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Dear International English Language Students,

I am writing to tell you about the reopening of our world-class English Language Training (ELT) sector and to reassure you about studying here in the UK.

As you are aware, the COVID-19 outbreak is an unprecedented global situation causing significant challenges to all types of education. In the UK, the ELT sector took decisive steps as the situation unfolded, supporting students both in the UK and internationally, providing the latest information and ensuring that every student was safe and well looked after.

We were disappointed that so few English language students were able to come to the UK this summer to learn our language, experience our culture and visit exciting places of interest.

But things are changing. With restrictions now easing across the UK, our English language teaching sector is reopening alongside our restaurants, cafes, shops and tourist attractions. They are all keen to welcome students back to our shores. Our schools, staff and host families have been preparing for the return of students, focussing on their safety needs, following the latest government advice and guidance, and so ensuring that students can book their courses in the UK with confidence.

Currently, the UK Government's travel corridors mean students from almost 60 countries can enjoy study and sightseeing in the UK from the day they arrive without any need to self-isolate.

Accredited ELT centres always put student care and well-being at the front of everything they do. English UK, which represents over 400 ELT providers, has produced detailed plans for its members aimed at protecting students at all times, whether in the classroom, undertaking activities, playing sports or on excursions. These plans and risk assessments will keep students safe while making sure that their experience in the UK will be as enjoyable as it always would have been.

The UK Government is proud that so many English language students from all over the world recognise the UK's expertise and high quality of teaching and so choose to study here each year.

We are now ready to give the warmest of welcomes to students from every part of the world and hope that you might consider being one of them.

Yours sincevely.

GRAHAM STUART MP Minister for Exports Department for International Trade