



For the future you want

## End of term advice and guidance for Edinburgh College students

Edinburgh College is working with the Scottish Government and universities across the capital city to help students to return home safely for the festive period.

We are committed to ensuring students who have been living away from home are able to return safely at the end of term, if you choose to do so.

It is important that we all take extra care to mitigate the risk of transmission of the virus over the festive period. Please take the time to read the below FAQs for advice and guidance on the end of term.

Please remember our staff are here to support you.

### When will College finish for the Christmas break?

All face-to-face teaching finished on Friday 4 December. From Monday 7 December all teaching is being delivered online only until Friday 18 December. The Christmas break will begin at 6pm on Friday 18 December.

### Can I go home at the end of term or do I need to wait until the specified 23 December date?

As a student, you can travel home from your term-time address to join one other household (for example, your family home) before the 23 December. However, if you are able to, we would advise you to remain in your term-time accommodation until the end of term (18 December) and not return home before then, to minimise the potential risk of spreading the virus to family members.

If you wish to return home before the end of term, you can. The College stopped all face-to-face teaching on 4 December to allow you to return to your main residence in good time. You should continue to study online until the end of term.

### I am planning to return home for the festive period, what should I do?

Students who plan to return home from their term-time address are being asked to voluntarily reduce their social mixing for two weeks before going home. This means only going out for essential reasons including learning, food shopping and exercise. This advice is for all, but it is most relevant for students who are leaving areas under a high protection level and those who are returning to households with vulnerable family members.

**If you test positive for COVID-19, become symptomatic or are identified as a close contact of a positive case while still at college you must self-isolate in accordance with the [Scottish Government's self-isolation guidance](#).**

### **Where can I find more information about what I can and cannot do over the festive period?**

The Scottish Government has issued further guidance to support people with sticking to restrictions and guidelines, particularly the limited relaxation of the COVID-19 rules during the period 23 -27 December. [Please read them here.](#)

### **How can I travel home safely?**

If you are travelling home, you should follow [government guidance on how to travel safely.](#)

### **Will I have to self-isolate when I return home?**

If you are returning home to a location in Scotland, England, Northern Ireland or Wales it is unlikely you will be required to take further measures at home (such as self-isolation) unless you become symptomatic, test positive or are asked by your local public health (including a contact tracing app) to self-isolate as a contact.

When you arrive home, you should follow the restrictions and guidance for the area you are returning to.

### **I am planning to return home for the festive period, can I arrange a COVID-19 test through Edinburgh College?**

Through the [Scottish Government's Asymptomatic Testing Programme for students](#), from Monday 30 November testing is available for Edinburgh College students that live in our halls of residence at Milton Road or Granton campuses. Although it's not compulsory, you are strongly advised to be tested close to leaving the halls of residence. To be eligible for the test, you need to be without COVID symptoms. If you test positive, you will need to completely self-isolate at college before returning home for Christmas. You must let the Accommodation Manager know if you test positive.

If you live in our halls of residence and have not already received information on getting tested, please speak to the Accommodation Manager to get more information.

Please remember testing alone does not protect you from COVID-19 and you should continue to follow the Scottish Government's [FACTS guidance](#) at all times.

### **I don't live in halls of residence, but I plan on travelling home (outside of the region) for the festive period, can I get an asymptomatic test through Edinburgh College?**

We are able to facilitate asymptomatic tests for a very limited number of students who are not living in our halls of residence and are travelling home (outside of Edinburgh and the wider region) for the festive period. Please contact our Students' Association ([contact@ecsa.scot](mailto:contact@ecsa.scot)) to enquire.

### **Will I be able to join a household 'bubble' over the Christmas/holiday period?**

Yes. Students who return home form part of the household they have returned to and can join household 'bubbles' in line with the Scottish Government's guidance for the festive period.

### **I am planning to return home to an overseas location for the festive period, what do I need to do?**

If you are travelling overseas you should follow Scottish Government Guidance on travelling safely and must note any quarantine rules which may apply in the country you are travelling

to. If you require a PCR test for travel purposes you will need to access a test privately and pay for it. Please remember that PCR tests offered through NHS Inform Test and Protect are for people with symptoms or who have been identified as close contacts of confirmed cases. PCR tests are not available through the Scottish Government's Asymptomatic Testing Programme for students.

Students, who intend to return to Scotland, should follow [guidance on international travel and quarantine](#) as appropriate when arriving back in Scotland.

You should be aware that travel advice may change while you are overseas, and are advised to regularly check for updates.

### **I am not planning on returning home for the festive period, is there support available?**

We know that some students may not be able to, or may choose not to, return home for the festive period. If you need support during the festive period you can access support through the College's Safeguarding team and a [range of organisations listed here](#). If you are staying in our halls of residence during this period, direct support will be available and you will be contacted with more information soon.

### **I'm nervous about arrangements for the festive period and need support, what should I do?**

Our staff are here to support you, please speak to your lecturer, LDT or contact our Wellbeing team on [wellbeing@edinburghcollege.ac.uk](mailto:wellbeing@edinburghcollege.ac.uk).

### **What will the arrangements be for classes after the Christmas break?**

To enable all of our students and staff to safely settle back in to College after the festive break, **the date for classes resuming has been moved to Monday 11 January 2021** (not Wednesday 6 January 2021).

This means, from Wednesday 6 until Friday 8 January 2021, no scheduled classes (online or face-to-face) will take place and you are encouraged to use those days to re-engage with our online learning platforms, access student support services, and to prepare for the new term. All bursary and childcare payments will still be made for Wednesday 6 - Friday 8 January 2021.

For the start of term on Monday 11 January 2021, the majority of our classes will continue to be delivered online with only a very limited number involving face-to-face teaching on campus.

You will be told by your lecturer if you are expected to come into campus for any of your classes at the start of term.

**It is important that you check our College Communications channels including your College email, the MyEC app, Edinburgh College website and social media for updates on plans for January.**

*Updated 11 December*