVID-19 QR code posters.
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For anyone travelling from overseas

For those students who are travelling from overseas there a number of things you will need to do in order to comply with current Government Regulations.

All international arrivals who have departed or transited through any country outside the Common Travel Area should self-isolate immediately in their own accommodation for 10 days.

Before you leave for the UK you will need to:

- Complete a [passenger locator form](#). You'll need to show proof that you've completed the form when you arrive at the UK border.
- Provide proof of a negative coronavirus test, the test must be taken in the three days before you depart. The results must be in English, French or Spanish.
- You need to provide your journey and contact details in the 48 hours before you arrive in the UK.
- If you're travelling to England you must either quarantine in the place you're staying or in a managed quarantine hotel for 10 days.
- You must travel directly to the place where you will be staying, this will most likely be your term time address.
- All international arrivals must book a travel test package before travelling to the UK – this costs £210. They must take a COVID-19 test on or before day 2 of their 10 day period of self isolation and a test on or after day 8 to check that they do not have COVID-19. Students should use the [booking portal](#) to book their travel test package.
- If you have quarantined for 10 days and received a negative result to both your day 2 and day 8 tests, you may leave the place where you are quarantining.

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Students who have been in, or transited through, a 'red list' country in the last 10 days

Please contact the COVID Supervisor or your Course Leader if you will be returning to England either from, or via a [red list](#) country.

Students should be aware that the UK has introduced travel bans for arrivals from some countries (otherwise referred to as 'red list' countries) as part of measures taken to protect the UK from new strands of COVID-19.

The list of 'red list' countries will be regularly updated and can be found on [GOV.UK](#).

Individuals who have been in, or transited through, a 'red list' country in the last 10 days and who are not British and Irish Nationals, or third country nationals with residence rights will not be granted access to the UK.

The costs of quarantining in a hotel will be borne by the traveller and are currently set at £1,750.

More information is [available here](#). Students **cannot** use the Test to Release scheme if they have been in or through 'red list' countries in the 10 days before they arrive in England.

Students **not** travelling from a 'red list' country, who do not need to quarantine in a hotel, may be able to exit self-isolation early via Test to Release:

- International arrivals have the option to reduce their self-isolation period by taking a coronavirus (COVID-19) test from a private testing provider five full days after arriving in England, with a negative result releasing them from the need to self-isolate. More guidance on that can be found [here](#).
- Students planning to use the Test to Release scheme must still take a test on or before day 2 and on or after day 8, unless they are exempt. Even if individuals get a result from their Test to Release and are released from self-isolation, they will still need to take a test on or after day 8 to check that they do not have COVID-19
- Students who have chosen to self-isolate for ten days instead of taking a private Test to Release are not expected to take a further LFD test (administered by their University) at the end of their self-isolation period when they return to their University.

After all the correct arrival procedures have been followed, then students should make use of the ongoing weekly Lateral Flow Tests available to us with The University of Bristol.