

COVID-19 – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ'S BY STUDENTS

Is it safe to attend lectures?

Oxford College of Business will remain open, but there will be no face to face teaching or assessments until further notice. Information and updates on alternative forms of assessments for undergraduate first year, intermediate years, final year students and postgraduate students is being shared via the respective learning platforms.

- There will be no face to face assessments - we are working to identify alternative modes of assessment and will be in touch with you through your respective student learning platform and email.
- We are supporting staff to working from home, and we will provide those staff with wellbeing advice and advice on IT tools to support working from home.
- The Library and study spaces remain closed for the time being, however student will continue to have access to their respective online libraries.

We have no doubt that this situation will be resolved in the future and at that point will have to make additional changes to its activities in the near future. Nonetheless, we will continue in the delivery of education and research using alternative learning platforms and will continue to work with companies and schools in this most difficult period.

Where the information is uncertain, we shall be erring on the side of caution, looking to learn, evaluate, and then act. This will hold as we work to what some may describe or interpret as some sort of 'closure', but we will in fact be actively practicing continuation by different means until the pandemic has passed.

In this period, please do take care of yourselves, your families and our community. Please continue to wash your hands thoroughly and regularly. Practice social distancing. If in doubt, self-isolate. And please continue to pay close attention to further updates that we will send to you by email, supported by our regularly updated FAQs online.

Will exams be affected by COVID-19?

Oxford College of Business will remain open, but there will be no face to face teaching or assessments. Information and updates on alternative forms of assessments for undergraduate first year, intermediate years and final year students, are being shared via the respective learning platforms.

What if I can't participate in exams?

If you are concerned that you may be unable to participate in exams – this may be because you are unwell or self-isolating, or if you have concerns that your performance may be affected, then you can use the University's mitigating circumstances procedure.

FAQ'S BY STUDENTS AND STAFF

How is the Oxford College of Business coordinating its response to the coronavirus outbreak?

We have convened a dedicated planning group, including academic experts, to coordinate our response to coronavirus and to consider business continuity issues and risks to a range of key business activities, such as recruitment and admissions and education delivery. Our plans are informed by the need to provide proportionate and adaptable responses, always informed by Governmental advice.

What would happen if there was a confirmed case on campus?

We are aware of a number of individuals who have sought and are following medical advice, including to self-isolate. We are monitoring this and providing support and guidance.

Oxford College of Business has developed its own Protective Entry Procedure and all students, staff and visitors entering our campuses will be screened prior to entering (<http://www.ocbsrilanka.edu.lk/covid-19/>).

If someone on campus is confirmed to have contracted coronavirus, we will work with local health services to ensure that the individual receives the best care. We will inform our community, and ensure that anyone in contact with the infected individual is identified and receives medical attention and that the welfare of the wider campus is considered.

We will continue to provide information and guidance to our students and staff via our web pages, our social media accounts, and via email.

What should I do if I think I have got coronavirus?

If you think that you may have contracted the coronavirus, follow advice provided by the Ministry of Health:

- Stay indoors, and avoid contact with other people.
- Check if you need medical help by using the IDH medical helpline service and follow their advice:
 - Or telephone 135
- **Do not go to your GP or hospital** unless you are instructed to do so.
- You may be advised to self-isolate.

Will there be changes to the cleaning procedures at Oxford College of Business to help to mitigate the risks of spreading coronavirus?

To assist with Oxford College of Business's response to the global coronavirus outbreak Campus cleaning services will adjust their cleaning schedules to offer additional support and protection to shared spaces and public areas across our campuses.

Our cleaning teams will be focusing their resources on repeat 'Touch Point' cleaning and increasing the frequency of cleaning in all toilet, bathroom, kitchen and shared spaces. They will also be ensuring all bathrooms have regularly replenished stocks of hand soap etc to ensure staff, students and visitors are able to follow Ministry of Health advice on hand washing which has been cited as the best form of prevention.

To enable them to focus their efforts on the key tasks of 'Touch Point' cleaning, they will reduce the frequency of other tasks such as vacuuming carpeted areas such as lecture theatres, class rooms, corridors etc. This will allow them to re-direct staff to increase the cleaning of key areas.

FAQ'S BY PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Will COVID-19 outbreak affect my application to joining a program offered at Oxford College of Business?

Oxford College of Business is doing everything we can to limit any impact COVID-19 may have on current applications to study at Oxford College of Business in 2020/2021.

If you are awaiting a decision from us about your application, be assured that our admissions team is working diligently to provide a response.

I am in an affected country and considering making an application for 2020, but have not submitted yet. Considering the COVID-19 outbreak, are you still applications from my country?

We will continue to treat all new applications in the usual way, irrespective of where you are from or currently reside.

We are monitoring the situation closely and will update these FAQs as more information becomes available. Our advice is that you check back with us regularly for the latest advice and guidance on our student recruitment policy from time to time.

GENERAL FAQ'S

What is social distancing?

Social distancing aims, through a variety of means, to decrease or interrupt the spread of COVID-19. It does this by minimising contact between potentially infected individuals and healthy individuals.

Social distancing is keeping a 2m (6ft) space between you and other people. You should not shake hands or make close contact where possible.

What are these measures?

It is important to reduce the risk of further spread of the infection.

1) Self-isolate: People are now being asked to stay at home if they have 'flu-like symptoms (e.g. fever, cough, etc) regardless of travel or contact history.

2) Social Interactions: Reduce interactions with people outside the workplace as much as possible. All citizens are required to:

- avoid crowded places;
- increase interpersonal distance (ideally separation of at least 2 metres, not shaking hands, avoiding communal sleeping areas);
- when in crowded settings, people should practice personal protective measures as they usually do (e.g., frequent hand hygiene, avoid touching eyes/nose/mouth).

3) Vulnerable Groups

Protective self-separation is recommended for a person who is at high-risk of severe illness from COVID-19, when the virus is circulating in their community.

These groups include:

- All people aged 75 years and over;
- People (adults and children) with long-term medical conditions including people with cardiac and respiratory conditions;
- People whose immune system is impaired due to disease or treatment including cancer patients;
- Patients with any condition that can compromise respiratory function;
- Residents of nursing homes and other long-stay settings (including disability, mental health and older persons services);
- All over 50-year olds within the specialist disability health services;
- All people in the specialist disability health services with an underlying health condition.
- All day services and community day hospitals (including disability, mental health and older persons services) are asked to enhance their social distancing measures.

4) Mass Gatherings

There should be no mass gatherings:

- Involving more than 100 people if located indoors
- Involving more than 500 people if located outdoors Museums, galleries and tourism sites will close.

Social distancing and good hygiene should be exercised in all instances.

Respiratory illnesses like COVID-19 spread quickly in crowded spaces. Mass gatherings can amplify the spread of this diseases.

Infections can also be transmitted travelling to and from an event, and in participants' home communities upon return.

Examples of mass gatherings may include conferences, sporting events, religious events, national and international events.

What does delay mean?

We know that COVID19 (Coronavirus) is contagious and many people will catch it. Our delay strategy is planned to slow down the spread of the virus. This means that for example, if 1,000 people are going to catch the virus, the delay initiatives should result in 200 people per week catching the virus over five weeks, rather than 500

people per week catching the virus over 2 weeks. That way we will be able to reduce the burden on our GPs and hospitals.

Will delay measures eliminate COVID19 (Coronavirus)?

It is estimated that all these social distancing measures will significantly reduce the demand for hospital capacity during the peak of the epidemic. This may also reduce the total number of cases and deaths. Experience from China indicates that the early decisive rapid coordinated and comprehensive implementation of social distancing measures are likely to be more effective in slowing the spread of the virus.

Can you describe the symptoms of COVID-19 that require people to stay at home?

- The most common symptoms of the virus are:
- fever (high temperature)
- a cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry
- shortness of breath
- breathing difficulties

Should those with these symptoms contact their GP? Will those with these symptoms be tested for COVID-19?

If you are experiencing these symptoms and are concerned you have been in contact with a person infected with COVID-19, self-isolate and contact your GP by phone.

Your GP or public health doctor will assess you and decide if a test for COVID-19 is necessary.

Can I take public transport as normal?

Yes, but try to travel off peak and practice social distancing. If you are experiencing symptoms, do not use public transport. Self-isolate and call your GP.

Should I wear a mask?

No. There is no evidence to show that masks protect healthy people from COVID-19. Masks are required for healthcare workers in clinical settings.

Should children keep away from grandparents even if neither of them are sick?

Social distancing should be practiced particularly with vulnerable groups.