



# BUILA

BRITISH **UNIVERSITIES'** INTERNATIONAL LIAISON ASSOCIATION

## **Panellists from the BUILA Executive**

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# Covid19 Measures

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- In addition to their academic well being, the UK Government & UK universities are treating the safety & security of students as their top priority at this difficult time
- UK universities have been following strict guidelines on health & safety issued by the UK Government & Public Health Authorities in England, Scotland & Wales, these guidelines and measures are based on scientific evidence
- As the UK Government moves onto the next steps in controlling Covid19, UK universities are considering all safety precautions, and social distancing measures in line with the scientific advice, and mindful of best practice from around the world
- The UK Government's official bodies for each region, such as Office for Students for England, have a mandate to protect all international students and each UK university has a student protection plan

# Support to Students Still in the UK

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- **Students should feel safe and supported by their individual universities**
- **Universities are working to:**
  - **Re-purpose accommodation**
  - **Ensure continual support and communication**
  - **Facilitate access to mechanisms that relieve hardship**
- **A real sense of community has developed in response to the situation, with student led initiatives looking at how to support each other and this extends to the local community as well**
- **To see how the universities and students themselves are supporting each other encourage your students to check out the [#wearetogether](#) campaign**

# Qualifications

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**UK universities are putting in place procedures to ensure that the 2020 application and enrolment process is as smooth as possible**

**UK universities will work with applicants on a case to case basis to assess what coursework, evidence and qualifications they need**

**Each region within the UK is working closely with government to ensure that there are alternative ways of crediting students who are part way through their study and have had to return home. These measures will be directly communicated to students**

**Impact of online tuition: All universities will take this into account when assessing student work, the UK is not unique – 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the world is in lock down or facing restrictions and having to take this approach**

**Universities are looking to support students in how they adapt to this form of learning. Online learning is overseen by strict quality assurance guidelines. UK universities have a wealth of experience in this area.**

# Qualifications

- **UK universities are still accepting applications and making conditional offers. If students have a conditional offer they should work with their university to understand what information and evidence is needed for that offer**
- **Students should utilise the UCAS deadlines, and do not have to rush to accept the first offer they receive**
- **The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulations (Ofqual) and equivalent regional bodies, is developing guidance around a quick, fair, consistent and quality ensured process for calculating students' A level grades**
- **We anticipate that that international assessments will follow this approach**
- **As soon as information is available UK universities will share with applicants. Applicants should contact the university they applied to.**

# UCAS – update on undergraduate admissions

- We encourage applicants to continue with their applications – the best way to improve your options later this year.
- We will receive grades from international curriculum bodies and match to applicants.
- All applicants are treated fairly and consistently, and calculated grades are equally valid.

## **For 2020:**

- All UK universities asked to pause unconditional offer making until 4 May.
- Offers received by 4 June – all students must make a decision on offers by 18 June.
- Clearing available from 6 July for students looking for 2020 places.

## 2021 application cycle starts in May:

- 5 May all 2021 courses will be available in Search
- 12 May adviser portal available for 2021
- 19 May Apply opens for students

# Measures For 2020 Entry

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- **UK universities are working on the expectation that there will be an Autumn 2020 intake, but they are considering a variety of ways to ensure that international students are not disadvantaged by any current or future restrictions**
- **UK universities are gearing up to respond to the rapid change in circumstances, so considering different intake dates, condensed courses where possible, online or blended learning provision**
- **UK universities have reacted proactively and rapidly to protect our current students' experience including a swift move to online provision and are well equipped to come up with initiatives to ensure future students have the same high quality experience**

# Measures For 2020 Entry

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- **Scholarships:** Students should be referred back to the university they applied to in order to discuss any scholarship issues
- Students are recommended not to book any flights or make any accommodation arrangements until they can apply for their visas
- If students were informed interviews would take place before the course the interviews will take place remotely, contact the relevant university
- Even if the course has an element of online learning, students are getting access & exposure to world leading experts, a very high quality tuition, and a virtual international community to interact with

# Measures For 2020 Entry

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- Those EU students that are registered for 20/21 academic year will still be eligible for UK domestic fees
- If an EU student does not physically start in the UK until January 2021 they will have to apply for a UK Visa
- The UK Home Office have confirmed that the Graduate Route allowing students to undertake post study work, is going ahead to the original timetable. We will share details as soon as we have them

# Fees, Refunds, Current Students

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- **UK universities are working to ensure they are as flexible as possible around each student's situation, they are not looking to penalise students. Students should approach the university they applied to and consult their refund policy if they want a deposit refund**
- **If a course has started there may be some financial liability for any student not wishing to continue, the student should contact their university for specific information on this**
- **UK universities have reacted rapidly to ensure that current students have the best quality experience. This includes looking at alternative forms of assessment and development of skills for any internship or industry placement parts of their current programme**

# Stay In Touch

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- **UK HE is a vital part of the UK Government's recovery after lockdown. Universities are trusted partners of government and both the government and universities are committed that no international or domestic student will be disadvantaged because of the situation which so many other countries share**
- **Our doors are open, counsellors and agents can still reach out to UK universities as normal. In spite of staff working remotely there are still lots of different ways you can still communicate with individual universities**
- **UK Universities recognise the integral role that agents and counsellors play in helping students who plan to study in the UK. Your feedback on student behaviour is going to be key for all of us as we formulate our plans for the future.**
- **We are all in this together and can overcome this together!**