

STUDENTS FROM COUNTRIES IN CRISIS POLICY

Purpose and Context

In the event of a major issue affecting international students (natural disaster, civil war, sponsor debt etc.) representatives from the International Office, Student Finance Office, Student Union, and Student Services will meet to discuss the approach to the situation on a case-by-case basis and what support can be offered to students.

Scope

This policy applies to all new and returning students who require a CAS to obtain a visa and undertake their studies at the University. Approaches will be managed on a case-by-case basis by the International Office, Student Finance Office, Student Union & Student Services.

1 Support Provisions

- 1.1. There will be consideration of regulatory and immigration requirements and what financial support may be put in place for students on a case-by-case basis.
- 1.2. Schools will be made aware of the support being put in place centrally through Associate Deans (International) who will be expected to disseminate as appropriate.
- 1.3. The International Office, in conjunction with Schools, may seek to provide other financial assistance to students as and when appropriate and if considered prudent based on any situation that has arisen.

2. Tuition Fees

- 1.1. Any agreement relating to tuition fee payments for students from countries in crisis will be discussed at the initial meeting, taking into account the nature of the crisis and its impact on the financial status of students. It may be decided not to pursue the tuition fee debt with individuals or groups of students at that stage.
- 1.2. If it is agreed that tuition fees will not be pursued from individuals/ groups of students this will also apply to other outstanding debt such as library fines which would impede a student's ability to complete academic work and assignments.
- 1.3. Any tuition fee debt accrued through a sponsor/government will not be pursued with the individual student.

- 1.4. Sponsored students whose sponsors are debtors and students from a country in crisis will not have library access and privileges suspended.
- 1.5. The Student Finance Office will notify the International Office of government/corporate sponsors which become debtors by the end of January for September starts and end of April for January starts. PGR students which also have the same sponsor, but different start dates, will also be considered using the above timeline.
- 1.6. In the first instance a series of meetings will be set up with the affected students along the suggested timeline.
- 1.7. Individual decisions on the reliability of sponsors will be made by the Director of International Development and Head of Student Finance.
- 1.8. The University reserves the right to not issue visa documentation or allow sponsored students to re-enrol where they deem the sponsor unreliable.
- 1.9. The University also reserves the right to request tuition fee payments in advance from sponsors which have been deemed unreliable.

POLICY SIGN-OFF AND OWNERSHIP DETAILS

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REVISION HISTORY

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V1.0	Nov. 2022	Approval and introduction of policy Document	Director of International Development