

July 2019

International Students - Important Medical Information

Dear Student

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Durham University! We know that you must be excited to arrive in Durham, however, before you start your university life, you need to be thinking about what has to be done prior to leaving home so that you can access healthcare whilst in the UK.

Using our National Health Service

If you are a student from the European Economic Area (EEA) (European Union countries along with Switzerland, Lichtenstein, Iceland and Norway) you are entitled to free medical care from the National Health Service; however you will need to bring a valid **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** issued by your home country with you, otherwise you may be charged for any hospital treatment you require.

If you are a non-EEA student, you will have already paid a one-time healthcare surcharge as part of your application for a Tier 4 visa which will cover the total time you will be living in the UK. You will then be eligible to receive medical care for most ailments from the National Health Service at no further charge.

For more information please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application>

Leaflets explaining the healthcare entitlements for students, family members of students and visitors from outside the UK can be accessed below:

For EEA students:

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/international/StudentandfamilymembersEHICLeaflet.pdf>

For non-EEA students:

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/international/StudentandfamilymembersNonEEALeaflet.pdf>

Your Health and Brexit

We know that the current uncertainty surrounding Britain's exit from the European Union is concerning for some of our international students. We are working hard for your interests and will keep you informed of developments.

Registration with a Doctor

One of your top priorities should be to register with a local medical practice so that you can see a doctor and access healthcare in Durham when you need it. This is especially important if you have an ongoing health condition or require repeat medication.

Your choice of medical practice will be determined by the area in which you live, so that you can get to the practice easily and a doctor can visit you if the practice considers a home visit necessary.

The practice area of the Claypath and University Medical Group covers the University and the Colleges, and the majority of our new students register with this practice:

Claypath and University Medical Group

University Health Centre, Green Lane, Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3JX

Email: medical.registrations@nhs.net

Tel: 0191 386 5081

Website: <http://www.durhamstudenthealth.co.uk/>

There are other medical practices in Durham that you may want to consider. A full list with locations can be found at: <http://www.northdurhamccg.nhs.uk/about-our-ccg/member-practices/>

If you wish to register with the **Claypath and University Medical Group** you can start the process **before arrival** by completing the **National Health Service (NHS) Family Doctor Services Registration Form (GMS1)** and a **confidential patient medical history questionnaire**. These should be sent to the practice by **20 September 2019** by email or post.

The NHS GMS1 registration form is available at: <http://www.durhamstudenthealth.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Download-the-NHS-GMS1-Registration-Form-all-new-patients.pdf>

The NHS GMS1 registration form is a pdf which is acceptable completed by hand, or digitally using a fill and sign tool. The practice will accept electronic versions by email, including scanned or photographed copies.

The NHS Family Doctor Services Registration Form (GMS1) asks for a Home address. Please give the address of the accommodation where you will be living in Durham and not the address of your family home.

The GMS1 also asks for an NHS number which you will only have if you have previously registered with a GP in the UK. If you have not previously registered then you will receive an NHS number on registration.

A **confidential patient medical history questionnaire** for you to complete is included with this letter.

The practice is able to receive completed NHS GMS1 registration forms and the medical history questionnaires electronically sent via email to the **Claypath and University Medical Group** at medical.registrations@nhs.net If it is not possible to email your documents then you can also send them using the postal address for the practice as above. Please note that sending your documents by post will extend the process of registration.

Please note that some Chinese email addresses may have trouble sending documents to an NHS address. If you have a Chinese email address and wish to submit your documents via email, we recommend using an iCloud, Yahoo or Outlook email address in order to avoid any issues or delays.

To register with any **other local medical practice**, please complete the **(NHS) Family Doctor Services Registration Form (GMS1)** and on arrival in Durham take the form to the medical practice **in person with a form of photo id and proof of address**.

Starting at Durham can be a busy and exciting time so, if you have a long term medical condition and require medication, we recommend bringing sufficient medicines to last for the first couple of months of your time here.

Vaccinations

Before coming to university we recommend that you check your vaccination history and ensure your vaccinations are up to date.

It is particularly important that all students have had a vaccination to prevent meningitis and septicaemia. The MenACWY vaccine is highly effective in preventing illness caused by the four meningococcal strains, including the highly virulent Men W strain. Please consult your current doctor and arrange to receive this vaccination before coming to Durham University if you have not been vaccinated.

For further information on meningitis and septicaemia please visit the following website: <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/men-acwy-vaccine.aspx>

In recent years there has been a decline in immunity to measles and mumps as a result there have been outbreaks in universities and colleges. We advise you to consult with your current doctor and, if necessary, have an MMR booster before you come to Durham.

For your convenience we have enclosed a letter for you to share with your current doctor explaining that you need to be up to date with your meningitis and MMR vaccinations before starting university.

If you are unable to receive vaccinations before you arrive in Durham you should make an early appointment with your chosen medical practice on arrival.

Tuberculosis Screening for Students from outside the EEA

If you are a student coming from certain countries outside the EEA, in addition to starting registration with a medical practice in Durham, you should also ensure that you are able to meet the requirements of the Home Office Visa & Immigration Service tuberculosis screening program. To guarantee that you will be able to enter the UK you must obtain the appropriate medical evidence described on the Home Office Visa & Immigration Service website. Failure to provide this information may result in you being refused entry to the UK. Details of the need for a tuberculosis certificate and the list of applicable countries are available at:

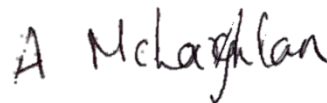
<https://www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa>

We do hope that your time at Durham University will be happy and healthy. If you have any queries relating to the information contained in this letter please contact your college in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Sam Dale,
Director of Student Support and Wellbeing



Amelia McLoughlan
Students' Union, Welfare and Liberation Officer

Enclosures: confidential patient medical history questionnaire; letter for current doctor