

Hilary Term FAQs

When will I be able to return to Oxford?

During the lockdown, currently expected to last until mid-February, students are all encouraged to stay at home and not return to Oxford unless:

- Their subject is exempt (your department will have let you know if this is the case)
- You believe you otherwise meet the exemption criteria, and your return request is approved by the Domestic Bursar.

What are the exemption criteria?

There are two categories (outside of studying an exempt subject) which may provide an exemption from having to stay at home. They are:

- Those with an unsuitable home working environment
- Those requiring additional support, including those with mental health issues (eg those 'whose vacation environment is having a serious negative impact on their physical or mental health issues, and where a return to Oxford would result in a significant and demonstrable improvement in their health') **NB:** If you are making a return request on this point, we are now asking that you provide a supporting letter with your request from a college doctor/the nurse, so please get in touch with them first.

How can I make a request to return?

Email domestic.bursar@bnc.ox.ac.uk providing the evidence of why you believe you meet the exemption criteria. We do need to restrict student returns to those of greatest need.

If you are making a return request on the second point, mental health/welfare issues, we are now asking that you provide a supporting letter with your request from a college doctor/the nurse, so please get in touch with them first.

Will I have to return if/when lockdown is lifted?

The university's residency requirement has been lifted this term, which means that even if student arrivals are opened back up in the second half of the term, returning will be entirely optional.

Will there be a rent refund/waiver?

The college will be waiving rent entirely for those who are not resident. The precise details of this will be communicated soon.

If I do return, do I pay rent for the whole term or just the dates I'm in Oxford?

You will only pay rent for the dates you are actually resident in Oxford.

When do I take tests? Where can I get them?

All returning students are encouraged to take 3 Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) when they return to Oxford: on the day of arrival, day 3, and day 10. A testing pack can be picked up from the lodge.

If you stayed in Oxford over the vacation and have been resident the whole time, the University recommends that you take a first test as soon as possible, and then two more 3 and 10 days later, like the arriving students.

It is vital that you report your results, positive or negative, on the link provided in the materials distributed with your tests.

Will there be any in-person teaching?

All teaching will be online until guidance changes, apart from some teaching for the exempt subjects. If you have any in-person teaching this will have been communicated by your department.

Is the library open?

As an educational facility, the library is allowed to remain open. It is doing so with reduced bookable slots to ensure distancing is maintained.

What other provisions are available in college? (Kitchens, Lodge, Chapel, etc)

The lodge is operating as usual, open 24/7.

3 meals a day are available for takeaway, with limited in-person dining in Hall available too.

The Bar is closed until further notice.

Cleaning will be critical areas only, including toilets, bathrooms, kitchens, and bins. Students are still expected to clean their own rooms.

The workshop can still be contacted for emergency maintenance (workshop@bnc.ox.ac.uk).

The nurse is working remotely.

Welfare services are all online.

The Chapel has some exemptions as a place of worship, and so will hold some small services (max 10 people) for staff and students, with no live singing.

How will in-person dining work? Can I eat in with someone from a different household?

Social distancing measures and protective screens are in place in Hall to allow for safe eating-in, even with people from different households. People can book the same slot and sit opposite each other to eat together safely. Takeaway is also still available for all meals. Current opening times for eating in are as follows:

- Breakfast Mon-Fri: 08:30-09:30
- Lunch Mon-Fri: 12:00-13:30
- Brunch Sat-Sun: 11:20-13:00
- Dinner Mon-Sun: 18:00-18:45

If I'm resident, can I change households?

Currently no, but the college is in discussion with the JCR about how to best arrange households for this term and any decisions will be communicated.

What happens if I develop symptoms of Covid-19?

The same protocols are in place as last term, which means if you develop any of the 3 main symptoms (fever, persistent cough, change to taste or smell) you and your household should immediately isolate. Please fill out the online isolation form (<https://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/isolate>) and book a test with the university testing service (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/coronavirus/health/covid-testing#>)

If you test positive, you and your household need to isolate for 10 days. You can still order meals through the Upay app like last term.

What are the covid-19 restrictions in college?

The nationwide lockdown restrictions still apply to those resident in college. Primarily, that means:

- No social mixing indoors or outdoors with anyone from another household
- You can go out for exercise once a day with one person from a different household
- Always stay 2m apart from anyone you do not live with
- Wear masks inside (unless exempt or in your own household)
- Wash your hands regularly with soap for at least 20 seconds