

# **Coronavirus (COVID-19) ESCP Business School London Campus FAQs**

## **Updated 18th December 2020**

Information for the London Campus community of ESCP Business School about novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

This page is updated with guidance from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Public Health England (PHE).

This guidance is reviewed and updated regularly.

[Video explaining COVID-19 Health & Safety measures at the London Campus](#)  
(updated September 2020)

### **WHAT ARE THE CURRENT COVID-19 MEASURES IN ENGLAND?**

At the end of the England-wide lockdown period on 3rd December, the UK Government returned to a Tier system, wherein Tier 1 has the lowest restrictions and Tier 3 the highest.

#### **London is currently in Tier 3 (Very High Alert).**

Under Tier 3, schools, colleges and universities may continue to teach in-person but various restrictions will apply to life on- and off-campus.

Specifically:

- Campuses and workplaces are required to operate Covid-security protocols including social distancing
- Travelling to and from campus/work is to be reduced or restricted to the extent possible. Anyone who can work from home should do so.
- Pubs, cafes and restaurants are closed but can offer takeaway, delivery and click and collect services.
- Nightclubs, theatres and cinemas *et al* are closed.
- Outdoor entertainment venues may be open, but may be operating on restricted times or partial closures.
- You can only meet socially indoors with friends and family if you live with them or if you have formed a support bubble, unless a legal exemption applies.
- You can meet people outdoors from outside of your household or support bubble in groups of no more than six. These meetings can take place in public places such as parks, playgrounds and outdoor sports courts.

More detail on these rules and related exceptions can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-3-very-high-alert>

## WHAT DO THESE MEASURES MEAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS?

The UK Government has expected higher education providers to be open for the 2020-21 academic year. Appropriate Covid-security measures are expected of providers who are asked to carefully monitor the health situation at their institutions and to ensure flexibility in delivery and student offer.

These expectations are **NOT** altered by the new Tier 3 measures and HEPs are expected to **remain open** as long as it is safe for them to do so. These expectations are detailed in a letter from the Universities Minister to all registered providers dated 02/11/2020. Institutions are free to assess the balance between in person and online classes, whilst ensuring that all students continue with some face-to-face teaching.

## WHEN IS THE ESCP LONDON CAMPUS OPEN?

The Campus will close for the Christmas holidays as normal on the evening of 18th December. We will reopen for essential access only on 4th January 2021.

From 11th to 24th January 2021, students will be able to access the London Campus for scheduled sessions in the library and for access to wider study spaces organised by seminar group or bubble.

As before, students may access the Campus only when quarantine periods have been served, and/or where they are free from COVID-19 symptoms or instruction to self-isolate.

Students are also expected to have attended ESCP's designated COVID test site and to have returned a negative result in an initial lateral-flow test before accessing Campus for the first time. More information on this can be found below.

## WHEN DOES TEACHING & INSTRUCTION RE-START?

The UK Government has advised higher education institutions (HEIs) to implement a phased return to campus in January 2021 over a number of weeks. Included in this guidance is a request that in-person teaching does not begin before the week beginning 25th January. This is to enable institutions to carry out asymptomatic COVID-19 tests for individuals returning after the Christmas break and to promote a staggered return of students to campus.

Accordingly, ESCP has decided that:

Online instruction will resume for all programmes week beginning 4th January 2021.  
In-person teaching will resume for all programmes week beginning 25th January 2021.

Once in-person teaching resumes, we will return to the hybrid learning and delivery model introduced at the start of the academic year and to other arrangements designed to ensure a blended approach under Covid-security measures.

## **WHAT WILL ACADEMIC DELIVERY LOOK LIKE AFTER 25/01/21?**

To support risk-mitigation efforts and to reflect the ramifications of social-distancing requirements, we have amended the academic delivery model for our programmes since the beginning of the academic year. This includes:

- changes to timetables that stagger arrival or departure times
- adoption of a hybrid or blended teaching strategy for all programmes, generally migrating larger-sized teaching events online
- moving all language classes formed through a mixing of cohorts and seminar groups to wholly online
- the adoption of a bubble strategy, which means that students take all classes and make all library visits in the same group

All of these elements remain firmly in place and will apply from 25/01/21. Should the Campus be subject to a change in its operational circumstances or to different regional/national measures requiring the cessation or suspension of in-person teaching, the School will adjust the balance of its activity according to need and circumstance.

## **CAN I STUDY ONLINE OR SWITCH BETWEEN MODES OF STUDY?**

All programmes have adopted a blended learning model and strategy combining online teaching with live, in-person teaching.

Online study/instruction is also offered as an alternative to on-campus learning where travel restrictions or other factors such as quarantining and “self-isolation” weigh against your ability to join us in person.

Though you enjoy certain freedoms to choose your mode of study at all times, the default position remains that you should be studying your programme live and on-campus where this option exists. Your scheduled live teaching sessions should be attended in person. Any switch between modes of study should be agreed with the relevant programme management team and guidelines may vary by programme.

## **WILL THERE BE ANOTHER STUDENT ‘TRAVEL WINDOW’ TO RETURN TO UNIVERSITY?**

Not exactly. UK borders are open in January 2021 for both returning and new international students wishing to study in the UK. Students’ return to university should be staggered from the

start of term, with those on placements or practical courses returning first. **ESCP has responded to these recommendations in setting out its January calendar.**

Whether returning to ESCP London Campus or coming to Campus for the first time, you are advised to ensure arrival in the UK in sufficient time to quarantine (where applicable) and to make your first in-person classes week beginning Monday 25th January.

You are advised to make ESCP aware in advance of your intended arrival date so that you can be appropriately supported upon arrival.

### **CAN I ENTER THE UK FREELY? WILL I HAVE TO QUARANTINE UPON ARRIVAL?**

Please note that if you are required to observe a period of quarantine upon arrival into the UK you should arrive in time to clear your quarantine period. The standard quarantine period is currently 10 days.

The standard 10-day requirement, applicable since 15th December can be halved through private (PCR) testing. Under the Test to Release for International Travel scheme is for people who need to self-isolate or quarantine on arrival in England, you can choose to pay for a private COVID-19 test. If the result is negative, you can stop self-isolating. The earliest you can take the test is five full days after you left a place not on the [travel corridor list](#). If you do not want to opt into the Test to Release scheme, you will need to [self-isolate](#) until 10 full days have passed since you were last in a place not on the travel corridors list. To take part in the scheme you need to:

- book a test with a [private test provider](#)
- choose to opt into the scheme on the [passenger locator form](#)

You will be asked to enter details of your test in the passenger locator form. You must do this to take part in the scheme. You should book your test before you travel to England. This is so you can enter details of the test when you opt into the scheme on the passenger locator form.

You will have to pay the private test provider for your test. If the test result is negative you can stop self-isolating as soon as you receive the result.

The UK government reviews a list of [Travel Corridors into the UK](#) each week and regards the inclusion or exclusion of any country as a temporary measure subject to changes of infection rates. As such, there are possibilities that any country listed today will be delisted and exempted from self-isolation requirements before your arrival date in London.

[You will be asked by the UK authorities to complete this form before you enter the UK.](#)

### **SHOULD I GET TESTED FOR COVID-19 WHEN I ARRIVE AT ESCP?**

All students returning to Campus are strongly encouraged to take a rapid COVID-19 test under the UK Government's sponsored programme of return testing designed to identify cases of asymptomatic infection. ESCP will be operating its testing via its partnership with the University

of London in January 2021. Tests will be available from Monday 11th January. Booking for testing should go live no later than 4th January 2021.

More information on testing and booking will be available via your ESCP email and on Blackboard.

Different members of our community may require different testing arrangements (PCR tests) depending on travel, quarantines or special situations. The School will manage these cases on an exceptional basis.

### **WHAT SANITARY MEASURES HAVE BEEN PUT IN PLACE FOR INDIVIDUALS STUDYING AT OR WORKING ON THE LONDON CAMPUS?**

The following risk prevention measures have been in place since the re-opening of the Campus to students in September 2020:

#### **Social distancing**

The School is keeping people two metres apart from others where practicable and at least one metre apart in all settings. Where social distancing is closer to one metre than two metres, appropriate mitigation is in place.

#### **Face coverings**

These must be worn as an additional risk-mitigation measure by students, staff and visitors. This requirement applies to all communal spaces where social distancing is difficult to maintain, such as corridors, classrooms, and communal areas. Individuals do not need to wear a face-covering if they have a legitimate reason not to. This includes:

- if someone has a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability, that means they cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering
- if putting on, wearing or removing a face covering would cause someone severe distress

#### **Additional sanitary measures**

We have also identified and implemented a range of protective measures in order to comply with government guidance for safe workplaces, based on an assessment of the risks and requirements of each environment. This has included:

- increased availability of handwashing and hand-sanitisation facilities where hand-washing facilities are less readily available
- managing entrance to, exit from, and movement around our building, as well as such measures as one-way entrances, exits and staircases
- temperature checks at point of entry to the building

#### **Cleaning**

The School has introduced enhanced cleaning measures, including more frequent cleaning of rooms and shared areas that are used by different groups, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces.

**Ventilation**

We are ensuring that all indoor and covered areas have good ventilation in addition to other methods of risk reduction. The aim is to reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus (COVID-19) by aerosol transmission. Only air conditioning systems relying on fresh rather than recycled air are being deployed.

**WHAT MEASURES WILL THE SCHOOL TAKE IN THE CASE OF AN OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 ON CAMPUS?**

We have developed an Outbreak Management Plan which provides a roadmap for critical incident management and for forming a response to different COVID-19 alert levels within a single escalation framework. It outlines the roles and responsibilities of ESCP personnel and units, and the functions that public partners can be expected to provide to the School based on present understanding.

The Outbreak Management Plan identifies Levels 1-5 of an escalation framework.

At Levels 1-3, the Campus remains open to students with only specific individuals and their close contacts isolated from Campus dependent on the nature, volume and relationship of cases. Efforts are focused on the identification of positive cases and on precautionary actions for close contacts. Levels 4 and 5 apply when the Campus and local public health teams identify an outbreak situation on-campus or risk of outbreak in light of local developments. Regional or national developments such as a 'lockdown' or the introduction of 'circuit break' measures could also progress the School to the latter stages of its framework but this depends on their specific provisions.

In summary:

**Level 1** applies where there are no cases. The Campus operates normally under its Covid-security protocols.

**Level 2** applies where there are a small number of isolated cases and isolations. The Campus operates normally under its Covid-security protocols but specific individuals are isolated from Campus.

**Level 3** applies where there are a small number of cases but more than a single case is evident in one specific study group or cohort. The Campus operates normally under its Covid-security protocols but individual study groups or bubbles may be isolated from Campus for 10-14 days.

**Level 4** requires the Campus to close to students for a specific period following evidence of escalating case numbers and linkages on Campus. National measures applied to educational establishments could also migrate the Campus to level 4 of its framework.

**Level 5** requires the Campus to close to both staff and students for a specific period following identification of infection presence amongst staff following the removal of students from site at level 4. National measures applied to educational establishments could also migrate the

Campus to level 5 of its framework without passing through intermediate stages.

### **WHERE SHOULD I DIRECT MY QUESTIONS ABOUT COVID-19 AND THE DIFFERENT FORMS OF SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO ME?**

Programme related queries should be directed to your Programme Director or Programme Manager. These individuals can tell you about your programme structure, rules, calendar, and timetable.

For questions concerning COVID-19 response measures, campus status or services, please use our London Campus enquiries email: [studentaffairslondon@escp.eu](mailto:studentaffairslondon@escp.eu)

If you require further help please, make use of the School-level support services by emailing directly to [studentshelpdesk.covid19@escp.eu](mailto:studentshelpdesk.covid19@escp.eu). You can also contact our Campus Nurse, Sharon Francis: [sfrancis@escp.eu](mailto:sfrancis@escp.eu).

## **FURTHER ADVICE FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND APPLICANTS**

### **CAN I GET A VISA TO STUDY IN LONDON IF I REQUIRE ONE?**

Visas are required to study in the UK under certain circumstances and the legal framework for immigration is evolving in response to Covid-19 and Brexit. The Home Office has replaced Tier 4 (General) visa category with Student visa route as of 5th October 2020. Students will be allowed to study in the UK for six months or less under General Visitor visa as of 1st December 2020. This route will replace, for most people, the short-term student route.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>. You can also contact our Visa Officer, [Anna Lozhkina](#). You may find it helpful to refer to the [Immigration guidance on GOV.UK](#) for the latest information and guidance on all visa related matters including post-study work regulations.

### **CAN I STILL GET A VISA IF I AM UNABLE TO TRAVEL TO START MY STUDIES DUE TO COVID-19?**

Where a student visa is required, you can be sponsored to start a course that is delivered temporarily through distance learning or through a mix of face-to-face and distance learning ('blended' learning). You may have to demonstrate the temporary character of these arrangements and the intention of the sponsoring institution to move you to a wholly or substantially face-to-face delivery mode as soon as possible. This concession will remain in place until the end of the 2020-2021 academic year.



**I WAS GRANTED A TIER 4 OR VISITOR VISA, BUT DUE TO COVID-19 I CANNOT TRAVEL TO THE UK WITHIN THE VIGNETTE VALIDITY DATES. CAN I RENEW MY VIGNETTE?**

In case you are not able to arrive in the UK before the expiry date of your vignette, you can request a replacement visa vignette with revised validity dates free of charge until the end of this year. You will need to email [CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk) and include your name, nationality, date of birth and your GWF reference number with 'REPLACEMENT 30 DAY VISA' in the subject line.

**THE UK VISA CENTRE IN MY COUNTRY IS CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19 AND I CANNOT APPLY FOR MY VISA TO JOIN MY COURSE IN JANUARY 2021. CAN I OBTAIN A VISA AT THE BORDER?**

It is not possible to come to the UK and get a visa upon arrival. We recommend you to closely monitor the situation in your country and check the reopening time of the visa centre. You can also speak to your programme administrator about online studies.

**WHAT IF MY GMAT/GRE TEST HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO TEST CENTRE CLOSURES, OR I CAN NO LONGER TRAVEL TO TAKE MY TEST?**

**Interim GMAT™ Exam: Available Online**

Since mid-April, GMAT has offered an alternative exam online. This test offers a comparable structure, time, and scoring as the exam delivered in the test centres.

As we progress through the pandemic, many test centers have reopened worldwide.

**New GRE at-home testing:**

To meet the needs of candidates who are unable to take the GRE General Test at a test centre, ETS is temporarily offering a [GRE General Test at-home option](#) in selected areas. The test is identical in content, format, and on-screen experience to the GRE General Test taken at a test centre. It is taken on your own computer at home and is securely monitored by a human proctor online through ProctorU®. For more information visit the [ETS website](#).

If you already have a test score but have been instructed by us to retake it and achieve a higher score, the same conditions apply. You are expected to retake the test online or as soon as you are able.

**CAN I APPLY WITHOUT A GMAT/GRE SCORE?**

If you are applying to the Master in Management or the MBA in International Management and you do not have a GMAT or GRE, you have the option to do our in-house SHL test. For more information, please contact [masterlondonadmissions@escp.eu](mailto:masterlondonadmissions@escp.eu). We do not require a GMAT/GRE test for our Specialised Master programmes.



For Executive Education programmes, a GMAT/GRE test is not a requirement. For more information, please contact [ukexeced@escp.eu](mailto:ukexeced@escp.eu).

### **WHAT IF MY ENGLISH TEST HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO TEST CENTRE CLOSURES OR I CAN NO LONGER TRAVEL TO TAKE MY TEST?**

If you are keen to take an English Language Test in support of a UK visa or immigration application, we recommend that you visit the following resources:

- [IELTS UKVI](#)
- [The Pearson Test of English](#)
- [LanguageCert](#)

Contact your nearest test centre for more information and for guidance as to how you can book your Secure English Language Test.

In case you are unable to take your English Test at one of the testing centres of these recognised bodies, please contact our Visa Officer: [alozhkina@escp.eu](mailto:alozhkina@escp.eu)

### **CAN I SUBMIT AN APPLICATION WITHOUT AN ENGLISH TEST?**

Yes, we will accept applications without proof of English if you are unable to provide official test certificates. Please contact us for more details.

### **CAN I GET AN APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENSION?**

We might consider individual deadline extensions in exceptional circumstances. In order to apply for a deadline extension, please email our admissions team with clear reasoning for the request.

### **I AM TRAVELLING TO THE UK IN JANUARY TO START MY STUDIES AT ESCP. DO I NEED TO SELF ISOLATE UPON ARRIVAL?**

Students from some countries will be asked to quarantine (self-isolate) when they arrive in the UK for the first 14 days. The full list of exempt countries is on the GOV.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>

If you need to quarantine please use private car hire (if you can) to go to your destination; if you need to use public transport to transfer your nominated accommodation, please make sure you follow the latest guidance from TfL, including maintaining social distancing and wearing a face covering, unless you are exempt.

From 15th December travellers arriving in England will have a new option available to them, rather than two weeks in self-isolation, they can take a Covid-19 test after five days and end quarantine if the result is negative. The new scheme is called the 'test to release for international travel'. For further information please refer to:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-test-to-release-for-international-travel>

**I HAVE ARRIVED IN THE UK WITH MY VISA VIGNETTE AND I NEED TO COLLECT MY BRP. HOWEVER, I NEED TO QUARANTINE FOR 14 DAYS. HOW CAN I COLLECT THIS FROM THE POST OFFICE?**

You can nominate someone else to collect your BRP if you have a serious illness or disability that prevents you from collecting it. They must provide your passport as evidence that you've entered the UK.

**WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

We will be happy to provide you with more information via email/call, please contact us to set up an individual call:

- Undergraduate team: [bachelorlondonadmissions@escp.eu](mailto:bachelorlondonadmissions@escp.eu)
- Postgraduate team: [masterlondonadmissions@escp.eu](mailto:masterlondonadmissions@escp.eu)
- Executive Education team: [ukexeced@escp.eu](mailto:ukexeced@escp.eu)