

Tuberculosis (TB) Screening for International Students

An extra test for students arriving from a 'High TB Risk Country'

Most students arriving from countries on the World Health Organisation list of very high TB risk countries will have had a chest Xray as part of their visa requirement. This is to look for active TB. You will have a certificate with the Xray result.

You need to bring this certificate when you register with the University Health Centre.

When you register with us, we will then need to do a blood test to check for Latent TB. This is part of the UK Public Health Programme.

Why do I need this test?

Latent TB, or 'sleeping TB' is where you have breathed in a TB bacterium at some time in the past, maybe years ago, without knowing it. The TB bacterium can stay asleep in the body for a long time. It is important to know if you have been infected in the past.

When you come to the UK, many things are different, food, weather, no family support etc. It is a time when your body is under stress and does not fight infection so well and the 'sleeping' bacteria can start growing. We know that the first year or two in a new country is a time when you are at significantly higher risk of getting sick with active TB.

A blood test can tell us if you have been infected in the past. If we know this, TB disease can be prevented. This is why we do the screening – it is for your benefit.

When will I get the test?

On the day of registration or soon after

When will I get the results?

The results may take up to 2 weeks. We will contact you if the result shows Latent TB infection

What if there is something wrong?

We will refer you to the TB Clinic in Huddersfield

You may need another Xray and some prevention medication

Will I have to stop my studies?

No – we do not need to tell the University or Visa office

Will I have to pay anything?

No – any tests or treatment are free