



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE CORONAVIRUS

CATS Colleges UK: Latest Guidance

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Travel, Boarding and Wellbeing

When are schools closing?

In response to the UK Government's advice to close UK schools to help reduce the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), all CATS UK Colleges (CATS Cambridge, CATS Canterbury and CATS London) and Cambridge School of Visual and Performing Arts (CSVPA) will move tuition online to avoid any unnecessary disruption to students' studies.

Our final day of face-to-face teaching until further notice is Friday 20 March. From 23 March, we will start remote tuition in preparation for full online learning provision, which will begin on 20 April if schools continue to remain closed as per UK Government advice.

What happens if my child gets sick in your care?

We have discussed the possible symptoms with all students and staff. Members of the boarding team are on duty 24 hours a day and ready to offer advice and instruction if anyone develops symptoms. Our medical teams are also on-site throughout the school day, offering medical advice and assistance should students feel unwell.

Our advice currently is to ask any student or staff member who develops the symptoms of a continuous new cough and/or a high fever to self-isolate for seven days.

As is usual at this time of year we have a high level of common colds and seasonal flu, so we will judge each student's symptoms on a case-by-case basis and engage early with the National Health Service (NHS) where necessary.

Can my child remain in boarding accommodation until the Easter break?

Yes. Throughout this challenging time, the health, safety and wellbeing of our school communities have been central to our response. We will continue to provide the same high standard of care in our boarding houses for remaining students.

Can my child remain in boarding accommodation over the Easter break if they can't return home safely?

We know that for some students, it will not be possible to return home. We will continue to provide boarding for those students who are in that position. We will continue to provide the same high standard of care in our boarding houses for remaining students. Please inform the College as soon as possible if your child is unable to return home by emailing the Student Services teams.

Can my child stay in their room?

In order for us to better care for those of our students who are unable to travel, we will be moving some students to be together with their classmates in the most suitable residences. Details of this will follow from your college Principals.

Where will they be catered?

We will continue to provide full catering to those students on a catered package and this will be delivered in Elizabeth House in Cambridge and in Canterbury as usual.

Will the school delay the start of summer term if the situation worsens?

The school campuses are closed until further notice. From 23 March, we will start remote tuition in preparation for full online learning provision, which will begin on 20 April if schools continue to remain closed as per UK Government advice.

We will continue to take advice from the health and education authorities and will act in the best interests of students, staff, families, and communities of our schools. As the situation develops, so will our response to it.

What will happen if my child cannot return after Easter due to travel restrictions?

While we cannot predict what the situation will be by the end of April, we will continue to communicate our advice to students, parents and agents. In the event of any prolonged school closures we will continue to offer high quality teaching online.

We would recommend monitoring the travel advice in your home countries and keeping us updated with your plans so that we can support your return to the UK or deferral of your studies.

Can students stay in the UK away from college?

Yes, students are able to stay in the UK with a guardian. Normal exeat rules apply.

We will be continuing to offer boarding to any students who are unable to travel home.

Will you be charging the normal rate for those staying over Easter?

Yes. Please find details of fees on our website.

Academic

How will my child's studies be affected?

It is one of our main priorities to ensure that all students complete their studies and either progress to the following year of studies or move onto their next institution of education, regardless of the external situation.

Our final day of face-to-face teaching is Friday 20 March until further notice. From 23 March, we will start remote tuition in preparation for full online learning provision, which will begin on 20 April if schools continue to remain closed as per UK Government advice.

We will be setting work and assignments for Easter in the usual way and teachers will make contact with absent students via email.

Will there be online lessons?

Yes. From 23 March, we will start remote tuition in preparation for full online learning provision, which will begin on 20 April if schools continue to remain closed as per UK Government advice.

What will happen about exams?

All national exams in May and June have been cancelled including GCSEs and A levels. The Department for Education today confirmed that examination boards will work with teachers to provide grades to affected students, ensuring they can progress to university in the Autumn.

Universities will be basing their admission decisions on the judgements of teachers. Your grades have not yet been submitted to universities. You will need to continue to participate fully in the teaching and assessments that we are providing to enable us to determine the grades that will be submitted. If you do not participate fully, we will be unable to submit grades.

For UFP students' arrangements are being made for your assessments to continue online through your lessons. The International Baccalaureate Board are putting their own plans in place so that IB students can still gain their score too.

What about my attendance record?

We will be authorising absence from school for any students departing early for the Easter break.

If schools continue to remain closed as per UK Government advice for the summer term, we will move to full online learning on 20 April. Students will need to complete their online classes to be awarded attendance.

What will happen in regards to university applications?

Our Higher Education Officers (HEOs) will continue to support all students. It is in the best interest of the students that this advice continues to come from our impartial HEOs who will continue to be in regular contact with academic colleagues in the schools so that they will be giving the most appropriate advice. We are using our excellent links with all universities to ensure our students receive the most up to date advice on how British universities are likely to respond.

What happens with students on A2 and UFP if they choose to defer?

Students may be able to delay taking examinations for a year, and we will support students to defer if this is what they choose to do. We are expecting UKVI to publish further guidance about students' visas. However, in most cases, there will be no issue applying for a new visa if necessary. We expect UKVI to be flexible due to the exceptional circumstances, even for students who are close to the 2-year limit.

Admissions and Visas

What about my visa?

If you are on a T4 visa and have elected to leave the UK for a longer Easter break we have authorised any absence between Wednesday 11th March and Monday 20th April. After that time, we may be unable to authorise any further absence, and this may have an impact on our sponsorship of your visa.

As this is a rapidly changing situation, advice may change in the coming days and weeks. We are receiving regular updates from the Home Office and UKVI in regards to Tier 4 visa holders, which we will send on to parents, students, and agents as soon as we receive them.

Can I defer my studies until later?

Yes, you may defer your studies until September 2020 or beyond. We will transfer any tuition paid to any deferrals.

Will I get a refund for the weeks of lessons I miss?

We will not be offering any partial refunds to students who leave college before the end of term. As per our terms and conditions, given that this is a pandemic situation, there will not be a refund for students who leave early.

Fees will be due as usual for tuition being delivered for the summer term. If you choose to defer, the Summer Term fees will still need to be paid now but will be transferrable to cover the Autumn Term fees if your child returns to study with us in September.

If we have paid the Summer Term fees already and we would like to defer until September, can we defer the tuition and accommodation fees to the Autumn Term?

If you choose to defer, the Summer Term fees will be transferrable to cover the Autumn Term fees if your child returns to study with us in September.

If my child defers until September, they will need to apply for a new visa. How can we do this?

Help will be given on a case-by-case basis, including liaison with UKVI if needed.

Will you be charging the normal rate for those staying over Easter?

Yes.