FAQs for self-isolation when travelling to the UK

Q: I am starting a job at the University and am travelling from another part of the UK. Do I need to self-isolate?

If your travel commenced from within the Common Travel Area (CTA), you will not need to self-isolate for 14 days. The CTA comprises of

- the UK
- the Republic of Ireland
- the Channel Islands
- the Isle of Man

However, if you have travelled from the Republic of Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, but have been outside the CTA in the last 14 days, irrespective of nationality and even if you are a UK citizen, you will need to complete a Public Health Passenger Location form (available at https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/public-health-passenger-locator-form?ga=2.107953537.263014259.1593004749-810800712.1589365830) as you will be required to self-isolate for 14 days upon returning to the UK.

Q: I am travelling from outside of the UK to start a new job with the University. What do I need to do?

Please note that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently advises against all but essential travel and you should not commence travel if you have the symptoms of coronavirus.

If you have arrived in the UK, on or after 8 June 2020, and have been outside the Common Travel Area (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands, the Isle of Man) in the last 14 days, you will not be allowed to leave your accommodation for the first 14 days you are in the UK (known as ‘self-isolating’). This is because it can take up to 14 days for coronavirus symptoms to appear.

Before you travel, you must complete the Public Health Passenger Location form (available at https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/public-health-passenger-locator-form?ga=2.107953537.263014259.1593004749-810800712.1589365830) providing your journey details, contact details and the address where you will self-isolate. Please note you cannot submit this form until 48 hours before your arrival time in the UK. You must be able to present this information on your arrival in the UK.

You may be refused permission to enter the UK (if you are not a British citizen) or fined if you do not provide your contact details or do not self-isolate when you arrive in the UK on or after 8 June 2020.

Q: Do the rules vary between parts of the UK?

No. Immigration and border control is a reserved matter meaning the Scottish Government has no legislative power (at present) to change or operate different immigration or border control rules to the rest of the UK. Therefore, right to work checks and self-isolation rules will apply in Scotland until otherwise advised by the UKVI/UK Government.

**Q: How will I find somewhere to stay in the UK when I arrive?**

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently advises against all but essential travel. If you must travel to the UK in order to start work, you are allowed to stay with family or friends or in other temporary accommodation as long as you can self-isolate in this place for the full 14 days. This address must be the one provided on the Public Health Passenger Location form.

Please do not travel to the UK unless you have somewhere to stay and self-isolate for 14 days. Hotels and guesthouses are currently closed in Scotland until the 15th July (subject to change) but letting agents are open to online enquiries for rental accommodation.

If you have issues in finding accommodation, please contact our recruitment team (vacancies@st-andrews.ac.uk)

**Q: I need to travel within the UK to reach my pre-arranged UK accommodation. How do I do that safely?**

If you develop coronavirus symptoms when you are travelling to the UK, you should tell the crew or driver on your plane, boat, train or bus. They will let staff in the airport, port or station know, so they can tell you what you should do next when you arrive.

If you have not developed coronavirus symptoms during travel, go straight to the place you are staying when you arrive in the UK.

Only use public transport if you have no other option. If you do use public transport, wear something that covers your nose and mouth and stay 2 metres apart from other people. Pack a face covering or scarf to cover your nose and mouth before you travel.

If necessary, and if you have a long journey within the UK to arrive at your self-isolation accommodation, you can stop overnight in safe accommodation before continuing your journey. You must self-isolate in this interim accommodation and provide the address of your overnight stop on your public health passenger locator form.

**Q: I will be staying with family or friends when I first arrive in the UK. Will they need to self-isolate?**

If you are staying with family or friends based in the UK, they do not need to self-isolate unless they travelled with you or you develop symptoms of coronavirus. Please see https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate-when-you-travel-to-the-uk/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate-when-you-travel-to-the-uk#how-to-self-isolate-in-your-accommodation for further details of how to self-isolate within another person’s home.

**Q: My family are coming with me. Do they need to self-isolate?**
Yes, the same rules apply to them as to you.

**Q : What do I need to do after the period of self-isolation?**

If you do not have any coronavirus symptoms after the 14 days, you (and your family if they travelled with you) can stop self-isolating. You will then need to follow the same rules as people who live in the UK.


**Q: Do I have to arrive 14 days ahead of my employment start date in order to complete the period of self-isolation?**

No. You do not need to arrive early in order to accommodate the period of self-isolation as it will begin on the day you arrive in the UK which is likely to be on or just before your first day of employment at the University.

**Q: Am I allowed to work for the University during the period of self-isolation?**

Yes. You may commence work with the University during the 14 day self-isolation period. Please liaise with your new line manager as to what you may do while in isolation.

If you require IT equipment in order to carry out work during this period, please email itservicedesk@st-andrews.ac.uk specifying your requirements or ask your Head of School or Unit to do so on your behalf if you do not yet have a University email account. IT Services will arrange for the equipment to be configured and couriered to your UK address. Advance notice would be appreciated to help ensure the equipment is ready for you as soon as possible. Please note that you will need a reliable broadband connection at your new address.

**Q: How do I collect my Biometric Residence Permit when self-isolating?**

You will not be able to go to the Post Office to collect your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) while you are self-isolating. While the collection of this is part of the condition of your UK visa, you will not be penalised for being unable to collect your BRP while coronavirus measures are in place. You should however collect this as soon as the 14 day self-isolation period is over.

**Q: How do I set up a UK bank account when self-isolating?**

You will not be able to go to a bank while you are self-isolating which may result in a delay in setting up a UK bank account. This in turn may impact when you are first paid. In this situation, you may want to consider online banking.

**Q: When I have completed the self-isolation period, can I go into my School or Unit building?**

The University campus is currently closed to all staff except for a few frontline roles. The University is putting steps in place to allow for the safe return of staff to the workplace in accordance with Scottish Government guidelines and timetables (see [https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/](https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/)). Full details will be published in due course, but you should regularly check your University email account or the University’s Staff Coronavirus FAQs ([https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/coronavirus/staff/](https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/coronavirus/staff/)) for updates.
Other support:


https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/coronavirus/staff/