



National Indian Students and Alumni Union (UK)

## Information for Indian students in UK regarding COVID-19

Updated 01 January 2021

**UK wide restriction** – There are different Coronavirus restrictions in different areas of the UK. Use <https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-local-restrictions> to find and follow the rules for your area.

**Travelling to or from India** – There is currently a temporary travel restriction between India and the UK. This has been extended from 31 December 2020 to 7 January 2021 for flights operating under the Air Bubble/Vande Bharat Mission. This is separate to the wider suspension of international commercial flights to/from India which has been extended till 31 January 2021. Further, the flights between India and the UK will resume from 8 January 2021 till 23 January 2021 with a limited 15 flights per week each for carriers of the two countries to/from Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

**Emergency travel to India** – The High Commission of India, London has confirmed to us that there are currently **no** emergency travel arrangements to India. We have requested relevant authorities to make necessary arrangements.

**Visas due to expire soon** – If you intend to leave the UK but have not been able to do so and you have a visa or leave that expires between 1 December 2020 and 31 January 2021 you may request additional time to stay, known as 'exceptional assurance'. Please submit your request for an exceptional assurance by emailing [cihassuranceteam@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:cihassuranceteam@homeoffice.gov.uk). See details at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents>.

**Concerns and/or queries about courses commencing or carrying on from January 2021** – Students with concerns and/or queries about their courses commencing or carrying on from January 2021, please reach out to your university in the first instance about the teaching arrangements from January and any other related queries. Different rules might apply for different circumstances. The UK Universities Minister has stated that to ensure you have the best, and safest, experience possible:

- Returning or new students planning to travel to the UK from overseas in January are advised to check with your Higher Education (HE) provider in advance to confirm when face-to-face teaching begins, and when you should arrive on campus.
- You are advised to make your HE provider aware in advance of your intended arrival date

**Confusion about Graduate Immigration Route** – Any students concerned about the impact of not being able to urgently travel to the UK on their prospects for the Graduate Immigration Route should note

- The Graduate route is scheduled to be launched in summer 2021, as previously announced.
- Students will normally be expected to undertake their studies in the UK to be eligible for the Graduate route. However, if students are required to either continue their current studies or commence a new course by distance or blended learning due to Covid-19, they will still be eligible to switch into the Graduate route on a concessionary basis if they spent some time studying outside the UK.
- Students who are completing their course in summer 2021, including those who commenced a one-year Masters programme in September 2020, will benefit from this concession if they enter the UK on or before 6 April 2021 and complete the final semester of their studies in the UK.
- Students who commence a one-year Masters programme in January 2021 will benefit from this concession if they enter the UK before 27 September 2021 and complete the final semester of their studies in the UK.

**Self-isolation upon arrival in the UK** – For students traveling from India to the UK, a mandatory 10 days self-isolation requirement is in place. All international arrivals are required to complete a passenger locator form on arrival in the UK. The guidance is constantly under review, so you are advised to check the requirements on <https://www.gov.uk/> for the part of the UK that you are looking to travel to.

**Absence from University?** - We are aware that universities have shifted to online teaching/assessment and we request you all to stay updated with the guidance released by your respective universities. Any requirement for absence from your studies should be discussed with your university in the first instance who are best suited to advise appropriately.

**Think you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms?** - If you experience any symptoms for COVID-19, follow NHS instructions as per <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

**Facing issues with food/grocery supplies?** – If you require any emergency assistance with food, please email us at [team@nisau.org.uk](mailto:team@nisau.org.uk) and we will do our best to help.

**Guidance and Updates** - Everyone is requested to follow guidance and updates from the NHS, Public Health England, the UK and Indian Governments and the High Commission of India in the UK. Indian students in the UK are also requested to follow the UK Council for International Student Affairs for updates. Please be careful to follow official guidance and news from reliable sources. Please be mindful of the information you forward within your networks.

**Any Problems?** - If you are feeling sad or lonely or need any other help, the NISAU team is happy to help with any of your queries. Please just drop us an email at [team@nisau.org.uk](mailto:team@nisau.org.uk) and we will do our best to help.

*Please note, this advisory and any communication from the [National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK \(NISAU\)](#) is intended to support Indian students and citizens in the UK and should not be construed as legal advice in any shape or form. NISAU UK doesn't provide any immigration or legal advice and the information provided is subject to change.*