

Dear student,

I write the daily update to you in the full knowledge that everyone is extremely worried about coronavirus. Do look after yourselves and support each other. If you have any concerns, our wellbeing and student health services are there to support you.

I expect you will have heard the announcement from our Prime Minister yesterday urging people to work from home where they can. The Government has not, at this point, taken the decision to close schools and universities. It is important to note that we cannot simply close the University since many of you live on campus and will need staff on-site to ensure core facilities are maintained, you have the support you need, and to support the infrastructure to allow remote education, research and working to continue. We are putting in place plans to reduce the number of staff on our campuses, while continuing to ensure the well-being of all our staff and students. I want to reassure you that whilst we will now transition some of our staff to remote working, all your core facilities will still be available to you on our campuses and the residential, health and wellbeing services continue to be there to support you.

Transition to remote education and implications for students

We are now working hard to make the final transition to remote education, such that no student will have to come onto campus for lectures or classes from 23 March. Many schools and institutes are already delivering teaching online, and your School or Institute will let you know as soon as they are ready to move to remote education. If your School or Institute has already moved to remote education, there is no expectation that you come onto our campuses unless you want to. If your course is already being delivered remotely and you currently live in University residences, and would now like to leave the residences and return home, you are welcome to do so. Please let residential services and your School/Institute know if you are in this position and are intending to leave the residences.

Maintaining the quality of our education

As we make this transition to remote working, we are determined to maintain the quality of our education and keep firm hold of the values that are central to our University, including the principle of co-creation of education with students. The Staff-Student Liaison Committees (SSLCs) will be particularly important in making sure we have made the transition to remote education smoothly. The SSLCs will also help ensure that we maintain the high quality of our education, and that it continues to be co-created with our students.

Assessments

I wanted to reiterate that there will be no large-scale face-to-face assessments, such as formal written examinations, in April, May or June*. We are working hard to make alternative arrangements for assessments and will have further updates for you later this week. I have had a lot of emails from students worried about assessments. Please do not worry, all I ask is that you keep studying using all the materials that are available to you, and we will inform you of your individual future assessments. No student will be disadvantaged by the changes to assessments that we make as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

Students expecting to graduate this year

I also wanted to reiterate that everyone expecting to graduate this year will get an award. We will be communicating about the graduation events later this week. If you are expecting to graduate you will get an award, even if the physical graduation event has to be cancelled or postponed.

I know everyone is worried. We are updating our FAQs daily at <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/coronavirus/> so do please keep an eye on them, and also on advice from government. If you have particular concerns do speak to your School or Institute, the student enquiry team or contact me at principal@qmul.ac.uk.

Best wishes

Colin

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*Some assessments in medicine and dentistry are going ahead. You should already have heard from your Institute. If this is not the case, please do get in touch with them.