

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.

Note: the student vacation travel window does *not* permit students not currently resident to come back to Oxford. It only applies to students *already* in residence, allowing them to take one trip back and forth from home.

I'm in Oxford – do I have to stay?

The government has announced a student vacation travel window, similar to the one at Christmas. Between **8th March and 29th April 2021**, students **currently in residence** are permitted to take **one** round trip back and forth from a home address, for purposes of a vacation. If you do leave on this basis, please [book a departure slot](#).

This guidance applies to international students too: one round trip home and back is permitted. However, the government continues to advise against travel to any countries outside the UK, and given the possibility that restrictions could change before your return, international students are strongly advised not to travel home for the vacation.

Outside of that one trip, 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](#).

I'm leaving – Do I need to get tested?

There is an expectation that departing students will take some LFD tests. Packs of 3 are available from the lodge. The first test should be taken prior to departure, ideally just before you leave Oxford, and the remaining 2 tests are for your arrival back in Oxford (arrival day and day 3). Please make sure you [log your results via the EAS](#), positive or negative.

If the test on departure is positive you must not travel home – you and your household need to isolate for 10 days in place.

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 student can simply use their single permitted travel window round trip back and forth from home as per the government guidance. When you leave please [book a departure slot](#).

For any other trips, 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 permitted to take one trip back and forth from home, even internationally. However, due to the fact that international travel is not advised in general, and restrictions could change preventing your return, it is strongly advised that international students do not travel home for the vacation.

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.