



INDEPENDENT
HIGHER
EDUCATION

Covid-19 Update: 18 May

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IHE Covid-19 Information Hub

IHE Covid-19 Information Hub

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

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

FAQs

<http://independentthe.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



Weekly Covid-19 comms schedule

Monday – a weekly update webinar with Q&A for members and non-members

Wednesday – a short general update and specialist webinar with Q&A for members only

Friday – an email rounding up the week's essential information

... and we continue to update the IHE Covid-19 Information Hub on our website with all the latest information.



IHE Members Drop-in: 20 May

Members Drop-in **20 May** will focus on **Business and Finance**

- Outline of government schemes available
- Overview of HE guidance on accessing government schemes
- Schemes in the devolved nations
- The impact of SNCs in 2020-21
- Consideration for OfS registered providers – New condition E6
- Guidance for students from Student Loans

Members will be able to view the recording by using the registration link from Thursday each week. Friday update emails will include the link to each specialist and general update session.



IHE Member Networks

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](#)

Follow the link to register or email events@independenthe.com



Webinar: CMA Essentials for Higher Education

When: 10 June 2020, 13:00-16:30

Who: Leading law firm Pinsent Masons, alongside EdAd, specialist consultants on CMA processes in student recruitment and admissions.

The workshop will cover the following topics:

- Understanding the CMA Higher Education Guidance
- Updated legal considerations for staff responsible for consumer protection in higher education
- Role of OfS in consumer protection
- Strategies for applying and managing the CMA Higher Education guidance in recruitment, admissions and student complaints & appeals.

Tickets for *non-members* will be £75 per person. If you are interested in attending please click on the [following link](#) to register.



Webinar: New to Tier 4

When: 1 June 2020, 14:00-17:00

Who: Nichola Carter, Head of Immigration at Carter Thomas Solicitors, Tema Nwulu, Advice and Training Officer at UKCISA, and Peter Skillen, Director Risk and Compliance Study Group.

This workshop is relevant to all members who **currently do not have a Tier 4 License**. The workshop will cover the following topics:

Tickets for *non-members* will be £75 per person. If you are interested in attending click on the [following link](#) to book your place.



Last week's essential news

18 May 2020



Finance and Human Resources

Government Schemes

- The job [retention scheme](#) has been extended until October

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-extends-furlough-scheme-until-october?mc_cid=f9308b1bac&mc_eid=bbd4c6bd5e

- The Self-Employment Income Support Scheme [opened](#) for applications on Tuesday.

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/applications-for-self-employment-income-support-scheme-open-early?mc_cid=f9308b1bac&mc_eid=bbd4c6bd5e



Finance and Human Resources

- In Scotland properties occupied by charities can now [apply](#) for the £10,000 Small Business Grant Scheme.

<https://www.gov.scot/news/extra-support-for-charities/>

- In Scotland there is an [additional](#) £45m for Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund.

<https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/coronavirus-advice>

- KPMG are offering free training on customs duty training, contact us for more detail



Admissions and Recruitment

- The Student Loans Company has published a message to students expecting to start courses in the autumn, encouraging them to apply for their loans early and a guide to help them do this: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/message-from-david-wallace-deputy-ceo-of-the-student-loans-company>



International Students

- Million Plus issued a briefing paper addressing the challenges of international student recruitment:
http://www.millionplus.ac.uk/policy/policy-briefings/international-student-recruitment-in-the-age-of-covid-19?mc_cid=f9308b1bac&mc_eid=bbd4c6bd5e
- British Council has new reports on Covid-19 and higher education in Europe:
<https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/response-covid-19>



Regulation and the OfS

- OfS have published Q&A for the proposed new condition of registration on the integrity and stability of the English higher education sector. The consultation closes on 26 May. https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/coronavirus/provider-guide-to-coronavirus/time-limited-condition-of-registration/?mc_cid=f9308b1bac&mc_eid=bbd4c6bd5e
- OfS published the Unistats 2020: timetable and arrangements for the submission and publication of data.:
https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/1d729e5e-4262-48e9-b809-7ab1b4fb2649/unistats-publication-of-data-2020.pdf?mc_cid=f9308b1bac&mc_eid=bbd4c6bd5e



Regulation and the OfS

- OfS has released a full table of those receiving recurrent funding for 2020/21:
https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/recurrent-funding-for-2020-21/?mc_cid=f9308b1bac&mc_eid=bbd4c6bd5e
- OfS have updated their advice and guidance pages on degree awarding powers and university title:
<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/regulation/degree-awarding-powers-and-university-title/degree-awarding-powers/>



Teaching and Learning

- The UKCGE has produced guidance on maintaining the quality and standards of doctoral Degrees: <http://www.ukcge.ac.uk/article/covid-19-doctoral-considerations-guidance-note-456.aspx>
- New statutory instrument which allows ITT providers to award qualified teachers status due to COVID-19: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/464/memorandum/contents>
- Ofqual has published a blog on Making grades as fair as they can be: https://ofqual.blog.gov.uk/2020/05/15/making-grades-as-fair-as-they-can-be-advice-for-schools-and-colleges/?mc_cid=f9308b1bac&mc_eid=bbd4c6bd5e
- Teaching unions including UCU have set out five tests that government and colleges should meet before staff and students can return: <https://www.ucu.org.uk/news>



Student Welfare and Student Support

- The OfS has published a new insight brief on supporting estranged students who may have no family support:
https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/coronavirus-briefing-note-students-without-family-support/?mc_cid=f9308b1bac&mc_eid=bbd4c6bd5e
- Student Minds has two new blogs on managing stress and selfcare:
https://www.studentmindsblog.co.uk/search/label/Covid-19?mc_cid=f9308b1bac&mc_eid=bbd4c6bd5e
- Emsi have produced some great free dashboards on the impact of Covid-19 on employer recruitment:
https://www.economicmodelling.co.uk/emsi-covid-19-dashboard/?mc_cid=f9308b1bac&mc_eid=bbd4c6bd5e



Student Welfare and Student Support

- OfS have updated their FAQs for students leaving halls:
https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-students/student-guide-to-coronavirus/student-faq/?mc_cid=f9308b1bac&mc_eid=bbd4c6bd5e
- Universities UK running a series of free webinars on topics such as mental health, digital careers services, and progression and retention:
<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/events/about/Pages/Upcoming-events.aspx>
- College and Universities Business Officers (CUBO) have published guidance for the collection of belongings from halls of residence:
https://www.cubo.ac.uk/page/Student_Belongings?mc_cid=f9308b1bac&mc_eid=bbd4c6bd5e
- Scotland has introduced a Bill which would create a notice period for student halls:
https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/coronavirus-scotland-no2-bill?mc_cid=f9308b1bac&mc_eid=bbd4c6bd5e



New this week

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Government

Gavin Williamson writes opinion piece on schools re-opening:

- Keeping class sizes small, being rigorous about hygiene, cleaning, staggering break and mealtimes, watching other countries.

<https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/05/15/opinion-piece-by-education-secretary-gavin-williamson/>

DfE Q&A about protective measures being put in place in schools:

- Schools keep students in small groups of no more than 15
- Wider opening based on 5 tests

<https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/05/15/questions-on-the-protective-measure-being-put-in-place-in-schools/>



Business and Finance

Student Finance: SLC encourages students in Wales to apply for finance.

- In addition to COVID-19 guidance for current and prospective students on 13 May

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/student-loans-company>



Teaching and Learning

New Advance HE project: Creating Socially Distanced Campuses and Education

- Delivering 6 workshops starting today with practitioners responsible for induction, quality, inclusion, design and delivery, and space and place.
- Get involved by completing a form on the main page

<https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/consultancy-and-enhancement-services/creating-socially-distanced-campus-and-education-project>

New events from Jisc

- **29 May:** Support with planning and delivery of education overseas
- **2 June:** How to help your staff and students thrive in their digital environment: Coronavirus drop-in

<https://www.jisc.ac.uk/training>



Student Welfare and Student Support

Universities UK – Strategic Framework for mentally healthy universities

<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/2020/uuk-stepchange-mhu.pdf>

The framework calls on universities to prioritise the mental health of their students and staff by taking a whole university approach to mental health.

The four areas cited in the framework are: Learn; Support; Work; Live. These map onto the [University Mental Health Charter](#), developed by Student Minds.

The five ‘whole university approach’ enablers:

- Leadership – strong and visible strategic leadership
- Co-production – developing approaches with students and with staff
- Inclusivity – recognising and support the diverse needs of students and staff
- Research & innovation – taking an evidenced informed approach; evaluating approaches and working across disciplines
- Implementation – integrated, organisation-wide approach to achieve significant cultural and structural change



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