

Questions and Answers for students returning to the Island

Q: Will students who return to the island due to Covid-19 issues, who do not continue with their studies, need to repay an award provided to them by the Department?

A: Students who return to the Island due to Covid-19 disruption/related reasons and do not want to continue with their studies will not be required to repay the award already provided by the Department. However, students should be made aware that, if they decide to commence another course in the future, as per Education (Student Awards) Regulations 2019, a student is not eligible for an award for a course if he or she has already commenced a course at a Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) level equivalent to or higher than that course, unless the withdrawal was for medical reasons. Should you require advice please contact the Student award team prior to making your decision.

Q: What course costs would the Department pay if the Universities have to close due to Covid-19?

A: If a University should decide to temporarily close due to Covid-19 the Department would expect a comprehensive online provision to be available to students and that students are able to continue their studying remotely.

Q: Due to potential changes in learning model to an online provision will the University tuition fees be reduced?

A: As the University would still be providing the lectures/tutorials online we do not expect the fees will be reduced. The Department will still be required to continue to pay student tuition fees should Universities change to an online learning model. Any future overall reduction in the fees charged to students would first need to be agreed between the University and the UK Government.

Q: What will the Department do if in the 2020/2021 academic year student placements are affected due to Covid-19 issues?

A: If a student is unable to complete their clinical practice/placement due to Covid-19 restrictions the Department will support an extension to their current academic year application for the requested period of time upon receipt of confirmation and advice from their relevant University.

Q: What will the Department do if students need to resit part of the 2020/2021 academic year in the following academic year due to Covid-19 issues?

A: If a student is required to resit part of the 2020/21 academic year due to Covid-19 disruption/related reasons, the Department will support an extension to their current academic year application for the requested period of time upon receipt of confirmation and advice from their relevant University and/or medical evidence from a medical professional.

Q: When will students receive their 2nd and 3rd maintenance payments? Will this remain unchanged?

A: The 2nd maintenance payment is usually made in the first week of January and the 3rd made the week after Easter. There will be no change to the payments dates for these maintenance payments.

Q: If a student does not return to University but continues their study online, will they still receive their 2nd and 3rd maintenance payments?

A: Provided they continue with their studies the Department will pay the 2nd and 3rd maintenance payments at the usual time.

Q: If Covid-19 impacts a student's learning and they receive a lower second class honours (2:2) will they be eligible for postgraduate support (normally an upper second class honours+)?

A: The Department would not accept a lower second class honours degree for postgraduate support. The Education (Student Awards) Regulations 2019, 6(5)(d) states: the student must hold the following minimum qualifications in the case of:

- (i) a Master of Arts or Master of Science degree;
- (ii) a post graduate Diploma;
- (iii) a course leading to a qualification enabling the student to teach in a school in the island or the United Kingdom an upper second class honours degree.

Q: Will the Government be subsidising any student travel costs back to the Island?

A: Travel arrangements and the cost for students travelling between the Isle of Man and University is the responsibility of the student and their parents. The Department has no current plans to subsidise travel. Logan Air and IOM Steam Packet are offering special student fares to Isle of Man residents.

Q: How will Department funding be affected if a course is cancelled, or a student chooses to change subjects due to Covid-19?

A: Students who return to the Island due to Covid-19 disruption/related reasons will not be required to repay the award provided by the Department. If a University should choose to cancel a course the Department would support a repeat Year One student application in the 2021/22 academic year. If a student chooses to change subjects due to Covid-19 students should be made aware that, as per Education (Student Awards) Regulations 2019, a student is not eligible for an award for a course if he or she has already commenced a course at an RQF level equivalent to or higher than that course unless the withdrawal was for medical reasons.

The regulations are available online at: <https://www.gov.im/categories/education-training-and-careers/student-awards/student-award-legislation/>