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# Covid-19 Update: 15 April

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# IHE Covid-19 Information Hub

15 April

- IHE Covid-19 Information Hub
  - <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



# Business and Finance

15 April

- New guidance from Government on [claiming for employees' wages](#) through Coronavirus job retention scheme
- New guidance on [Self-employment income support scheme](#)
- New case studies on Coronavirus business support: <https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/case-studies/>



# Business and Finance

15 April

- Scotland has [extended their support for business packages](#) to match England



# Teaching and Learning

15 April

- [New guidance on apprenticeships](#) from government:
  - End point assessments
  - Guidance for employers
  - External quality assurance providers
- JISC have created a [Microsoft Teams community space](#) for strategic and operational continuity staff and are hosting a [Cloud live online clinic on cloud collaboration and productivity tools](#) 16 & 30 April



# HE Sector

15 April

## Universities UK releases [Package of measures proposed to enable universities to play a critical role in rebuilding the nation](#)

- UUK recommends a package of measures to “maximise universities’ contribution to the economy, communities and the post virus recovery”
- Covers all four nations
- “The sector will reduce costs, increase efficiency and moderate certain behaviours to increase stability and sustainability”



# HE Sector

15 April

- Recommendations include:
  - Support for research
  - One-year control on student numbers at +5% projections and sector agreement on fair admissions practices
  - Targeted support to protect and sustain courses that meet the national need for key public sector workers
  - Targeted support for reskilling through growth in part-time provision and flexible adult learning including shorter credit-bearing courses
  - Measures to support retention and progression, particularly for those students from disadvantaged backgrounds
  - Targeted support for small and specialist institutions
  - Targeted support for institutions with distinct missions (international students)
  - Transformation fund
  - Eligibility for government support packages
  - Bridging loans
  - Reprofile teaching grant allocations and SLC tuition payments
  - International Student recruitment: visas, EU loans, graduate immigration route



# Regulation

15 April

## Office for Students sends [new email](#) to accountable officers (14/04/2020)

- Still requiring minimum expectations for quality and standards
- New teams set up in OfS under Susan Lapworth to work with individual providers within the Competition and Registration directorate. Each provider has been allocated to a team and told their head of team's name.
- Government financial Support: HE providers open to apply for Business Interruption and Corporate financing facility – final confirmation on eligibility expected
- TEF: No date for next TEF or consultation of future scheme
- Reminder of info on OfS website
  
- FAQ on small HE providers which simply refers providers to latest government information





# International Students

15 April

## UKCISA has new information

- New student questions
  - Can students start a new online course?
  - New details on visa extension scheme
  - New visa applications in the UK
  - Support for accommodation issues
  - New work rules – Tier2/5 new jobs, self-employed and work scheme eligibility
  - **Clarification on Migrant Worker status** for EEA/Swiss migrant workers
  - No recourse to public funds
- New student advice line sessions
- New member online training sessions
- Weekly updates to Home Office and governments departments on issues from students and members
- mindfulness seminar for UKCISA members
- HEPI Blog by UKCISA CEO on [Looking after international students during the Covid-19 crisis – and after](#)
  - Extra time in UK not count towards overall study cap calculation
  - Waive any academic profession requirement for existing students submitting leave to remain applications



# International Students

15 April

- Home office have issued new information for employers sponsoring a student or employee who are waiting for their application to be decided – they can start work if:
  - you have assigned them a CoS
  - the employee submitted their application before their current visa expired
  - the role they are employed in is the same as the one on their CoS



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# Student Support and Wellbeing

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# Government

## Department for Education FAQ for Student Support

- Students with PT jobs should speak to employers about the Coronavirus job retention scheme
- “many universities will already have hardship funds to support students most in need and you should contact your institution”
- Access to mental health support: Government has told VCs to prioritise this, and “many universities are bolstering their existing mental health services and adapting them in the absence of face-to-face support”



# Regulation

Office for Students have released [expectations for student support](#) (paragraphs 34-39 and Student outcomes 40-44)

- Support vulnerable students, including those now vulnerable due to COVID-19
- Student support should include accessibility of online learning
- Communicate with students, include phone and post
- Students may require increased pastoral support and resources
- Mental health and well-being support should continue with alternative arrangements
- Regulation will be through complaints from OIA and public/students



# Regulation

Office for Students publishes [FAQ for students](#) on Health, wellbeing and support

- Expectations for pastoral care
- Support for students with care experience, refugees, estranged students and other vulnerable groups
- Expectations for mental health support
- What to do if students feel their university or college is not doing enough?



# HE Sector Support

- **Student Minds creates specific [Coronavirus resources](#)**
  - Looking after your mental health
  - Guidance for those with ongoing mental health difficulties
  - Staying at home and your mental health
  - Xenophobia and racism following COVID-19 concerns
  - Supporting your friends and family
  - [Student Minds blogs](#) – created by students for students about about coronavirus and mental health.



# JISC: Managing emotionally challenging situations for frontline staff

- [JISC course on 18 & 22 May](#) covering scenarios supporting students in a “digital lifestyle” to allow staff to practice and develop their skills in managing emotionally challenging conversation and share practice between organisations.





# Mental Wellbeing

NHS Tavistock Webinar on Mental Health and Wellbeing for Students and Staff from 9 April 2020

- Email [info@independenthe.com](mailto:info@independenthe.com) for link to recording (members only)



# IHE Drop-in schedule

- No drop in this Friday: General update by email this Friday
- Monday (new time TBC): general update and drop-in for members and non-members



# Contact IHE

- Email [info@independenthe.com](mailto:info@independenthe.com)
- Phone 020 3929 3370