



Interruption of Studies Student Guidance

Scope

All taught programmes leading to an award of City University London.

Senate Regulations

Part of Senate Regulation 19 - Assessment Regulations

To be read in conjunction with

- *Interruption of Studies Regulation*
- *Interruption of Studies Policy*
- *INT1 & INT2 form*
- *Any relevant School/PSRB guidance*

Related information:

- *Personal Tutoring Policy*
- *Extenuating Circumstances Policy and Guidance*

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1. Student Guidance

From time to time you may experience personal difficulties that affect your studies. The University has a range of student services available to support you throughout your time at City and you can seek support from your Personal Tutor or contact one of our specialist services directly for advice.

Our advisers can provide you with guidance on financial, health, disability and other matters, as well as access to student counselling and mental health support. You can find details of the services available and how to contact them through the Student Hub at:

<https://studenthub.city.ac.uk/>

If your preparation for an assessment or performance during the assessment itself has been affected by ill-health, bereavement, or other personal issues which were unexpected and out of your control, you can submit an extenuating circumstances application (no later than seven calendar days after the assessment). If your application is accepted you may be able to have a further attempt at the assessment. Details of how to make an application can be found at:

<https://studenthub.city.ac.uk/help-and-support/extenuating-circumstances-complaints-appeals>

If your difficulties continue to affect your ability to study, you may decide that the best option is to have a break, or interrupt your studies.

1.1. Interruption of Studies – the first steps

If you are experiencing long-term personal, financial or health problems, and this directly affects your ability to study, the University will work with you to review and assess your situation. You should make an appointment with your Programme Director/Course Director, Personal Tutor or one of our support advisors to discuss your personal circumstances or concerns.

You can find information about the different support services available on the Student Hub:

<https://studenthub.city.ac.uk/help-and-support>

There are also a number of policies in place to ensure you receive the support you need:

- Significant, short-term, unforeseen adverse circumstances are covered by the Extenuating Circumstances Policy.
- Long-term, chronic conditions and disabilities are covered by the Reasonable Adjustments, Fitness to Study, and/or Interruption of Studies Policies.

- Support for students as parents is covered by the Maternity, Paternity Adoption and Student Parent Guidance.

If you notify members of University staff about your issues, they will treat your personal information in accordance with City confidentiality policies. Where appropriate, they will do their best to direct you to the relevant team to discuss any concerns further. In some cases the University may make a recommendation to you to initiate an interruption in your studies. This is so that you can have some time to deal with the issues you are experiencing and can return to complete your studies once they have improved.

If you are an international student, you should speak to the International Student Advice Team, located in the Student Centre, before applying for the interruption. The Team will advise you on the implications of the interruption for your General Student Visa (Tier 4).

1.2. Notifying the University

If you decide that you wish to interrupt your studies, you will need to seek permission from the School you are enrolled in. You should arrange a meeting with your Programme/Course Director and/or Personal Tutor to discuss your reasons for requesting to interrupt your current studies, whether this might be allowed, and if so, when would be the best time to return. You should complete your application to interrupt your studies and collect the relevant supporting evidence before the final assessment period of term.

At the meeting with your Programme/ Course Director you will make and agree a 'return to studies action plan'. The action plan will help you identify which student support services should be consulted to help you resolve your circumstances and how you should manage your return to the University following the interruption period. The 'return to studies action plan' will be included on the Interruption of Studies Form (INT1) and it will be used again in your Return to Studies Form (INT2).

If you interrupt your studies after teaching has been completed but before the final assessment period of the term, you could apply to attempt your assessment(s) during the period of interruption. This will only be possible when you and your Programme/ Course Director agree the interruption will not affect your academic performance and all assessments must be attempted for those modules.

Once your Programme /Course Director and other relevant student support services have agreed that you should interrupt your studies, you will need to complete the **Interruption of Studies Form (INT1)** which is available online to initiate the formal processes:

http://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/word_doc/0008/289646/interruption-of-studies-form-INT1.docx

The fully completed form should be signed by you and the Programme Director or their Deputy before you submit it to the Course Office. If you need help with completing the

sections on assessment and modules for next term/year, please contact your Course Officer or Programme /Course Director.

Please note that whilst the Programme/ Course Director may have decided to endorse your application, the final decision will be taken by the University.

You will normally be informed of the outcome of your interruption request within one week of submitting the completed Interruption of Studies Form to the Course Office.

The Course Officer will log the details provided in your Interruption of Studies Form in compliance with the University's Data Protection Policy and the Interruption of Studies Staff Guidance notes.

1.3. Returning from an interruption of studies

You will be required to complete the **Return to Studies (INT2) Form** at least six weeks before you are due to return to studies. The form is available from:

http://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/word_doc/0009/289647/interruption-of-Studies-form-INT2.docx

It is important that you complete and return this form because the information you provide will enable the University to complete the appropriate processes in preparation for your return to studies. You should also ensure that your contact details remain up to date and that the University is notified of any change in your circumstances as soon as possible.

When you are due to return to studies as outlined in the approved agreement with your Programme /Course Director and approval at School level, your return will normally be at the beginning of an academic term. This is so that you do not miss any taught sessions. It may be possible for you to return to studies mid-term but only where you have resit assessment(s) without attendance to complete and if there is sufficient time for the resit assessment(s) to be completed.

The University will work with you to make appropriate arrangements for your return to studies. This will include a re-induction meeting with your Programme/ Course Director and may include attending sessions to update your knowledge, including to tell you about any changes to the programme and how this might affect you, relevant changes to the University or School structures and any other relevant changes that may impact on your studies. Depending on the extent of change, you may need to return on a 'Special Scheme of Studies' to complete your programme.

If you interrupt your studies for health reasons, you may be required to provide a statement of wellbeing issued by the relevant health practitioner and meet with a member of student support staff before resuming your programme.

If you have not completed the INT2 form three weeks prior to your agreed return date, you will normally be sent a second reminder to complete the form.

If you have not returned the completed form and responded to the reminders from the University before the agreed return date, you will be withdrawn from the programme of study.

2. Financial implications

2.1. Funding

Where you have concerns about financial support during your Interruption of Studies period, you should contact the Student Funding Team in the Student Centre for information about any help you may be eligible to receive. The Students' Union also offers Union Support Services, who may be able to offer some advice and guidance.

2.2. Fees and Refunds

If your tuition fees are paid by the Student Loan Company (SLC) or any other means such as the US Financial Aid scheme, the paying authority must be informed about your interruption of studies. If you are an SLC student, you are able to notify the 'change in circumstances' through your online account normally before the start of the academic year. During the year, the University will notify the relevant authority of the change. This notification from the University will be generated by Student and Academic Services once the interruption of studies commences.

Please note that the University's Student Records Team only notify the Student Loans Company/Student Finance England when an NTW (Notification of Transfer or Withdrawal) has been processed and submitted by the School. The University does not routinely notify other funding authorities.

You should expect your funding to be suspended during an interruption of studies. Please visit the University's Finance Office for more details:

<https://www.city.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding>

Before resuming your studies, you should make contact with your paying authority to notify them that you are ready to return. This should be done well in advance of your return so that the payment is issued to you before your return to the University.

Your tuition fee may change when you resume your studies. For more information, please contact your Course Officer who will ask the Finance Team on your behalf.

You can find details on paying fees and refunds at:

<https://www.city.ac.uk/student-administration/fees-and-finance/refund-requests>

2.3. Bursaries and Scholarships

If you are in receipt of a bursary or scholarship, please contact your bursary or scholarship provider to discuss the implications of your interruption of studies. Your award letter should include details of how to make contact. If you need assistance, please ask at the Student Centre for advice.

2.4. Maintenance Grants and Maintenance Loans

During a period of interruption, you will not normally receive any maintenance grant or loans. However, in some cases, there may be an exception applied. For example, a health related interruption may entitle you to continue to receive the grant or loan.

At the time of interruption, you might find yourself in a situation where your grant or loan has been overpaid. This may occur:

- If the interruption of studies occurs part way through the term, as maintenance grants and loans paid in advance for the entire term would have been overpaid.
- If the interruption of studies is backdated, due to exceptional circumstance, there will have been an overpayment as the maintenance grant or loan would have been paid for the time you are not in attendance
- If the interruption is close to the SLC payment date, you might still receive payment although the SLC was notified.

For health related interruption of studies, the SLC may agree to extend the Student Loans eligibility period. You should contact the SLC for details and advice.

2.5. Council Tax

You should check with your local Council whether you will continue to be eligible for Council tax exemptions during your interruption.

2.6. Student Accommodation

Once your Course Officer confirms that your request for interruption has been approved, you will need to notify your accommodation provider about your interruption as soon as possible.

2.7. Student Oyster Cards

As part of the University's terms and conditions with Transport for London (TfL), if you are on an interruption, we must advise TfL about this. This may mean that you may lose the right to use the Student Oyster Card during the period of interruption. For more information on your Student Oyster Card, please visit:

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/fares-and-payments/adult-discounts-and-concessions/18-student>

2.8. TOTUM and National Railcard

During an interruption of studies, you should not cancel your NUS Extra Card or National Railcard. You are able to use the cards as normal. However, applications for new cards may not be possible as confirmation of attendance may be requested from the University at the time of application. You will incur additional charges if you want a new card upon your return to study.

3. Immigration implications

If you hold a Tier 4 visa there will be implications for your visa if you wish to interrupt your studies.

3.1. Tier 4 visa implications during interruption of studies

If you hold a City, University of London Tier 4 visa and you interrupt your studies, the University will be required to report this to UKVI (UK Visas and Immigration) which will result in your visa being curtailed. The report to the Home Office will be actioned by the Visa Compliance Team within 10 days of the interruption of studies being confirmed. When you wish to return to studies as a Tier 4 sponsored student, you will need to be issued with a new CAS and make a Tier 4 visa application before you can re-commence your studies.

If you are a Tier 4 visa bearing student wishing to interrupt or are returning after an interruption, please contact the International Visa Advice Team (visaadvice@city.ac.uk) for further information and support.

4. Student support and services available to you during an approved interruption of studies

The University understands that it is important that you are able to keep in contact with us during your interruption of studies. You will be able to have limited access to support and services to maintain contact and make preparations for your return as explained below:

4.1. School and Academic Staff

During the interruption period, you will have limited contact with the School and staff members. This is so that you are able to focus on resolving the issues that have caused the interruption. Some students may be worried about keeping in touch- please discuss a plan with your Programme/Course Director on keeping in touch and the way this would work best for you both so that you can prepare for your return.

4.2. Library

During your interruption of studies, your access to the University Library services will change to a non-student member. This will mean you will have limited access for using the library facilities. However, if you are completing an assessment whilst on an interruption of studies, you will be able to have full access for the relevant period.

4.3. IT Services

Your IT Services should not normally cease during your period of interruption and you should continue to have access to Moodle and your University email. However, if you have difficulties in accessing one or more of the IT services, please contact the Information Services Team to get this resolved.

4.4. Support for students with a disability

If you have disability needs, you can contact the Disability Team during your period of interruption to discuss matters you may need support with.

Appendix 1 – Access to Student Support and Services

The following table highlights the type of access you may have to specific departments whilst you are away.

Access to	What you are entitled to during an interruption of studies
Academic staff	You can have limited access but only to make preparations for return to studies.
Accommodation	You will need to liaise with the accommodation provider about your rental agreement. If you need advice, you may contact the Accommodation Team.
University e-mail	Your e-mail account will remain 'live'. All students are reminded to access this account on a regular basis or set up auto-forwarding to a regularly used personal account.
Library	You can have external borrower status - further details can be obtained from library helpdesk. If you are completing assessments, you will have full online access.
Counselling, Disability Support, Careers and Employability Service & Multi-faith Chaplaincy	You can access these services for support and advice where relevant to your interruption and return to studies, provided you registered with the service prior to the interruption. If you have any other requests, the support available will depend on the department's capacity to fulfil additional requests.
Visa Advice Team	You can access support and advice. Please note that international students who have interrupted or suspended their studies are not normally entitled to remain in the country.
Course Office	You can contact your Course Officer in relation to suspension, return or transfer.
Student Centre	You can access the Centre for support and advice, including issues with tuition fees and Student Finance England.
Students' Union facilities	You can continue to join and be part of teams and societies.
Students' Union Advice Centre	You can access the Centre for support and advice.