

Dear student,

I hope this email finds you safe and well. The easing of government Covid-19 restrictions has started, albeit slowly, and for those of you on practical or practice-based courses this means we are now able to resume in-person teaching. You should by now have heard from your School/Institute about whether, under the new government guidance, we are able to offer you in-person educational activities and, if so, what activities are on offer. If you have any questions relating to this or any other aspect of your education, please do contact your School/Institute.

Please be aware that although we encourage you to come to any in-person educational activities offered, you can continue to follow your course online if you wish to do so (except those courses, such as medicine, dentistry and other clinical courses, where the practical elements are an essential part of the course. Your School/Institute will tell you if that is the case).

Students who are not studying practical or practice-based subjects

I am very sorry that under the current national government guidance we cannot resume in-person teaching for students on courses that are not practical or practice-based. The Government is set to review whether we can welcome students on these courses back for in-person education in mid-April. We are continuing to lobby hard, through the university umbrella bodies, for all students to be able to return at that point, but for the time being these students' learning will remain online. If you have any questions about this, please ask your Advisor or your School/Institute.

Please remember that any student on any of our courses is welcome to come onto our campuses, or return to their accommodation, if you need to access our facilities or quiet study space, or feel your overall wellbeing would be better served by being on campus. There is plenty of study space available on our campuses and we are now opening more up. Please do use the [bookable spaces](#) to study, as we can then ensure the spaces you are using are Covid-secure.

Social activity

Under [government guidance](#), you can now meet one person from another household outside to socialise or to exercise with them. From 29 March, you will be able to meet with one other household (or up to six people from different households) outside, and also at that point outdoor sports will be able to resume. Working with our Students' Union, we are looking to make the most of this gradual easing of government restrictions in our [social events and activities programme](#). Do keep checking the programme as events and activities are added frequently. Please [visit the gov.uk website](#) for the rest of the Government's roadmap out of the current restrictions.

I know that everyone is desperate for a bit more freedom to socialise. However, it is really important that we all continue to follow the government guidance for everyone's safety.

Students travelling home for the Easter weekend

The Government has this week issued new guidance indicating that, although currently travel is not permitted for social purposes, students who have travelled to a term-time address can travel home for the Easter weekend if they wish to do so, although they are advised not to. If you wish to travel home, you should [take a Covid-19 test](#) at one of our test centres before you leave and when you return. If community Covid-19 testing is available where you are staying over the Easter weekend, you should also get tested before you travel back to University after the break. Some of our programmes have particular requirements regarding leave and return dates. Those of you affected will be contacted by your School/Institute, if you haven't been already.

Keeping safe on and off our campuses

It is still really important that everyone does everything they can to ensure they keep safe on and off our campuses. Thanks to everyone following the rules and keeping safe, I am pleased to tell you that we continue to have very low numbers of Covid-19 among our staff and student communities – currently, we have just two cases. To stop the transmission of Covid-19 and keep case numbers low, we must all continue to make sure we continue to keep safe on and off our campuses: when you are on our campuses, remember to follow the [Covid Code](#), and wear your face covering when needed. On our campuses, remember to wear a face covering all the time in our libraries, and when moving around inside buildings or if two metre social distancing cannot be maintained. In addition, if you are living or travelling regularly to our campuses please [book a Covid-19 test](#) twice a week at one of our Covid-19 test centres.

I do hope everything is going well for you. These are very difficult times: please do look after yourselves and each other, and keep safe. Please also remember that we are [here to support you](#), and do not hesitate to reach out if you need help.

I will write to you again next week with a further update, or earlier if necessary.

Best wishes,

Colin

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