Study Abroad Programme – Spring 2021

Term dates

Full-time orientation: 13 January 2021
Term dates: 13 January – 14 April 2021

Teaching and Learning

We are working to deliver the majority of teaching online for the 2020/21 academic year until we are able to resume our usual campus activities safely.

We will deliver this by:

- Providing your lectures and core content digitally so you can access them from home/accommodation and review them at your own pace.
- Offering face-to-face interactive sessions with smaller groups of students and staff where possible, which will also be available online.
- Arranging for specialist facilities such as clinical skills and engineering laboratories to be used safely, in a socially distanced way, where on-campus practical work is required.
- Ensuring that an online equivalent of any in-person teaching is provided as we appreciate that some of you will be unable to attend all activities on campus due to travel, health or other reasons.
- Remaining flexible in our approach. While we are planning to deliver teaching online for the whole academic year this will be reviewed throughout the year as the situation changes.

This means that for some students they will be able to take City modules without attending in-person without losing out on any teaching.

Life in the UK

People arriving in the UK from certain countries will need to quarantine on arrival in the UK, a list can be found at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors

At the time of writing, the USA is not exempt, and people arriving in England from the USA will need to quarantine for 14 days.

The UK entered a lockdown on 23 March with restrictions on meeting people outside of your household, and travel. Since June this has been slowly relaxed but there are some alterations to normal life in the UK, for example:

Social distancing

People are encouraged to keep 2 metres distance from others. Where that is not possible people are encouraged to maintain a distance of “1 metre plus”, which usually means 1 metre while wearing a facemask. This may mean that there are limits to the number of people who are allowed to enter shops or public transport.

Facemasks

Where social distancing is not possible, facemasks must be worn. For example, in shops, most indoor environments, and travelling on public transport. There are some exceptions (for example, if you order coffee to-go you need to wear a face mask but if you drink-in you do not need to wear a
face mask). In general it is recommended you wear a facemask at all times when indoors. This includes on City’s campus.

Facemasks are sometimes called PPE (Personal Protective Equipment).

If you are unable to wear a facemask for medical reasons\(^1\) you are exempt from the above rules, you may be asked about this, but usually there is no problem. Fines are being introduced for people who regularly do not wear facemasks so if you do have a medical exemption it may be useful for you to bring a letter from your doctor to the UK.

**Eating and drinking out**
Bars and restaurants have made lots of effort to reopen safely. You will find that most bars will now ask you remain at your table, and not order from the bar. You will be asked to provide contact details in all premises to allow for contract tracing. It is probably best practice to book restaurants in advance, as there is limited seating to allow for greater space between tables. There is a limit of six people that can meet in a bar or restaurant\(^2\). You are not expected to wear a facemask when consuming food and drink in a bar or restaurant.

**Nightclubs**
Nightclubs have not reopened.

**Theatre, Cinemas, and Museums**
Theatres and cinemas are reopening with social distancing. Most museums have already reopened. Some of the most popular museums may have a booking system in place, and all will ask visitors to wear facemasks. As with bars you will be asked to provide contact details to allow for contract tracing.

**Facilities and student support**
City will be adapting our student support to students to recognise that students will be studying online and remotely, and to allow for social distancing:

**Orientation**
Much of the orientation that we provide to Study Abroad students will be offered online. We will provide opportunities for students to get to know each other, and will ensure that students are made to feel welcome at their new home, whether you are studying remotely or have travelled to London.

**City’s campus**
Where in-person teaching is offered we will allow for social distancing. This does mean that many of our large lectures will need to be offered online only. However we will be able to offer smaller group sessions in-person.

**City Sport**
City’s sports facilities reopened in September 2020 and has been configured to allow for social distancing.

**Team Sports**
There are various levels of competitive sport at City, from social through to representing the university. We hope that team sports will be available, but this will be dependent on government advice at the time.

\(^1\) Medical exemptions can include severe breathing difficulties, heart conditions or anxiety

\(^2\) Larger groups can meet for funerals and weddings
Library
Although many resources are available online, our physical library in Northampton Square will be open.

In-person teaching/support
Some of our modules/courses will have in-person elements, for example tutorial/discussion groups. Our teaching staff will remain available for online support, via email, or Zoom/Teams meetings. Some teaching staff may maintain in-person office hours, but this will be at their own discretion.

Your health and insurance
Students arriving in the UK on a Short Term Study Visa are not entitled to access services from the National Health Service (barring emergency treatment in an Emergency Room). You are therefore encouraged to ensure that your medical insurance will cover you for medical treatment in the UK if needed. You should ensure that there are no exemptions in your insurance.

At the time of writing after 1 January 2021 EHIC (European Health Insurance Cards) may no longer be valid and EEA and Swiss students may not have free access to the NHS. Students travelling to the UK from the EEA or Switzerland are encouraged to ensure that they have adequate medical insurance.

The above is correct as of 26 August 2020, and is subject to change. The above guidance is for England, and the devolved governments have different restrictions. Details of restrictions issued by the devolved governments can be found at:

Scotland: www.gov.scot
Wales: www.gov.wales
Northern Ireland: www.nidirect.gov.uk