

Dear student,

In the past few days, the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) has increased significantly in some parts of the world, including the UK. Queen Mary is following UK Government advice carefully. Currently, we are not aware of any cases at Queen Mary. The health, welfare and safety of students and staff is of course our top priority.

These developments have led us to make the following decisions:

### **International students wishing to go home**

Some international students have asked if they can return home. Whilst the University remains open as normal, I understand that some of you may be feeling very anxious about future possible travel restrictions, and may prefer to go home. At this point, if you wish to go home you should do so\*. If you choose to go home please let your school or institute know, and if you are in University-owned accommodation please also let residential services know. We will guarantee you will not be disadvantaged in relation to any assessment. We are working hard to make teaching materials available remotely: if materials for your course are not already online, they should be there by 23 March.

Please be assured that we are putting in place all the support needed for all our students, including those that are staying within our halls of residences.

### **Students graduating this year**

We are prioritising contingency arrangements for final-year undergraduates and postgraduates so that all students due to graduate this year will get an award.

### **Field trips**

To minimise risks to students and staff, we are cancelling all international field trips for undergraduates scheduled between now and 1 July 2020. We are keeping all other planned field trips under review. If you are directly affected by this decision, please contact your school or institute directly.

We are continuing to review our response to the outbreak and will contact you again shortly with important information and updates.

Best wishes,

Colin

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\*If you are a year 5 international medical student please contact your institute before you leave.