

RETURN TO CAMPUS TRIMESTER B 2020/21

COVID-19 STUDENT TESTING

FAQs (17/12/2020)

1 WHY WE ARE ASKING STUDENTS TO TAKE A TEST AT THE START OF TRIMESTER B

Q Why are you asking students to take a test and why should I take it?

A In accordance with Scottish Government guidelines, students are being asked to return to university over a period of 6 weeks in the New Year and those who have changed household over the holidays will also be offered asymptomatic testing as part of their return.

Students without COVID-19 symptoms, but who unknowingly carry the virus (asymptomatic), are likely to spread the virus to many others. By getting tested you will be helping minimize the risk of transmission across the country and in the student community.

Q Who should take a test?

A Any undergraduate student who has changed household over the winter break should take a test. We are also making tests available to any student who has remained in student accommodation over Christmas and will be rejoined in that accommodation by another student who has travelled away for Christmas.

This means if you have returned to your family home or have stayed with friends and family over the holidays, you should take the test when you return to your term time accommodation.

Q Why are you telling students to get tested even if they are asymptomatic but telling other people to only get tested if they have symptoms?

A The lateral flow testing programme does not replace current testing policy for those with symptoms. This is a new technology to identify people who don't have any symptoms, but who may be asymptomatic carriers and therefore could still spread the virus to others.

Q I have previously tested positive for COVID-19, do I still need to take the test to go home?

A No, students who have had a positive COVID-19 test in the past 90 days do not need to book a test at the Student Test Site.

2 HOW TO ARRANGE A TEST

Q When can I take a lateral flow test and where do I get it?

A The university will be operating a Student Test Site on campus from 5 January to 12 February 2021, between 10am- 5:30pm. You will be able to book a free test from 15 December 2020 at www.gcu.ac.uk/safereturn.

The Student Test Centre will be open on a Tuesday and Friday. You can book your two tests on the following dates;

Week/ Day	Tuesday	Friday
Week 1	5 th January 2021	8 th January 2021
Week 2	12 th January 2021	15 th January 2021
Week 3	19 th January 2021	22 nd January 2021
Week 4	26 th January 2021	29 th January 2021
Week 5	2 nd February 2021	5 th February 2021
Week 6	9 th February 2020	12 th February 2020

Please note booking for each week will close at 11:59 pm on the Monday night.

Q Is the test safe?

A Yes, lateral flow tests are validated technology, they are safe and the results are trusted. These tests have undergone rigorous testing and evaluation including at Public Health England’s research laboratories to ensure they are verified for use.

Q Will I only need one test?

A No, you will need to take two tests, three days apart. For example, 1st test on Tuesday, 5 January, 2nd test on Friday, 8 January. You will book appointments for both tests at the same time. Book an appointment from 5 January at www.gcu.ac.uk/safereturn our booking system will be live from the 15 December.

Q Who can book a test?

A The Student Test Site is only available to students who **do not** have COVID-19 symptoms (i.e. those who are ‘asymptomatic’) but who want to check they do not have the virus before they return home.

It is very important that anyone who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms must NOT book a test at the Student Testing Site but should visit <http://www.nhsinform.scot/> or call 0300 303 2713 to arrange a test.

Q Is the testing only for students returning to halls?

A No, any student returning to Glasgow after the festive break from their family home or students who have stayed with another household should take a test.

Q Can my family get tested too?

A No, this test is aimed at students in universities. Family members of students are not eligible. If family members experience COVID-19 symptoms, they must follow standard government guidance, including self-isolating immediately and booking a test through www.nhsinform.scot or call 0300 303 2713.

Q Do I need to bring anything to my test?

A All students should wear a face covering, bring their Student ID and a copy of their booking confirmation (this can be on electronic device).

3 RETURNING TO CAMPUS

Q When can I return to my term-time accommodation following the winter break?

A Students are being asked to return to university over a period of 6 weeks and will also be offered asymptomatic testing as part of their return.

If you changed household over the winter break you are being asked not to return to your term-time accommodation until in-person teaching for your courses commences. This will help minimise the risk of transmission across the country and in the student community and make it easier for everyone to get tested quickly when they do return to GCU.

Q When will in-person teaching start?

A Induction week commencing 18 January will be delivered entirely online.

Thereafter, in person teaching will be phased in. Your timetable will inform you when in person teaching will start for your programme. Please note that for a small number of programmes there will be some teaching before 25 January. Your timetable will inform you when in-person teaching will start. Timetables will be available from the 18 December.

If you need to return to your term time accommodation in Glasgow earlier because of health and well-being reasons, you will be able to do so.

Q What do I need to do before I go back to GCU?

A You should act responsibly and follow the guidance and restrictions in place in the area you live to minimise the risk to contracting or transmitting COVID-19. The Scottish Government is also asking you to voluntarily reduce your social mixing for two weeks before returning to university. This means going out only for essential reasons including learning, food shopping and exercise.

When you arrive at university, you should also minimise your social mixing for 2 weeks. This is to help minimise the transmission of the virus.

We know from the latest [public health guidance](#) that by limiting your social activity, you will be helping to prevent the spread of the virus to students, staff and the community you live in.

Q I am an international student and have already made travel arrangements to return to university at the start of term. What should I do?

A You must follow the guidance on [international travel and quarantine](#) as appropriate when arriving back in Scotland.

Please check your timetable to see when in-person teaching starts. You are not required to arrive before this as online teaching will be offered.

Please also email coronavirushelpline@gcu.ac.uk to let us know you have arrived so we can support you if needed.

Q I am an international student – should I take any extra measures to minimise the risk of transmission of the virus?

A You must self-isolate for 10 full days if you arrive in Scotland from a country outside the Common Travel Area (UK, Republic of Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man). This is to protect against the risk of imported cases of COVID-10.

There is a list of [exempt countries or territories](#). Travellers from these destinations are not required to self-isolate. This list is continuously reviewed and countries can be taken off or added at any time. You should allow for the possibility of such change at short notice in making your plans.

If your journey includes a transit stop through a non-exempt country, you will need to self-isolate if you interact with others in that country. For example, if your journey involves a transit through an airport or by exiting your vehicle on a ferry in a non-exempt country, you will need to self-isolate.

[Guidance on international travel and quarantine](#) is available on the Scottish Government website.

Q I am an international student who was required to take a PCR test before arriving in the UK. Do I need to take a LFT test ?

A International students may leave their accommodation to take a LFT test but will still need to observe the full period of isolation even if your test is negative.

Q I have a work placement that begins/continues in the new year. Will my return date reflect this?

A Work placements will begin/continue as normal, as per previously agreed dates. If you have any questions about this please do contact your programme leader.

4 TEST RESULTS AND WHAT TO DO NEXT

Q If positive I'll have to self-isolate. Why would I take the risk of doing the test?

A It is of the utmost importance that we all do our bit to stop the spread of the virus and protect others. Participating in the test will help us all fight the pandemic and save

lives. Self-isolation, whilst disruptive for those affected, is an essential part of the fight against the virus.

Book a free test from 5 January 2021 at www.gcu.ac.uk/safereturn our booking system will be live from 15 December 2020.

Q How will I get the results and how long will it take to get results?

A You will be notified by NHS Test and Protect by text and email, normally within 24 hours of taking a test (but could be sooner). If you have not received your results after 5 days (we don't expect that it will take this long), please call 0300 303 2713.

Q What will happen if I test positive?

A There are a number of things you must do if you test positive.

- If you test positive, you must self-isolate at your term time address for a period of 10 days. You will be asked to take a confirmatory further test at a NHS COVID-19 Test Centre.
- If you test positive you should also notify the university immediately. You should do so by contacting coronavirushelpline@gcu.ac.uk or by phoning +44 141 331 3130 (Monday – Friday 9am-5pm).
- If you test positive in the first test, you do not need the second test, and should self-isolate immediately for 10 days.
- If you are self-isolating, including if you live in privately rented accommodation, you can email coronavirushelpline@gcu.ac.uk and we will do everything we can to provide you with the support you need.
- The rest of your household must also self-isolate in accordance with Scottish Government requirements.

Q If I test positive will I be able to go back home to self-isolate?

A No, you must self-isolate for 10 days at your normal term time address before you return home

Q Other than me, who will see my results?

A A copy of your result will be sent to your GP. If you have tested positive, a notification will be sent to Health Protection Scotland.

GCU and NHS Test and Protect take the protection of your privacy very seriously. To find out how your personal data will be used when you register for a coronavirus test read the Government's [coronavirus privacy note](#).

Q Will my contacts be traced?

A If you have a positive test result, your contacts will be traced by NHS Test and Protect. They will be required to self-isolate until 10 days after their most recent contact with you.

5 OTHER THINGS YOU MAY WANT TO KNOW

Q Will I be able to start my Tri B studies online if I test positive?

A Yes, all learning materials will be made available online. Please inform your Programme/ Module Leader if you are unable to attend any scheduled classes.

Q Who do I contact if I would like further information or have a question?

A Contact our student helpline on [+44 141 331 3130](tel:+441413313130) or email studenttestsite@gcu.ac.uk. The helpline is operational Monday - Friday 9am – 5pm.

Q Can a family member drive me to my term-time accommodation?

A Yes, this is encouraged where this is a practical option. You can travel in a private car to return to university. You should not share a car with anyone outside of your household or extended household to minimise risks of transmission unless it is essential.

Q Can I travel on public transport to go back to university?

A Yes, as long as you don't have any symptoms of COVID-19 or need to self-isolate because you have tested positive or are a contact. If you are using public transport you should follow our guidance on [how to travel safely](#). This includes wearing a face covering unless you are exempt, planning your journey in advance to avoid busy times.

Q Can I travel back to my term time address to resume in-person teaching even if my university is in a level 3 or 4 area?

A Yes. The travel regulations contain an exemption for travel for educational purposes.

Q My family home is elsewhere in the UK – can I still return to university in Scotland

A Yes. If you are a student studying in Wales, England or Northern Ireland you will still be able to return to university once your university has advised you to do so.