

Student Attendance Policy

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Policy contact	Director of Student Experience and Academic Registrar
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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This policy applies to all students enrolled on a taught programme at Goldsmiths and supports the College's regulations on Attendance and Progress: [General Regulations: 7. Attendance and Progress](#).
- 1.2 In recognition of the different modes of study in operation across the College, as well as the divergent nature of programme delivery across distinct discipline and subject areas, this policy is intended to guide and support Departments and the institution in monitoring and reviewing student attendance.
- 1.3 The Student Attendance Policy is intended to be supportive rather than punitive and seeks to enable the College to discharge its duties effectively in supporting students' wellbeing, academic progress and achievement of learning outcomes.
- 1.4 Recording, monitoring and reviewing attendance is a crucial mechanism in identifying students that might be experiencing difficulties in their lives and with their academic work. A robust attendance policy should enable early identification of students who might be experiencing challenges or difficulties, and will allow for early intervention to support these students.
- 1.5 Early identification and intervention will enable the Department and institution to offer and provide appropriate academic and pastoral support to students, as well as to identify when sources of support outside of the Department might also be required.
- 1.6 During 2020/21, learning and teaching on all programmes will be delivered in a blended way through a mix of in person and online taught sessions. In the context of a blended learning environment therefore for 2020/21, attendance as described in this Policy will mean:
- Attendance by students in person at compulsory taught sessions as set out for their programme of study;
 - Engagement by students with compulsory taught sessions delivered online and as set out for their programme of study. Online sessions may be provided as 'live' sessions or pre-recorded materials accessed via the VLE. Arrangements are set out by departments for each programme of study.
- 1.7 Additionally, some students will have agreed arrangements to enable them to study completely online where they are unable to attend in person. Departments will have appropriate arrangements in place to support students studying wholly online. For any student with an agreed arrangement, the expectation of 'attendance' set out in this policy would be engagement with online sessions only.

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- 1.8 This policy therefore should be used to support departments in identifying where student attendance and/or engagement with these activities requires further action to identify what difficulties a student might be experiencing that is preventing them from attending and/or engaging with their programme.
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2 Rationale for monitoring student attendance

- 2.1 The College has a responsibility to ensure that students are provided with learning opportunities that enable them to meet programme learning outcomes. Monitoring student attendance allows Departments, and the College as a whole, to identify when students might be struggling, or in need of additional support with their studies.
 - 2.2 The College seeks to ensure that students are safe, well and engaged with their university experience. Monitoring student attendance allows the College to identify students who may need support.
 - 2.3 The College also has regulatory responsibilities to monitor attendance for all students and has additional obligations to monitor the attendance of international students especially those studying with a Tier 4 student visa.
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3 Attendance expectations

- 3.1 Students are expected to attend teaching and learning sessions set out in their timetables. This expectation of student attendance is detailed in General Regulations: 7. Attendance and Progress. During 2020/21, teaching sessions are delivered through a mix of in person and online activities. Students are expected to attend in person where set out in their timetable and to engage with online sessions.
- 3.2 Students are expected to be active partners in their own learning and to demonstrate this through engagement with learning opportunities and attendance at scheduled teaching and learning sessions.
- 3.3 Departments are responsible for highlighting the College's attendance expectation to students and for publishing programme-specific attendance requirements. These requirements should be made clear within Programme Handbooks and reiterated to students during induction sessions at the beginning of each new academic year. For 2020/21, departments will set out what sessions are delivered in person and those provided online.
- 3.4 Departments should clearly identify attendance monitoring contact points throughout the course of the academic year and ensure that students are made aware of these, as well as the consequences of non-attendance.

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- 3.5 The expectation that students should attend all scheduled sessions and that this attendance should be monitored will also be applied to those students who take part in Study Abroad, Exchange and Placements programmes.
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4 Recording attendance at Departmental level

- 4.1 Departments should routinely record student attendance at each formalised contact point. These points include:
- Seminars
 - Tutorials
 - Formal studio and workshops sessions
 - Scheduled meetings with tutors
- 4.2 The College acknowledges that certain programmes may have specific attendance requirements, particularly where programmes are accredited by Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs). For this reason, it is essential that all Departments clearly publicise attendance requirements for all programmes and ensure that these meet the attendance expectation of the College.
- 4.3 Where students study on joint honours programmes, the home Department should take responsibility for monitoring overall attendance. The Programme Coordinator must ensure a robust mechanism is in place to share and exchange attendance data across the Departments involved in programme delivery.
- 4.4 It is at the discretion of Departments as to how attendance is recorded. This can be carried out through automated sign in systems such as Registermate or through paper registers taken at lectures and seminars. For the purposes of monitoring student engagement with online activity, this will vary depending on the platform being used for the delivery of virtual sessions. TaLIC has provided guidance for departments on learn.gold Staff Help to assist in monitoring students' online engagement.
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5 Recording attendance at College level

- 5.1 The data held by departments is maintained to meet current and future UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) requirements.¹¹
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6 Absences

This version was used in 2020-21

- 6.1 The College's regulations on Attendance and Progress: [General Regulations: 7. Attendance and Progress](#) details authorised and unauthorised absence.
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7 Reviewing student attendance

- 7.1 Departments should ensure they have a robust process in place to monitor and review attendance data and to follow-up on non-attendance.
- 7.2 Where a student has not attended consistently for a period of one week or more without contacting the department then this should be flagged for follow up with the student.
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8 Potential consequences of unsatisfactory attendance

- 8.1 The College operates a probation procedure for students identified as having unsatisfactory attendance.
- 8.2 Where a student's attendance is deemed to be unacceptable and without good cause, the Head of Department can place the student on probation.
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9 Sources of support

- 9.1 Non-attendance can be caused by a range of factors. It is important that the reason(s) for non-attendance are identified and that appropriate support plans are put in place.

Document history

Version	Date	Details	Author	Approved
1.0	9/19	Reviewed by Director of Student Experience and Academic Registrar	Louisa Green	Approved
1.1	9/20	Reviewed by Director of Student Experience and Academic Registrar	Louisa Green	Approved

¹ (UKVI is part of the UK Government, and is responsible for implementing and enforcing the UK's immigration rules. They have regulatory powers in relation to those sponsoring individuals for a particular visa, for example universities sponsoring a student's visa).