Covid-19 Funding FAQs for Undergraduate Students on International Placements

**Student Finance (only applicable to UK Students)**

**Q:** My host organization has remote provision in place (e.g. online teaching or working from home) and I've returned to the UK to complete this, will my student loan be affected?

If you are able to continue your placement remotely from the UK then your maintenance loan will be reassessed by the Student Loans Company (SLC) and calculated at the UK rate for the duration you are in the UK, and at the overseas rate for the period already spent abroad.

You do not have to do anything in terms of contacting the Student Loans Company. The Funding Team in the Student Services Centre will report the change of circumstance to the Student Loan Company once it has been confirmed by your academic School. The SLC will then make the necessary adjustments and notify you directly of the changes to your funding entitlement.

If you would suffer hardship as a result of the recovery of any overpayment you can apply to the Financial Hardship Team at Student Finance England to defer any recovery. Students wishing to pursue a claim to defer any recovery need to call Student Finance England to request a financial hardship form. Please note this step need only be taken once you have been notified of your revised funding entitlement for 2019/20.

If you have any additional questions regarding your funding then please contact the Funding Team: funding@manchester.ac.uk

**Q:** The University of Manchester has put alternative provision in place (e.g. a new UK-based placement or provision in lieu of a placement) and I've returned to the UK to complete this, will my student loan be affected?

Your maintenance loan will be reassessed by the SLC and calculated at the UK rate for the duration you are in the UK, and at the overseas rate for the period already spent abroad.

You do not have to do anything in terms of contacting the Student Loans Company. The Funding Team in the Student Services Centre will report the change of circumstance to the Student Loan Company once it has been confirmed by your academic School. The SLC will then make the necessary adjustments and notify you directly of the changes to your funding entitlement.

If you would suffer hardship as a result of the recovery of any overpayment you can apply to the Financial Hardship Team at Student Finance England to defer any recovery. Students wishing to pursue a claim to defer any recovery need to call Student Finance England to request a financial hardship form. Please note this step need only be taken once you have been notified of your revised funding entitlement for 2019/20.
If you have any additional questions regarding your funding then please contact the Funding Team: funding@manchester.ac.uk

**Q: My placement has been cancelled, will my student loan be affected?**

Your maintenance loan will be reassessed based on the duration of the period spent abroad and any over-payment will be recovered.

You do not have to do anything in terms of contacting the Student Loans Company. The Funding Team in the Student Services Centre will report the change of circumstance to the Student Loan Company once it has been confirmed by your academic School. The SLC will then make the necessary adjustments and notify you directly of the changes to your funding entitlement, both in terms of tuition fee and maintenance loans.

If you would suffer hardship as a result of the recovery of any overpayment you can apply to the Financial Hardship Team at Student Finance England to defer any recovery. Students wishing to pursue a claim to defer any recovery need to call Student Finance England to request a financial hardship form. Please note this step need only be taken once you have been notified of your revised funding entitlement for 2019/20.

If you have any additional questions regarding your funding then please contact the Funding Team: funding@manchester.ac.uk

**Q: Can I still get the Income-Assessed Travel Grant from Student Finance?**

If you are eligible for the income-assessed Travel Grants from Student Finance then the cost of your flight to return home to the UK can be claimed by submitting the normal claim form and receipt evidence. You can find further information here: http://www.goabroad.manchester.ac.uk/finance-and-funding/student-finance/

**Erasmus+ Grant Funding**

**Q: My host university has moved to all online provision, am I still eligible for funding?**

Students completing their host university courses online either from the host country or from their home country are eligible to receive their Erasmus+ grant funding as normal as long as the content being studied online contributes towards the learning goals set out in your learning agreement. You will still need to submit all of your end of placement documentation as normal (wherever possible) at the end of your placement.

**Q: My host employer has closed but I am able to continue my placement by working from home, am I still eligible for funding?**

Students completing their work placement online either from the host country or from their home country are eligible to receive their Erasmus+ grant funding as normal as long as the
work being undertaken still contributes towards the learning goals set out in your
traineeship agreement. You will still need to submit all of your end of placement
documentation as normal (wherever possible) at the end of your placement.

Q: I have left my placement early and did not meet my minimum duration (90 days for study, 60 days for work) to be eligible for Erasmus+ funding, do I have to pay back my grant?

The European Commission have advised that any placement which has ended early due to Covid-19 is eligible for funding and a short duration request will not need to be submitted. You will be able to keep the funding for the days you were on placement. You will still need to submit all of your end of placement documentation as normal (wherever possible) at the end of your placement. If the amount of funding you have already received is more than the entitlement for your placement dates then you may be required to pay back the additional funds. We will contact students individually where this is necessary. We would look to recover this from unspent funds on your MasterCard in the first instance. If there are not enough funds to cover the reimbursement or you are in immediate, significant need of these funds then we can arrange for the repayment to happen at a later date or in small instalments to minimise any additional worries at what is already a difficult time.

Q: Is there any help from Erasmus+ for extra costs I have incurred due to needing to return home early?

The European Commission has indicated that there is some possibility to claim some additional expenses as a result of placements ending early due to Covid-19 (e.g. travel costs, accommodation deposits or upfront payments). We are working through the details of this at the moment and will provide an update as soon as we understand more about this. To claim this funding, you would need to provide evidence of the cost (e.g. flight booking and boarding pass) and, where relevant, confirmation that you could not get a refund (e.g. return flights booked for the end of term or rent paid upfront).

Q: My host organisation has closed and has no online provision but I’m still abroad, can I still be funded?

You will be eligible to retain the funding for the days you were able to study. We are waiting for a response from the Commission as to whether any further days can be funded.

Q: If I have already received more Erasmus+ grant than my new end date entitles me to, will I have to pay this back?

We are currently working through all of the guidance provided by the European Commission to try to minimise any funding that may need to be repaid. Where some funding does need to be repaid, we would look to recover this from unspent funds on your MasterCard in the first instance. If there are not enough funds to cover the reimbursement or you are in immediate, significant need of these funds then we can arrange for the repayment to happen at a later date or in small instalments to minimise any additional worries at what is already a difficult time.
If you have any questions regarding your Erasmus Grant please email: erasmus@manchester.ac.uk

**General**

**Q: I’m struggling financially, what support is available?**

**Living Cost Support Fund** – this is available to students who find themselves in financial hardship and need access to funds as a consequence of the current unanticipated circumstances: http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/funding-opportunities/all/living-cost-support-fund

**Deferring recovery of Student Finance Overpayments** - If you would suffer hardship as a result of the recovery of any overpayment of Student Finance you can apply to the Financial Hardship Team at Student Finance England to defer any recovery. Students wishing to pursue a claim to defer any recovery need to call Student Finance England to request a financial hardship form. Please note this step need only be taken once you have been notified of your revised funding entitlement for 2019/20.