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**August 25th 2020**

**Frequently Asked Questions for incoming Non-EU students for September/October 2020**

During this unprecedented time of COVID-19 our International Admissions Department is still accepting and progressing with applications for the September/October 2020 intake, remaining positive and we are available to answer any queries you may have. We hope to welcome you to our campus soon.

Should you have any immediate questions please do not hesitate to contact a member of the International Admissions Team at [international@dbs.ie](mailto:international@dbs.ie)

If you are yet to submit an application, but wish to do so, you may do so [here](https://www.dbs.ie/application-form)

Courses available in the September/October 2020 intake, can be found [here](https://www.dbs.ie/courses/international)

**Is DBS still accepting applications from all non-EU countries?**

Yes, the DBS Admissions Office, and indeed all College Departments, remain open and operational.  Applications are being processed as per usual and we endeavour to respond to all applicants within 48 working hours.

**Can** **I still apply if currently there are travel restrictions in my country?**

Yes, while restrictions are commonplace in many countries we are still accepting applications. The global situation is ever-changing and we would suggest that you apply, as you normally would, with a view to continuing your studies abroad when it is safe and advisable to do so.

**How will Covid-19 affect my application?**

Your application will not be affected in any way whatsoever. We welcome all applications and normal admissions processes and procedures apply.

**Is there flexibility around deposit payments?**

If you have received a Confirmed Letter of Offer, you will have been invited to make a deposit payment that in many cases secures a scholarship. DBS will consider requests for a payment extension on a case-by-case basis and where there is a genuine case for an extension, an extension may be granted.

**What is the DBS refund policy for courses commencing in September/October given Covid-19?**

Should a student not be in a position to travel to Ireland, to commence studies, due to reasons associated with Covid-19 a full refund will be applied should the request be received prior to course commencement.

**My current school/university is closed and I cannot complete my studies and exams?**

We recommend that you still commence the application process and furnish what supporting documents that you can at present. DBS will continue to monitor the situation globally and react accordingly. Any accommodations that may be given would be done in accordance with our quality assurance policies.

**I cannot currently register for a recognised English language test, what are my options?**

IELTS/TOEFL/iBT are English language tests required by DBS. Currently there is disruption in registering for these tests.

Therefore, it will now be possible to take the [Duolingo English Test](https://englishtest.duolingo.com/). This is an online test that can be taken anywhere, anytime and results will be issued in 2 days.

**Is it possible to defer my application?**

We are accepting and assessing all applications as normal and look forward to welcoming new students to Dublin in September/October. However, if you feel that it is not realistic for you please do contact our International Admissions Team who can help in advising you of your options.

**Can I apply for a student visa at present?**

Yes, most Irish Visa Offices are now taking applications. Please check the website of your closest Irish Embassy for new announcements. In the meantime, please make sure you have all documentation required to support your application and be ready to apply soon as we are approaching start dates in a couple of weeks on many programmes.

**If I contract the Covid-19 Virus can/should I travel to Ireland?**

No, in such cases you should not travel and follow local health advisories and seek medical assistance.

**What will teaching look like for the Academic Year 2020/21 at Dublin Business School?**

DBS aims to give you the best possible campus and blended learning experience. All classes for 2020/21 will be taught on a hybrid learning basis. This means you will be on campus for some classes and other classes will be online. Your timetable will be available once you register for the programme and will advise you of which classes are on campus and which classes will be taken online.

Our objective is for every student to have as much classroom teaching as possible.   The amount of classroom teaching for any individual student is dependent upon how many other students are in the class. On average we expect that while a 2-metre social distance requirement is in place for Colleges and Universities, a student will spend approximately one-third of their time in the classroom and the remainder online. As the social distance protocol is reduced below 2 metres, more students can be in a classroom at the one time and therefore you will be spending more time on campus and less time online.   When you get your timetable it will show how much time will be on campus and how much will be online. The timetable for the new academic year is built on the principle that First-year students and Award or Final year students will have more time on campus than others. However, the volumes of students in a particular class is the main factor that will contribute to the amount of time on-campus versus online.

All student services such as Career and Library Services, Student Welfare and Academic Support will still be fully available to all students. All of these support services are being reformatted for the new academic year so as students can access them online as well as on campus.  Details of these will be available at your induction to the College and your course.  We are also planning to run our Clubs and Societies as normal in the new academic year.  All meetings will need to follow Irish public health advice for gatherings.  Events such as sports training, competitions and social trips are planned to take place in accordance with public health guidance.  Each event will require a COVID-19 risk assessment to be done and our Student Experience team will help with this.

**Can I travel to Ireland at this time?**

As of 22 July, Ireland's borders remain open and there are no additional restrictions on travel to Ireland. However, the Irish Health Authorities require anyone coming into Ireland, apart from Northern Ireland, to complete a [Public Health Passenger Locator Form](https://www2.hse.ie/file-library/coronavirus/covid-19-public-health-passenger-locator-form.pdf) on arrival and to [restrict your movements](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/travel.html#Restrict-movements-travel) for 14 days.

Although Ireland is a member of the European Union (EU), the temporary restrictions on non-essential travel into the EU have not been adopted by Ireland.

Please note that students should travel without any family or friends accompanying them. Family and friends, of students, are not categorised as essential and therefore should not travel to Ireland.

The Irish Government has also now published a “green list” of countries, which will be updated every two weeks. Anyone travelling from a [green list country](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/travel.html#green-list) will not be required to [restrict their movements](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/travel.html#Restrict-movements-travel) on arrival in Ireland.

At 22 July, the Irish Government has advised that it is continuing with plans to strengthen the existing measures for monitoring passengers who arrive into Ireland, including the introduction of an Electronic Passenger Locator Form, enhanced follow-up procedures, a call centre, and a proposed testing regime for symptomatic passengers at airports and ports.

**Note:** This advice is subject to change at short notice and we will update accordingly.

**What will happen when I arrive in Ireland?**

**Compulsory Airport Collection**

It is an Irish Government requirement that DBS have oversight of all transfers from the airport to the accommodation where the student is staying for the first 14 days.

**Students cannot take any form of Public Transportation (Bus or Taxi) or arrange to be collected by friends.**

Therefore, DBS will arrange transfer for all students from the airport to their accommodation.

For students that have booked accommodation through DBS and its recognised accommodation providers, there is no additional cost for airport transfer. For students that have not booked accommodation with a DBS Accommodation provider, a fee of €50 applies for airport transfer to their accommodation.

In order to be able to book their transfer students must send an e-mail to: [intlservices@dbs.ie](mailto:intlservices@dbs.ie)

At present, the Irish Health Authorities require anyone coming into Ireland, apart from Northern Ireland, to complete a [Public Health Passenger Locator Form](https://www2.hse.ie/file-library/coronavirus/covid-19-public-health-passenger-locator-form.pdf) on arrival and to [restrict your movements](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/travel.html#Restrict-movements-travel) for 14 days.

Please check the [Irish Health Service COVID-19 Advice Page](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/travel.html) for full information on these requirements. Bearing in mind that advice may change at short notice, you should check to ensure you have the latest information. We recommend that you take the restricted movement period into consideration for booking travel and accommodation.

While you are in Ireland, you are required to follow the public health advice as listed below.

You should:

* wash your hands regularly and thoroughly - especially after you have been out and about or in and out of other people's homes or businesses
* observe good cough and sneeze etiquette
* maintain social distancing - keep 2 metres apart from people
* avoid crowded places as much as possible - leave a location if social distancing becomes difficult
* wear a face covering if you are using public transport. This is the law - you may be fined or refused entry if you don't wear one
* only use public transport for essential journeys - walk or cycle instead, if you can
* wear a face covering if you are in a public place like in shops or in shopping centres. This is the law.
* wear a face covering when visiting people aged 70 or over, or other vulnerable people - be sure to practice social distancing for their safety
* for the first 2 weeks in Ireland you will be required to ‘restrict your movement’. During this period you will be permitted to leave your residence to complete day-to-day tasks such as shopping and exercise.
* Install the COVID Tracker app. The COVID Tracker app can alert you if you have come into close contact with someone who tested positive for the virus. Download the app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

**How will DBS support International Students arriving in Ireland for the Academic Year 20/21?**

We recognise that there are additional support considerations for international students, as you prepare to book flights, confirm accommodation arrangements, and prepare yourself for moving to another country especially in these challenging times.

A set of pre-arrival videos are currently being prepared and will be sent to all offer holders in due course.

Students will then be invited to register for their programme online as well as attend specific programme inductions which will also take place online.

This will afford you an opportunity to engage with our International Student Services and Student Experience Teams who will be available to answer any questions you have.

**What if I can’t travel in advance of the start date?**

In the event you can’t make the start of the classes we recommend that you commence all classes online. You will need to be fully registered on your programme to do this. Then when you arrive in Ireland you will be able to commence your blended learning experience.

We recommend that you get to Ireland before the start date of your classes.  Of course, we recognise that this may not be possible for everyone so in those circumstances you must start your course online and you are expected to attend all your online classes at the scheduled time.  You can arrive in Ireland any time after that but we recommend you do not delay or postpone your arrival by any longer than a few weeks.

**What are my health and safety obligations before travelling to Ireland to DBS and subsequent to my arrival?**

In order to comply with Irish Government protocols all students travelling to Ireland must complete a health and symptom check daily for 14 days prior to arrival in Ireland and for the 14-day period of self-restriction in Dublin. The DBS Student Experience Team will be monitoring this checker and will be in contact if it is not completed.

This information will be used to support you and verify that you are observing the period of self-restriction.

Additionally all students will have to sign and submit a declaration outlining their arrival details and accommodation details of where they will be self-isolating and that they understand and will comply with the requirement to restrict movement for 14 days upon arrival in Ireland.