

LEAVE OF ABSENCE POLICY: UNDERGRADUATE

General Principles

1. Undergraduates may request to withdraw temporarily from the University – this is known as a ‘Leave of Absence’ (LoA).
2. US students in receipt of Federal Loans must discuss their request for an LoA with the university’s Head of Student Financial Assistance before applying to Registry Services for an LoA.
3. Undergraduates may apply to Registry Services for an LoA from study for up to two semesters, which may be extended to a maximum of three semesters on special request from the Academic Registrar. Students must write to Registry Services at least 4 weeks before their LoA is due to expire if they want an extension to their LoA.
4. An approved LoA provides undergraduate students with the right to return to the University and to register for a future semester or summer session without applying for readmission.
5. The University is obliged to report to UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) any student who is in the UK on a student visa but who is not attending classes, and this obligation also applies to students who are taking an approved Leave of Absence from their studies.
6. Students who are on a student visa and take an LoA will have their visa curtailed and should make plans to leave the UK. They will need to apply to the University for a new CAS and make a new visa application from outside the UK, before they can return to study. Students should contact the UKVI Compliance team to obtain a CAS about three months before they plan to return.
7. Students registered for and attending classes are not permitted to apply for an LoA retrospectively; the LoA must be applied for and approved by the Academic Registrar in advance of the semester in which it is to be taken.
8. On returning from a leave of absence, students continue under the same degree requirements that were in force when they began their leave. Those granted a LoA for medical reasons may be required to provide confirmation from their health-care provider that they are medically fit to resume their studies.
9. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the University when their LoA is due to expire to confirm their return before the semester starts. Undergraduate students must contact their Academic Advisor who will provide the student with academic advice and will inform Registry Services of the student’s return.
10. It is the responsibility of the student to submit any relevant petitions for academic matters outstanding from prior to their Leave of Absence. Registry Services can advise as

necessary.

11. Students failing to return to the University following an authorized LoA will be unofficially withdrawn from the University and must apply for re-admission, should they wish to return to studies. On re-admission they are governed by the degree requirements in effect at the time of re-admission.
12. Students who have left the University without being granted an LoA and who later wish to return to the University to complete requirements must apply for readmission.

VERSION MANAGEMENT

Responsible Department: Registry Services			
Approving body: Academic Board			
Version no.	Key Changes	Date of approval	Date of effect
001		24 July 2018	28 August 2018
002	Added in point 10; changed T4 visa to student		
003	Added US federal loans info, removed good	August 2022	01 September 2022
004	Added information on applying for a new visa	June 2024	01 September 2024
005	Amended Associate Dean: Financial Aid to Head	July 2026	01 September 2026
		Restricted access? <i>Tick as appropriate</i> ☐ Yes ☒ No	