

### **Student Engagement and Attendance Policy**

#### Introduction

- 1. This Policy outlines the mandatory attendance requirements and expectations of all registered undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled on a credit-bearing course, with scheduled teaching as well as undergraduate, postgraduate or research students sponsored for a visa by Birkbeck, University of London (the College). Adhering to this policy is a condition of registration and enrolment which students accept when agreeing to the College's Terms and Conditions.
- 2. The College has adopted a blended approach to teaching and learning for its taught provision, with interactive teaching sessions supported by high quality learning materials. Interactive teaching sessions may take place in-person or online, depending on the study style of the programme. Students are expected to attend all mandatory in-person or online timetabled teaching events for their programme which includes remaining for the duration of the class. Some students have additional attendance requirements resulting from their funding or Student visa (see paragraph 6).
- 3. The College collects and monitors student data for the purposes of supporting engagement with learning and teaching. This data includes how students engage with online learning materials, the College services and attendance at online teaching events (recorded in the College's computer systems) as well as when students tap their ID card to confirm attendance at in-person teaching venues. If students are not actively engaging with their studies, the College may contact them to check on their welfare or to signpost them to services to help them succeed. All data is held in accordance with the Data Protection Act and General Data Protection Regulation and can be found by following this link on privacy.

#### Why is attendance and engagement important?

4. Students are active participants in the College learning community, it is therefore important that they take responsibility for achieving their academic potential through attending and participating at teaching events, engaging with learning materials and seeking further help, support and advice when they require it. Students make a considerable investment in time and money when choosing to register and enrol for a programme of study. The College therefore has a responsibility to follow up on non-attendance, so that students can be supported



and given every opportunity to complete their studies. Learning is a shared experience, and attendance is critical so that students can:

- a. Learn from the expertise of teaching staff and contributions from other students.
- b. Contribute to the collective learning experience by actively participating in classes.
- c. Benefit from the support of a learning community in their classes.
- d. Cover all course content to enable them to meet the learning outcomes of the course.
- e. Ensure they have all the programme information and are well prepared for assessments.
- f. Complete any practical or group work (including working with others in classes).
- g. Gain and develop further skills for employment or career progression.
- 5. Frequent non-attendance means students do not benefit fully from the College learning experience. Non-attendance impacts collaborative projects and peer work and it is consistent with lower module marks and lower degree classifications, achievement or awards. It may also ultimately lead to assessment failure and non-completion of the programme. Students who engage with all aspects of study benefit most from their course.
- 6. All students are liable for the tuition fee set by the College and may have opted to take out a UK government loan or pay via an instalment plan. The College monitors attendance and engagement for the Student Loans Company (SLC) to accurately assess a student's eligibility for fee and maintenance support and to ensure the College receives the correct tuition fee payments. The College also monitors international students on a Student Visa to comply with UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) requirements. The College uses numerous contact points throughout the academic year to record and review attendance, to help demonstrate that students meet the required contact points and are engaging academically. The Office for Students (English Universities' regulatory body) indicates in its <u>Guidance for</u> <u>Sponsors</u> that full-time programmes of study should require students to attend for periods amounting to at least 24 weeks during the year. A lack of engagement and attendance may indicate a student is at risk of withdrawing, failing or underperforming and can have consequences for the receipt of government financial support and discretionary bursary support. The College also monitors attendance to meet the conditions of funding from other countries, such as US Federal Student Aid.



#### **Student responsibilities**

- 7. The College expects students to:
  - a. Enrol for their programme of study as directed by the College, within the agreed period.
  - b. Attend all orientation and induction activity organised by the College, faculties or schools.
  - c. Engage with their programme of study by attending all mandatory in-person or online timetabled teaching events and any other events or activities defined as mandatory in Programme Information on Moodle (see Appendix 1 for definitions of terms). It is also recommended that students attend all optional sessions where possible.
  - d. Declare any absences to their academic school and when they expect to return to their studies, should an unforeseeable event occur that prevents them from attending.
  - e. Adhere to any additional attendance requirements associated with their funding or visa sponsorship. Certain students need to attend some or all their teaching events in-person, to ensure their eligibility for funding e.g. SLC maintenance loans, or to meet the requirements of their student visa. International students should read paragraphs 19 onwards below carefully.
  - f. Register their attendance at every teaching session by following the College guidance, which is to either swipe into the classroom using the student identity card, confirm attendance via a paper register, or log into an online session via the Join Live Session link in MyBirkbeck timetable or Moodle, which has been sent to them by the academic school. Students should log into online events using their College log-in. Students must use their student ID card to swipe into each learning and teaching event when in a College-managed facility, using a card reader. If the reader is not working, it should be reported to the individual delivering the teaching who will then report this via <u>ASK</u>.
  - g. Attend any meetings the College may arrange to signpost them to services to help them succeed, in cases where they are not actively engaging with their studies. If invited to a meeting, students must attend these meetings or make all reasonable endeavours to do so and where they are unable to, a written record of the meeting will be taken and provided to them.
  - h. Meaningfully and purposefully liaise with members of staff when contacted about attendance or engagement records (see paragraph 15).
  - i. Arrive in person or be logged in on time and stay for the duration of the teaching session.
  - j. Contribute to in-person and online teaching events as directed by teaching staff.



- k. Complete all provided preparatory work as directed to in Moodle (e.g. reading, pre-recorded videos/lectures or other activities) before attending teaching.
- I. Participate in peer or group activity as directed.
- m. Turn on cameras and microphones when required to, in an online teaching event.
- n. Engage with examinations and assessments, attend timetabled examinations on time and submit assessed work when required.
- o. Use their student ID card in a responsible way, which includes taking their student ID card to classes and assessment venues and presenting it to a member of staff if requested. Unauthorised use of their ID card, such as passing it to a third party to confirm their attendance will be considered a breach of this policy and will lead to further action under the <u>student discipline policy and procedure</u>.
- p. Familiarise themselves with details of any specific programme or module engagement and attendance requirements, e.g. attending field trips. This information will all be available in Moodle. If unsure when to attend, students must contact their faculty for advice.
- q. Follow any guidance provided to maintain health and safety and protect individuals or equipment. This includes, for example, protective clothing or wearing face masks.

#### **Teaching staff**

- 8. The individual staff member delivering teaching must:
  - a. Update the attendance register in College systems within 48 hours of an inperson teaching event if they are using manual registers. This is essential to ensure the student record is correct.
  - b. Report via ASK any card readers not registering in-person attendance at their teaching event as soon as possible following the session.
  - c. Update the attendance register where any missing attendance data is identified
  - d. Report any cases of potential misconduct (e.g., unauthorised use of ID cards such as scanning ID cards for other students or scanning cards and leaving) to the relevant faculty Student Engagement Officer, who will inform the Director of Registry (or nominee).
  - e. Join in-person and online teaching events when scheduled and notify their school as soon as possible if they unable to attend, meaning that a class will need to be rescheduled.
  - f. Seek approval from the faculty to move any session from in-person to online (or vice versa).



#### **Faculties**

- 9. Faculties will:
  - a. Ensure programme information in Moodle clearly describes all expected contact points and mechanisms for reporting absence; the escalation mechanism, with respect to cases of continuing non-attendance/disengagement; and fitness to practice requirements, where applicable.
  - b. Maintain accurate and complete records in accordance with the Data Protection Act and General Data Protection Regulation (follow this link on <u>privacy</u>) and that student attendance and engagement is monitored effectively.
  - c. Monitor student attendance data from the various College data sources used to support learning, teaching and assessment and refer students who are not attending or engaging to appropriate support mechanisms.
  - d. Notify International Student Administration (ISA) if a Student visa student is failing to maintain satisfactory attendance or engagement with their programme of study. Where possible, give students and staff at least 24 hours' notice of a move of an in-person class to online, to allow students and staff time to make alternative arrangements to be able to join or deliver an online class. These changes will only be made in the event of unforeseen circumstances (e.g. severe weather conditions, travel disruption etc.) The session must be changed to online by professional support staff in the faculty.

#### **Director of Registry**

10. Responsibility for ensuring appropriate records of student registration, enrolment and attendance are maintained lies with the Director of Registry (or their nominee). The Director of Registry (or their nominee) will contact faculties if insufficient attendance data is available or additional information is required.

#### Absence, non-attendance or non-engagement

- 11. The College expects students to make every effort to attend. Students who are unwell and/or likely to be contagious should not attend classes where they are likely to pass on an infection to others (e.g. COVID-19). The College reserves the right to ask students not to attend if they have reported illness or potential infection and this will not impact attendance monitoring decisions.
- 12. The College expects students who miss a teaching event to endeavour to catch up with their learning. Where students expect to be absent for more than one week of timetabled learning, they are expected to make contact in writing with the relevant member of staff in their school i.e. their lecturer and arrange to ensure they can



catch up on missed work. Students can apply for a <u>break in their studies</u> if needed; this will allow them to suspend their studies for up to two years, either for a period of two years or non-consecutive shorter periods that add up to a total of two years or less. However, they cannot apply for a break in studies of less than one term.

- 13. The Director of Registry (or their nominee) reserves the right to suspend, withhold, or seek reimbursement of funding given by or via the College, to students who do not meet the attendance or engagement expectations (see paragraph 6). The same principle applies to student visa sponsorship (see paragraph 26 onwards).
- 14. The College reserves the right to discontinue a student's registration and withdraw them from their programme, and inform the relevant funding body or sponsor. if they have consistently low attendance at mandatory teaching and learning events. The College will communicate withdrawal dates in writing (see paragraph 18).
- 15. The College has processes to monitor student engagement and attendance. Throughout the academic year, students who do not demonstrate high levels of engagement and attendance will be contacted and advised of the support available to help them improve. Students will also be reminded of the risks associated with consistently low attendance, which may lead to withdrawal of their enrolment and registration.
- 16. Where a student has consistently low, or non-compliant (see paragraph 20), attendance for more than 2 weeks they will be contacted by email with a warning about the potential consequences of not complying to the College's attendance requirements. Students who continue with a pattern of low, or non-compliant attendance, will be written to again with a final warning. If, following this warning, the student does not commence attending their classes in a compliant manner the Director of Registry (or nominee) will request for the relevant Faculty to put the student on a break in studies or withdraw their enrolment and discontinue their registration. Students will be given the opportunity to appeal this action and provide any relevant evidence or additional information relating to their personal circumstances for consideration by the College. This can include information relating to any inaccuracies in the student's attendance record. The appeal will be reviewed by the Director of Registry (or nominee) after which the final decision will be issued to the student. No further appeals will be considered after this.



- 17. The College will contact students to discuss their attendance and engagement if sufficient information is unavailable. If a student does not respond to these communications within the timescale requested, the Director of Registry (or nominee) reserves the right to inform the relevant funding body or sponsor. The Director of Registry (or nominee) will, where appropriate, withdraw a student's registration and enrolment. The College will communicate the date of withdrawal from a student's programme to them in writing.
- 18. The last day of attendance or engagement is the date the College is informed in writing that a student is withdrawing or suspending their studies. The College reserves the right to determine the date of withdrawal when there is a difference between the notified last date of attendance and the last date where there is evidence of the student engaging with their studies. This evidence includes lecture, seminar, lab session or examination attendance, a research student attending a one-to-one session with a supervisor, or assessment. If a student decides to stop attending, they must follow the Cancellation Procedure and consider the financial implications of withdrawal and/or suspension, as outlined in the Fees Policy. If the College has initiated a student withdrawal, the College will determine which final date applies and this will be based on evidence of the last point at which the student engaged with their studies.
- 19. Irregular or intermittent engagement is insufficient justification for submitting a Mitigating Circumstance request for an upcoming assessment (see <u>Mitigating Circumstances Policy, Procedure and Guidance</u>).

#### **Students with Student Loans Company (SLC) loans**

- 20. The majority of undergraduate programmes at Birkbeck are registered with the SLC as "In-person" programmes which require regular attendance on campus. This allows eligible students to apply for maintenance loans from the SLC. Students applying for funding from the SLC are therefore expected to maintain regular in-person attendance unless they are enrolling on a registered Distance Learning programme.
- 21. Data on attendance and engagement is used to determine if students are meeting the attendance requirements set by the College in order to comply with Student Loans Company (SLC) regulations. If a student is not attending or engaging at a point of census, the College may suspend any maintenance loan until the student has re-engaged with their studies and resumed regular attendance in line with



- expectations outlined in this policy. If a decision is made to withdraw the student, this will be reported to the SLC, ending all future payments.
- 22. To ensure compliance with Government and SLC regulation the College requires students who are in receipt of SLC maintenance loans to have a minimum level of regular in-person attendance. The College delivers some classes via Online or HyFlex study (see Appendix 1 for definitions), however students with SLC maintenance loans who wish to make use of these delivery methods must still maintain regular in-person attendance. (see paragraph 2)
- 23. Students in receipt of SLC maintenance loans must attend at least one in-person teaching event each week that they have timetabled teaching events. If a student has only one timetabled event in a week that event must be attended in-person. Students who do not attend in-person classes on a weekly basis may have their access to Online and HyFlex study removed.
- 24. The College reserves the right to discontinue a student's registration and withdraw them from their programme, and inform the SLC, if a student in receipt of an SLC maintenance loan does not attend in-person classes on a weekly basis. The College will communicate withdrawal dates in writing (see paragraph 18).

#### **Distance Learning**

25. The College offers some programmes with Distance Learning or HyFlex study that may enable students to study online for all, or the majority, of their programme. In certain circumstances students who are enrolled on in-person programme and are unable to study regularly in-person may choose, or be required by the College, to move to a Distance Learning version of their programme to reflect their actual mode of study. Students moving to Distance Learning should meet with their personal tutor to discuss the transition and confirm if online study is possible on their programme. Any such move can only occur where there is a Distance Learning version of the programme and is subject to the College's approval and not guaranteed. Students must also check any implications that this may have for any funding they receive, as many funding sources are only available to students studying in-person. Students studying online via Distance Learning or HyFlex are still required to attend their mandatory live teaching events (see paragraph 2).



#### **International students**

- 26. Students issued with a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) are in the United Kingdom primarily for the purpose of education and must attend and engage with all aspects of their studies. This means students must attend all timetabled sessions and actively follow their programme of study. This attendance should be in person, on campus.
- 27. The College's Student Visa Sponsor Licence Authorising Officer is the Chief Financial Officer. The Chief Financial Officer delegates to the Director of Registry (or nominee) the operational responsibility for ensuring appropriate policy, process and communication are in place to support attendance for students who have been issued a CAS by the College.
- 28. Within Registry, International Student Administration (ISA) implements the visa attendance requirements and related provisions of this policy; they are supported by Student Engagement Officers (SEOs) in each faculty. Several different data sources are used to identify students who are not attending.

#### **Taught programme requirements – international students**

- 29. Taught programmes are defined as Bachelors and Masters degrees, Graduate and Postgraduate Diplomas and Masters of Research (MRes) and may have different monitoring requirements (see Appendix 1 for definitions).
- 30. The College delivers some classes via Online or Hyflex study. However, under UKVI regulations, international students with Student visas on taught courses are prohibited from attending their mandatory classes online and must attend inperson. The only exceptions to this are in the following scenarios:
- a. Students whose programme contains a limited number of modules that are delivered online, resulting in a small percentage of the overall programme having online delivery; details of the % of online delivery for these students will be stated on their CAS;
- b. the general student body is affected by an unforeseen situation where continuity of education provision interrupted and online delivery is necessary (for example, industrial action, extreme weather or periods of travel restriction): or
- c. usage of online delivery for a specific student is required to prevent discrimination against the student on the basis of their protected characteristic under the Equality



- Act 2010. These exceptions will be assessed by the College together with evidence submitted by the student, and with other relevant College policies.
- 31. International students must attend all timetabled classes and engagement activity (see Appendix 1) within the teaching terms. International students who fail to attend at least one in-person timetabled teaching activity each teaching week will be contacted in line with the thresholds in Appendix 2.
- 32. Where the College contemplates withdrawing an international student's visa sponsorship, this will be subject to review and decision by the Director of Registry (or their nominee) and the relevant Executive Dean (or their nominee) of the Faculty in which the international student is registered.
- 33. Appendix 2 outlines alerts sent to students who do not meet the consecutive teaching week requirements, as well as those who miss 30 or 45 teaching days. The College will communicate with international students before visa withdrawal, alerting them to attendance or engagement issues. These communications will include signposting them to the necessary support services (see Appendix 2).
- 34. During a period of retake or reassessment, the standard programme progression rules contained in the Common Award Scheme Regulations for Taught Programmes of Study permit international students to study a reduced number of credits. Students taking a reduced credit load are permitted to continue with student visa sponsorship during this time, as they continue to be registered on a full-time programme. However, international students must have in-person timetabled activities on campus in each term during this period that meet the attendance requirements outlined in this policy, to enable continued visa sponsorship. International students undertaking only reassessment or retaking a module without any timetabled sessions, are not eligible for visa sponsorship.

#### **Taught student dissertation periods – international students**

35. The College accepts that there will be minimal teaching points during an international student's dissertation period. However, the underlying principle is that all international students should have an academic engagement at least once every 30 teaching days. Engagement for international students who are in a dissertation period with no taught elements will be based on the international student's regular contact with a relevant member of the faculty, including in person meetings with dissertation supervisor, attendance at in person mandatory seminars, submission of written work and attendance at exams.



#### Postgraduate research requirements – international students

- 36. For international students enrolled on a postgraduate research programme, attendance is monitored via supervisor meetings, seminars, annual progression review and vivas. A minimum of three events should take place per term and during the summer months (July to September) and at least two of these must be in-person meetings held in the UK. These contacts should be logged in the Research Track system to enable prompt confirmation of engagement.
- 37. There may be a lower frequency of supervisory meetings or reduced teaching requirements during the writing up and post submission period. However, the underlying requirement is that all students have an event at least once every 45 teaching days.
- 38. The MRes programmes outlined in Appendix 1 are monitored using the postgraduate research attendance requirements in this section. All other MRes programmes in the College use the taught attendance requirements.

#### **English pre sessional attendance requirements**

- 39. The Pre sessional English course is a short preparatory course held immediately before the start of term. Due to its short length, attendance requirements for this differ to the main attendance requirements set out in this Policy.
- 40. Students who attend the Pre sessional English course are expected to attend all scheduled classes which includes remaining for the duration of the class. Students who are absent for two consecutive classes will be required to attend a meeting and those who are absent for three consecutive classes will be withdrawn from the Pre sessional course and their main programme of study. See <a href="English Pre sessional terms">English Pre sessional terms</a> and conditions for more information.

#### **Authorised absences – international students**

41. International students can request a period of authorised absence for a maximum of 60 teaching days, provided the absence does not result in an extension to their expected programme completion date. During this absence, neither attendance nor engagement is required or permitted but international student visa sponsorship continues. Approval for this period of absence is required from the relevant academic member of staff, for example the Course Director or Personal Tutor and



from ISA. Requests for authorised absences can be submitted via ASK and should be submitted before the absence.

#### Off-campus study – international students

- 42. Off-campus study is defined as any period where an international student is away from the Bloomsbury campus and Student visa sponsorship continues. This is distinct from authorised absence, as the student will continue to engage in their studies whilst away from campus. This can include mandatory field trips, study at overseas institutions, work placement, writing up of a final year dissertation, or essential research work outside the UK. Full requirements for students undertaking study at overseas institutions and work placements can be found in Appendix 4. For other forms of off-campus study not covered in this policy, an appropriate form of engagement will be determined for each case and may include regular meetings with academic tutors or other College staff, attendance at exams or timetabled optional events and submission of coursework.
- 43. The length of any off-campus study should be proportionate to the work that is required to be undertaken and should not undermine the core requirement for a student to be in the UK studying a full-time programme. Requests for off-campus study which are determined as not meeting these requirements will be rejected and may result in the College withdrawing Student visa sponsorship. The College will consider a new period of sponsorship when the student is ready to resume their study at the College campus.
- 44. Attendance requirements outlined in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 continue to apply during a period of off-campus study but with the following exceptions:
  - a. International research students can complete their three meetings online.
  - b. International students on undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes who undertake work placement, must continue to attend all other timetabled, inperson teaching events during a period of off-campus study. The only exception to this is if there is a mandatory requirement for the student to be away from the Bloomsbury campus, for example, attending a mandatory field trip.
  - c. Final year postgraduate taught students may be permitted to write up their dissertation from overseas, provided this takes place outside the published term dates.



- 45. Requests for off-campus study must be submitted via the ASK query system no later than 15 working days (i.e. three weeks) before their intended departure date. The request will not be formally accepted until approved by the relevant faculty representative and ISA.
- 46. The agreed off-campus study period and the relevant details, including the location of off-campus study and expected return date, will be reported to the UKVI in accordance with the student sponsor guidance. The student must report their return both to their Faculty and to ISA by the agreed date so that visa sponsorship can continue. If there are delays to their return, the student must inform their Faculty and ISA if they are unable to arrive by the agreed date. They should confirm this before the initial return date to determine if another return date can be agreed in advance.

#### **Students with US Federal Loans**

47. Students in receipt of US Federal loans are required to maintain consistent attendance on their programme of study. We are required by US Federal regulation to contact students after 2 weeks of absence, and determine whether they will return to study or withdraw. Students who do not respond to communications from the college about attendance, and/or do not resume attendance in the timeframe given will have their US Federal loan funding withdrawn, in accordance with our Return of Title IV policy.

#### **Further reading**

The following policies should be read by all students in conjunction with this policy:

- Terms and Conditions of Study
- <u>Discontinuation of a Student's Registration Policy</u>
- Fees Policy
- Birkbeck PGR code of practice
- Parental Leave for research students' policy

#### **Policy Review**

Created: June 2015
Latest update: October 2025

Date of next review: 2027-28 academic year
Owner: Director of Registry

SLT owner: DVC Education and Student Experience



Committee oversight: Education and Student Experience Committee for Academic

Board



### **Appendix 1: Definition of terms**

Term	Meaning or refers to		
Attendance	Relates to timetabled learning, teaching or assessment events or		
(also see	activities that students must attend in person or online*. These are		
study style)	scheduled by the academic school and include field trips, laboratory		
	work, lectures, seminars, supervisions, personal tutor sessions and		
	practicals.		
	It also relates to participation in formative and summative assessments		
	in class and attending examinations.		
	* Please note that there are specific in-person attendance		
	requirements for student visa holders and certain types of funding e.g.		
	SLC maintenance loans or US federal loans. Online attendance may not		
	be acceptable in these cases.		
Mandatory	Relates to any learning, teaching or assessment events or activities that		
	are timetabled by the academic faculty that students must attend.		
Engagement	Is a holistic term, relating to pre or post teaching event activities (e.g.		
	pre-reading, watching pre-recorded videos or completing pre or post		
	session work in Moodle) meeting with a member of staff for		
	inductions, demonstrations, individual tutorials, learning support		
	sessions or workshops and preparing and submitting all summative		
	and formative assessed work on time.		
Programme	The course on which a student is registered and enrolled.		
of study			
Scheduled	Activities that are timetabled by the academic faculty.		
Teaching	Calendar days, excluding official vacation periods during Christmas and		
days	Easter, as outlined on <u>Term Dates and Holiday Closing</u> webpage.		
Term time	Refers to the period that the College is in session. College programmes		
	of study are typically taught across an academic year comprising three		
	terms. All full-time postgraduate taught students (including MRes) and		
	research students must study for a full calendar year, except during the		
	Christmas and Easter closing periods. This allows postgraduate taught		
	students to complete their dissertation in time for submission at the		
	end of September (or in January for students who start their		
	programme in January). Students who hold a Student/Tier 4 visa will be		
	restricted to the <u>maximum working hours per week stated in their</u>		



	visa during their studies. This might differ for some undergraduates		
	and postgraduate diplomas students. Students should contact their		
	academic school for more information.		
Timetabled	Activities that are scheduled by the academic faculty and are		
	mandatory.		



# **Delivery** method

Describes the way in which a module is delivered for a particular teaching group. The types of delivery method are outlined below. Please note that all modules have at least one teaching group but some modules will have more than one teaching group. Each of a module's teaching groups must be assigned a single delivery method, however, different teaching groups of the same module can have different delivery methods.

- In Person- all mandatory timetabled events for the teaching group are in-person.
- Online- all mandatory timetabled events for the teaching group are online.
- Mixed- there is a mix of in-person and online mandatory events for the teaching group.
- Hyflex- the teaching group has mandatory timetabled events that are concurrently delivered in-person and online.
- Project/dissertation- there are generally no mandatory timetabled events for the teaching group.



# Study style (also see attendance)

Study style describes what delivery methods students are expected to undertake when on a particular programme route. Each route for a programme will have a study style associated with it and any students enrolled on it will have the corresponding study style associated with their student record. The types of study styles are outlined below. All routes will have a single study style but different routes on the same programme can have different study styles.

- On campus with no compliance-based attendance requirements.
   Students will generally have teaching groups that have an inperson delivery method. There may be circumstances where these students select a teaching group with a different delivery method but the expectation is that they will primarily be assigned to inperson teaching groups.
- On Campus- with compliance-based attendance requirements\*.
   Students should only be assigned to in-person teaching groups. \*\*
- Flexible learning- students can be assigned teaching groups with any type of delivery method.
- Online- students can only be assigned teaching groups with an online or hyflex teaching method with the understanding that they will only be attending the online version of any hyflex teaching groups.
- \* Compliance based attendance requirements are primarily related to students with a student visa and students in receipt of an SLC maintenance loan
- \*\* Specific exceptions to this are managed via a waiver system subject to consultation with Registry (International Student Administration and Student Funding Administration)

# MRes monitoring

International students enrolled in an MRes programme that includes a 120-credit research module are monitored using the Postgraduate Research Requirements. Example programmes are as follows: MRes Chemical Research; MRes Global Infectious Diseases; MRes Psychology and MRes Structural Biology.

**Note:** Delivery methods and study styles are taken from the current teaching model and this is how the College currently defines this. See the <u>SharePoint page for more information</u>.



### **Appendix 2: International student absence alert stages**

The following tables outlines the actions taken where there has not been in-person attendance. The College reserves the right to withdraw sponsorship prior to the final stages, if the student has a poor overall attendance record but has not yet reached the final stage.

#### Appendix 2 - Table 1

International students on taught programmes with timetabled weekly events

	Consecutive	
Stage	teaching	Action
	weeks of	
	<b>absence</b> (in-	
	person events)	
One	2	The international student is sent an email by Registry
		notifying them of missed timetabled events. The Faculty will
		be informed.
Two	3	The international student is sent an additional email by
		Registry and a meeting between the Faculty and the
		international student is recommended. Its purpose is to
		remind the student of their visa obligations and to signpost
		relevant academic and student support services as
		appropriate. This can be an in-person or online meeting,
		which the international student must attend.
		The international student may bring a supporter with them.
		The supporter may not be a legal representative and is not
		permitted to represent the student or speak on their behalf.
Three	4	The international student is sent a further email by Registry
		notifying them of missed timetabled events and second and
		final meeting offered Registry will investigate and document
		whether appropriate support and intervention measures
		have been put in place in accordance with the Faculty and
		College policies and procedures, including consideration of
		mitigating circumstances.
Four	5	Final warning email by Registry.
Five	6	The Director of Registry withdraws the student's visa
		sponsorship and discontinues the student record for their
		programme of study.



In addition to the actions outlined in the table above, all students must have at least one attendance event or engagement every 45 days during term-time. If a student does not engage within 30 days, a warning email will be sent to the student. If the student fails to re-engage before reaching 45 days, a further warning email will be issued.

### Appendix 2 - Table 2

International students on taught programmes with no timetabled weekly sessions

Consecutive days without in- person attendance or	Action
engagement	
30	ISA will send an email alert to the student informing
	them of non-engagement or non-attendance. The
	next engagement or attendance must occur before
	reaching 45 days.
45	The Director of Registry will withdraw the student's
	visa sponsorship and discontinues the student's record
	for their programme of study.



# Appendix 3: International postgraduate research students- actions taken where minimum attendance requirements not met

The following table outlines the actions taken where there has not been academic attendance for consecutive timetabled events.

To enable prompt confirmation of the termly requirements, academic engagement should be logged within the Research Track system.

Consecutive	Action	
missed		
events		
1 - Amber	The international student is sent an email by Registry notifying them of missed events. The Faculty is informed and a meeting between the Faculty and the international student is recommended. The purpose of the meeting is to remind the international student of their visa obligations and to be signposted to relevant academic and student support services as appropriate.  The international student may bring a supporter with them. The	
	supporter may not be a legal representative and is not permitted to	
2 - Red	represent the international student or speak on their behalf.  Registry and the Faculty will investigate and document whether appropriate support and intervention measures have been put in place in accordance with the Faculty and College policies and procedures, including consideration of mitigating circumstances. A range of academic and international student support services may be engaged as appropriate to support the international student. Final email warning issued by Registry and a second and final meeting offered with the Faculty.	
	The international student may bring a supporter with them. The supporter may not be a legal representative and is not permitted to represent the international student or speak on their behalf.	
3 - Final	The Director of Registry withdraws the international student's visa sponsorship and discontinues their student record for their programme of study.	



# Appendix 4: Study at overseas institutions and work placements for international students

Where a programme permits an international student to spend time studying at another educational institution, student visa sponsorship will continue provided the following requirements are met:

- a. the total time spent at the overseas educational institution does not exceed two terms in length, and
- b. the international student engages in line with the off-campus attendance requirements table below.

#### **Work placements**

International students who have student visa sponsorship are permitted to complete a period of work placement, provided the following requirements are met:

- the placement does not constitute more than 50% of the total length of the course.
- the placement is an assessed and integral part of the course.

The student must complete a Work Placement Agreement form, which must also be signed off by the placement provider and returned to ISA, prior to commencing the placement.

#### **Attendance during placement**

In addition to attendance at taught sessions, international students on a work placement are required to meet in person with a relevant academic on a regular basis, outlined in the table below. International students who are not attending College modules at the same time as engaging in a work placement will be required to attend academic meetings more regularly.

#### **Work placement requirements for international students**

	Term Time:	Term Time:	Summer Months:
	Attending work placement and studying college modules	Attending work placement only	Postgraduate students attending work placement
Frequency of	Once per term	Once per month	Minimum once every 45
Academic			teaching days
Meetings			



International students who have a student visa can also complete work which is not assessed as part of their academic course. This could be a short-term role, a work placement or internship and they can undertake this work in line with their allocated 20 hours per week, permitted under their visa conditions. No attendance monitoring is required as part of work that is not assessed as part of their course.



# Appendix 5: English Pre-sessional course - actions taken where minimum attendance requirements are not met

The following table outlines the actions taken where there has not been in-person attendance for consecutive days. The College reserves the right to withdraw sponsorship prior to stage three.

Stage	Consecutive teaching days of absence (in- person events)	Action
One	1	The international student is sent an email by Registry notifying them of missed timetabled events.
Two	2	The international student is sent an additional email by Registry and a meeting between the Pre sessional partner and the international student is required. Its purpose is to remind the student of any visa or SLC obligations and to signpost relevant academic and student support services as appropriate. Final warning is issued by Registry.  The international student may bring a supporter with them. The supporter may not be a legal representative and is not permitted to represent the student or speak on their behalf.
Three	3	The Director of Registry withdraws the international student's visa sponsorship and discontinues their student record for their programme of study.