

UK university announcements on face coverings, autumn term 2021

This crowdsourced spreadsheet lists recent announcements by UK universities on policies on face coverings on campus, focusing on students. Please comment with new/updated info. Share with <https://twitter.com/maskpoliciesUKuniv>

Summary 8/10/21: Face coverings have been made mandatory in all teaching spaces at 23 of the 95 universities listed, including 12 of 16 listed in Scotland and 1 of 2 listed in Northern Ireland. (For criteria of 'mandatory in all teaching spaces' see note 1 on next tab.) A further 19 universities say face coverings in all teaching spaces are 'expected'. 4 universities are providing free washable/reusable face coverings to students.

Notes are on the next tab. See also [Twitter thread accompanying this document](#), and a [parallel document on CO2 monitoring](#).

Date last accessed	University (* = Russell Group)	Nation	URL	Date page last updated	University's announcement	Face coverings mandatory in all teaching spaces?
10/9/21	Cambridge*	England	https://www.cam.ac.uk/coronavirus/safe-cambridge-universities/safe-masques	Updated (2021)	In general, the University and Colleges strongly recommend wearing face-coverings at all times in indoor work or study settings, even if social distancing of at least 2m can be maintained. The only exceptions are work in single-occupancy rooms with closed doors, when actively eating or drinking, or when the individual concerned has a medical exemption.	No 'strongly recommended'
10/9/21	Manchester Metropolitan	England	https://www.mmu.ac.uk/student-life/campus-services/buildings-and-spaces	Updated (2021)	To keep our campus as safe as possible, we ask that you [...] wear a face covering (unless exempt) in crowded spaces, busy communal areas or where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet	No.
10/9/21	Leicester	England	https://le.ac.uk/life-at-leicester/students/here-for-you	Updated (2021)	Wear face coverings in teaching spaces and other crowded spaces to help us all remain safe, unless exempt.	Unclear
10/9/21	York St John	England	https://www.york.ac.uk/students/staying-safe-on-campus/	Updated (2021)	Strong encouragement for staff and students to continue to wear face coverings inside and in crowded areas. We ask everyone to remain considerate of others, to protect yourself and our communities in this way.	No 'strongly encouraged'
10/9/21	Heriot-Watt	Scotland	https://www.hw.ac.uk/coronavirus/return-to-work-safe.htm	Updated (2021)	When indoors, unless you are exempt, face coverings must be worn at all times except when eating or drinking, or when seated at your office desk where a minimum distance of 1m is maintained. At the start of semester 1, again, unless exempt, face coverings will be required in all teaching settings, the library and our study spaces. Students should not remove their face-covering during an on-campus teaching session or whilst seated in either the library or our learning commons. However, staff who are delivering a class and are suitably physically distanced from their students may remove their face coverings if they wish for the duration of the lecture once all students are seated. Whilst we cannot enforce their use, we will be encouraging those who are exempt to wear a sunflower lanyard or apply for an exemption card.	Yes 'must'
10/9/21	Brighton	England	https://www.brighton.ac.uk/brighton-students/your-student-life/covid-19-community-commitment/index.aspx	Updated (2021)	We strongly encourage you to wear a face covering when moving around inside university buildings – including corridors, stairs, lifts, communal areas, libraries, Students' Union shops and when queuing for food or drink. You can choose to wear a face covering in class or more widely on campus, if you wish to do so.	No
10/9/21	Warwick*	England	https://www.warwick.ac.uk/coronavirus/safety-tests-vaccinations-inclusion/#aq-13	Aug 21	Should I wear a face covering? [For library, research, teaching and study space; offices, dwell spaces; and circulation spaces.] You should wear face coverings when you are moving around. You are strongly encouraged to wear them when you are sitting down.	No 'strongly encouraged'
10/9/21	Greenwich	England	https://www.gcu.ac.uk/articles/public-relations/being-covid-safe-student-faqs	5/8/21	Our expectation and strong recommendation is to continue wearing face coverings in our buildings, and they will continue to be required on university buses.	No 'expected' and 'strongly recommended'
10/9/21	Imperial College London*	England	https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/covid-19/	23/8/21	We still expect everyone to wear a face covering indoors. This applies to most indoor settings on campus, with some local exceptions and unless you are exempt. See our face coverings page for more details.	No 'expected'
10/9/21	Glasgow*	Scotland	https://www.gla.ac.uk/impacts/news/headline_80824_en.html	26/8/21	In line with Scottish Government guidance, non-exempt individuals must wear face coverings while on campus: - when moving around in buildings - outside, in congested areas - in libraries and study spaces at all times - in classrooms (including teaching labs) - in offices and other workplace settings, where one metre distancing is not possible	Yes 'must'
10/9/21	Bolton	England	https://www.bolton.ac.uk/assets/Covid-19-Guidance.pdf	Sep 21	Social distancing and face coverings now NOT mandatory, but we hope you will choose to wear them	No
10/9/21	Oxford*	England	https://www.ox.ac.uk/coronavirus/health/face-coverings	6/9/21	The wearing of face coverings is encouraged in the following indoor settings: - In communal areas or when moving around inside buildings (e.g. entrance halls, corridors, staircases, lifts, toilets, kitchens and social spaces) - During in-person teaching of larger groups. Face coverings will not be expected in smaller group teaching, seminars and classes - In libraries and museums - Where local risk assessment recommends their use (e.g. in spaces that are less well-ventilated).	No
10/9/21	Edinburgh*	Scotland	https://www.ed.ac.uk/news/covid-19/hygiene-and-health	9/9/21	Everyone on campus will continue to wear a face covering in indoor spaces. This includes all staff, students and visitors in offices, labs and teaching spaces or other indoor areas. There is legislation in Scotland on the mandatory wearing of face coverings and also statutory exemptions. These are set out below. One exemption, for staff (and PGRs), is if 1m physical distancing can be maintained or there is a physical barrier – for example when sitting in an office, meeting room, or at reception with Perspex screen. As a University, we expect staff and students to respect others who wish to keep a reasonable distance between themselves and others or wear a face covering in areas where this is not mandatory.	Yes 'will'
10/9/21	Essex	England	https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/covid-19/keeping-safe-on-campus/ht	Updated (2021)	Face masks/face coverings must be worn in all indoor University premises and in all areas where social distancing may be difficult to maintain. [...] Face coverings must be worn in the following University areas: - all internal corridor, lobby/access areas - all teaching spaces, labs, IT rooms, private study spaces and common rooms. (The lecturer may wear a face visor in place of a face covering, but students must wear face coverings). - all kitchens and WC facilities. - lifts when these are available for general use and limited to one occupant. - all internal catering facilities. - Library general areas. - shower/changing/locker rooms. - where staff or students feel social distancing is likely to be reduced below the prescribed distance, any circumstance where staff or students through personal choice wish to wear a face covering. - when directed to do so by specific departmental risk assessments which may include use of specific Personal Protective Equipment (face masks/gloves/aprons) relating to particular activities.	Yes 'must'
10/9/21	Sussex	England	http://www.sussex.ac.uk/staff/newsandevents?d=56083	10/9/21	Although face coverings are not mandatory, we expect students and staff to continue wearing them in confined indoor spaces including in all teaching spaces.	No 'expected'
			https://www.sussex.ac.uk/webteam/gateway/file.php?name=cov-19-53-returning-to-work-in-teaching-spaces-17.pdf&site=332	-20/9/21	We do expect all students and staff to wear face coverings, unless exempt, in crowded and enclosed spaces on campus including in all teaching spaces, and to follow the instructions indicated by signage. We know that some staff may be worried about how to broach instances where students are not wearing face coverings. Whilst it is not a legal requirement to wear face coverings, we are making it very clear that it is the expectation of our community. [...] We do not expect face coverings to be worn in office spaces where staff are comfortable – although we do advise staff to consider avoiding having meetings with multiple people in crowded spaces.	No
11/9/21	Sheffield*	England	https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/coronavirus/staff	Updated (2021)	Staff and students should wear face coverings, unless exempt, when working or interacting with people at less than two metres distance, and/or in spaces where good ventilation is difficult to maintain (please see section on ventilation for further details). This guidance applies in teaching spaces and offices, if maintaining at least two metres distance is difficult to achieve due to space limitations. However, you are no longer required to wear them when moving around buildings, unless you come into close contact with others.	No
11/9/21	Queen Mary University of London*	England	https://www.qmul.ac.uk/coronavirus/	Updated (2021)	Using face coverings on campuses inside buildings is no longer mandated by Government. However, for the well-being of all our students/staff, we encourage you to continue to wear face coverings when moving around inside buildings on our campuses if they become crowded.	No
11/9/21	Queens University Belfast*	Northern Ireland	https://www.qub.ac.uk/home/coronavirus-faqs/information-for-students/	Updated (2021)	The University continues to encourage mitigations such as [...] wearing face coverings indoors when applicable.	No
11/9/21	Cardiff*	England	https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/your-campus-experience	Updated (2021)	We've introduced a number of safety measures to help minimise the risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community which are kept under review and subject to change depending on Welsh Government guidance. Throughout 2020/21 these have include: [...] Asking everyone to wear face coverings in our indoor public spaces.	No. Matches Welsh government guidance for current alert level (low risk)
11/9/21	Liverpool John Moores	England	https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/microsites/moving-forward	7/9/21	Everyone must wear face coverings when moving around in communal spaces, offices, libraries, classrooms, and lecture theatres.	No
12/9/21	Westminster	England	https://www.westminster.ac.uk/about-us/staff/campus-and-building-access/information-guidance-on-wearing-face-coverings	Updated (2021)	Once seated you may remove your face mask (although on occasion you may be requested to wear your mask) Always (unless exempt): - When moving around University and Students' Union buildings, including offices, communal spaces and stairwells - Wherever signs indicate a face covering is required Optional: - In offices when seated - In face-to-face teaching and learning sessions - In communal spaces when eating or drinking - In face-to-face support sessions - When undertaking individual study in University libraries	No 'should'
12/9/21	Staffordshire	England	https://www.staffs.ac.uk/coronavirus/face-coverings	Updated (2021)	When should I wear a face covering? Always (unless exempt): - When moving around University and Students' Union buildings, including offices, communal spaces and stairwells - Wherever signs indicate a face covering is required Optional: - In offices when seated - In face-to-face teaching and learning sessions - In communal spaces when eating or drinking - In face-to-face support sessions - When undertaking individual study in University libraries	No
12/9/21	Bath	England	https://www.bath.ac.uk/guidance/face-coverings-on-campus-what-to-wear-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/#face-coverings	Updated (2021)	Unless exempted the University expects and recommends people to wear face coverings in the following situations: - When moving around in indoor public spaces, such as corridors - In retail and hospitality outlets, unless seated to eat/drink - For students during lectures and seminars. In order to enable effective learning, teaching staff are not expected to wear face coverings in teaching spaces, but should feel free to wear face coverings and/or visitors out of personal choice. - In designated 'face covering required' spaces - When a local risk assessment requires it, such as when administering first aid	No 'expected' and 'recommended'
12/9/21	Loughborough	England	https://www.lboro.ac.uk/interact/studying-working-living/students/rules-restrictions/	Updated (2021)	You must wear a face covering when moving around indoor public areas. This includes communal areas, shared study spaces, multi-occupancy toilets and shared kitchens. You are encouraged but not required to wear face coverings when you're sitting in lectures or working in study spaces.	No 'encouraged'
12/9/21	Robert Gordon	Scotland	https://www.rgu.ac.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-health-and-safety	Updated (2021)	Face coverings must be worn indoors (eating, drinking, exercising, presenting, and office seating exempt).	Yes 'must'
12/9/21	Abertay	Scotland	https://www.abertay.ac.uk/coronavirus/campus-check-in-and-safety/	Updated (2021)	Additional safety measures will include: [...] Continued use of face coverings when on campus for teaching or library study, apart from when seated, unless exempt.	No
12/9/21	Glasgow Caledonian	Scotland	https://www.gcu.ac.uk/student/ready-for-you/qa/ha/thandafacetocampus/	Updated (2021)	In line with Scottish Government guidance, staff and students will be required to use face coverings inside all buildings unless eating/drinking or medically exempt.	Yes 'required'

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Summary 8/10/21: Face coverings have been made mandatory in all teaching spaces at 23 of the 95 universities listed, including 12 of 16 listed in Scotland and 1 of 2 listed in Northern Ireland. (For criteria of 'mandatory in all teaching spaces' see note 1 on next tab.) A further 19 universities say face coverings in all teaching spaces are 'expected'. 4 universities are providing free washable/reusable face coverings to students.

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12/9/21	Queen Margaret University Edinburgh	Scotland	https://www.qmu.ac.uk/coronavirus/applicants/campus-life/	Undated (2021)	In line with Scottish Government guidance, anyone on campus is required to use face coverings when inside the buildings. This includes in classrooms, in the atrium and LRC and other indoor spaces. Exemptions are as follows: - Residents within their flats in student accommodation. - When seated in the open plan staff offices, where a minimum distance of 1m is maintained. - Staff who are delivering a class, where a minimum distance of 1m from their students is maintained. - Staff in meetings where they are keeping at least 1m apart from others in the room. - When eating or drinking. - Where you have a legal exemption.	Yes 'required'
12/9/21	Ulster	Northern Ireland	https://www.ulster.ac.uk/coronavirus/students	Undated (2021)	Students and Staff will be required to wear face-coverings both on campus and during classes.	Yes 'required'
12/9/21	Middlesex	England	https://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/covid-19-updates-1a6	6/9/21	Students who can wear a face covering should at all times when in communal and shared indoor spaces. In shared indoor spaces you will be expected to wear a face covering unless you are eating and/or drinking.	No 'expected'
12/9/21	University of the West of Scotland	Scotland	https://www.uws.ac.uk/about-us/student-information/covid-19-information/coronavirus-student-updates/	6/9/21	From the start of Term 1, and in line with national guidance, face coverings must be worn while on our Scottish campuses (with the exception of those who are exempt from wearing face coverings). This includes when you are: - moving around on campus - using study spaces or libraries - in teaching spaces such as classrooms and labs - in office settings where one metre physical distancing is not possible You are not required to wear face coverings when you: - are eating or drinking - are exercising - are seated in office settings where one metre distancing is possible - At their own discretion, University staff are permitted to remove face coverings temporarily while teaching or presenting, as long as they are maintaining a minimum of one metre physical distancing at all times when their face covering is not being worn.	Yes 'must'
12/9/21	Reading	England	http://www.reading.ac.uk/covid-845736.aspx#face-covering	7/9/21	In line with government changes, face coverings will no longer be expected. However, we will continue to encourage face coverings to be worn when moving around in indoor spaces and when in close contact with those you do not regularly spend time with. They can be removed when sitting at a desk (for example, in offices, classrooms and the Library) or once seated in catering outlets.	No.
12/9/21	University of South Wales	Wales	https://www.southwales.ac.uk/news/coronavirus-overview/student-advice/	7/9/21	In line with Welsh Government guidance, it is mandatory for face coverings to be worn indoors at all of our sites. They can be removed in teaching spaces if desired, where PPE hasn't been deemed mandatory for a specific task. Please be mindful of the interests of other people and if in doubt please wear a face covering. There will of course be some exemptions for people wearing face coverings, and this may be because of a physical or mental illness, or because of a disability or impairment.	No
12/9/21	Edinburgh Napier	Scotland	https://my.napier.ac.uk/-/media/my.napier/section-images/life-on-campus/covid-19/covid-19-student-health-and-safety-guidance-v10-2-2021-09-09.aspx	9/9/21	Face coverings are required to be worn at all times whilst moving around the University (unless medically exempt as defined by Scottish Government Guidance) Once seated – in a teaching space, library, office, computer suite, lecture theatre, workspace or in a catering space or similar, your face covering can be removed. However, prior to leaving an area and getting up from your seat, face coverings must be worn.	No
13/9/21	Bournemouth	England	https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/student/coronavirus/keeping-you-safe-campus	Undated (2021)	You are required to follow all physical distancing signage and measures at all times on our campuses and on the UNIBUS buses. This includes wearing a face covering when inside university buildings and vehicles, except when you are seated and more than two metres away from another person or at a service counter which has a screen protecting you. Please note, as per latest Government guidance, a face covering should be worn at all times in our library facilities.	No
13/9/21	Portsmouth	England	https://www.port.ac.uk/study/covid-information-for-students	Undated (2021)	We will no longer require the use of face masks in our buildings. However, staff and students are strongly encouraged to wear them in indoor environments for now, especially crowded areas. We know that some will want to continue to wear masks and we are supportive of that and ask everyone to respect this personal decision.	No 'strongly encouraged'
13/9/21	Sheffield Hallam University	England	https://www.shu.ac.uk/covid-19-student-guidance/safety-measures	Undated (2021)	Wear a face covering We expect you to wear a face covering when moving around indoors, in crowded indoor spaces, and when interacting with support staff.	No
13/9/21	Kingston	England	https://www.kingston.ac.uk/covid-19-information/	Undated (2021)	We expect face coverings to be worn in all indoor spaces. [Also, from latest campus safety info , posted Sep 2021.] While no longer a legal requirement, we strongly encourage face coverings to be worn in all closed spaces. The University has a face covering policy which you can read here. This document was updated in August 2021 following changes to the guidance issued by the government. [...] While we strongly encourage staff and students to wear a face covering in all closed spaces on campus, we do accept that in some instances, for example where only one member of staff is present in room, it is at the discretion of the member of staff whether they would like to keep their face covering on while alone in the room.	No 'expected' and 'strongly encouraged'
13/9/21	University of East London (UEL)	England	https://www.uel.ac.uk/about/return-campus	Updated (2021)	[To students and staff] If you are on campus and in an indoor area, you must wear a face covering unless you have an exemption. Face coverings are not required outdoors. [To staff] Staff are expected to wear a visor when teaching indoors to ensure they are understood by both students who are in the classroom and studying remotely online. Staff should replace their visors with a suitable face covering when they are not teaching and are moving around indoor areas of the campus. Face covering rules do not apply to individuals who are exempt for medical exemptions. [13/9/21: The information above is still on the website, but is out of date. On 1 September UEL moved to 'Tier 0' and a voluntary Wellness Pledge was introduced including 'I will wear a mask indoors on campus – in enclosed and crowded spaces - unless I have a health or disability exemption'. Management agree that it is being widely ignored, and are thinking of changing the messaging.]	No
3/12/21	De Montfort University	England	https://www.dmu.ac.uk/your-dmu-safety/health-and-safety-measures.aspx	30/11/2021	[Updated 30/11/2021] In line with the latest government guidance and emerging practice at many other universities and education settings, from 4am on Tuesday 30 November, we will require all staff and students to wear a face covering in all indoor areas. Face coverings are not required in hospitality settings, i.e. cafes and food outlets. However, we strongly recommend that you continue to wear one until you are seated. They are also not required in the activity areas at our sports and leisure venues, but are required in reception, corridors etc. Inside rehearsal studios, local guidance will be provided. Face coverings will be made available in Student Advice Centres, Student Gateway and other reception areas including OEII, Library, Estates Services and DSU. We will be constantly monitoring the guidance and may need to amend our strategy accordingly. Please also follow the government guidance about how to wear a face covering safely. Sunflower lanyards and/or business cards for exemption can still be worn/carried.	Yes 'require'
8/10/21	Kings College London (KCL)	England	https://www.kcl.ac.uk/coronavirus/campus/azf-accoveringmasksPPE	7/9/21	We recommend students and staff wear a face covering unless you are exempt inside our buildings. Spare face coverings are available from reception areas if you need one. In offices - wearing face coverings unless exempt is recommended particularly where there are lots of people using the space. The risk assessment will determine if face coverings should be worn at desks.	No 'recommended'
13/9/21	Swansea	Wales	https://myuni.swansea.ac.uk/media/1541014721_Face-Covering-Information-Sheet_v7.pdf	10/9/21	As a reasonable measure, face coverings must be worn in the following scenarios unless you are exempt: - In all University areas accessible to the public including: foyers, reception areas, corridors, lifts, stairways, conveniences, shops and libraries. - When 2m social distancing cannot be maintained (unless it has been identified in a risk assessment that this would be unsafe). - When moving around a space such as an open plan office, learning and teaching environment or catering venue. - Where identified on a risk assessment as an appropriate control measure. - When requested, where there are clinically extremely vulnerable students or staff or those who are at increased risk from COVID-19, including those who were previously shielding. The University strongly recommends that you continue to wear a face covering in the following scenarios; - When seated and socially distanced in a multi occupancy office. - When seated and socially distanced in an examination. - When seated and socially distanced in a learning and teaching environment, such as lecture theatres, classrooms and computer suite. - When socially distanced in a research laboratory or workshop, where activity risk assessments permit. - When working as part of a defined contact group in a learning and teaching environment. Students are not required to be socially distanced within defined contact groups. - When working as part of a defined contact group in teaching laboratories, clinical settings and workshops, where activity risk assessments permit. Students are not required to be socially distanced within defined contact groups.	No 'strongly recommended'
14/9/21	University College Birmingham	England	https://www.uchb.ac.uk/about-us/news/2021-at-university-college-birmingham-updates-on-coronavirus-safety-policies-and-other-information/#coming-to-campus	Undated (2021)	Face coverings are strongly encouraged (although not mandatory) whenever you are on campus in a public space, unless you are eating or need to remove them for a particular part of a class.	No 'strongly encouraged'
14/9/21	Bradford	England	https://www.bradford.ac.uk/coronavirus/safety	Undated (2021)	We do expect you to wear face coverings in indoor public spaces on campus, including shops, communal areas, corridors, and teaching spaces. It's for your own and everyone else's safety. We'll provide all staff and students with one reusable face covering when you arrive on campus and we'll be providing face shields to teaching staff to use in student-facing sessions.	No 'expected'
14/9/21	Newcastle*	England	https://enquire.ncl.ac.uk/en/should-i-wear-a-face-mask-on-campus	13/9/21	The University's expectation is that face coverings will be worn in teaching and laboratory settings and when moving around inside buildings.	No 'expected'
15/9/21	LSE*	England	https://info.lse.ac.uk/coronavirus-response/keeping-out-community-safe-on-campus	Undated (2021)	Measures in place 20 September 2021 Mask wearing will be mandatory in teaching and learning spaces for students, as well as in lifts for all students, staff and visitors.	Yes 'mandatory'
15/9/21	Southampton*	England	https://www.southampton.ac.uk/coronavirus/student-conduct-page	Undated (2021)		No 'expected' and 'strongly encourage'
16/9/21	Manchester Metropolitan	England	https://www.mmu.ac.uk/study/studying-in-september-2021/#a1c-25889-1	Undated (2021)	We will follow the latest government guidance around face coverings, hand washing and sanitisation of equipment and introduce these measures if required.	No
16/9/21	Coventry	England	https://www.coventry.ac.uk/coronavirus/	After 19/7/21	Since 19 July, the legal requirement to wear a face covering in indoor settings has been lifted. However, research has shown that wearing face coverings can reduce the spread of respiratory viruses, and the UK government has stated that it expects and recommends that people wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces where they come into contact with those they don't normally meet, such as on public transport. We all have a responsibility to do what we can to keep each other safe, and anyone wishing to continue wearing face coverings on campus is strongly supported to do so. Please be respectful of the wishes of your fellow students and our staff.	No
16/9/21	Birmingham City	England	https://www.bcu.ac.uk/about-us/coronavirus-information/#Face-coverings	Undated (2021)	From September, the wearing of face coverings when moving around our buildings, in libraries, teaching spaces and offices, and in social and catering spaces, is strongly encouraged, but it is no longer a requirement to wear one. Therefore, there will be no exemptions process as it will be personal choice to wear a covering. This applies to both staff and students. A limited number of spaces will require a face covering to be worn, due to their size and activities within them, but you will be notified of this requirement if this is the case.	No

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16/9/21	Roehampton	England	https://www.roehampton.ac.uk/coronavirus/communications/students/#3	Updated (2021)	Face coverings are mandatory in all shared indoor spaces at the University, unless there are legitimate circumstances of age, health or disability related reasons not to wear a face covering, as stated on the government website here. Face coverings are not required when eating or drinking.	Yes 'mandatory'
16/9/21	Strathclyde	Scotland	https://www.strath.ac.uk/media/1newwebsite/covid-19guidance_on_the_use_of_face_coverings_on_campus_v2_0.pdf	14/9/21	Face coverings must be worn inside all buildings, in communal spaces, circulation spaces and activity spaces [-] Face coverings must be worn in learning and teaching spaces across campus. Lecturing staff will not be required to wear a face covering in learning and teaching spaces where they are able to maintain a distance from students and other staff. Staff will be required to wear a face covering if and when they are circulating within a teaching space. [-] Face coverings must be worn in shared/multi occupancy offices across campus.	Yes 'must'
17/9/21	Bath Spa	England	https://www.bathspa.ac.uk/about-us/covid-19-advice/	Undated (2021)	Although this is no longer required by the government, we strongly encourage and recommend that all our students and staff wear face coverings (unless they are exempt) in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. For example, in corridors and on stairwells, in small teaching spaces and workshops.	No
17/9/21	Aberystwyth	Wales	https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/important-info/together-in-aber/students-factsheets-need-to-wear-a-facial-covering	Undated (2021)	Staff, students and visitors are generally expected to wear a face covering while indoors on Aberystwyth University sites. This includes all learning and teaching spaces, social and study spaces, corridors, multi-use offices, and commercial venues such as Sports Centre, Arts Centre and Hospitality outlets and on University provided transport. The only exceptions to this are when exercising in the Sports Centre, sitting down to eat or drink in hospitality settings and when in your own student accommodation.	No 'expected'
17/9/21	Birmingham*	England	https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/safety/coronavirus/working-on-campus.aspx	-16/9/21	The wearing of face coverings is no longer required by law, but a personal choice. We continue to encourage and support the wearing of face coverings, particularly indoors and in busy areas, and in some settings it may be expected as part of Covid risk assessments. We should also continue to support and respect those colleagues who choose to wear a face covering and to be mindful that some staff, students and regular visitors will feel anxious about being on campus and around other people.	No 'encouraged'
18/9/21	Liverpool Hope	England	https://www.hope.ac.uk/documents/Face%20Coverings%20Policy.pdf	Sep 2021	It is expected that everyone on campus continues to wear a face covering in indoor spaces. This includes all staff, students and visitors when moving around offices, in teaching spaces, laboratories and any other indoor space.	No 'expected'
18/9/21	Leeds Trinity	England	https://www.leedstrinity.ac.uk/coronavirus/students	Undated (2021)	From 1 September, face coverings will be expected in all indoor settings across campus, unless exempt, to continue to protect each other and prevent disruption to the learning experience.	No 'expected'
18/9/21	Argyll College, UHI	Scotland	https://www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk/students/covid-19-update/	23/8/21	Face masks will be required in all communal areas, corridors, and teaching spaces unless exempt, when eating or drinking, or the sole occupant of a room.	Yes 'required'
18/9/21	Inverness College, UHI	Scotland	https://www.inverness.uhi.ac.uk/coronavirus/	6/9/21	It is mandatory to wear a face covering on campus, unless exempt, when eating or drinking, or the sole occupant of a room. This includes moving around our campus building, in study spaces like our library and learning resource centre, and in classes.	Yes 'mandatory'
18/9/21	Hertfordshire	England	https://www.herts.ac.uk/coronavirus/covid-safety-at-herts	After 19/7/21	Although the Government has lifted restrictions, we encourage you to wear a face covering when moving around our campuses in indoor and crowded spaces, such as the LRCs, corridors, teaching rooms, food outlets, and shuttle buses.	No 'encouraged'
18/9/21	Nottingham Trent	England	https://www.ntu.ac.uk/study-and-courses/being-at-ntu/protecting-the-ntu-community-from-covid-19/face	Undated (2021)	The decision of when to wear a face covering will be down to your own personal judgement, however there remains an expectation that face coverings will be worn in crowded indoor spaces, such as on public transport.	No
18/9/21	Bristol*	England	http://www.bristol.ac.uk/students/your-studies/study-2021/campus-safety/	Undated (2021)	We expect and recommend that you wear a face-covering when you are indoors in university buildings unless a risk assessment for an activity or area specifically states otherwise.	No 'expected' and 'recommended'
28/9/21	Winchester	England	https://winchester.ac.uk/covid-and-campus-life-information/	17/9/21	Face coverings are not legally required; however, we ask that all students, staff and visitors continue to wear face coverings when in any crowded areas in University buildings, where ventilation is poor or when moving around buildings where social distancing cannot be maintained.	No
28/9/21	Stirling	Scotland	https://www.stir.ac.uk/coronavirus/changes-at-stirling/making-campus-safer/face-coverings-at-stirling/	-20/9/21	In keeping with Scottish Government guidance, the University is making it mandatory to wear a face covering in enclosed spaces where physical distancing is not possible unless an exemption applies. [-] Mandatory face coverings in enclosed spaces Face coverings should be worn in: - teaching and learning spaces. Please wear a face covering during the session when moving about, and where one meter distancing cannot be maintained, unless exempt - MacRobert Arts Centre - corridors - library and on-campus retail outlets - on entering student flats in all communal areas e.g. in halls/corridors - prayer rooms - toilets - when receiving first aid (where and when possible) - in any other specific areas indicated by signage	No
28/9/21	Liverpool*	England	https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/coronavirus/safety/your-responsibilities-on-campus/	-16/9/21	We all have a personal responsibility to help keep ourselves and our wider community safe. We are therefore maintaining the use of face-coverings in indoor locations, including in teaching sessions. All students will be required to wear a face covering within buildings on campus.	Yes 'required'
28/9/21	Nottingham*	England	https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/coronavirus/safety-on-campus.aspx	-19/9/21	In line with government policy, the University expects and recommends that staff and students wear face coverings in enclosed spaces, communal areas and busy parts of the University. [-] When should I wear a face covering? By 'busy' we mean rooms and spaces where any form of social distancing would be difficult. This might be a teaching space, a library or a social area. Does this mean coverings are mandatory? The government has removed the requirement for face coverings to be mandatory but the University is asking everyone to keep each other safe by continuing to use them in busy areas.	No
28/9/21	Surrey	England	https://www.surrey.ac.uk/coronavirus/general-advice	-18/9/21	The University recognises the UK Government regulations on the wearing and advice/guidance on the safe use of face coverings. We request all students and staff always carry a face covering, and to put one on in crowded places or in locations where local guidance requests that you do – in order to protect yourself and others. [The university's main Coronavirus page says 'It is a requirement to wear a face covering in all shared indoor University spaces' but this appears to be superseded by the above].	No
23/9/21	City University of London	England	https://studenthub.city.ac.uk/help-and-support/coronavirus-guidance-for-students-and-staff/	-20/9/21	We expect you to wear a face covering in potentially crowded or enclosed spaces, unless you are exempt. This includes when you are moving around inside buildings on campus, some teaching spaces, corridors or kitchens.	No
28/9/21	Dundee	Scotland	https://www.dundee.ac.uk/quizzes/face-coverings	20/9/21	Face coverings must be worn in libraries, lecture theatres, laboratories and classes unless someone is a member of staff (for example a lecturer delivering the lecture), or has a specified exemption. This is the case even if there is physical distancing of one metre or more and/or partitions are in place.	Yes
28/9/21	Aberdeen	Scotland	https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/coronavirus/news/1632/9/	21/9/21	Just an update on face coverings: - As well as when moving around the inside of buildings, students should continue to wear face coverings when seated in class until further notice - Staff engaged in teaching may choose, if they wish, to remove their face covering to deliver teaching, provided they are able to maintain a distance of at least 1 metre from all students in the class. This decision recognises the challenges, for students as well as staff, of delivering teaching while wearing a face covering. - Academic staff who choose to do so should only remove their face covering once everyone is seated in the classroom setting. - A student or students presenting at the front of a class may also remove face coverings if they choose to - as long as they remain at a least 1 metre distance. - Everyone should wear face coverings when moving into and out of teaching settings and around buildings - Face coverings can be removed when seated in hospitality settings.	No
28/9/21	Middlesex	England	https://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/covid-19/updates-faq	23/9/21	Students who can wear a face covering should at all times when in communal and shared indoor spaces. In shared indoor spaces you will be expected to wear a face covering unless you are eating and/or drinking. We ask members of the #TeamMDX community to be socially responsible and adhere to approaches we are taking as an institution to keep us all safe.	No 'expected'
28/9/21	London Metropolitan	England	https://www.londonmet.ac.uk/2020/coronavirus/keeping-you-safe-on-campus/protecting-you-on-campus/	-22/9/21	Masks or face-coverings should be worn: 1. When in corridors and other circulation space 2. When in close proximity with others i.e. when you anticipate being within one metre for longer than a minute or within two metres for longer than 15 minutes. 3. When someone else requests it. Students and staff are strongly encouraged to wear in classrooms and lectures.	No 'strongly encouraged'
28/9/21	Northumbria	England	https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/about-us/facilities-services/safety-on-campus/	Undated (2021)	- The University encourages staff, students and visitors to wear face coverings inside buildings when moving around and when in close proximity to others - but wearing face coverings is no longer mandated.	No 'encouraged'
28/9/21	St Andrews	Scotland	https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/coronavirus/covid-code/#en.106103	11/9/21	In Scotland face coverings are required in public spaces, on public transport, in care homes or hospitals, or if you go to a shop, library, museum, bank or church. Across the University estate we continue to require the use of face coverings in indoor spaces. This includes classroom teaching. [See also Coronavirus information page updated 22/9/21: The Covid Code requires staff and students to wear a face-covering indoors whenever you are in the company other than your household, and always when instructed to do so.]	Yes 'required'
28/9/21	University of East Anglia (UEA)	England	https://www.uea.ac.uk/news/statements/covid-19-advice/students-7/dtds	17/9/21	Further to the email sent yesterday, Monday 29 November, everyone must wear a face covering Those who are unable to wear a face-covering for medical reasons (you can pick up a sunfold Practical classes or research facilities where the risk assessment suggests that wearing a face covering is not required) When eating or drinking; When undertaking sport or physical activity in the SportsPark; UEA accommodation household groups while in their flat. Note: Students and their guests should not be the sole occupant of a room. This update is in response to queries that have been received. Thank you to the campus un-	Yes
28/09/21	Hull	England	https://www.hull.ac.uk/special/covid-19-health-and-safety-advice	-27/9/21		No
28/9/21	Kent	England	https://www.kent.ac.uk/student/coronavirus/safety/facts-coverage	-23/9/21		No
28/9/21	York*	England	https://www.york.ac.uk/about/together-york/covid-19-community-charter/	-24/9/21		No
30/9/21	Derby	England	https://www.derby.ac.uk/welcome/frequently-asked-questions/coronavirus	20/9/21	Practical classes or research facilities where the risk assessment suggests that wearing a face-covering is not required. When eating or drinking;	No 'encouraged'

UK university announcements on face coverings, autumn term 2021

This crowdsourced spreadsheet lists recent announcements by UK universities on policies on face coverings on campus, focusing on students. Please comment with new/updated info. Share with <https://twitter.com/maskpoliciesUKuniv>
 Summary 8/10/21: Face coverings have been made mandatory in all teaching spaces at 23 of the 95 universities listed, including 12 of 6 listed in Scotland and 1 of 2 listed in Northern Ireland. (For criteria of 'mandatory in all teaching spaces' see note 1 on next tab.) A further 19 universities say face coverings in all teaching spaces are 'expected'. 4 universities are providing free washable/reusable face coverings to students.

Notes are on the next tab. See also [Twitter thread accompanying this document](#), and a [parallel document on CO2 monitoring](#).

Date last accessed	University (+ Russell Group)	Nation	URL	Date page last updated	University's announcement	Face coverings mandatory in all teaching spaces?
5/10/21	University College London (UCL)*	England	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/human-resources/face-coverings-policy	Sep 2021	When undertaking sport or physical activity in the SportsPark;	No 'expected'
5/10/21	Oxford Brookes	England	https://www.brookes.ac.uk/getmedia/93bf249e-c22d-4a5b-9c26-326326714098/OU-Face-Coverings-Flyer-Updated-28th-September-2021-docx-1.pdf	28/9/21	UEA accommodation household groups while in their flat. Note: Students and their guests should wear face	No 'expected'
5/10/21	Keele	England	https://www.keele.ac.uk/coronavirus/campus/face-coverings	6/9/21	If you are the sole occupant of a room	Yes 'required'
5/10/21	Exeter*	England	https://www.exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus/comingto/campus/student/19	Undated (2021)	This update is in response to queries that have been received. Thank you to the campus unions for raising the	No 'strongly expected'
5/10/21	Courtauld Institute	England	https://courtauld.ac.uk/about-us/covid-19/	~30/9/21	All staff, students, volunteers, visitors and contractors coming into a Courtauld building are recommended to: - Wear a face covering in communal spaces where physical distancing is difficult – for example, corridors and lifts, or the communal areas of Duchy House - Wear a face covering in busy environments, where physical distancing is difficult such as: Lecture theatres and Seminar rooms Libraries [...] Learning Staff, whilst delivering activity in the gallery and Learning Centre and Curatorial Staff, whilst giving talks in the gallery may remove their face covering. Students are asked to wear face coverings while attending lectures except in the event of interacting with the lecturer if and when they are invited to do so and if wearing a face covering makes this difficult. Students are encouraged to wear face coverings in seminars but may choose not to wear or remove their face covering to better support learning.	No 'recommended', 'asked' and 'encouraged'
5/10/21	Huddersfield	England	https://www.hud.ac.uk/important-update/student-covid-19/#faq	1/10/21	All students, staff and visitors are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings indoors (unless exempt).	No 'strongly encouraged'
5/10/21	Manchester*	England	https://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=51186	17/9/21	a. Am I required to wear face coverings on campus? We strongly recommend that you do so indoors when moving around. b. It is strongly recommended that you wear a face covering whilst moving around indoors on campus. It is expected that face coverings will be worn in lecture theatres and large teaching spaces. In other areas they may be required if indicated by local risk assessment. There will be clear signage in areas where they are required by a risk assessment. [See also Staying safe page , updated 23/9/21. 'We strongly recommend everyone wear a face covering while moving around indoors on campus. We expect that you will wear face coverings in lecture theatres and large teaching spaces, and they may be required in other areas – this will be indicated by clear signage.'	No 'expected in large teaching spaces'
8/10/21	Leeds*	England	https://coronavirus.leeds.ac.uk/campus/updates/working-together-to-stay-safe/	5/10/21	We encourage staff and students to wear face coverings whilst moving through crowded indoor spaces. We expect staff and students to wear face coverings in teaching spaces when asked to do so by a member of staff (No-one will be denied access to a teaching event for not wearing a face covering.) We require people to wear a face covering where a specific risk assessment (approved by the relevant Executive Dean with their Health & Safety Manager) identifies the need. Signage will indicate where face coverings are required.	No 'expected when asked to do so'
8/10/21	Birkbeck	England	https://www.bbk.ac.uk/student-services/coronavirus-information	Undated (2021)	When you are inside our buildings, we ask that you wear a face covering, unless you have a medical exemption from doing so. If you require an exemption, you will need to note it via My Birkbeck so that the College knows you are exempt. You will need to wear a lanyard to indicate this. Students not wearing a face covering will be asked to put one on, unless they have an exemption. Students who do not follow this College policy will be asked to leave the classroom.	Yes 'asked to leave the classroom'
8/10/21	Durham*	England	https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/coronavirus/Facecoveringpolicy.pdf	~20/9/21	The wearing of face coverings is required when moving around inside any University building, or in areas where you may mix with people who you would not ordinarily meet. Some examples of this are: [...] - During face-to-face classroom based teaching activities. - During face-to-face meetings (unless a physical barrier is in place between meeting participants used to support interaction with someone who uses lip reading to communicate, or who has social communication impairments). - When having conversational meetings in multi-occupancy offices. [...] Face coverings will be optional: [...] - When working at an office, research laboratory, catering or other type of staff or postgraduate research workstation where there is sufficient segregation between people (1.5 m face to face) and where there is minimal conversational interaction between individuals in the space. (See also Coronavirus students page , updated 5/10/21. 'To ensure that we can deliver a safe teaching, learning, research and work environment, our staff, students and visitors are required to wear face coverings if they can. This includes when moving around in buildings and during face-to-face teaching.'	Yes (The exception for 'minimal conversational interaction' would not apply in teaching spaces)
8/10/21	Lancaster	England	https://portal.lancaster.ac.uk/portal/news/article/where-and-when-should-i-wear-a-face-covering-1	15/9/21	Therefore, last week our updated guidance was released for staff and students which says: "Wearing face-coverings is recommended and expected in crowded and enclosed areas. Crowded and enclosed areas will include passage ways such as corridors in buildings and The Spine which can be busy especially in between lecture times." [...] Lecture theatres and teaching spaces: Staff, Lecturers do not have to wear a face covering as it may restrict teaching delivery, however lecturers can wear face coverings at their own discretion. Students: Students are strongly encouraged and recommended to wear face coverings in lecture theatres, particularly where a safe distance from others cannot be maintained. [See also Safety on campus page , updated 1/10/21: 'While the legal requirement to wear face coverings in certain settings was removed from 19 July 2021, the well-known health benefits remain. So, wearing face coverings is recommended for all staff and students on campus and expected in crowded and enclosed areas.' [See also Covid-19 information page , updated 5/10/21, which has similar wording to the above.]	No 'strongly encouraged and recommended'
8/10/21	Harper Adams	England	https://www.harper-adams.ac.uk/coronavirus/620/how-we-are-keeping-our-community-safe	Undated (2021)	In all instances, the University is following government guidance and public health guidance. The University might request that face coverings are worn in some scenarios, for example, during small group teaching where individuals are in close contact and if there are outbreaks of Covid within the University community.	No
8/10/21	Plymouth	England	https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/about-us/covid-19	Undated (2021)	As we return to face-to-face teaching, we continue to support students, staff and visitors who choose to wear a face covering on campus.	No
8/10/21	Worcester	England	https://www.worcester.ac.uk/news/coronavirus/student-facts.aspx#safety	20/9/21	Wearing a face covering is now a personal choice. You may wish to keep a face covering with you and wear it if you find yourself in a busy area on campus, for example a corridor before a lecture starts. Many staff and students may prefer to wear a face covering much of the time, particularly if they are recovering from a cold or other illness and are helping protect the health of others.	No
8/10/21	Royal Holloway	England	https://rhn.rhul.ac.uk/about-us/coronavirus/campus-face-coverings.aspx	Undated (2021)	Face coverings must be worn indoors unless you have a reasonable excuse not to. [...] What counts as indoors? Indoors includes when moving around inside buildings and in face-to-face, on campus, teaching and learning support sessions. Exemptions: single study spaces (such as in the library), individual offices or shared offices where risk assessments have been completed and Covid-secure measure are in place; performances, including rehearsals and instrumental/choral/dance tuition. In laboratories, you must continue to wear the PPE specified in the risk assessment. [...] Two face coverings are available for every student. [However the Having your part page says simply 'Face - Wear a face covering when moving around indoors'.] [And the message from the Principal of 26/9/21 says 'In addition, everyone on campus is asked to wear a face covering when moving around inside any of our buildings. This includes even when you are moving around briefly, for example walking into a catering outlet, the Library or to a classroom, removing your face covering indoors only when you've sat down.'	No (Taken together, the announcements tell people to wear face coverings only when moving around in teaching spaces.)
20/11/21	University of Manchester	England	https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/news/display?id=27340	20/11/21	We are closely monitoring the situation over the Omicron variant of COVID. We don't yet know the risk that this new variant poses, but as a precautionary measure in line with the government guidance on public transport and retail, face coverings in our University will be mandatory in all indoor spaces with the exception of solo use spaces, from Monday 29 November. This includes when you are sitting in offices or study spaces, unless you are socially distanced to 2 metres. This new guidance is irrespective of the signage around campus. Face coverings will be available from University buildings. I should stress that these measures are precautionary as we wait to learn more about the variant, and will remain in place until further notice. We are monitoring the situation continuously and will issue further guidance in due course. We understand that not everyone can wear a face covering for medical reasons, but if you can you must do so to help protect others. You should also consider wearing a visor if a face covering is not possible for you. I would also strongly encourage you to take all other measures available, including getting vaccinated against COVID and flu, and regular hand washing and sanitising. Further information on our COVID response can be found on our website.	Yes have been since the start now mandatory in all indoor spaces (except for exemptions and where they pose a safety risk in some labs)

Notes						
	<p>(1) In the table a university counts as making face coverings 'mandatory in all teaching spaces' if the announcement:</p> <p>(a) refers to 'all indoor areas', 'all enclosed spaces', 'all closed spaces', 'teaching sessions', 'teaching spaces', 'classrooms', or 'face to face situations' (references to 'areas or where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet' do not qualify); and</p> <p>(b) says 'mandatory', 'required', or 'must' (phrases like 'you are expected to' or 'you should' do not qualify); and</p> <p>(c) imposes the requirement for students (whether or not it does for staff as well); and</p> <p>(d) imposes the requirement regardless of what social distancing is in place</p>					
	<p>(2) The Scottish government guidance for universities, updated 22/9/21, says that at colleges and universities 'it is a legal requirement to wear a face covering in all indoor communal areas', However it adds that this requirement does not apply 'where a college or university has actively put in place measures to ensure people are either separated by a partition or a distance of at least one metre in communal areas, such as lecture theatres and libraries'. This means that if a Scottish university site simply refers readers to the government guidance then this does not count as making face coverings mandatory in all teaching spaces. (I understand that the 1m exception was only added in the 7/9/21 update of the guidance.)</p> <p>(3) The UK government's Higher education COVID-19 operational guidance, as updated 17/8/21, says: 'Face coverings are no longer advised for students, staff and visitors either in teaching rooms or in communal areas. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where people may come into contact with people they don't normally meet. This includes public transport.' It adds: 'No student should be denied education on the grounds of whether they are, or are not, wearing a face covering.' [The guidance was updated on 27/9/21. The sentence 'This includes public transport' was omitted. Otherwise the above wording was unchanged.] [The guidance was updated on 2/12/21: 'We recommend that face coverings should be worn by students, staff and adult visitors when moving around the premises such as in corridors and communal spaces (see circumstances where people are not able to wear face coverings for exceptions to this). Providers may also want to consider adopting the use of face coverings in workshops, laboratories, offices, libraries, teaching rooms and lecture halls, especially where social distancing is difficult to maintain or where there is poor ventilation, as part of their wider COVID-secure measures. Face coverings do not need to be worn when outdoors.']</p>					
	<p>(4) The Independent SAGE 'Statement on universities and colleges autumn 2021 in the context of SARS-CoV-2', 9/9/21, says 'We urge universities to go beyond current government recommendations (which contain much mixed messaging) and, for instance, require face coverings in all multioccupancy indoors teaching and learning spaces and shared work spaces rather than leave it to individual choice.'</p>					
	<p>Curated by Andrew Chitty University of Sussex @aechitty1</p>					