

**Monday, 5 April 2021**

### **More College Students Begin Return to Campus Learning**

As part of the next steps in Scotland's journey out of lockdown, from today (Monday, 5 April 2021) a limited number of college students can return to in-person learning on their college campus.

The move to allow up to 29% of students onto college campuses was announced by the First Minister last month.

Priority is being given to students who have essential face-to-face learning to complete, including students studying engineering, construction, and hair and beauty, where access is needed to practical teaching in workshops, laboratories, and teaching salons.

Shona Struthers, CEO of Colleges Scotland, welcomed the move:

“Having almost a third of our students back into their college for essential learning is a really important step forward – we're pleased the Scottish Government has recognised college students in this phase of lockdown easing.

“Being able to bring up to 29% of college students back before the summer is really beneficial for students who have practical learning to complete in their coursework. Practical subjects including engineering, construction and hair and beauty are specifically noted in the Scottish Government guidance for return.

“Colleges are safe for students who will be well used to the extensive public health measures that have been in place for the whole of the academic year, such as one-way systems, social distancing, and students are being given advice on other ways to stay safe such as not to car share.

“Students and staff have all played their part in the pandemic, with colleges being used as vaccination centres and many people volunteering in their local community as part of the response. We're looking forward to being able to deliver more in-person teaching before the summer, which will make a real difference to students working hard to complete their courses in extraordinary circumstances.”

**ENDS**

#### **Notes to Editors:**

The First Minister announced changes for the college sector in her statement to the Scottish Parliament on 16 March 2021: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) update: First Minister's statement - 16 March 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/news/2021/03/16/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-minister-statement-16-march-2021/)

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