

Dear Student,

I hope this email finds you and your loved ones safe and well. Please find below a further update on our plans for September and on the gradual reopening of our campuses.

Before I come to those updates, I wanted to comment briefly on the horrific death of George Floyd and surrounding unrest. His death is a stark reminder of both the poisonous and yet also the everyday racism that still exists in our society and across the world. Some of you have written to me to express your concerns about these events and ask what more can be done. The anger and depth of feeling behind the protests has to be channelled to positive ends: in the US, in the UK and in our own institution.

As many of you know, I am deeply committed to making Queen Mary a truly inclusive university. Progress has been made, led by the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Steering Group and is summarised [here](#). To be truly inclusive requires continued hard work and Sheila Gupta, as chair of the Steering Group is developing a number of new initiatives to promote inclusion within our University. More information from Sheila will follow shortly.

We all acknowledge the extent to which race matters. It impacts on all aspects of our lives: not just through racism, but through everyday inequalities and injustices. Just at the moment, the unfair impact of the pandemic on black and minority ethnic individuals makes this particularly apparent.

Our education offering for September

For those of you not graduating, I would like to reiterate that if travel restrictions allow you should plan to return to our campuses in September. From September, our educational provision will be 'blended', that is, with the backbone for the first term will be online, and there will also be face-to-face educational activities for those able to join us on our campuses. If you can't travel in September, please be reassured you can fully access your education online, and join us as soon as you can.

Your safety is our foremost priority. For those of you who will be able to join us on campus in September, we will ensure that our premises and activities follow government guidance and that we are Covid-19 Secure. We are re-configuring our campuses, including our lecture theatres and other learning spaces, our libraries, and study and social spaces, to ensure we can all maintain social distancing, necessary hygiene standards and keep you, and everyone else on our campuses, safe and well.

For those of you who are graduating, I am also delighted this week that we are able to announce January start dates for some of our most popular PGT programmes in the School of Business and Management, School of Economics and Finance, School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science, School of Mathematical Sciences and Centre for Commercial Law Studies this week. These start dates are additional to the normal September start dates for the courses – so just provide a choice for when to start. The news story about these new start dates will be published on our website tomorrow. If you are not sure what your next step is do have a look at our post graduate offerings, a higher degree should significantly improve your employment options, and also provides that extra insight into your chosen subject.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your School/Institute.

Re-opening some campus facilities

I am delighted to say we have now re-opened some research laboratories, and will continue to open more through the rest of this month. The safety of our staff and students is paramount, and we are using thorough risk assessments – at University-wide and local levels – to ensure that we can operate these facilities safely and protect the health of our students, staff and any visitors. As soon as government guidelines permit we will open some facilities, such as computer rooms and study spaces, for students. I know how important study space is for students and we will open some up as soon as we can. I will keep you updated with progress.

Please stay safe, and look after yourself and your loved ones. I will write with a further update shortly.

Best wishes,

Colin

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