FAQs

International Placements 2020/21 and Covid-19 Disruption

I am planning to defer my international placement until 2021/2022 and invert my 3rd and 4th years of study. Am I guaranteed to keep the same partner university to which I was originally allocated for 2020/21?

Deferral is only a formally approved option for students participating in certain programmes as the structure of certain degree programmes precludes inverting the 3rd and 4th years of study.

Wherever possible we will endeavour to send you to the partner university to which you were originally nominated/admitted, however we cannot guarantee this. There may be factors outside of our control that will prevent this, such as the partner university does not have the same level of capacity for exchange students for 2021/22, changes in programmes and course units offered at the partner university mean that it is no longer a suitable option for your degree programme, political changes or similar mean that the FCO does not support travel to the country/region etc, ongoing pandemic related concerns.

If you have chosen to defer, we will inform your partner university of this intent. We will then review the viability of this position during the course of the Autumn and if necessary discuss alternative options with you if for any reason the partner university is no longer a good fit for you or isn’t viable for other reasons. In many cases you will need to make a new application to the partner university itself for the 2021/22 academic year as they will need a variety of more up-to-date documents from you in order to meet admission/legal requirements eg. financial documentation/evidence for visas, valid evidence of language skills, a new academic transcript, revised course choices etc.

What happens if I have deferred my place and asked to retain my place at my current partner university/host organisation but over the next few months factors beyond my control mean that I can no longer afford to go there and I’d prefer to be considered for a lower cost location?

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We will review allocations for students deflecting during the course of the Autumn and students will be asked to revisit their original course units and their financial position to check that their original partner university/host organisation remains viable. If the location is no longer viable, there will be the opportunity to indicate alternative choices of partner university.

For the University International Exchange Programme, co-ordinated by the IPO, the cut-off point will be in early December. All students who indicate they wish to be considered for an alternative partner university will be reallocated with the next cohort of students applying to study abroad.

For the Alliance Manchester Business School the cut off point will be Friday 16th of October in line with the course choice deadline at the end of week 2. All students will be reallocated with the new 2nd year cohort of IM & IMABS students.
If my School approves an interruption to my studies for the academic year 2020/21 will I be able to retain my place at my allocated partner university/host organisation and study/work abroad in 2021/22 instead?

As in any other year, if your School approves an interruption of studies and an international placement forms part of your planned programme of study we will discuss with you the best course of action for your return to study depending on the reasons for the interruption. Depending on the reason for interruption it may be appropriate to look at an alternative location (for example, you may have developed additional support needs that the original partner university is not well-placed to support), this would also be the case if you no longer met the admission requirements for the partner university/host organisation.

Wherever possible we will endeavour to send you to the partner university/host organisation to which you were originally nominated/admitted, however we cannot guarantee this. There may be factors outside of our control that will prevent this, such as the partner university does not have the same level of capacity for exchange students for 2021/22, changes in programmes and course units offered at the partner university mean that it is no longer a suitable option for your degree programme, political changes or similar mean that the FCO does not support travel to the country/region, ongoing pandemic related concerns, changes in the nature of internships offered by the host organisation etc.

I am deferring my place until 2021/22 and inverting my 3rd and 4th year of study, will I be able to select higher level course units at the partner university given I will have completed a further year of study at UoM?

Deferral is only a formally approved option for students participating in certain programmes as the structure of certain degree programmes precludes inverting the 3rd and 4th years of study.

Yes, provided both your Academic Adviser at UoM and the partner university support this. Some universities restrict access to some of the higher level course units or prioritise these for their own final year students so capacity may be more limited. As is always the case, you will need to be able to evidence that you meet the pre-requisites for the relevant course units.