

## **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 agree on what support can be offered to students.

### **Scope**

This policy applies to all new and returning international students, including all students with permissions to study in the UK at the University. Approaches will be managed on a case-by-case basis by the International Office, Student Finance Office, Student Union & Student Services. It is not expected that all professional services staff will be involved in every case and colleagues will be invited to meetings as required.

### **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. It is anticipated that support will be in the form of extended payment plans and will not extend beyond an academic break in studies, eg, end of the term. Support will not cover ancillary costs, ie, accommodation costs.
- 1.3. Schools will be made aware of the support being put in place centrally through Strategic Leads (International) who will be expected to disseminate as appropriate.
- 1.4. The International Office, in conjunction with colleagues from the wider institution, may seek to provide other financial assistance to enrolled 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 with relevant colleagues, taking into account the nature of the crisis and its impact on the financial status of students.

- 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 same timeline.
- 1.6. Students, including sponsored students, will be advised that if their debt remains unpaid they will need to suspend their studies at the end of their academic year or the next appropriate break in studies and will not be able to graduate if they are in final year.
- 1.7. Continuing and progressing students who are affected may be required to suspend their studies until such time as their circumstances are resolved and may not be allowed to re-enrol.
- 1.8. The International Office will support students in this position as students will need to understand the consequences of such interruptions to their immigration status in the UK and the impact this may have on post study work intentions.
- 1.9. Individual decisions on the reliability and financial viability of sponsors will be made by the Director of International Development and Head of Student Finance.
- 1.10. The University reserves the right to not issue visa documentation or allow sponsored students to re-enrol where they deem the sponsor unreliable or not financially viable.
- 1.11. The University also reserves the right to request tuition fee payments in advance from sponsors which have been deemed unreliable and/or without a track record of compliance.

## POLICY SIGN-OFF AND OWNERSHIP DETAILS

<b>Document name:</b>	Students from Countries in Crisis Policy
<b>Version Number:</b>	V1.0
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Not Required
<b>Approved by:</b>	University Senior Leadership Team
<b>Date Approved:</b>	17 November 2022
<b>Date for Review:</b>	17 November 2026
<b>Author:</b>	Director of International Development
<b>Owner (if different from above):</b>	Director of International Development
<b>Document Location:</b>	L:\International\Policy Documents
<b>Related Policies/Procedures:</b>	Immigration & Compliance Sponsor Licence Compliance Policy; CAS Issuing Policy
<b>File Path</b>	<a href="https://hudac.sharepoint.com/sites/T542-INT-Testsite-Policydocuments/Shared%20Documents/Policy%20documents/Students-from-Countries-in-Crisis-Policy%20v3%20final.docx">https://hudac.sharepoint.com/sites/T542-INT-Testsite-Policydocuments/Shared%20Documents/Policy%20documents/Students-from-Countries-in-Crisis-Policy%20v3%20final.docx</a>

## REVISION HISTORY

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Revision description/Summary of changes</b>	<b>Author</b>
V1.0	Nov. 2022	Approval and introduction of policy Document	Director of International Development
V1.1	Oct. 2025	Addition of 1.2 Change of Associate Directors (International) to Strategic Leads (International) Addition of points 1.6, 1.7, 1.8	Director of International Development/Head of International Operations