

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

ESCP Business School London Campus FAQs

Updated 18th January 2021

Information for the London Campus community of ESCP Business School about novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

This page is updated with guidance from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Public Health England (PHE).

This guidance is reviewed and updated regularly.

[Video explaining COVID-19 Health & Safety measures at the London Campus](#)

1. UPDATED INFORMATION

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT COVID-19 MEASURES IN ENGLAND?

As of 5th January 2021, England has been placed in a full lockdown which is expected to stay in place until at least mid-February. This is due to a newly detected strain of COVID-19 which is significantly more transmissible and causing an escalating number of COVID-19 cases. Infection rates in London are especially high and are running at nearly double the national average.

The Government has announced that all Higher Education Providers (HEPs) are required to provide classes exclusively online until the end of this period of lockdown. This excludes certain fields such as medicine, but means that ESCP London Campus will not be allowed to teach in-person on-campus until further notice.

In order to give our students and community greater certainty, the Campus management team have determined that there will be no in-person teaching on the London Campus before Monday 22nd February.

For those students who are currently in England, the new rules mean you must not leave your home except where necessary. You may leave the home to:

- shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person
- exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person. This should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.
- meet your support bubble or childcare bubble where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted to form one
- seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse)

More detail on these rules and related exceptions can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

IS THE ESCP LONDON CAMPUS OPEN TO STUDENTS?

Pending further guidance from the UK Government, the Campus is open for essential access only, i.e. members of staff who need to be on site and students facing special circumstances only. The details of this will be communicated in a subsequent communication based on updated Government guidelines.

WHEN DOES TEACHING & INSTRUCTION RE-START?

In light of the Government's announcement and action, we will be moving all teaching and other face-to-face, in-person activities online with immediate effect. There will be no in-person teaching on campus before Monday 22nd February.

Our current and most realistic assessment is that case rates may not have reduced sufficiently to allow students to return to campus in February. As such, it is highly possible that the suspension of live teaching events until 22nd February could be extended beyond this date. Once the UK Government reviews its advice to educational providers on 15th February, we will update all parties.

In determining the conditions for a relaunch of in-person teaching on campus, the School will have to assess that advice and the impact of prevailing international travel restrictions, quarantine and testing requirements for students.

Once in-person teaching resumes, we will return to our pre-existing blended learning and delivery model and to other arrangements designed to ensure a COVID-secure approach.

HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT DURING THE LOCKDOWN PERIOD?

Your programme will be delivered online for the duration of the lockdown period. All teaching and assessment will take place through our Virtual Learning Environment. All of our degree programmes can be studied remotely and for whatever period required.

WHAT WILL ACADEMIC DELIVERY LOOK LIKE AFTER LOCKDOWN ENDS?

Our aim will be to restore in-person teaching to the degree possible within the context of a blended approach to teaching and learning. Given the near certainty of post-lockdown restrictions (e.g. social distancing), you should anticipate:

- a hybrid or blended teaching strategy and learning plan
- live small-group instruction for students present on campus and online
- larger-sized teaching events running online
- all language classes running online
- Covid protections and security measures in class and on campus

WHEN IN-PERSON TEACHING RESUMES, CAN I OPT-OUT AND REMAIN ONLINE?

Programmes will vary in their approach and requirements depending on the timing of any relaunch and their specific calendar.

You should be reassured that the School is committed to a flexible approach and offer throughout the full academic year.

ARE THERE REMOTE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS DURING THE CURRENT LOCKDOWN PERIOD?

- **Library Service**

All enrolled students have a Myschool login which allows access to various databases, such as EBSCO, Emerald, Science Direct and more, as well as international newspapers, market reports and statistics. In addition, the Vault database provides career information, including rankings and reviews of top companies and schools, careers-advice articles, Industry and occupational profiles, and employee ratings.

The Library can also give you access to textbooks in ebook format as well as a selection of other ebooks.

All London students can have an online subscription to the Financial Times via FT.com. We encourage you to make the most of this to keep yourself informed on business and economic current affairs.

You can create a login here:

<https://join.ft.com/991a42f5-e881-42c3-8d74-ea7f26bbe652?linkOrigin=enterprise-tools>

Bloomberg is also available to students specialising in Finance. Bloomberg delivers business and markets news, data, analysis, and videos. The London Campus can now provide 32 remote-access accounts for this service.

For information on the Library, please contact Jorge Roncero: jroncero@escp.eu.

- **Careers Service**

The Careers Service team offers remote advice for all students with Career Advisers Laura Raznick and Benedicte Lecuyer. You can book appointments for Careers Advice, CV/CL check, interview prep, case study practice, etc. via JobTeaser: <https://escp.jobteaser.com>

You also have the option to book appointments with Career Advisers on other campuses. This can also be done via JobTeaser by selecting the relevant campus from the drop-down menu.

As part of our endeavour to provide students with an opportunity to interact virtually with representatives from different companies, the Careers Service will continue to organise virtual company presentations and workshops throughout the term and, as always, you will be informed of all career-related events via email.

For more information on our Careers Service, please contact Rohan Malhotra: rmalhotra@escp.eu

- **Student Events**

A number of online student events will take place throughout the term. You will be informed of these by email. Also, we currently have 17 active student societies organising all sorts of activities and we strongly encourage you to take part. You can find information on Student Societies at <https://www.escpsocieties.com>.

For information on student events and societies, please contact Solene Hoyez: shoyez@escp.eu

- **Wellbeing**

Our wellbeing practitioner, Sharon Francis, can provide online support by means of video chats by appointment. Sharon is available Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am to 5pm at sfrancis@escp.eu.

ESCP also provides all students in London with access to a confidential telephone helpline named Empathy, contactable on 0800 071 3672. Empathy is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and provides personal one-to-one counselling. Empathy can help you with stress, medical, financial and legal issues, as well as psychological problems.

WILL THERE BE ANOTHER STUDENT ‘TRAVEL WINDOW’ TO RETURN TO CAMPUS?

When business schools and universities are permitted to re-open and resume in-person teaching, we anticipate the Government announcing a new travel window.

AM I FREE TO TRAVEL TO THE UK NOW IF I CHOOSE TO?

The Government's current advice is that students should not return to campus and should study from their current residence (in the UK or elsewhere).

Travel to the UK is not encouraged and we advise those of you not already here in the UK to remain where you are, and to avoid international travel.

This recommendation follows on from our advice to you, published on 22nd December, to defer your travel to the UK.

If you are in transit or are committed to travel, you must make ESCP aware in advance of your intended arrival date so that you can be appropriately supported upon arrival.

If you stayed in London over the winter break or you have already returned/arrived, you will need to pay careful attention to government advice on international travel, including travel home. We will update you with any material information.

ENTERING THE UK

Key Updates:

- All UK travel corridors, which allow arrivals from some countries to avoid having to quarantine, have now closed.
- Travellers arriving in the UK, whether by boat, train or plane, also have to show proof of a negative Covid-19 test to be allowed entry. The test must be taken in the 72 hours before travelling and anyone arriving without one faces a fine of up to £500.
- All passengers will still be required to quarantine for up to 10 days. The isolation period can be cut short with a negative test after five days.
- The government has said the travel corridor closure will be in force until at least 15th February 2021.

The Department for Transport (DfT) announced that as of 18th January 2021, all international passengers will have to test negative for COVID-19 before travelling to the UK. Passengers arriving by plane, boat or train, including UK nationals, will now be required to take a COVID-19 test up to 72 hours before their departure to the UK.

You **must take a test** even if you are a UK citizen or you are coming from a country on the travel corridors list.

You **do not need to take a test** if you began your journey to England from: Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man, Jersey or Guernsey, Ascension, Falkland Islands, or St Helena.

Short video on testing rules

The DfT has now provided guidance on the type of tests that will be accepted. You can find this information here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-people-travelling-to-england>

The new rules will apply to all arrivals to the UK regardless of their country of departure. Even when you have provided a negative test for entering the country, you must follow the rules for self-isolating when you arrive in England.

You may opt into the Test to Release for International Travel scheme to shorten your self-isolation period.

The scheme is not available to anyone who has been in or through South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Zambia and Zimbabwe in the 10 days before arrival in England.

This list is kept regularly under review and therefore is subject to change. Travellers should continue to check the guidance for the latest details.

All returning and incoming travellers will need to continue to fill in the passenger locator form and it has been reported the UK Border Force will conduct spot checks on arrival with those failing to comply with the new rules at risk of receiving a £500 on-the-spot fine.

Exemptions to the new restrictions include children under the age of 11 and “those travelling from countries without the infrastructure available to deliver the tests.” Those arriving from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and St Lucia will be exempt until 4am on Thursday 21st January. This information may change at any time, so please check the Government information before you travel.

WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE ALREADY BOOKED A TEST WITH THE ESCP/UOL PARTNERSHIP COVID-19 TESTING CENTRE?

In the light of changes to government guidance on the staggered return to university this term, UoL has revised its booking system to only allow for bookings to be made up to five days in advance. This is to ensure that when students receive details of their return date there are adequate spaces available and appointments have not been pre-booked by students who are not now returning at that date.

The testing site will provide tests for students returning to education in the new year from 5th January 2021 and amended booking dates will be provided to reflect the delayed return to Campus for most students. The test is for students who do not have symptoms of COVID-19.

If you have made a booking for a date more than five days in the future you should cancel it and re-book nearer to your return date when confirmed. You can book one or two free tests at that time. NHS Test and Trace advises you to book two tests, the second three days after the first.

CAN EU STUDENTS COMING TO STUDY IN LONDON FOR ONE SEMESTER STILL USE THE EUROPEAN HEALTH INSURANCE (EHIC) CARD IN THE UK?

The EHIC card is no longer valid for EU students arriving in the UK from 1st January 2021. All new students will need to arrange for medical insurance for their stay here. The exceptions are EU students with Pre-Settled status.

2. PREVIOUS INFORMATION

WHAT SANITARY MEASURES HAVE BEEN PUT IN PLACE FOR INDIVIDUALS STUDYING AT OR WORKING ON THE LONDON CAMPUS?

The following risk prevention measures have been in place since the re-opening of the Campus to students in September 2020:

Social distancing

The School is keeping people two metres apart from others where practicable and at least one metre apart in all settings. Where social distancing is closer to one metre than two metres, appropriate mitigation is in place.

Face coverings

These must be worn as an additional risk-mitigation measure by students, staff and visitors. This requirement applies to all communal spaces where social distancing is difficult to maintain, such as corridors, classrooms, and communal areas. Individuals do not need to wear a face-covering if they have a legitimate reason not to. This includes:

- if someone has a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability, that means they cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering
- if putting on, wearing or removing a face covering would cause someone severe distress

Additional sanitary measures

We have also identified and implemented a range of protective measures in order to comply with government guidance for safe workplaces, based on an assessment of the risks and requirements of each environment. This has included:

- increased availability of handwashing and hand-sanitisation facilities where hand-washing facilities are less readily available

- managing entrance to, exit from, and movement around our building, as well as such measures as one-way entrances, exits and staircases
- temperature checks at point of entry to the building

Cleaning

The School has introduced enhanced cleaning measures, including more frequent cleaning of rooms and shared areas that are used by different groups, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces.

Ventilation

We are ensuring that all indoor and covered areas have good ventilation in addition to other methods of risk reduction. The aim is to reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus (COVID-19) by aerosol transmission. Only air conditioning systems relying on fresh rather than recycled air are being deployed.

WHAT MEASURES WILL THE SCHOOL TAKE IN THE CASE OF AN OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 ON CAMPUS?

We have developed an Outbreak Management Plan which provides a roadmap for critical incident management and for forming a response to different COVID-19 alert levels within a single escalation framework. It outlines the roles and responsibilities of ESCP personnel and units, and the functions that public partners can be expected to provide to the School based on present understanding.

The Outbreak Management Plan identifies Levels 1-5 of an escalation framework.

At Levels 1-3, the Campus remains open to students with only specific individuals and their close contacts isolated from Campus dependent on the nature, volume and relationship of cases. Efforts are focused on the identification of positive cases and on precautionary actions for close contacts. Levels 4 and 5 apply when the Campus and local public health teams identify an outbreak situation on-campus or risk of outbreak in light of local developments.

Regional or national developments such as a 'lockdown' or the introduction of 'circuit break' measures could also progress the School to the latter stages of its framework but this depends on their specific provisions.

In summary:

Level 1 applies where there are no cases. The Campus operates normally under its Covid-security protocols.

Level 2 applies where there are a small number of isolated cases and isolations. The Campus operates normally under its Covid-security protocols but specific individuals are isolated from Campus.

Level 3 applies where there are a small number of cases but more than a single case is evident in one specific study group or cohort. The Campus operates normally under its Covid-security protocols but individual study groups or bubbles may be isolated from Campus for 10-14 days.

Level 4 requires the Campus to close to students for a specific period following evidence of escalating case numbers and linkages on Campus. National measures applied to educational establishments could also migrate the Campus to level 4 of its framework.

Level 5 requires the Campus to close to both staff and students for a specific period following identification of infection presence amongst staff following the removal of students from site at level 4. National measures applied to educational establishments could also migrate the Campus to level 5 of its framework without passing through intermediate stages.

WHERE SHOULD I DIRECT MY QUESTIONS ABOUT COVID-19 AND THE DIFFERENT FORMS OF SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO ME?

Programme related queries should be directed to your Programme Director or Manager. These individuals can tell you about your programme structure, rules, calendar, and timetable.

For questions concerning COVID-19 response measures, campus status or services, please use our London Campus enquiries email: studentaffairslondon@escp.eu. If you require further help please, make use of the School-level support services by emailing directly to studentshelpdesk.covid19@escp.eu. You can also contact our Campus Nurse, Sharon Francis: sfrancis@escp.eu.

3. ADVICE FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND APPLICANTS

CAN I GET A VISA TO STUDY IN LONDON IF I REQUIRE ONE?

The pandemic does not alter the fact that visas are required to study in the UK under certain circumstances.

You can find information on the different visa routes/rules here: <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>. These rules have been heavily updated in recent months due to the end of the Brexit Transition Period.

Students studying in London for more than six months must now apply for a Student Route Visa. This applies to all EU nationals as well as other international students. EU students do not need to obtain a visa if they are coming to the UK for a period of less than six months but do face other documentary documents. **Please access our FAQ Sheets within the London tab of the [Visas & Residence Permits section of the ESCP website](#) for further information**, or contact our Visa Officer, [Anna Lozhkina](#).

CAN I STILL GET A VISA IF I AM UNABLE TO TRAVEL TO START MY STUDIES DUE TO COVID-19?

Where a student visa is required, you can be sponsored to start a course that is delivered

temporarily through distance learning or through a mix of face-to-face and distance learning ('blended' learning). You may have to demonstrate the temporary character of these arrangements and the intention of the sponsoring institution to move you to a wholly or substantially face-to-face delivery mode as soon as possible. This concession will remain in place until the end of the 2020-2021 academic year.

I WAS GRANTED A TIER 4 OR VISITOR VISA, BUT DUE TO COVID-19 I CANNOT TRAVEL TO THE UK WITHIN THE VIGNETTE VALIDITY DATES. CAN I RENEW MY VIGNETTE?

In case you are not able to arrive in the UK before the expiry date of your vignette, you can request a replacement visa vignette with revised validity dates free of charge until the end of this year. You will need to email CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk and include your name, nationality, date of birth and your GWF reference number with 'REPLACEMENT 30 DAY VISA' in the subject line.

THE UK VISA CENTRE IN MY COUNTRY IS CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19 AND I CANNOT APPLY FOR MY VISA TO JOIN MY COURSE IN JANUARY 2021. CAN I OBTAIN A VISA AT THE BORDER?

It is not possible to come to the UK and get a visa upon arrival. We recommend you to closely monitor the situation in your country and check the reopening time of the visa centre. You can also speak to your programme administrator about online studies.

WHAT IF MY GMAT/GRE TEST HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO TEST CENTRE CLOSURES, OR I CAN NO LONGER TRAVEL TO TAKE MY TEST?

GMAT™ Online Exam

Since mid-April, GMAT has offered an alternative exam online. This test offers a comparable structure, time, and scoring as the exam delivered in the test centres.

More information about the online GMAT test can be found at this link:

<https://www.mba.com/exams/gmat-online>

As we progress through the pandemic, many test centers have reopened worldwide.

New GRE at-home testing:

To meet the needs of candidates who are unable to take the GRE General Test at a test centre, ETS is temporarily offering a [GRE General Test at-home option](#) in selected areas. The test is identical in content, format, and on-screen experience to the GRE General Test taken at a test centre. It is taken on your own computer at home and is securely monitored by a human proctor online through ProctorU®. For more information visit the [ETS website](#).

If you already have a test score but have been instructed by us to retake it and achieve a higher score, the same conditions apply. You are expected to retake the test online or as soon as you are able.

CAN I APPLY WITHOUT A GMAT/GRE SCORE?

If you are applying to the Master in Management or the MBA in International Management and you do not have a GMAT or GRE, you have the option to do our in-house SHL test. For more information, please contact masterlondonadmissions@escp.eu. We do not require a GMAT/GRE test for our Specialised Master programmes.

For Executive Education programmes, a GMAT/GRE test is not a requirement. For more information, please contact ukexeced@escp.eu.

AS PART OF MY UK STUDENT VISA APPLICATION, I NEED TO PROVIDE AN ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TEST. DO YOU RUN IN-HOUSE TESTS?

ESCP London Campus can provide internal English tests for those students who have accepted programme offers and have paid their deposits. You will be able to use these tests for your Student Visa application. For more information please contact London Visa Team: visasupportlondon@escp.eu.

I HAVE PLANNED TO TAKE MY ENGLISH TEST WITH AN EXTERNAL BODY. WHAT IF MY TEST HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO TEST-CENTRE CLOSURES OR I CAN NO LONGER TRAVEL TO TAKE MY TEST?

If you are keen to take an English Language Test in support of a UK visa or immigration application, we recommend that you visit the following resources:

- [IELTS UKVI](#)
- [The Pearson Test of English](#)
- [LanguageCert](#)

Contact your nearest test centre for more information and for guidance as to how you can book your Secure English Language Test.

If you are unable to take your English Test at one of the testing centres of these recognised bodies, please contact our Visa Officer: alozhkina@escp.eu

CAN I SUBMIT AN APPLICATION WITHOUT AN ENGLISH TEST?

Yes, we will accept applications without proof of English if you are unable to provide official test certificates. Please contact us for more details.

CAN I GET AN APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENSION?

We might consider individual deadline extensions in exceptional circumstances. In order to apply for a deadline extension, please email our admissions team with clear reasoning for the request.

I HAVE ARRIVED IN THE UK WITH MY VISA VIGNETTE AND I NEED TO COLLECT MY BRP. HOWEVER, I NEED TO QUARANTINE FOR 14 DAYS. HOW CAN I COLLECT THIS FROM THE POST OFFICE?

You can nominate someone else to collect your BRP if you have a serious illness or disability that prevents you from collecting it. They must provide your passport as evidence that you've entered the UK.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

We will be happy to provide you with more information via email/call, please contact us to set up an individual call:

- Undergraduate team: bachelorlondonadmissions@escp.eu
- Postgraduate team: masterlondonadmissions@escp.eu
- Executive Education team: ukexeced@escp.eu