

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

**OPTIONS FOR USING TESTING TO REDUCE THE RISK OF STUDENTS  
INADVERTENTLY IMPORTING COVID-19 TO SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES AND  
COLLEGES**

1. There are approximately 220,000 university students in Scotland who study at a Scottish campus, and a further 210,000 college students (excluding school link students). In the latest year for which data are available, 2018/19, approximately 56,000 of these university students were international students, and 27,000 came from the rest of the UK. **Annex A** provides a breakdown by city. However, this year we expect that the numbers of international students physically studying in Scotland will be lower than this, and we are working with Universities Scotland to better understand what impact the pandemic and restrictions on international travel will have.
2. By contrast, 1,700 college students were international students and 1,300 college students came from the rest of the UK. Given the significantly different profiles of these groups, work to date has focussed on university students.
3. Based on 2018/19 data, around two thirds of the international students coming to Scotland come from the highest risk countries. In line with current restrictions, they are required to quarantine for 14 days on arrival if they have been in their country of origin in the 14 days prior to arrival in Scotland.
4. **Annex B** provides our latest analysis of estimates of student enrolment dates, which supports our understanding of likely timing of demand for testing, although there is uncertainty about how far in advance of enrolment dates students tend to arrive, and uncertainty about how the pandemic will affect the number of international students studying in Scotland. [Redacted – Section 30(b)(i)]

[Redacted]  
COVID Public Health Directorate  
17 August 2020

## Annex A - Student Numbers by city/university (based on 2018/19 student numbers, HESA Student Data, SG analysis)

Enrolments at Scottish HEIs 2018/19, by estimated start date (see notes at end of table), region of domicile and location of provider (excluding distance learning)

Week Commencing	Region of Domicile	Aberdeen	Dundee	Edinburgh	Glasgow	SRUC	University of St Andrews	University of Stirling	University of the Highlands and Islands	University of the West of Scotland	Scotland
Whole Year	Scotland	14,065	12,075	28,040	48,610	1,365	2,815	7,895	8,955	14,360	138,190
	England & rUK	1,295	1,225	10,515	5,120	25	2,505	905	205	615	22,435
	Wales	40	30	305	160	0	75	25	10	10	680
	Northern Ireland	195	655	1,310	1,035	10	160	405	10	40	3,835
	EU	3,790	1,370	6,880	5,690	60	1,030	1,065	215	620	20,730
	Non-EU	3,160	1,800	12,685	11,090	15	3,660	1,685	125	1,365	35,580
	Not Known	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	0	0	45
<b>Total</b>	All	22,545	17,155	59,735	71,705	1,475	10,245	12,025	9,520	17,010	221,495

**Annex B - Student arrival forecasts (based on 2018/19 student numbers, adjusted for changes to term start dates in 2020/21)** NB – likely that number of international students will be lower, and further discussions needed with the University of Glasgow about its arrivals profile.

Enrolments at Scottish HEIs 2018/19, by estimated start date (see notes at end of table), region of domicile and provider (excluding distance learning)

Week commencing	Region of Domicile	University of Aberdeen	University of Abertay Dundee	University of Dundee	Edinburgh Napier University	University of Edinburgh	Glasgow Caledonian University	Glasgow School of Art	University of Glasgow	Heriot-Watt University	Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	The Robert Gordon University	Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	University of St Andrews	SRUC	University of Stirling	University of Strathclyde	University of the Highlands and Islands	University of the West of Scotland	All
w/c 30th July	Scotland	0	0	0	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	20	10	0	120
	rUK	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	15
	China	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	30
	Rest of non-UK	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	10	10	0	65
	All	0	0	0	150	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	15	40	25	0	235
w/c 27th August	Scotland	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	50	150	0	0	10	0	330	465	110	0	1,120	
	rUK	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	25	10	0	0	20	0	20	20	10	0	110	
	China	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	90	
	Not known	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	10	
	Rest of non-UK	0	0	0	110	0	0	0	185	5	0	0	35	0	55	40	0	0	435	
All	0	0	0	140	0	0	0	265	165	0	0	125	0	415	530	120	0	1,760		
w/c 3rd September	Scotland	0	0	0	5,400	0	0	5	30	315	170	0	1,030	0	565	30	1,420	0	8,955	
	rUK	0	0	0	550	0	0	5	5	45	15	0	1,100	0	85	0	35	0	1,840	
	China	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	105	0	0	0	0	0	180	
	Rest of non-UK	0	0	0	920	0	0	0	140	75	260	0	1,345	0	65	0	45	0	2,855	
	All	0	0	0	6,930	0	0	10	175	440	450	0	3,580	0	715	30	1,500	0	13,830	
w/c 10th September	Scotland	0	0	0	3,145	3,360	0	125	15,915	5,015	1,440	2,240	0	1,375	0	6,105	10,265	6,215	0	55,205
	rUK	0	0	0	220	1,650	0	75	3,600	1,545	210	55	0	1,315	0	1,125	665	105	0	10,560
	China	0	0	0	130	2,435	0	10	3,355	580	15	45	0	320	0	770	820	5	0	8,485
	Not known	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
	Rest of non-UK	0	0	0	870	4,105	0	75	5,390	1,455	515	475	0	1,970	0	1,600	1,845	215	0	18,525
All	0	0	0	4,365	11,550	0	290	28,265	8,595	2,180	2,810	0	4,985	0	9,605	13,595	6,540	0	92,780	
w/c 17th September	Scotland	6,450	3,485	0	0	6,725	0	780	35	0	1,165	3,965	285	125	0	20	2,455	30	0	25,520
	rUK	1,250	160	0	0	7,210	0	450	10	0	285	90	75	70	0	0	85	0	0	9,685
	China	570	65	0	0	1,295	0	260	0	0	10	40	5	25	0	0	45	0	0	2,320
	Rest of non-UK	4,325	595	0	0	4,490	0	440	15	5	395	750	90	175	0	0	280	0	0	11,560
	All	12,595	4,300	0	0	19,720	0	1,930	60	5	1,855	4,850	455	395	0	25	2,865	30	0	49,085
w/c 24th September	Scotland	80	0	0	0	0	13,570	0	40	0	0	920	355	130	1,370	15	935	30	0	17,450
	rUK	20	0	0	0	0	550	0	0	0	0	15	145	165	35	10	15	0	0	955
	China	0	0	0	0	0	130	0	0	0	0	25	25	20	0	0	0	0	0	210
	Not known	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	30
	Rest of non-UK	10	0	0	0	0	1,840	0	5	0	0	145	295	275	75	25	80	0	0	2,755
All	115	0	0	5	0	16,095	0	45	0	0	1,105	820	590	1,480	80	1,030	30	0	21,400	
w/c 1st October	Scotland	150	25	8,510	40	210	135	0	715	55	10	50	0	0	135	605	60	14,355	0	25,055
	rUK	85	0	1,750	5	125	20	0	225	25	5	5	0	0	65	180	5	670	0	3,170
	China	15	0	600	0	55	5	0	120	10	0	0	0	0	5	40	0	90	0	940
	Rest of non-UK	175	10	1,830	20	255	90	0	555	80	0	45	0	0	50	270	15	1,890	0	5,285
	All	425	35	12,690	65	640	250	0	1,615	170	15	95	0	0	250	1,100	80	17,010	0	34,450
w/c 8th October	Scotland	0	0	5	0	0	65	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	25	5	0	0	115
	rUK	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	45
	China	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Rest of non-UK	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	5	0	0	50
	All	0	0	20	0	0	75	0	10	0	5	0	0	0	0	85	15	0	0	215
w/c 15th October	Scotland	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	25
	rUK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	China	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Rest of non-UK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
	All	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	40
Rest of year	Scotland	35	0	45	390	60	100	30	35	65	325	5	0	145	0	720	1,600	1,065	0	4,625
	rUK	10	0	5	35	10	5	10	15	145	0	0	75	0	35	140	75	0	0	560
	China	10	0	20	25	35	0	15	260	0	0	0	40	0	10	35	0	0	0	450
	Rest of non-UK	55	0	50	460	75	5	10	60	290	95	0	0	315	0	165	440	40	0	2,055
	All	110	0	120	910	180	105	50	120	630	560	5	5	575	0	930	2,215	1,180	0	7,695

Source: HESA student data, SG Experimental Analysis

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Start date has been estimated using comdate. Some comdates will be generic and set to 1st August or 1st September, so numbers here should be taken as an estimate

Dates were modified based on latest intelligence on delays to 2020-21 term-time dates as captured by SAAS. Anyone with an enrolment date prior to the term-time start date below, has been moved to the new date (adjusting for 2020).

Students will not necessarily start on these weeks. This is just an estimate of when the course starts.

Distance learning, or those spending the full year abroad, have been excluded (where locsdy not = ('6','9','T'))

rUK includes UK unknown and Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man

All\* contains a small number of records with unknown domicile

China includes Honk Kong, Taiwan & Macao

First Minister  
Deputy First Minister  
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport  
Minister for Higher and Further Education

## **PROPOSALS TO STRENGTHEN MEASURES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF COVID-19 TRANSMISSION IN UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE CONTEXTS**

### **Reducing the risk of imported cases when students arrive**

1. Universities have stated that they are sending very clear messages to students that it is essential that they **comply with the law on quarantine**. They could be asked to go a step further and be asked to ensure that they have appropriately serious university disciplinary arrangements in place should students fail to comply. Universities will be asked to provide the Scottish Government with information about their disciplinary arrangements, and regular information about any issues with compliance among their students.
2. We have received from the sectors their action plans around quarantining students as well as other mitigations, at the request of the Minister for Further and Higher Education. Advanced Learning and Science officials will write to the sector **to highlight good practice and areas to improve** and will host workshops next week to also share this directly with the sector. They will ask universities such as [Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)] and [Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)] universities, who already have significant numbers of quarantining students, to share their experience and learning with universities with a later start dates.
3. Scottish Government guidance on quarantine state that those who are required to quarantine can do so in their own home, with friends or family or in a hotel or other temporary accommodation. Those quarantining can only have contact with those they travelled with or people they are staying with. **Students who are quarantining in shared accommodation will be advised to avoid contact with other people in their accommodation**. The revised guidance will make clear our expectation that institutions and accommodation providers support students to self-isolate effectively. Nevertheless, there is a risk that the quarantining student may inadvertently transmit the other members of their household if they cannot isolate effectively from them.
4. Institutions and student accommodation providers are being asked to **ensure students are aware of quarantine requirements** and direct students to Scottish Government guidance on mitigation measures to be taken whilst quarantining. This will be in the revised guidance which we propose is also communicated to students who are living with a person who is quarantining about the risk of transmission and what students should do if they develop symptoms is reinforced to all students.

5. We also propose that universities are asked **to strengthen their messaging to students about the need to self-isolate and arrange a test if they have symptoms** in advance of the point in time **when they were planning to travel to or from university or college** – which makes clear the student should not travel to campus if they test positive, until their self-isolation period is complete. Furthermore, we also propose asking universities to provide clear messaging that students must comply with any local lockdown measures that may impact on their ability to travel to or from university or college. For example, if there was local lockdown in a part of England, with all non-essential travel prohibited, there should be clear guidance that students must not break local lockdown rules to travel to university or college in Scotland. Universities should include in this clear messaging all ways in which students can begin their studies – for example, through online lectures – for the entire period within which they are unable to travel due to non-essential travel restrictions.
6. Approximately 46k students live in halls of residence. Advanced Learning and Science officials are **reviewing the guidance for halls of residence** to ensure it is sufficiently robust about the need to take a proactive approach to encouraging safe student behaviours from their first day in accommodation this year.

### **Reducing the risk of transmission between students in academic and social activities**

7. We propose having further discussions with universities, colleges, accommodation providers and NUS Scotland what more can be done to **ensure that students understand the guidance about household mixing and physical distancing**, and in particular what this means in practice for their academic and social activities. Advanced Learning and Science colleagues are developing student-specific communications that will explain how the rules work in practice for a student household, which may be larger than the average Scottish household, and may not comprise of a group of people that would choose to socialise together.
8. We recommend that every opportunity is taken to **reinforce to universities and colleges the need for physical distancing to be enforced in these settings**. We would propose that universities are asked to undertake a **frequent reviews of their mitigation practices and risk assessments** to ensure that these are operating effectively, and improve them as required.
9. As with self-isolation and quarantine requirements, universities should be asked to ensure that they **have appropriately serious university disciplinary arrangements in place should organised student social activities fail to comply with all relevant guidelines**, including on physical distancing.
10. Advanced Learning and Science officials will provide **further clear guidance for universities, colleges and accommodation providers about the appropriate use of face coverings** to support a reduction in the risk of transmission, in corridors and communal areas, as well as other places where 2m physical distancing cannot be guaranteed.

[Redacted]

COVID Public Health Directorate  
27 August 2020

### FOI Document 3

**From:** [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 18 August 2020 11:19

**To:** [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Re start dates

Here's the updated table [Redacted].

INSTITUTION	ORIGINAL START DATE	PROPOSED NEW START DATE
ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY	07/09/2020	21/09/2020
ABERTAY UNIVERSITY	07/09/2020	21/09/2020
AYRSHIRE COLLEGE	17/08/2020	22/09/2020
BORDERS COLLEGE	31/08/2020	07/09/2020
CITY OF GLASGOW COLLEGE	31/08/2020	31/08/2020
DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COLLEGE	24/08/2020	31/08/2020
DUNDEE AND ANGUS COLLEGE	31/08/2020	21/09/2020
DUNDEE UNIVERSITY	14/09/2020	05/10/2020
EDINBURGH COLLEGE	No changes 31/08/2020	
EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY	No changes 07/09/2020	
EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY	17/08/2020	14/09/2020
FIFE COLLEGE	31/08/2020	07/09/2020
FORTH VALLEY COLLEGE	24/08/2020	31/08/2020
GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY	14/09/2020	29/09/2020
GLASGOW CLYDE COLLEGE	Unsure what to do - not decided (as at time of this survey) 24/08/2020	
GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE	No changes 25/08/2020	

GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART	No changes 09/09/2020	
GLASGOW UNIVERSITY	No change apart from PG courses which are moving from Sep-20 to Nov-20 14/09/2020	
HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY	No changes 14/09/2020	
NEW COLLEGE LANARKSHIRE	No changes 24/08/2020	
NORTH EAST SCOTLAND COLLEGE	24/08/2020	07/09/2020
QUEEN MARGARET UNIVERSITY	No changes apart from changing 6 PG courses to Jan starts only and PGDE 1 week early in sept. 14/09/2020	
ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY	07/09/2020	Staggered from 7-21/9/2020
ROYAL CONSERVATOIRE OF SCOTLAND	No changes 21/09/2020	
SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COLLEGE	24/08/2020	07/09/2020
SRUC	14/09/2020	28/09/2020
ST ANDREWS UNIVERSITY	No changes 14/09/2020	
STIRLING UNIVERSITY	No changes 14/09/2020	
STRATHCLYDE UNIVERSITY	No changes 14/09/2020	
UNIVERSITY OF THE HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS	No changes 07/09/2020	
UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF SCOTLAND	07/09/2020	05/10/2020
WEST COLLEGE SCOTLAND	24/08/2020	21/09/2020
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	31/08/2020	21/09/2020

Thanks

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 18 August 2020 08:46  
**To:** [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Re start dates

Thanks, [Redacted], do you have dates for the no change rows?

It's to aid planning for likely demand in testing so knowing where and when students might be turning up is really important (we already have some forecasts for how many).

[Redacted] | College Policy | Scottish Government | M: [Redacted]

Please note my working pattern is Mon - Thurs. Friday is my non-working day.

**From:** [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 18 August 2020 08:21  
**To:** [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Re start dates

Hi [Redacted]

The attached table shows intended delays to start / end dates for HE courses at colleges and universities, as at 27 July.

The table below is what our Ops colleagues collated when we went out to the institutions for their revised term dates- not all have responded. The same caveat would apply that we gave the Minister that some of these changes may be in relation to some of their courses instead of wholesale changes.

INSTITUTION	ORIGINAL START DATE	PROPOSED NEW START DATE
ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY	07/09/2020	21/09/2020
ABERTAY UNIVERSITY	07/09/2020	21/09/2020
AYRSHIRE COLLEGE	17/08/2020	22/09/2020
BORDERS COLLEGE	31/08/2020	07/09/2020
CITY OF GLASGOW COLLEGE	31/08/2020	31/08/2020



DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COLLEGE	24/08/2020	31/08/2020
DUNDEE AND ANGUS COLLEGE	31/08/2020	21/09/2020
DUNDEE UNIVERSITY	14/09/2020	05/10/2020
EDINBURGH COLLEGE	No changes	
EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY	No changes	
EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY	17/08/2020	14/09/2020
FIFE COLLEGE	31/08/2020	07/09/2020
FORTH VALLEY COLLEGE	24/08/2020	31/08/2020
GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY	14/09/2020	29/09/2020
GLASGOW CLYDE COLLEGE	Unsure what to do - not decided (as at time of this survey)	
GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE	No changes	
GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART	No changes	
GLASGOW UNIVERSITY	No change apart from PG courses which are moving from Sep-20 to Nov-20	
HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY	No changes	
NEW COLLEGE LANARKSHIRE	No changes	
NORTH EAST SCOTLAND COLLEGE	24/08/2020	07/09/2020
QUEEN MARGARET UNIVERSITY	No changes apart from changing 6 PG courses to Jan starts only and PGDE 1 week early in sept.	
ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY	07/09/2020	Staggered from 7-21/9/2020
ROYAL CONSERVATOIRE OF SCOTLAND	No changes	

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COLLEGE	24/08/2020	07/09/2020
SRUC	14/09/2020	28/09/2020
ST ANDREWS UNIVERSITY	No changes	
STIRLING UNIVERSITY	No changes	
STRATHCLYDE UNIVERSITY	No changes	
UNIVERSITY OF THE HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS	No changes	
UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF SCOTLAND	07/09/2020	05/10/2020
WEST COLLEGE SCOTLAND	24/08/2020	21/09/2020
WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE	31/08/2020	21/09/2020

Thanks

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Head of Stakeholder Relations

**Need help? Visit our website [HINTS AND TIPS](#) for our most commonly asked queries, currently focusing on help with our SAAS Account and funding applications.**



[www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk) | [www.facebook.com/saasfb](https://www.facebook.com/saasfb) | [twitter.com/saastweet](https://twitter.com/saastweet) | [www.youtube.com/fundingawareness](https://www.youtube.com/fundingawareness) | LinkedIn

Check out the new Scottish Government resource <https://www.studentinformation.gov.scot/>. Everything you need to know about student finance, including help for parents, carers and education professionals.

**From:** [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 17 August 2020 17:47

**To:** [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Re start dates

Thanks, [Redacted].

[Redacted] – can we please have the actual date that terms commence (as we need this for policy planning purposes)?

It would be helpful to have this as soon as possible tomorrow.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | College Policy | Scottish Government | M: [Redacted]

Please note my working pattern is Mon - Thurs. Friday is my non-working day.

## **Ministerial Briefing Education and Skills Committee**

2 September 2020

### **HOT ISSUES**

#### **International Student Numbers**

##### **Restart**

- Scotland's colleges and universities are working hard to ensure the safest possible environment as students return.
- Key measures already in place for the new academic year include:
  - Blended learning to significantly reduce numbers on campus
  - Universities in Scotland anticipate that, overall, around 20-25% of teaching to be face-to-face. The balance will vary by discipline with some subjects such as medicine requiring more face to face tuition to deliver practical sessions.
  - Large scale teaching events indoors must be avoided and working remotely should be the default position. Teaching groups should be as small as possible
  - 2m physical distancing
  - Face coverings to be worn in college and university corridors and communal areas plus in areas where they are mandatory such as libraries and shops
  - Enhanced cleaning and hygiene measures
  - International staff and students from countries currently on our quarantine list are required by law to **quarantine for 14 days** upon arrival in Scotland.
  - Making students aware of public health measures and their responsibilities to keep themselves and others safe, both on and off campus
- We have published and will continue to update guidance in relation to universities, colleges and student accommodation.
- Revised guidance that reflects the most up to date scientific advice was published on Tuesday, 1 September.
- It sets out clear expectations and practical approaches to public health and safety and how institutions should engage with students, staff and trade unions under these circumstances.
- To provide further assurance, officials have reviewed college, university and accommodation providers' restart plans and will host workshops this week to share best practice.
- We will confirm what, if any, additional measures we want them to implement once those decisions have been taken.

##### **Face Coverings**

- Based on the latest scientific and public health advice, from 1 September, face coverings should be worn:
  - in college and university corridors and communal areas as well as other areas of campus where 2m physical distancing cannot be guaranteed (unless exemptions apply)

- in corridors and some shared facilities in student accommodation, such as laundry rooms and study areas (but not kitchens and bathrooms, subject to other safety measures being place)
- on dedicated college or university transport.
- While face coverings will not generally be necessary when students are seated in classrooms or other learning and teaching environments, staff and students can continue to wear face coverings if they wish.
- It remains the case that face coverings should be worn indoors wherever 2m distance cannot be guaranteed. This includes where people are interacting face-to-face at less than 2m for a sustained period (about 15 minutes or more) or for any amount of time where there is close contact within 1m.

## **REOPENING/SAFE CAMPUSES**

### **Top Lines**

- Colleges and universities are working hard to ensure the safest possible environment as students return.
- A blended model with remote teaching and public health measures (including 2m physical distancing) will be in place.
- We have published and will continue to update guidance for institutions and providers of student accommodation, which set out clear expectations and practical approaches to public health and health and safety.
- To provide further assurance, officials are reviewing college, university and accommodation providers' restart plans this week.

### **Colleges and universities are working hard to ensure the safest possible environment as students return.**

- Key measures in place include:
  - Blended learning and home working to significantly reduce numbers on campus
  - Enhanced cleaning and hygiene measures
  - Quarantine for staff and students arriving from certain countries
  - Familiarisation with health protection measures embedded in student induction
- Our sectoral guidance sets out clear expectations and practical approaches to public health and health and safety.
- We have written guidance for colleges, universities and student accommodation to support with the reopening of institutions.
- The guidance was published on 1 September.
- Officials engaged with each sector during the process of creating this guidance.
- Essential public health measures in institutions and student accommodation include:
  - minimising contact with others (physical distancing, quarantine, groupings); enhanced hygiene and environmental cleaning arrangements; wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) where necessary; a requirement that people who are ill, self-isolating or under an obligation to quarantine stay at home; and active engagement with Test and Protect.
- Additional mitigations include;

### **International arrivals and requirement to quarantine**

- Staff and students must comply with guidance for residents or visitors travelling to the UK. Those travelling from a country not exempt from quarantine requirements must complete a passenger locator form and self-isolate for 14 days

- Institutions and providers must make clear to staff and students, ahead of and on their arrival in Scotland, that this is a legal requirement and it is essential they comply.
- Colleges and universities must take active steps to ensure that quarantine arrangements are complied with.

#### **Minimising contact: blended learning, teaching groups**

- Large scale teaching events indoors must be avoided and working remotely should be the default position. Teaching groups should be as small as possible.
- Where face-to-face learning is delivered on campus, teaching groups should be as small as possible. Teaching groups should be as consistent as possible to reduce the likelihood of direct transmission and to allow for quicker identification of those who need to self-isolate

#### **Compliance**

- Colleges and universities are expected to ensure that they have appropriate disciplinary arrangements in place should staff or students fail to comply with the law on social gatherings.

#### **Face coverings**

- Face coverings should be worn indoors wherever 2m distance cannot be guaranteed. This includes where people are interacting face-to-face at less than 2m for a sustained period (about 15 minutes or more) or for any amount of time where there is close contact within 1m.
- Face coverings should also be worn in the following circumstances (except where someone is exempt from wearing a covering):
  - where people are moving about in institutions in corridors and confined communal areas (including toilets) as well as other areas of campus where 2m physical distancing cannot be guaranteed
  - in line with the current arrangements for public transport, where adults and young people aged 5 and over are travelling on public and dedicated college and university transport
  - in corridors and confined communal areas in student accommodation. This includes toilets, common rooms and laundry rooms.

#### **Percentage of students expected on campus**

- Universities in Scotland anticipate that, overall, around 20-25% of teaching to be face-to-face. The balance will vary by discipline with some subjects such as medicine requiring more face to face tuition to deliver practical sessions
- Examples from specific institutions include;
  - *[Redacted – Section 38(1)(b)]: “We are modelling a circa 60% reduction in timetabled on-campus activity from previous years.”*
  - *[Redacted – Section 38(1)(b)]: “no more than 20% [building] occupancy at any one time”*
  - *[Redacted – Section 38(1)(b)]: “building occupancy (excluding Residences) remains below the maximum safe levels set by requirements for social distancing, typically to about 25% of ‘normal’ occupancy”*
  - *[Redacted – Section 38(1)(b)]: “only new students [are] being allocated the maximum on-campus contact time of 6 hours per week”*
  - *[Redacted – Section 38(1)(b)]: “an overall [building] capacity of around 20%”*
  - *[Redacted – Section 38(1)(b)]: “Each student will have a maximum one 3-hour block of teaching on campus per week”*
  - *[Redacted – Section 38(1)(b)]: “Our analysis of the timetable shows that for teaching and learning purposes, the number of students on campus will fluctuate between 3% and 8% of the student population across a typical week. “*

## **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

### **General**

- Recognise the importance of international students to the diversity and financial sustainability of our institutions.

### **How many international students have already arrived and where?**

- We don't currently hold this data. Some international students will have remained in Scotland over the Summer. But we do know that it's hard to predict exactly how many international students will be arriving and when, as that is subject to a wide range of local and global factors beyond our control or influence.
- Recent UCAS clearing data showed that in addition to a 6% increase in the number of Scottish domiciled students securing a place at Scottish universities, there was an 11% increase in the number of non-EU international students and a 5% decrease in EU students - overall this equates to a 3% increase in non-UK students securing places. *(These numbers from UCAS don't cover **all** entry into Scottish Institutions as most international students secure places directly with the provider, for example on postgraduate courses.)*
- Through the SFC, we are engaging with institutions to monitor and better understand the numbers that are expected to be on campus, recognising that some international students may study remotely, withdraw or postpone due to the current situation.

### **Activity to Mitigate Impacts**

- Mr Lochhead led a discussion on immediate, medium term and longer term international student matters at his Ministerial Leadership Group meeting in May 2020.
- A short life working group of sector stakeholders was established on the back of this discussion. The group agreed a series of actions to be progressed, including a Brand Manager for the Study Pillar of Brand Scotland's 'Scotland is Now' campaign, and a video from the First Minister targeted at incoming and future international students.
- We continue to work closely with the sector and other stakeholders to mitigate the direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic.

### **Quarantining**

- Students will have to comply with guidance for residents or visitors arriving in the UK where appropriate. Those travelling from a country not currently exempt from quarantine requirements should complete a passenger locator form and self-isolate for 14 days on arrival. We expect that this will apply to significant numbers of international students planning to study at Scottish institutions.
- We are working in partnership with the sector to ensure that these students have the support and guidance they need while quarantining. Colleges and universities should make students fully aware of all local support available to them.

### **Associated research / surveys**

- A large survey of nearly 7,000 international students in receipt of an offer from UK, USA, Australia, Canada and New Zealand (May 2020), found that while only 5% no longer expected to commence their studies, more than half (54%) placed limits on how long they would be willing to defer (18% were only willing to defer for up to three months, 23% for up to 6 months and 13% for up to a year, with 18% stating they were willing to wait until the institution was ready. (<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/most-internationally-mobile-students-not-deterred-pandemic>).



**FOI Document 5**

**Table 20: Students in Higher Education at Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Domicile and Type of Institution 2018-19**

<b>Domicile</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>HEIs</b>	<b>Colleges</b>	<b>% of total enrolled at HEIs</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>302,660</b>	<b>253,475</b>	<b>49,185</b>	<b>83.7%</b>
<b>UK domiciles</b>				
Scotland	211,335	163,470	47,865	77.4%
England	27,095	26,715	380	98.6%
Wales	900	875	25	97.2%
Northern Ireland	4,100	4,050	50	98.8%
Other UK (11)	5	5	0	-
<b>Total UK</b>	<b>243,430</b>	<b>195,115</b>	<b>48,315</b>	<b>80.2%</b>
<b>Overseas domiciles</b>				
EU excluding UK	21,570	21,505	65	99.7%
Non EU Europe	2,120	2,120	0	100.0%
Non European	35,295	34,495	800	97.7%
<b>Total Overseas (12)</b>	<b>58,985</b>	<b>58,120</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>98.5%</b>
<b>Top 10 overseas countries</b>				
China	<b>12,400</b>	<b>12,400</b>	0	100.0%
United States	<b>5,355</b>	<b>5,350</b>	5	99.9%
Germany	<b>2,835</b>	<b>2,830</b>	5	99.8%
India	<b>2,780</b>	<b>2,160</b>	620	77.7%
Italy	<b>2,080</b>	<b>2,075</b>	10	99.8%
Republic of Ireland	<b>1,985</b>	<b>1,970</b>	10	99.2%
France	<b>1,925</b>	<b>1,915</b>	10	99.5%
Spain	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,495</b>	5	99.7%
Greece	<b>1,385</b>	<b>1,380</b>	5	99.6%
Nigeria	<b>1,295</b>	<b>1,285</b>	10	99.2%

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).