

Student Frequently Asked Questions

Whilst we cannot predict exactly what life will be like from September 2021, we are developing our plans for studying at the University of Glasgow to align with the current [Scottish Government Covid-19](#) prevention measures.

We are adopting a blended learning approach for 2021-22. This means that large teaching events are delivered online, with small group teaching and other activities taking place on campus.

To help explain what this means in practice and what you can expect when you join the School of Social and Political Sciences, we have compiled a list of frequently asked questions. This will be updated as the situation relating to Covid-19 evolves so please continue to check back. Please also continue to check the University [undergraduate](#) and [postgraduate](#) Covid-19 information pages.

Registration and enrolment

1. *When can I register?*

You will be able to [register and enrol](#) for the academic year 2021/22 from August 16th 2021. You should aim to complete registration before your programme start date.

2. *When does teaching start?*

The academic year will commence on 13 September 2021, during which time you will be expected to participate in relevant academic inductions. Teaching officially starts on 20 September 2021.

Information on arrangements for individual programmes will be shared by SPS programme administrators in advance of the start of teaching

3. *Do I need to be in Glasgow to study my programme?*

Across the University of Glasgow, we are monitoring the government Covid-19 prevention measures and we will adjust our approach in response to this. Whilst we cannot predict exactly what life will look like in September, our core planning principle is that we will be delivering blended learning across the academic year 2021-22, with the expectation that students will be in Glasgow.

4. *What if my travel to Glasgow is delayed?*

We will support our students as best we can and understand that travel plans may be disrupted.

The University of Glasgow also has a range of measures to support students who are travelling to Glasgow, including managed quarantine support. Further information can be found [here](#).

During any initial period of disruption before you arrive in Glasgow, you will be able to access online content and learning resources, including discussion forums that will enable you to meet course intended learning objectives. We are committed to doing our best to ensure that any temporary disruption for our students does not detrimentally impact on your overall learning experience.

5. *Am I able to complete my programme fully online?*

We do not offer our undergraduate or postgraduate taught programmes as fully online. For 2021-22, all SPS programmes will be delivered under a blended learning model (insert section link).

This is aligned with the University's approach to teaching delivery. Although we will accommodate students who are not in Glasgow by ensuring that learning materials which support essential course learning outcomes can be accessed online, you should not equate this to parallel teaching of face-to-face and online classes.

This means that for students who study remotely, your experience will not be the same as that of students who are in Glasgow. It is in the interest of all students to come to Glasgow at the earliest opportunity.

6. *I am an international student, and my CAS letter says I can arrive up to the 15th January. Can I wait until then and study only in the meantime?*

Although CAS letters have a later arrival date, this is a date set for visa purposes to support students with genuine medical or travel difficulties. It is not a date set for teaching purposes. We recommend that students aim to be in Glasgow as close as possible to the start of the teaching period. This will ensure that you can benefit fully from our blended teaching provision.

Covid-19 protection measures

7. *How is the campus being kept safe?*

The health, safety, and wellbeing of our School community is our number one priority. To make sure that our campus remains COVID-secure the University has enhanced cleaning and physical distancing measures in place in all buildings. There is a COVID testing centre on the main campus which offers regular testing for students and staff.

- Travelling to the UK

If you have a visa for the UK then you are classed as a temporary resident so can enter the UK. However you will need to comply with the [Scottish Government's Red, Amber, Green travel regulations](#).

- Managed Quarantine Support

The University will cover quarantine costs of £1,750 for students resident in countries on the UKVI red list, who are joining the School from September 2021. The University will cover the quarantine costs for you if you are joining us in September 2021 and:

- a) made your application to the University before 15 June
- b) are domiciled in a country which remains on UK red list following publication on 15 June, and
- c) are required to undertake a period of quarantine in a quarantine hotel, in line with UK government guidelines.

The University will cover the cost of your quarantining. Quarantine costs of £1,750 will be credited to your student account with the University. Students will

also be required to follow all relevant UKVI guidelines and regulations relating to quarantine and testing.

Vaccinations for students

UK students

The Scottish Government's 18-29 Registration Service closed on 11 June.

Vaccination appointments will start from mid-June.

If you didn't register via the online registration portal, your local NHS Board will send out an appointment to you via the post. You should make sure that your address details registered at your GP surgery are up to date so that you aren't missed.

There is more information on the Scottish Government webpages

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/under30register>

International students

The Scottish Government has announced that international students are included in the national coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination programme for the coming academic year (2021/22). There will be more details about this released in due course.

International students living in the UK and registered with a General Practitioner (GP) can access healthcare. This includes access to COVID-19 vaccinations.

When students arrive in the UK, they should register with a local GP surgery as soon as possible.

Delivery of learning and teaching

8. *What is blended learning?*

Blended learning combines learning activities which take place online and within small groups on campus.

9. *What does online learning look like?*

Online learning consists of a variety of learning activities which you will complete individually and collaboratively.

Online learning activities will be delivered both live (such as timetabled lectures or seminars and tutorials delivered via Zoom or Teams) and in no fixed time (such as readings, videos, quizzes, discussion forums) though deadlines for completing activities may apply. This approach combines the community-building benefits of whole class activities with the flexibility that comes with being able to work individually at your own pace.

10. *What does on-campus learning look like?*

On-campus learning will happen face-to-face in small groups. Within our school we consider small group teaching to be tutorials (up to around 15 students) and seminars (up to around 30 students) although some seminar teaching may include up to 50 students. A significant amount of work is being undertaken to ensure that this planned on-campus small group teaching can take place from the beginning of the academic year, aligned to current Covid-19 prevention measures. On-campus

learning provides a valuable opportunity to meet with your student peers and engage with your teachers.

We will also be providing on-campus experience events for all students in our school across the year and encourage you to take part in extra-curricular activities if possible. Many of these events will be run in conjunction with our excellent student societies.

The University's resources including the library, social spaces and sports facilities will be open and available to use.

Online learning platforms

11. What platforms and systems will I use?

Online learning is provided via the University of Glasgow's virtual learning environment (VLE), Moodle, combined with other appropriate platforms, e.g., Zoom and Microsoft Teams. A VLE is an online system that supports the sharing of learning materials and allows lecturers and students to communicate with each other.

12. How and when can I access Moodle?

You can access Moodle from your MyGlasgow portal once you have completed academic registration. Registration will open in August. There will be a Moodle site for each of your courses and one for your programme. Moodle access will be granted before the start of teaching. Our Moodle sites will open in September when you will be able to view:

- The course introduction
- Unit introductions
- The first unit
- Information about assessment
- More general course information, including course contacts
- You will also use Moodle for your online induction, with face-to-face social events if possible.

Engaging with your learning

13. How do I engage with and participate in my studies?

Our students are expected to actively participate in their studies. Whether asking a question in an online session, taking part in a group activity, or responding to a discussion forum post, you will be demonstrating engagement with your learning, contributing to the learning community and developing your communication skills.

14. What opportunities are there to interact with other students?

Learning activities and assessment will involve collaborating with other students on the programme, online and in person, developing important skills that help you to work well with others.

You are also encouraged to participate in the wide range of extra-curricular activities offered by the University to increase your social contact with your peers.

15. *Are there opportunities to interact with lecturers and tutors?*

Learning activities will provide opportunities to interact with academic staff online and on-campus. Support and feedback is provided via lecturer and teaching team 'office hours', regular online sessions which you can use to ask questions or discuss course-related matters with members of staff. Days and times of office hours can be found on Moodle in due course.

16. *I have never studied online before, how will I adapt?*

Learning online is quite different from the classroom-based experience that was the norm before Covid-19 but will no longer be an entirely new experience for many of our students. Regardless, you will require an open mind and a willingness to do things differently, recognising that this experience will be highly beneficial for your future.

The University's [Blended Learning & Assessment Moodle](#) site is a valuable resource which can be accessed following registration.

Managing your time

17. *How will I organise myself and manage my time?*

Some of your learning hours will be timetabled and some will be determined by you. This flexible approach will allow you to develop and demonstrate key employability attributes including self-motivation, self-discipline and time management skills. We recommend that you use the University's time management and project management resources and complete the training provided to prepare you for successful learning. These resources can be accessed on Moodle following registration.

18. *When will I get my timetable and what will it look like?*

You will create your timetable in MyGlasgow when you enrol in courses but remember that much of your online learning will take not be scheduled and you will need to manage your independent study time. Many activities can be completed at your own pace and you will see them referred to as Online ANYTIME on your timetable. You will find information about these activities and what you need to do to complete them within each course Moodle site instead of your timetable.

Some sessions will be scheduled. If they are online, you will see them referred to as Online LIVE on your timetable. Where possible recordings will be provided, but this is not guaranteed.

On-campus sessions are scheduled. You will see them referred to as On Campus, with location details, on your timetable. We will not be recording on-campus sessions or providing online access to these classes.

Key Contacts and Further Information

All students

[Information for Current Students](#)

[Registration](#) and [Enrolment](#) Information

[International Student Support](#)

[SPS Student Support Information](#)

Undergraduate

[Undergraduate Covid-19 information](#)

[Undergraduate Offer Holder Information](#)

[MA Social Sciences Information](#)

Postgraduate

[Postgraduate Covid-19 Information](#)

[Postgraduate Offer Holder Information](#)

[SPS Postgraduate Key contacts](#)

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