

# The Student EHIC – Guidelines for Placement Students

New NHS rules mean that if you are going to on a study or work placement abroad which will last more than six weeks, **you must apply for a special Student EHIC**. If you have a regular EHIC, it will **not be valid for your placement abroad**. Please read these FAQs carefully to understand how to apply for the Student EHIC.

## 1. What is an EHIC?

A valid EHIC provides card holders with the right to access state-provided healthcare on temporary stays in other European Economic Area (EEA) countries or Switzerland.

Treatment should be provided on the same basis as it would be to a resident of that country and is provided in many cases either at reduced cost or for free. The EHIC covers treatment, including for pre-existing conditions, that is medically necessary until the card holder's planned date of return home.

## 2. How does a Student EHIC differ from a regular EHIC?

A Student EHIC is a special time-limited EHIC for students who are going abroad on a study or work placement which **lasts over six weeks**. Affected students must apply for the Student EHIC before leaving the UK. Important: a regular EHIC will **not be valid** for study/work placements in EEA countries of over six weeks.

The Student EHIC gives the same access to state-provided healthcare as a regular EHIC and is only valid for the duration of your placement abroad, as long as you intend to return to the UK at the end of the placement. To apply for a Student EHIC, you need to include a letter from the University of Leeds to declare that you are a placement student, including the details of your course at Leeds, and start and end dates and address of your placement. See point 6 for details on how to apply.

## 3. What happens if I use my regular EHIC while on a study or work placement abroad for longer than six weeks?

The regular EHIC is **not valid** for placements of over six weeks. If you try to use your regular EHIC abroad, you may receive an invoice for treatment and be liable to pay this back.

## 4. Do outgoing summer school students have to apply for a student EHIC?

- If you are travelling to an EEA country to do a **summer school only** (of no more than six weeks in length), you should apply for a regular EHIC at <http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcareabroad/EHIC/Pages/about-the-ehic.aspx> You do not need a Student EHIC.
- If you are travelling to an EEA country to do a summer school **followed immediately** by a year studying abroad in an EEA country (without a break to return to the UK) then **yes, you need to apply for a Student EHIC before leaving the UK**.

- The Study Abroad Office will provide you with an official university letter in your pre-departure pack with information about your summer school and study abroad year which you need to submit with your Student EHIC application.
- If you plan to travel in EEA countries in between your summer school and your year abroad **you must write a cover letter** explaining this to include in your Student EHIC application. Your letter should say (suggested wording to amend as necessary):
  - “I confirm that I will be travelling within the EEA in between my summer school and full year study abroad and therefore require EHIC cover during this period. The EHIC helpdesk said that I should declare this in my application for a Student EHIC.”

### **5. What should I do if I'm doing a placement abroad followed by a study year abroad/work placement abroad with a gap in between?**

You will need to apply for a Student EHIC, as follows:

- If you know the details of **both placements abroad**, you should request a letter from your placement coordinator to cover the details (see point 7.) of both placements abroad. Submit this letter with your Student EHIC application form.
- If you only know the details of the first placement abroad, you should request a letter from your placement coordinator to cover the details of your first placement and submit this with your Student EHIC application form (see point 7.) As soon as you have the details of your second placement, you should request a letter outlining the details of your second placement from your University of Leeds placement coordinator, then apply for a second Student EHIC following the process in point 7. Please note that Student EHICs can only be issued to UK addresses so you may need to have your second Student EHIC forwarded from your UK address.

### **6. What if I want to travel within the EEA before or after starting my study abroad placement, but only have a Student EHIC valid for my study dates?**

*If you are travelling before the placement starts:* If you need medical treatment abroad but no longer have your regular EHIC because you returned it with your Student EHIC application, you should contact the Overseas Healthcare Team on +44 191 279 0575 for a Provisional Replacement Certificate.

*If you are travelling after the placement ends:* You need to apply for a regular EHIC which you can do online at <https://www.ehic.org.uk/Internet/startApplication.do> You would be covered from the date you applied, and if you hadn't received the regular EHIC in time, you would need to contact the Overseas Healthcare Team on +44 191 279 0575 (store this number in your phone) for a Provisional Replacement Certificate (PRC). A PRC cannot be obtained in advance, so the Overseas Healthcare Team should only be contacted if you **definitely** require medical treatment while abroad.

## **7. How do I apply for a student EHIC?**

You should carefully follow the instructions on the NHS website

<http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcareabroad/movingabroad/Pages/Studyingabroad.aspx>

: To apply, you'll need to download the EHIC application form and return it to the NHS Business Services Authority – you cannot apply for a student EHIC online or over the phone. If you have any dependents, you'll also need to include them on your application. Your student EHIC will be valid for the duration of your placement abroad, and if you already have a regular EHIC **you'll need to return it** when you apply for a student EHIC. You should make sure to apply in good time for the Student EHIC as it is a paper, rather than online, application.

## **8. What documentation do I have to submit with my EHIC application?**

As well as returning your current regular EHIC, if you have one, you need to submit a range of information with your EHIC application in the form of “official university letters”.

If you are going on a full year abroad, the Study Abroad Office will provide you with one single letter which includes all necessary information in the packs we hand out at the pre-departure conferences. If you are an LCS student, the Residence Abroad team will provide you with your letter. The details to be included in the letter, as required by the NHS EHIC team, are:

- Name of student
- Name and address of the UK educational institution
- Address of where the student is studying overseas
- Start and end dates of the student's course/placement abroad
- Details of the qualification the student is studying for

## **9. Can a student apply for a regular EHIC or a Student EHIC from abroad?**

It is not recommended that you apply for a Student EHIC from abroad unless absolutely necessary. This is because it is not possible to apply online, documentation from your university is required, and the EHIC can only be issued to a UK address.

If you have any questions, please email [outgoingstudyabroad@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:outgoingstudyabroad@leeds.ac.uk)

## **Useful links**

**NHS Moving Abroad website:**

<http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcareabroad/movingabroad/Pages/Studyingabroad.aspx>

**EHIC helpdesk on Facebook (contact them by Facebook online chat):**

<https://www.facebook.com/NHSBSAEuropeanHealthInsuranceCard/>