



# BUILA

BRITISH **UNIVERSITIES'** INTERNATIONAL LIAISON ASSOCIATION

**Panellists from the BUILA Executive**

**Nancy Cooke, Lead Regional Interest Groups**

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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 have been considering what measures to put in place 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

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- **Students should feel safe and supported by their individual universities**
- **Universities have been working to:**
  - **Re-purpose student housing, which is mainly single study bedrooms**
  - **Look at social distancing in communal areas**
  - **Re-organise learning spaces**
  - **Ensure continual support and communication**
  - **Facilitate access to mechanisms that relieve hardship**
  - **Look at how they can support students through the 14 day mandatory quarantine on arriving in country**
  - **Working with neighbouring universities, placement employers, private accommodation providers and local authorities to ensure all involved in our students experience are COVID secure.**

# Support to Students

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- **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**
- **Universities moved quickly in the past three months, and with another three months before the new academic year, there is more plann**
- **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**

**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

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- **Many 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**
- **Applicants should contact the university they are applying to for detailed information on what is required and what they are accepting**
- **Especially for Post Graduate students, many UK universities will be accepting unofficial manuscripts and screen shots**

# Admissions 2020 - 21

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- If your student is using UCAS they are encouraging applicants to continue with their applications – the best way to improve their options later this year
- All applicants are treated fairly and consistently, and calculated grades are equally valid as in previous years – universities and colleges are being as flexible as they can
- Many universities have brought clearing forward to coincide with IB available from **6 July** for students looking for **2020-21** places
- Another milestone date is 13<sup>th</sup> August which coincides with A level results
- New initiative from UCAS: Clearing Plus

# Admissions 2020-21

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- **Student Loans:**  
If your student from the EU applies for a course for the 2020-21 academic year they will remain eligible for undergraduate and postgraduate financial support from Student Finance England for the full duration of their course provided they meet the course eligibility criteria
- This is applicable if they start their course from August 2020 – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021
- This is applicable whether they start their course online or face to face
- If they are starting a course after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 they will need to speak to each individual university around the fee costs, they will not be able to apply for support from Student Finance England
- Announcements are expected very shortly for Scotland, Wales, NI



# Admissions 2021-22

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- **EU students who arrive in the UK on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, do not have to apply for a visa**
- **Students who arrive from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 will require a visa**
- **More details of how they will need to apply will be released shortly**
- **Any EU student applying for the 2020-21 academic year who decides to defer will not be eligible for Home Fee status**
- **Settlement:**
- **If your student is an EU national living in the UK who has successfully applied for the EU settlement scheme they will retain home fee status and student support for courses starting in AY2021/22 and beyond, provided they meet the residency requirements.**

# Admissions 2021-22

- **UK nationals living in the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland wishing to start courses before 1 August 2021 will continue to be eligible for home fee status and access to student finance on the same basis as now.**
- **The devolved administrations have made similar commitments. Education is devolved and the exact entitlements and eligibility may vary between the separate parts of the UK**
- **Individual UK universities have a range of scholarships, you should contact the university of choice to find out what scholarships are available**
- **The Home Office have confirmed that the Graduate Route will be going ahead for those students starting their course from Autumn 2020 even if they start online as long as they are present in the UK by April 2021**

# Admissions 2021-22

- For courses starting from 1 August 2021, UK nationals residing in the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland will continue to be eligible for home fee status and access to student finance subject to the following conditions.
- If you are a UK national, you can receive support from Student Finance England for an HE course or FE Advanced Learner Loan, or be funded for a 19+ FE course provided that:
  - you are living in the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland at 31 December 2020, and either:
    - you lived in England immediately before moving there, and you have resided in the EU, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, the UK or Gibraltar for at least the last 3 years before starting a course in the UK; or
    - you did not live in the UK immediately before living there, and have lived in the EU, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, the UK or Gibraltar for at least 3 years before starting a course in England; and
    - you have lived continuously in the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, the UK or Gibraltar between 31 December 2020 and the start of your course, and
  - the course starts before 1 January 2028.

# Admissions 2021-22

- **If your children are not themselves UK nationals, they will also be eligible, provided you and they were living in the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland at 31 December 2020, their course starts before 1 January 2028 and provided that you and they have both lived continuously in the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, the UK or Gibraltar between 31 December 2020 and the start of their course.**
- **UK nationals in the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland coming to study in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland:**
- **Should contact the relevant funding body if you have previously lived in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland as the funding and eligibility rules may be slightly different.**
- **UK nationals who have never previously lived in the UK should contact the relevant funding body in the country that you are planning to study in.**

# Measures For 2020-21 Entry

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- **UK universities will be having an Autumn 2020 intake, majority are sticking to normal start dates 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 putting in place plans to ensure they can respond to the rapid change in circumstances, so considering different intake dates, condensed courses where possible, online or blended learning provision**
- **UK universities are well equipped to come up with initiatives to ensure future students have the same high quality experience whilst ensuring the safety of students; such as study bubbles, student support teams, social distancing measures in public spaces and within student housing**

# Measures For 2020 - 21 Entry

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- **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, this is reflected in the fees**
- **The UK offers an extremely wide range of universities, courses and specialisms, there is a window to access this high quality experience under the current system for 2020- 2021**

# Stay In Touch

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- **UK HE is a vital part of the UK Government's recovery. 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 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 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 #readyforyou**