

IHSE Face Coverings and Face Masks Policy for students

| Additional Documentation | Effective from | Applies to |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government guidance on when you are not required to wear a face covering • QMUL COVID-19 Face Coverings Policy and Procedure | <p>February 2021</p> <p>To be reviewed August 2021</p> | <p>All students when on campus or in university buildings for teaching and assessments</p> <p>All students on clinical placement</p> |

Following current [government guidance](#) Queen Mary University of London has taken the decision to make the wearing of face coverings mandatory in:

- all indoor spaces where two metres social distancing cannot be maintained;
- common areas and when walking around in buildings, in toilets and in lifts; and
- libraries and unsupervised study spaces at all times.

The following activities may also make additional requirements of personal protective equipment (PPE): clinical or practical skills (including anatomy and physiology) teaching, self-directing learning (SDL) in clinical skills, and assessment. Students must also comply with all local NHS requirements while on clinical placements.

A small proportion of students may find that they are unable to wear a face covering or face mask for a variety of reasons. This policy provides guidance on the steps to be taken when a student is unable to comply with the requirement to wear face coverings or face masks when on campus or in clinical placements to reduce the risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection to both themselves and others. If a student is unable to wear the required face covering or face mask the student must notify the School at the first available opportunity to discuss alternatives and options. In London, to begin this process please email smd-student-support@qmul.ac.uk and the relevant Head of Year. In Malta, to begin this process please email student-support-malta@qmul.ac.uk and the relevant Head of Year.

The initial discussion will ascertain the specific reasons relating to not being able to wear a face covering or face mask. Several appropriate alternative forms of face covering or face mask may be offered which may also involve a referral to Occupational Health for further discussion, if necessary. The student should not engage in any further face-to-face activity which requires the use of a face covering or face mask until the issue has been resolved.

If a suitable alternative is found together with any necessary additional risk mitigation, then the student will be given a student support card (text agreed with student) which a student can share as required to explain that this alternative has been approved and the student can continue to engage in face-to-face activity which requires the use of a face covering or face mask.

If no suitable alternative is found a Fitness to Study Case Conference will be convened under the [Fitness to Study Policy](#). The case conference process will determine the next appropriate course of action with the student.