FAQs

Returning to Oxford

When will I find out about when my in-person teaching starts?

Your department will contact you in the near future to advise on the arrangements for your specific course.

I am starting in-person teaching or a placement on 4 January. Do I still need to arrive four days before I begin?

A small number of students may need to arrive by 4 January (such as those taking part in teacher training placements). Your department will provide specific advice in these instances.

Can I arrive in Oxford earlier than my allotted start date?

You need to arrive in time to complete relevant testing and self-isolation. There is no further guidance beyond this for students living in private accommodation. If you live in college accommodation, you should wait to hear from your college about the specific arrangements before travelling back.

I don’t live in college accommodation. Do I need to speak to my college about the date of my return?

No. There is no need to speak to your college about when you return. However, they will write to you to provide information about how to access your tests.

If I don’t have any in-person teaching at the start of 2\textsuperscript{nd} week, do I still need to return?

Yes, you should return to Oxford in time for 2\textsuperscript{nd} week, unless you have agreed an exemption from residency requirements. We are encouraging all students to live and study in Oxford throughout the 2020/21 academic year, so that they can take full advantage of Oxford life within the constraints of the pandemic. Teaching will take place throughout the term, with in-person teaching due to start by 2nd week for all courses. Residency requirements will still be in place. However, we recognise the need to consider individual student circumstances in a sensitive and supportive manner and exemptions are available. For more information, please go to the residency requirements section below.

Testing arrangements

How and when will I receive my tests?

This will vary depending on your college, and whether you live in college or private accommodation. Your college will provide more detailed information as soon as possible.

Are lateral flow tests reliable?

Health England laboratories extensively validated the technology behind the tests both here in Oxford and in Public Health England Laboratories. However, if you test negative, the chances that you are infectious with COVID-19 are reduced, but not zero. You should continue to adopt a cautious
approach to any social interactions, and if you develop any symptoms of COVID-19 you should seek a test through the Early Alert Service.

**Will there be asymptomatic testing available later in Hilary term?**

We are now developing plans for how we manage testing later in the term. and information will follow in the near future. Lessons from the testing on students’ return will help to inform our plans as they develop.

**Why can I take part in in-person teaching after my second test, when I am also being asked to take a test on my tenth day in Oxford?**

Getting two negative results after taking your first two will mean the chances of you being infectious will be very low (although not zero). The third test will help us to identify any infections that might have been acquired in the week after the first week’s testing. If you continue to follow the behaviours outlined in the University’s health advice and Student Behaviour Agreement, the chances of you testing positive on your third test will be low.