



INDEPENDENT
HIGHER
EDUCATION

Covid-19 Update: 27 April

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IHE Covid-19 Information Hub

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<http://independenthe.com/activities/covid-19-hub>

Bringing together information and resources from across government, sector and commercial partners

FAQs

<http://independenthe.com/activities/covid-19-hub/faq>

Collated from questions at Weekly Update and Member Drop-in sessions

Themed information and resources

- Admissions and recruitment
- Finance and Human Resources
- International students and visas
- Regulation and the OfS
- Student welfare and support
- Teaching and learning



IHE Drop-in schedule

- Monday will be a general update and drop-in
- Wednesday will be a short general update and a specialist webinar with Q&A
- This week's specialist session: widening participation and access
- On Fridays we will send a weekly email with all the essential information from the week
- As before we will continue to update the IHE COVID-19 Information Hub with all the latest information.



Webinar: Online Student Support

When: 30 April 2020, 14:00-15:00

Who: Tanya Tanna, Student Support and Wellbeing Manager, and Akosua Bonsu, Director of Studies for Thinking into Character.

The webinar will cover two online tools, used by the college to promote mental health and well-being.

- **Mind Connect:** Students have immediate access to bespoke mental health support information and helplines which they can access whenever they need in times of difficulties.
- **Thinking into Character (TIC):** Thinking into Character is an online Personal and Professional Development Programme, covering a wide range of topics within the general category of self-development.

If you are interested register on the [following link](#)



Last week's essential news

27 April 2020



Major Changes

- There was further extension on the moratorium on unconditional offers extended until 4 May 2020
- The CJRS application portal opened and further guidance was provided for Higher Education including staff furlough and classification as a key worker
- Government releases new guidance for Tier 4 and short-term study (Replaces all other temporary guidance, applicable from 17 April 2020)



Finance and Human Resources

- [Media reports](#) of an impasse between the Treasury and DfE on providing specific support for higher education, delaying a government response to [Universities UK's proposals](#)
- Shadow Minister for Universities, Emma Hardy, [called on](#) the government to underwrite higher education funding to protect and prevent institutions from going bankrupt as a result of the coronavirus crisis.
- IHE continues to discuss with DfE how the needs of independent and SME providers can be met within any package.



Finance and Human Resources

Summary of interesting media reporting

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/opinion/universities-must-learn-banks-survive-after-covid-19-shutdown>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/mar/31/covid-19-is-our-best-chance-to-change-universities-for-good>

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/apr/24/the-guardian-view-on-universities-a-bailout-is-in-all-our-interests>

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/covid-19-crisis-mergers-will-be-price-of-university-bailout-9rtbqkrlv>

David Willetts – UK universities are a success story, they need help now <https://www.ft.com/content/29c0ea56-854f-11ea-b6e9-a94cfd1d9bf>

Jo Johnson - <https://www.researchprofessionalnews.com/rr-he-government-other-politics-2020-4-covid-driven-cap-on-student-numbers-would-never-be-lifted/>



Finance and Human Resources

From The Times:

"A source close to the government, who is working on plans for universities, said: "This is being seen as a chance to restructure the sector. Civil servants are discussing proposals to attach strings to the bailout of each university over the next 12 months. I do not think any university will go bust but up to 30 could lose their identity and a lot of their research and look very different."



Finance and Human Resources

CJRS portal now open

HE-specific guidance published: <https://bit.ly/2xJgJ5E>, including conditions for furloughing staff

- “Any grant from the CJRS should not duplicate other sources of public funding where these are being maintained, such as **UK home student tuition fees.**”
- “As a guiding principle, HE providers should not seek to furlough a higher proportion of their wage bill than could reasonably be considered to have been generated through commercial income”

DfE additional clarification on identifying **key workers** in higher education

<http://independentthe.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/200421-COVID-19-Keyworkers-Letter.pdf>



International Students

Government releases new guidance for Tier 4 and short-term study (Replaces all other temporary guidance, applicable from 17 April 2020)

- Includes information on teaching hours, absences, volunteering, working and exceeding time limits.
- Expands ability for providers to judge English language on some courses.
- Outlines conditions for extending and switching in-country, including for short term students.
- Provides additional guidance for online delivery.



Regulation and the OfS

OfS have [relaxed their funding rules](#) to allow providers with public funding to use the student premium and disabled student premium to support mental health and wellbeing, and to use the capital funding allocation to support individual students to access online learning.

OfS have temporarily decided to [pause new registration applications](#).



New this week



Teaching and Learning

'No Detriment' Policies: An Overview – QAA

A 'no detriment' policy seeks to mitigate against the impact of a set of circumstances, by ensuring that an individual is not unfairly disadvantaged by a requirement to change rules or regulations, in session. Most commonly this translates into calculating and evaluating two outcomes:

- the outcome as it would have been if the changes had not been implemented
- the outcome after implementation of the changes.

Each provider to have its own policy

Provides a set of reflective questions to develop/review

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/news-events/support-and-guidance-covid-19/academic-standards-supporting-student-achievement>



Teaching and Learning

The Department for Education has announced the launch of a consultation on proposals for awarding other general, vocational and technical qualifications.

- The deadline for evidence is 11.45pm on the 8th of May. Providers can respond online.
- Full details of the consultation can also be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/exceptional-arrangements-for-assessment-and-grading-in-2020>



Teaching and Learning

The Department is proposing plans for awarding vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs) and general qualifications (other than GCSEs, AS and A levels) in 2020 to:

- provide a temporary extraordinary regulatory framework for qualifications that sets out how an awarding organisation (AO) should calculate results or adapt or delay assessments
- allow AOs to provide clarity to schools, colleges and training providers about what evidence they should gather and consider, and what evidence they will submit, where required to calculate a grade
- allow AOs to make clear which learners should receive a calculated result (and how it will be awarded), or be required to complete an assessment
- enable AOs to access, adapt, or build the systems needed to issue results this summer and adapt assessments where this is necessary



Student Welfare and Student Support

Following on from the OfS accommodation briefing note

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/coronavirus-briefing-note-student-accommodation/>

DfE message regarding students clearing belongings from accommodation

- Accommodation providers and landlords should not be putting pressure on students to travel back to halls or private housing to pick up belongings left behind before the government lockdown on 23 March.



Resources

HMRC Webinars on the CJRS

Making a claim via the CJRS

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/87281838429017601>

General introductory webinar about the CJRS

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/5375741452699706882>

QAA Webinars

Engaging with Students Online (with the Open University) – 30 April

Assessing with Integrity – 30 April

Calculating Grades for the Access to HE Diploma (for providers and for students) – 30 April & 1 May

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/news-events/events>



Upcoming Network Meetings

- **28 May** – [Quality Managers Staff Network](#)
- **28 May** – [Student Services Staff Network](#)
- **23 June** – [Heads of Finance Staff Network](#)
- **7 July** – [Admissions Managers Staff Network](#)
- **7 July** – [Tier 4 Compliance Staff Network](#)



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