

Face Coverings Policy

Related Regulations from the Academic Manual are shown in boxes like this.

Ownership	Estates and Facilities Management
Policy Contact	Director of Estates and Facilities Management
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1 Introduction

This document offers staff and students guidance on wearing face coverings and will remain in effect until further information is received from the UK Government. These recommendations are for everyone's health and safety and to help you make decisions about the best way to protect your health.

Although, the government has removed the requirement to wear face-coverings in law, it expects and recommends they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where people may come into contact with people they don't normally meet. We are now putting the following structures in place to facilitate compliance with this expectation and recommendation.

We will be providing all students, staff, visitors and contractors who arrive without a face-covering and who are able to wear one, with a complimentary face-covering to be worn indoors on campus, particularly where social distancing cannot be maintained. We also welcome those on campus bringing and wearing their own face-covering.

2 General principles

All staff, students, volunteers, visitors and contractors coming into our buildings are expected and recommended to wear a face covering:

- in communal spaces, especially where physical distancing is difficult – for example, corridors, staircases, lifts and building entrances and atriums.
- in busy environments, where physical distancing is difficult such as:
 - Lecture theatres and Seminar rooms
 - Library
 - The Refectory & Café35
 - The Art Gallery
- Where local risk assessment recommends their use (e.g. in spaces that are less well-ventilated and/or where the activity specifies their use).

3 Exceptions

Whilst the expectation is that face coverings are worn, we acknowledge there will be circumstances where exceptions apply such as but not limited to:

- If you are eating and drinking in the café areas
- Staff, whilst delivering pedagogic content or participating in seminars or workshops may remove their face covering temporarily
- Students are asked to wear face coverings during all taught sessions on campus, except in the event of interacting with the lecturer temporarily 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 so long as others in the room are not concerned about this. When working at a desk while maintaining social distancing and when all other mitigations are in place, including an established ventilation standard.
- In any of the outdoor spaces.
- If wearing a face covering impedes the ability to complete a job or task (This should normally be determined as part of the local activity based risk assessment and confirmed by the Health and Safety department in accordance with existing procedures).
- If you have any health conditions affected by wearing a face covering.
- If you are a visitor under 12 years.

Goldsmiths, University of London supports the Sunflower campaign to highlight nonvisible disabilities. This is to signal discreetly to others that you may need extra assistance, rather than you are exempt from using a face covering per se, but its use in the context of a face coverings expectation is part of a collective and inclusive atmosphere of health precautions.

We encourage those who cannot wear a face covering to use a Sunflower card or lanyard. We also have a face covering exemption card, available from the main reception in the Richard Hoggart Building. Please consider whether or not to advise an appropriate person or service of any extra precautions or protections that should be put in place for you, to ensure safety and wellbeing.

4 Further advice

Wearing a face covering does not alter the requirement to adhere to and respect other COVID-secure measures, that the College continues to deploy.

All staff, students, volunteers, visitors and contractors should continue to:

- Not to come to site if you have COVID-19 symptoms or have been told to isolate or quarantine or have tested positive.
- Respect appropriate physical distancing, where practical.
- Follow good hand hygiene rules with sanitiser and regular hand washing
- Follow a regular programme of LFD testing – either twice a week, 3-4 days apart if you attend regularly, or 24 hours before coming for a one-off visit.

- Download the NHS COVID-19 app and scan it when you arrive at any of our building.
- The College also recommends all staff and students take up their full course of COVID-19 vaccinations, including boosters where applicable.
- Face coverings should be worn over both the nose and mouth. Cloth face coverings or disposable masks will be suitable. Cloth face coverings should have at least two layers of fabric and be regularly washed.
- We will distribute disposable face coverings to all staff, student volunteers, visitors and contractors at key entrance points to the campus and popular buildings
- Clean hands before and after touching your face covering – including to remove or put them on. Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn, and the face covering should be replaced. Staff and students may consider bringing a spare face covering to wear whilst on College premises, if their face covering becomes damp during the day.