Easter Vacation FAQs

Can I come to Oxford?

Until more students return in Trinity, the same guidelines about returning to Oxford apply as at the beginning of Hilary Term – you need to have your request approved by the Domestic Bursar before you can come back. This might be on grounds of an unsuitable home working environment, welfare, or mental health reasons.

Bear in mind that once you return, you will not be able to leave unless you have an exemption from national travel restrictions – see below.

I’m in Oxford – do I have to stay?

Students in Oxford thinking about leaving need to consider whether they meet one of the national exemptions for leaving home during the lockdown. If you believe you meet one of these exemptions and your leaving would be in line with law/guidance, then you can book a departure slot.

Can I apply for the usual finalists’ vac res?

There is no finalists’ vac res in the usual sense this year. Those already in Oxford concerned about the lack of reduced rent costs for finalists are encouraged to apply for financial support – applications are highly likely to be accepted. Please email financial.support@bnc.ox.ac.uk with ‘Easter Vacation Financial Support – Not able to leave Oxford’ in the subject line.

Finalists at home can return through the main route (having a request approved by the Domestic Bursar).

How do I request to come to Oxford?

If you believe you have an exemption and should be allowed to return, usually on grounds of an unsuitable home working environment or welfare/mental health reasons, email domestic.bursar@bnc.ox.ac.uk detailing why you are making the request. If you are applying on welfare/mental health grounds, you will need to provide a supporting letter from the college nurse (bncnurse@nhs.net) before your request for return can be approved.

How do I request to leave Oxford?

Unlike arriving, there is no process of requesting a departure from Oxford – the onus is on the student to decide for themselves whether they meet a national exemption to lockdown travel restrictions. If you believe you meet one of these exemptions and your leaving would be in line with law/guidance, then you can book a departure slot.

I’m staying in Oxford – how can I cover the extra rent costs?
The college appreciates that the extra costs incurred by staying resident over the whole Easter vacation are significant, and strongly encourage students to apply for financial support (financial.support@bnc.ox.ac.uk) with ‘Easter Vacation Financial Support – Not able to leave Oxford’ in the subject line. Applications are highly likely to be accepted.

If I leave Oxford, can I leave my belongings in my room?

Yes – as was the case over the last vacation, you are permitted to leave your belongings neatly in your room.

Can international students go back home?

Like domestic students, you are encouraged to stay in Oxford unless you believe you meet an exemption to national lockdown restrictions on travel. In particular, it is worth noting that it is currently illegal to travel internationally for either leisure or tourism purposes, so you may need to demonstrate that you have a valid reason for travel. The situation on student returns in Trinity Term is also subject to change. If you still believe you have good reason for leaving, though, you can book a departure slot.

When will I be able to come back next term?

Residency requirements have been lifted through to the end of the academic year, so no student will be obligated to return. For students who do plan on returning, though, there will be a staggered return over a few weeks, from -1st week Trinity (12 April) to 1st week Trinity (26th April), with preference for finalists. Your department will communicate with you about when you are permitted to return.

These details are subject to change in light of a government review on returns to higher education at the beginning of April.

International students will be supported to return in time to take part in any in-person teaching, but if there is only a small amount of in-person teaching scheduled then they may wish to take advantage of the lifted residency requirements. Students in ‘red list’ countries will be strongly encouraged not to return unless there are substantial in-person teaching commitments, and the college will not be able to assist with the costs of hotel quarantine.