



## Information for Indian students in UK regarding COVID-19

Updated 1 May 2020

National Indian Students and Alumni Union (UK)

**Travelling to India** - With reference to the circular released by the Govt of India, flights to India are temporarily suspended till 3rd May 2020. Additionally, it is now confirmed that the lockdown in India has been extended for another two weeks starting 4th May 2020. The date for resumption of travel to India remains to be confirmed. We are in contact with High Commission of India who have confirmed that they remain in touch with concerned authorities and will update on resumption of flights as soon as they can.

**Visas due to expire soon** - For those whose visas are expiring before 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020 but are unable to leave due to travel restrictions or self-isolation related to the impacts of COVID19, the UK Government has confirmed that your visa will be extended to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020. You must contact Coronavirus Immigration Team (CIT) and provide the required information. The requirement is detailed on the UK Government website and can be accessed through <https://tinyurl.com/CIT-Visa-Extn>.

**Already in India but confused about Tier 4 Visa status** – A student on tier 4 visa is not allowed to be outside the UK for more than 60 days. However, considering these as exceptional circumstances, the UK Government has clarified the universities will not report you or stop your sponsorship as long as you do not withdraw from your course. Universities have switched to distance learning till the situation gets normal. However, we recommend you to keep your sponsor (the university and other stakeholders) informed about your whereabouts and continue your course as directed by their respective university.

**UK wide restriction** – At present there is a requirement in the UK to ‘**Stay at Home**’. Requirements include going outside only for food, health reasons or work (where this absolutely cannot be done from home), staying 2 metres (6ft) away from other people, and washing your hands as soon as you get home. We urge all Indian citizens in the UK to follow these requirements. Please see details on <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

**Already have a ticket to go to India?** - If you already have a ticket to travel back to India and are impacted by this restriction, please contact your airline and/or intermediary through which you booked the ticket.

**Registration with the High Commission of India** - We request everyone to register with the High Commission of India for any further updates by filling the form: <https://tinyurl.com/hci-register>.

**Absence from University?** - We are aware that universities are shifting to online teaching/assessment and we request you all to stay updated with the guidance released by your respective universities. Any requirement for absence from your studies should be discussed with your university in the first instance who are best suited to advise appropriately.

**Think you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms?** - If you experience any symptoms for COVID-19, follow NHS instructions as per <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

**Issues with accommodation?** – Tenants are advised to continue to pay their rents. You can check [www.tinyurl.com/gov-tenant](http://www.tinyurl.com/gov-tenant) to see if you are eligible to apply for any assistance. Landlords are supposed to give at least three months’ notice before starting eviction proceedings. If you have already received a notice from your landlord, your landlord cannot act through court. If you are facing issues, you can in the first instance reach out to your university and request them for help to avoid evictions and engage with local authorities. See: [www.tinyurl.com/gov-tenant](http://www.tinyurl.com/gov-tenant). For any issues – email [team@nisu.org.uk](mailto:team@nisu.org.uk)

**Facing issues with food/grocery supplies?** – Several community organisations and individuals have come forward to support Indian students. Many of these are listed [here](#). The generosity of individuals means new support is constantly being established so contact us if you need any help with food or groceries. For any issues – email [team@nisu.org.uk](mailto:team@nisu.org.uk)

**Guidance and Updates** - Everyone is requested to follow guidance and updates from the NHS, Public Health England, the UK and Indian Governments and the High Commission of India in the UK. Indian students in the UK are also requested to follow the UK Council for International Student Affairs for updates. Please be careful to follow official guidance and news from reliable sources. Please be mindful of the information you forward within your networks.

**Due to commence studies in the UK?** - Any students due to commence studies in or after March 2020 and concerned about the situation due to Coronavirus, please discuss your concerns with your university in the first instance. Universities UK have told us that due to delay or cancellation of board examination, UCAS will assess the present academic system and relay the information to the universities for decision making. Also, relaxation in English language proficiency test is also expected for upcoming intake. One can expect flexibility in terms of start date for October 2020. For any new visa queries related to COVID-19 should be addressed to [cih@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:cih@homeoffice.gov.uk).

**Any Problems?** - If you are feeling sad or lonely or need any other help, the NISAU team is happy to help with any of your queries. Please just drop us an email at [team@nisu.org.uk](mailto:team@nisu.org.uk) and we will do our best to help.

*Please note, this advisory and any communication from the [National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK \(NISAU\)](#) is intended to support Indian students and citizens in the UK and should not be construed as legal advice in any shape or form.*