

Message from the Director (25 May 2020)

Evolving situation, Evolving services

Dear all

Further to my message of 18 May, I would like to update you all on our response to the current situation in Myanmar.

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Following recent government directives to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in Myanmar, the British Council offices temporarily closed to public access on 19 March 2020. In parallel face to face services were suspended. Since then, we have been providing a wide range of educational and cultural services digitally as communicated on our website and [Facebook page](#) (Message from the Director dated 25 March, 2 April, 8 April and 4 May).

In line with recent guidance issued by the government of Myanmar about re-opening businesses, we started trialling face to face services for our library in Yangon last week. In addition, we are now trialling examinations services on a limited basis for customers in Yangon. These examination services are for Computer Delivered IELTS (CdIELTS) only at this stage.

IELTS supports the aspirations of people in Myanmar for international study and migration opportunities. We therefore feel it important provide these opportunities whilst respecting government health advice.

We are awaiting advice and guidance from UK Awarding bodies on when other services will resume e.g. LCCI, Cambridge English Exams, and other professional and university examinations.

In order to ensure the safety of our customers and our staff we will be implementing several measures to reduce the risk of coronavirus infection.

These include:

ACCESS AND TRACING MEASURES:

1. Temperature checks will be carried out at entrance for all customers and staff. Anyone with elevated temperatures (above 38 degrees) will not be allowed to access the building
2. Staff and customers will be required to wear face masks and have ID checked before entering. There will be mandatory use of hand sanitiser on entering our office
3. Customers without an appointment will not be able to enter the building
4. All customers will be required to complete a contact tracing survey and a declaration about their recent travel and health

SOCIAL DISTANCING AND ADDITIONAL CLEANING MEASURES

1. We will limit the number of customers to no more than 5 at any one time and ensure a minimum of 2 metres spacing between people in the building
2. Two metre spacing will be marked on floor at entrance and inside the building
3. We will conduct additional cleaning to minimise the risk of infection and ensure hand sanitiser is available

On behalf of the British Council, I would like to once again re-assure you of our ongoing commitment and support to Myanmar. We feel very proud of our long-standing friendship here and, despite the many challenges presented by the current health pandemic, we look forward to continuing to connect people and institutions in Myanmar and the UK.

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Dr Richard Sunderland
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British Council