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**FAQ’s – Tier 4 students who are interrupting studies**

**Why have I had an email saying that the College has made a report to the Home Office?**

As a Tier 4 sponsor, Imperial College has a legal obligation to inform the Home Office if there has been a change to your academic circumstances. Your Tier 4 visa is issued in order for you to study at Imperial College. If you are interrupting your studies, the College is unable to meet its obligations as a Tier 4 sponsor and therefore has to withdraw sponsorship of your visa during the period that you are not attending.

**What will happen to my Tier 4 visa?**

The Home Office may take action with this information to curtail (shorten) your current visa. You cannot stay in the UK on a Tier 4 visa which has been issued for study at Imperial College if you are no longer studying.

**How long can I stay in the UK once my interruption has been reported?**

If you have more than 60 days left on your Tier 4 visa when the report is made, they will bring forward the end date of your visa to 60 days from the date they take action on the report from the College. You should assume this will be around 60 days from the date the College notifies you that a report has been made. If you have less than 60 days remaining on your current Tier 4 visa, you will need to leave the UK before your visa expires.

**What if my interruption is for 60 days or less?**

If your interruption is for 60 days or less, a report will still have to be made to the Home Office from the College to inform them of your change in circumstances. However, the Home Office may make a decision not to take curtailment action as the period of interruption is quite short. If you have left the UK during the period of the interruption, we would strongly advise that you contact us in advance of coming back to the UK to check if curtailment action has been taken. Please see the information below.

**How will I know if my visa has been curtailed?**

The Home Office will serve you with a Curtailment Notice. They will send this to you by email or by post to the last-known details that they hold. It is really important therefore that you make sure you keep your contact details up to date with the Home Office and with the College. You can check and update your current postal address using Student e-service. You can inform the Home Office by completing Change of Address online form at <https://eforms.homeoffice.gov.uk/outreach/AddressUpdate.ofml>. If you are not sure whether your visa has been curtailed, we can check for you with the Home Office if you send an email to international@imperial.ac.uk with your name, your CID number and confirming your permission for us to contact the Home Office on your behalf.

**My visa has been curtailed to 60 days, so now expires in 2 months’ time. Can I re-enter the UK on my Tier 4 visa during this time?**

No. Even though you have a valid Tier 4 visa for another 60 days, if you have left the UK and subsequently curtailment action is taken, your visa will lapse immediately. If you try to re-enter the UK you will be refused entry and will be returned home. This refusal to allow you to enter the UK will form a permanent part of your immigration history and you will have to disclose it on all future visa applications you make.

**I am ready to return the UK to recommence my studies. What do I do?**

You will need to request a new CAS in order to make a new Tier 4 application to come back to the UK to continue with your studies. You should check if your course requires ATAS clearance – if it does, you will need to have obtained your new ATAS clearance certificate before a CAS will be issued. See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/academic-technology-approval-scheme> for more information. Please contact international@imperial.ac.uk to request a new CAS and refer to our guidance about making a visa application overseas which is available at [www.imperial.ac.uk/study/visas](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/visas). We will need email confirmation from your department of the date you are expected to be returning to the course.

**Useful Contacts**

International Student Support Team:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/study/visas](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/visas)

UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA):

<http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/>

British Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates overseas:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations>

UKVI

<https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa>

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