

Covid Update 1st February 2021

As an AEGIS accredited agency, Academic Families seeks advice from AEGIS which in turn seems clarification from the relevant governmental departments on issues relating specifically to international students. Our current understanding of the situation is -

Lockdown and Schools

Schools are will remain open for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. All other children will learn remotely.

“Vulnerable children and the children of critical workers who have already travelled to their boarding school should continue to receive face to face education. Where other pupils have already travelled to their boarding school, in anticipation of school starting, they can continue to receive remote education in their boarding houses. Vulnerable children and the children of critical workers who have not yet done so can return to their boarding school to receive face to face education. Where other pupils have not yet returned to their boarding school, they should not travel and should receive remote education at home.”

England - face-to-face learning will not resume before 8th March at the earliest. Next update (week commencing) w/c 22.2.21

Scotland - face-to-face learning is hoped to resume in February – last update 21.1.21

Wales - no indication when face-to-face learning will resume – last update 27.1.21

Northern Ireland - face-to-face learning will not resume before 8th March at the earliest. Next update (week commencing) w/c 22.2.21

Half Term

Students can stay with hosts for half term and during lockdown if schools close and ask them to leave. As before, students can go to their 'family' home which includes going to their Academic Families host.

Self-isolation in Residential Settings

Covid positive or symptomatic international boarders should self-isolate where they show symptoms/test positive and not move whether at school or with a host.

Travel

UK Entry Requirements

Travel corridors have closed and people must self-isolate after arriving in the UK, even if they have tested negative. [On arrival](#), a completed passenger locator form and proof of a negative coronavirus test is required.

Banned or limited UK travel

Several countries have banned or limited UK travel so some students are unable to return to their home country.

China - all direct flights from the UK to mainland China have been suspended - no review date.

Hong Kong - travellers who have visited the UK for more than two hours within the past 21 days will be denied entry to Hong Kong. This includes those transiting the UK if they disembark the aircraft.

Turkey - direct flights have been temporarily suspended from UK to Turkey.

Check [individual country guidance](#)

Further Border Measures Announced 27.1.21

The government has announced further action for outbound and inbound passengers to minimise travel across international borders and reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission, in particular:

Leaving the UK

- declaring reason for travel: anyone who does not have a valid reason for travel will be directed to return home and may face a fine - the reason for travel will be checked
- increased police enforcement: there will be an increased police presence at ports and airports, fining those in breach of the stay at home regulations - anyone without valid reason for travel will be directed to return home and may face a fine
- reviewing travel exemptions: the list of travel exemptions will be urgently reviewed so that only the most important and exceptional reasons are included

However, any international student returning home has valid reason for travel.

Entering the UK

New [border controls](#) are in place to protect public health.

- managed isolation in hotels - this will be for those arriving from countries where we have imposed international travel bans and who cannot be refused entry - they will be required to isolate for 10 days without exception. Boarding school students can complete their quarantine at boarding school as they are not allowed to stay in an hotel on their own. Awaiting guidance for students whose school does not offer quarantine.
- police checks - police are carrying out more physical checks at addresses to make sure people are self-isolating.

I know this is disappointing reading but please contact us to support your child's requirements. It appears that travel home for international students is valid and presumably travel into the UK will be valid when schools open.

We are very much looking forward to seeing everyone back soon! On the upside, our vaccination programme is troling out well so we are hopeful to have brighter news soon.

Stay safe and let us know if you need additional support if school is not fully supporting your child with time difference challenges.