

This note sets out the arrangements for returning to College accommodation in Easter Term 2021 and the associated approach to rental charges. This has been shared with key members of the JCR and MCR in advance.

It also takes the opportunity to communicate changes agreed by the Accommodation Committee and College Council to abolish the IT-Comms charge from 2021-22, improve the transitional credit for postgraduate students in College accommodation and other related changes.

1. Easter term accommodation and rents

(a) Undergraduate students

- Any student who returned to College last term continues to have that permission. Students who returned will be assumed to continue to need to be in College and will be charged rent for the FPR (fixed period of residence). If the status of any student who returned last term has changed, they should contact their tutor.
- For any student who did not return last term, the same approach will be applied as in Lent. In Lent term, any student returning before the end of January was deemed to have returned for the term and paid from the start of FPR. In the same way, we propose this term that anyone returning before the end of April will be deemed to have returned for the term and will pay rent from the start of Easter FPR. Any such student now wishing to return just needs to contact the Tutorial office to advise of the date of return.
- Anyone returning from 1 May onwards will pay from the date of their return onwards until the end of FPR (even if they leave Cambridge again before the end of FPR). Again, any student in this category just needs to contact the Tutorial office to advise of the date of return.
- Students who stayed over the Easter vacation will be charged at the normal rental rate pro-rated for those nights spent in College. However, any student on a Cambridge Bursary or Bursary top-up scheme will automatically have their vacation rent charge credited back on their College bill, thanks to Elgar fund support.

(b) Postgraduate students

- Any postgraduate students who returned during Lent term are deemed to have re-started their continuous licence, and so will pay rent for this quarter from 1 April onwards as usual.
- Any postgraduate who did not return during Lent term but is returning during Easter term will be charged with effect from the date of their return onwards, until the end of their licence or following a notice period. Any such student now wishing to return just needs to contact the Tutorial office to advise of the date of return.

(c) College Flats

- For the few students living in a college flat the position is different, as leases have not been suspended during the pandemic and rent continues to be payable. However, any student experiencing difficulties arising from this should speak to their Tutor in the first instance.

2. Abolition of the IT-Comms charge and changes to postgraduate College accommodation in 2021-22

Accommodation Committee and College Council have agreed the following changes for 2021-22 onwards:

- The IT Communications charge will be abolished with effect from 2021-22. In practice, no further charges will be made, because the Lent charge was waived but for logistical reasons the waiver will be applied to Easter term bills. In the Long Vacation the charge would not be applied anyway.
- The Transitional Residence Credit will be enhanced for the remaining three years. This will apply to all postgraduate students in College accommodation, both those already at the College and future new students. This means:
 - In 2021-22, instead of £8.33 per week, the credit will now be £10 per week;
 - In 2022-23, instead of £5.50 per week, the credit will now be £7 per week;
 - In 2023-24, instead of £2.75 per week, the credit will now be £4 per week.
- For all existing postgraduate students who have started their courses in 2020-21 or before, the existing approach whereby only 12 weeks' rent is charged for each 13-week period (three months) will continue for any period in College accommodation until their course is completed. In the last year or two we have sought to rationalise rent charges to align with the period spent in residence, and therefore from 2021-22 new students starting postgraduate courses in College accommodation will pay for the full time covered by their room licences.