

No repercussions for rent strikers and guaranteed safety for international students

Steps already taken

International students have been supported throughout their stay in the accommodation. Work is already underway on supporting those students further who may have returned home for Christmas and now face difficulties in returning for their studies because of additional testing or quarantine requirements. We are offering students the opportunity to apply for additional funds to bridge the gaps. A message went out to international students reiterating this support on 12th March and further updates provided at ahead of the 12th April and 17th May 2020. The University has also provided a dedicated telephone line for international students to contact the University for support.

Students declaring themselves as in the rent strike group will continue to be liable for rental payment with the expectation that monies owed will be paid as per the contract but none of these students will face the final step of the process, which would normally signal a Notice to Quit.

Proposal to satisfy demand

No student declaring themselves in the rent strike will be issued a Notice to Quit to vacate their accommodation. However, monies owed would still be paid as per the contract.

A 50% rent reduction for the remainder of the academic year 2020/2021 as well as a guarantee of no pay cuts and no job losses for staff

Steps already taken

Any student whose programme is now wholly online has been/will be offered release.

Students who elect modules which have now placed their programme as wholly online for the remainder of the academic year will be offered release.

Proposal to satisfy demand

Students who demonstrate that they will have no further in-person teaching will be allowed to be released from the remainder of the agreement from the point that the evidence is supplied to Accommodation Services. This may also include the 'assessment period' should the resident wish to vacate their rooms.

However, due to government lockdown rules regarding travel and forming new households, a student who has remained in their room up to 12th April, will not be granted an early release to vacate their room before 17th May.

Students who have not returned to their accommodation since Christmas have been offered the opportunity to apply for a rent credit for 100% of the costs since they have not been able to use the accommodation.

Offer all students no-penalty early withdrawal from their tenancy contracts for both this and the next academic years

Steps already taken

Work already undertaken is as set out above.

Proposal to satisfy demand

Regarding tenancies, the above information applies.

capacity to support students during the evenings and weekends.

According to our statistical analysis of demand and footfall (both digital and in-person), Student Support Services is appropriately resourced to support students approaching the teams.

There is a monthly statistical review to ensure that the numbers requesting support match the capacity in the teams.

A commitment from Goldsmiths to end its contribution to the gentrification of the local area

Steps already taken

Goldsmiths understands the importance of this issue and our community critically engages with these challenges through our scholarship. We fully recognise the responsibility we have

Proposal to satisfy demand

Goldsmiths can confirm that no new agreements have been formed with housing providers for 21/22 and there are no such discussions currently taking place.

Clarification on the process for reporting cases of sexual violence and what happens from the Triage Team

Steps already taken

The website is currently being updated with further information on what happens when a report is received. This has been taken on board by the Triage Team and will be launched along with the new version of the Report and Support system.

Proposal to satisfy demand

As above.

Update on the review of the debt chase letters

Steps already taken

We review the wording of these letters yearly for accuracy and new information. We have committed to completing another review immediately.

Proposal to satisfy demand

This action has now been completed.

Update on early contract releases for those wishing to leave the accommodation earlier than the contract end date

Steps already taken

There is already a process for early departures because of wholly online provisions as mentioned above.

Proposal to satisfy demand

The process is outlined above.

Clarity on process to receive support for self-isolating students

Steps already taken

Students have received regular reminders by email about this guide, as mentioned above.

There is already a process to support students in self-isolation, whether from travel or symptomatic (or precautionary). This is laid out in information here:

<https://www.gold.ac.uk/staff-students/info/coronavirus/self-isolating/guidance>

Proposal to satisfy demand

As above.