

Learning and Teaching Support Handbook

Chapter 14 - Temporary Visa Interruption and Withdrawal (applicable only to students who are subject to immigration control)

1. Sources of advice

1.1 International Student Support:

[International Student Support Pages](#)

Contact [SID](#)

The Students' Guild Advice Unit:

[Exeter Students' Guild](#)

Email [Students' Guild Advice Unit](#)

The Students' Union Advice Service (For Penryn/ Truro-based students):

[Students' Union Advice](#)

Email [Students' Union Advice Service](#)

The Faculty Office:

[Faculty Offices webpage](#)

2. Temporary Visa Interruption (applicable only to students who are subject to immigration control)

2.1 Where a student subject to immigration control is unable to demonstrate that they have valid immigration permission, the student will be advised to take a period of voluntary interruption (see section 2 'Interruptions' in Chapter 13, 'Procedures for the interruption and voluntary withdrawal of taught students') until they can demonstrate that they have obtained this permission. If the student does not take a voluntary interruption, the University will invoke a Temporary Visa Interruption, during which time a student's access to the University and its services is limited in accordance with the limitation specified in section 2.3 of Chapter 13, 'Procedures for the interruption and voluntary withdrawal of taught students'. This will be initiated by the Immigration Compliance Unit. The period of interruption will end when the student is able to demonstrate that they have valid immigration permission. If the student is not able to demonstrate this within 28 days then the student will be deemed withdrawn (see section 3 of Chapter 13, 'Procedures for the interruption and voluntary withdrawal of taught students'), unless it is appropriate to

transfer their mode of attendance to distance learning, and approval to do so is granted.

The 28-day period will start from the day that the Temporary Visa Interruption is invoked by the Immigration Compliance Unit and recorded on the student record.

2.2 During a period of Temporary Visa Interruption, a student will still be able to access the International Student Support Office, who will work with the student to try and ensure that they obtain valid immigration permission as quickly as is possible.

2.3 Where a period of Temporary Visa Interruption is initiated, the Immigration Compliance Unit will seek advice from the student's Department or Faculty as to the academic implications of this interruption and communicate these to the student, identifying where possible the requirements of the student upon their return to study and the available support mechanisms.

2.4 Students will have the right to appeal against the decision to invoke a period of Temporary Visa Interruption or against withdrawal from their programme on this basis. Appeals can be made on the basis of procedural irregularity or where there are material circumstances which were not known by the Immigration Compliance Unit at the time that the Temporary Visa Interruption was invoked. The appeal forms and guidance can be found in the [University Calendar](#).

3. Withdrawal from study

Where a student has failed to demonstrate that they have valid immigration permission within 28 days of the start of a temporary visa interruption (section 2.2 above), the Immigration Compliance Unit may recommend to the Dean for Taught Students or Dean of Postgraduate Research (whichever is applicable) that the student be withdrawn from study. Reinstatement of registration will be considered in accordance with section 3.1 below.

3.1 Students who have been interrupted following failure to evidence valid immigration permission to study who are not able to produce evidence of valid immigration permission to study prior to the end of that period will be deemed withdrawn. Reinstatement of registration will be considered by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean of Faculty in exceptional cases; payment of a reinstatement fee will be required.