

Important Information for Students

Strike action on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 May

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We know that many of you are concerned about the disruption to your studies due to the ongoing strike action across Scotland by members of the Further Education Lecturers' Association (EIS-FELA). We want to assure you that we are working closely with the Employers' Association and Colleges Scotland to try to resolve this nationally. We had hoped to find a solution before now to avoid further disruption to your education but, disappointingly, we have been informed that EIS-FELA plan further strikes on:

- **Wednesday 15 May and**
- **Thursday 16 May.**

As well as strike action, our college lecturers have voted for 'a resulting boycott' and the 'withdrawal of goodwill'. That means lecturers will carry out all assessments as usual but not on strike days nor outside of normal working hours.

Your assessments will also be marked and you will receive feedback as well as being told if you have passed or if a resit may be required as would normally happen at this time of year. However, the 'boycott' means that your lecturer will not enter your result into the college's student records system. Please be assured that we will ensure that your results are entered into the college systems so this does not impact on the recording of your final course result.

This is a very stressful time for many and the last thing we want is for your education to be affected in any way. We are here to support you and are doing all we can to put measures in place to allow you to finish your course. We are working closely with our Students' Association and are aware of a number of key questions you have asked. Answers are outlined below:

What does this intended action mean for you?

The withdrawal of goodwill only relates to time outside of contracted lecturing staff hours – at lunchtime or in the evening – but lecturers should be available at normal teaching times.

However, your assessment results will be safe and EIS has reassured our college that the lecturers will enter your result into the City of Glasgow College system once the dispute is resolved. We would hope that will be in place before the summer holidays just as normal. We will keep you informed as to the national dispute progress and any arrangements Awarding Bodies (such as SQA) or Universities may offer if results are delayed. We will keep you updated as that progresses.

Please try not to worry and stay focused on passing your assessments and exams.

We have been reassured by EIS that lecturing staff are concerned that students are not disadvantaged. The National EIS President, Alison Thornton, has also reassured students nationally that lecturers will do all they can to ensure that students pass their courses.

Should I come to college on a strike day? Will classes run?

Some classes will run and you will be told by your lecturer about that. If your class is running, please make every effort to attend. If you are unable to, you will be given a positive attendance for any days of strike action. We are also continuing to keep both campus facilities open during the planned strike days to allow students to use libraries, online resources and equipment where needed. There are some areas where, due to health and safety considerations, only limited access is possible.

Will evening classes run?

We will know more on the day of strike action. Our student services team can also be contacted on

0141 375 5191 or email:
studentservices@cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk.

Please also check updates running on the college's Facebook and Twitter.



My national exam is scheduled for a strike day, will that go ahead?

Yes, it will. SQA exams due on a strike date will go ahead as normal so you should attend college.

What about assessments?

We will offer an alternative area and/or date for practical assessments which may take place on strike days. However, Graded Units exams and/or NQ exams will proceed as planned.

When will I be notified of my re-scheduled assessment?

We will ask lecturers to inform you as soon as assessments are rescheduled.

Will this affect my progression to another college course or to university?

As this is a national strike, there is a national approach. If the strike is extended further, universities and exam-awarding bodies will respond with requirements. We will of course communicate the outcome of these discussions.

If you are an existing City of Glasgow College student due to progress from first year to your second year of a HN course or from NC to the next level of study, we will adjust our internal progression requirements to make allowances for any impact the strike action may have had on your studies.

If you are about to join us from another college or university, we will also take account of any strike-related delay in finalising results where you have a Conditional Offer.

Will I get a refund if my class is cancelled?

Students will be registered as having “authorised absence” i.e. positive attendance on strike days, so you will not lose any bursary, hardship or other usual funding support payments.

If you have paid for a course, and your class has been cancelled due to strike action, we will offer refunds on a pro rata basis. Our Finance team will contact you once we know the full extent of those missed classes. This includes evening courses which have been affected and have yet to finish.

For anyone with particular concerns about money, refunds or if you need further financial help please speak to a member of our Student Support - our Advisors are always on hand to help.

When will these strikes end?

Negotiations around the EIS industrial action are taking place on a national level and affect all of Scotland’s colleges jointly. We do not know how long the current action will continue and individual lecturers are not obligated to inform us whether or not they are going out on strike. That limits the amount of advance information available to us regarding impact on classes.

We are fully committed to finding a positive resolution and will keep you updated as we know more.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Student Services on 0141 375 5191 or email studentservices@cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk

