

# QMUL Sickness Benefit Scheme

## I Sick Pay

- a) If you are absent from work owing to illness or injury you are entitled to payment in accordance with the following scale:

Length of Service	Maximum allowance per 12 month period
During the first three years of service	Three months' full pay and three months' half pay
After three complete years' service	Six months' full pay and six months' half pay

- b) One month shall be regarded as 22 working days, all public holidays being counted as working days.
- c) The College may, at its discretion, extend the entitlement to full or half pay; for example, where you are following an approved course of treatment which has been approved by a doctor acting on behalf of QMUL Council.
- d) During absence due to sickness or injury the College and the member shall continue to pay their respective full pension contributions.

## Notification and Certification

- a) Payment will only be made if the following procedure is followed if you are absent through a medical condition.
- b) If you are unable to carry out your duties because of sickness or injury you should inform the Head of Department/Section, wherever possible in person, as soon as possible on the first day of absence.
- c) If your sickness absence is for less than 1 day, you need not self-certify. For absences of 1 to 7 days (including Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays) you must complete a self-certificate and ensure that it is submitted to the HR Department as soon as possible.
- d) In any twelve month period, no more than four self-certificates are normally permitted. Submission of the fourth self certificate will trigger a review of your absence record over the preceding 12 month period. Your manager will take into account the number of days absence on each occasion and of any evidence of patterns of absence. You will be informed if further action is considered necessary. Such action may include:
- referring you to the Occupational Health Service for a medical opinion;
  - an interview with the Head of Department and a representative from Human Resources;
  - action under the relevant "Sickness" Code of Practice;
  - claiming to be sick when you are not is a disciplinary offence which will be dealt with under the College's Code of Practice on Discipline.
- e) If you are absent for 8 days or more (including Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays) you must self-certify for the first 7 days, and supply a medical certificate for the balance. You must continue to supply medical certificates until you return to work. A medical certificate is one issued by a GP or Hospital Doctor.

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- f) If you fail to submit certificates as required, the College will send two reminders. If you still fail to supply certificates, the appropriate amount of sick pay paid under the scheme will be deducted from your salary.
- g) If your medical condition causes long term absence, you must ensure that you keep your Head of Department/Section informed about your progress on a regular basis.
- h) You may be required at any time to present yourself for examination by a doctor of the College's choice.

### Accident Third Party Claim

- a) If you are absent as a result of any injury or accident you must undertake to refund to the College any sums that you recover from a third party by way of damages for loss of earnings. You are not, however, obliged to make a claim or take legal action against a third party, unless, either:
  - i) the College offers a full indemnity as to costs; or
  - ii) the circumstances are such that it would be unreasonable not to make a claim.
- b) While any proposed legal claim is being resolved, any payment made by the College will be treated as a loan.
- c) The College will disregard, for the purpose of its sick pay scheme, any period of absence for which you refund in full the amount of sick pay received. If the refund is made in part only, the College may at its discretion, decide the period of absence it will disregard.

### Notes

- a) In calculating the period during which salary shall be paid during absence due to sickness or injury, the College will disregard:
  - i) absence, on the advice of your doctor, to prevent the spread of an infectious illness with which you have been in contact.; and
  - ii) absence owing to notifiable infectious or contagious illness which was, in the view of an independent doctor, contracted directly in the course of your employment (including travelling on duties connected with the work of the College). The College will select the independent doctor by agreement with you (or with the College branch of a trade union acting in your behalf).