



Students returning from their session break cannot expect to return to the same class, teacher or accommodation. No credit is given for accommodation during session breaks. Students requiring a visa for study must ensure that their visa is issued for the correct dates to include any session breaks.

**US:** Students who are planning to stay in the US, who have studied for a minimum of 12 weeks with an attendance of over 80%, and are registered for a further 4 weeks, are entitled to a session break of up to 2 weeks. Session breaks cannot be more than 2 weeks, including all EC breaks except the standard Christmas break. Students enrolled for 24 weeks+ may take a break of up to 5 months if they are leaving the US.

**Canada, UK, Malta & Cape Town:** Academic/Business Year or Multi-Destination Academic/Business Year students (24 weeks+): Students can have a maximum of 4 weeks; session break. Students must give a 2 week period of notice

### **Students studying at EC Malta on a Tourist Visa and staying for 90 days:**

- Students booking a 1–7 week course are not allowed any session breaks during the course
- Students booking a 8-10 week course are allowed a maximum of 2 week session break and can make up the weeks as this still falls within the 90 day period
- Students who have a 90 day visa period and are booked for 12 weeks cannot take a break and make up the weeks, if they request to take a break the weeks will be lost and no refund will be given as they will exceed the 90 day visa period.
- Students are solely responsible for ensuring their visa is issued for the correct dates to include any session break

### **Visa students who wish to remain in Malta longer than 90 days must apply for a Study Visa. This will allow visa students to remain in Malta once their 90 day Visa has expired.**

- Our minimum duration for Study Visa applications is 4 weeks of paid course.
- Applications for the Study Visa must begin within 30 days of arriving in Malta
- Visa students must advise EC Staff of any planned holiday dates before applying for a Student Visa. Holiday dates once agreed cannot be amended.
- A maximum of 2 weeks study break is permitted for students studying between 8 – 23 weeks. For bookings of 24 weeks and over, 4 weeks are permitted but only 2 weeks can be taken together.
- The last two weeks of course cannot be used as a break. During the last two weeks of study the student must be present in school.
- Students must keep an 80% minimum attendance to be entitled to any breaks, if a student's attendance falls below 80% EC is obliged to inform Immigration authorities.
- All requested holidays must be taken, otherwise EC is obliged to inform Immigration authorities because the end date of their course would be affected
- Accommodation is not subject to session breaks. Student must have proof of continuous accommodation for the full duration of the Study Visa application.

### **Session breaks only apply to lessons. Accommodation in Malta must be continuous during the period of the session break**

### **Immigration policies are determined by Malta Authorities and not EC hence the above rules are subject to change**

### **Students studying at EC UK, EC Canada (non-tourist visa) & EC South Africa:**

- Students who book 1-11 weeks course are not allowed to have any session breaks period during the courses (except Malta see above).
- Students who booked a 12 - 23 week course can have a maximum of 2 week session break.
- Students who book 24 weeks + can have a maximum of 4 week session break but are only permitted to take 2 weeks at a time
- Students who have attendance of 80% or lower cannot apply for session break.
- Students can use the session break period anytime except during Exam preparation courses.
- Students must give a 2 week period of notice before taking a session break
- Emergency leave of absence: in case of death in the family and or physical injury, leave of absence is immediate and the remaining study weeks will be held for 6 months from the start date of break. (this will allow students to return home to attend to their personal needs and have enough time return)
- Students returning from their session break cannot expect to return to the same class
- A minimum of 4 weeks of study is required between session breaks.

### **All other Students with the exception of EC USA and EC MALTA**

- Students who book 1-11 weeks course are not allowed to have any session breaks period during the courses.
- Students who book 12-23 weeks course can have a maximum of 2 week session break
- Students who book 24 weeks + can have a maximum of 4 week session break.
- Students who have attendance of 80% and lower cannot apply for session break.
- Students can use the session break weeks separately or at once.
- Students can use the session break period anytime except during Exam preparation courses.
- Students must give a 2 week period of notice
- Emergency leave of absence: in case of death in the family and or physical injury, leave of absence is immediate and the remaining study weeks will be held for 6 months from the start date of break. (this will allow students to return home to attend to their personal needs and have enough time to receive another visa, if needed)
- Students returning from their session break cannot expect to return to the same class
- Students are solely responsible for ensuring their visa is issued for the correct dates to include any session break.
- No of study weeks required in-between vacations is 4 weeks