

Dear student,

I hope this message finds you well, and that you are coping with the [new rules the government has put in place](#). Your physical and mental wellbeing is our primary concern, and if you have any questions or worries remember we are there to support you. Contact your School or Institute, the [Student Enquiry Centre](#) or use our [wellbeing services](#).

IT labs

With the new government rules now in place, we have constantly been monitoring the IT labs that have remained open on the Mile End campus to ensure the health and safety of all our students. However, it has become clear over the last 24 hours that we cannot safely maintain and guarantee the required social distancing, so we have now reluctantly taken the decision to close the IT labs on our campuses. Our students' health and safety is our first priority, and providing communal space for students to use IT facilities is no longer possible. Abiding by the rules set out by government on social distancing is very important to stop the spread of coronavirus.

I realise that some of you were depending on using the IT facilities and study space. For students in our residences, we are looking at installing IT equipment for those students who need it. Please contact helpdesk@qmul.ac.uk if you are in this position. If you are living off campus, I must advise you to stay at home, in accordance with government rules. If you live off campus but have been relying up to now on the use of the study space and IT labs on campus, please contact your School or Institute and we will do our best to support you.

Assessment

As I have said in previous messages, all of our students who are expecting to graduate will get an award. I also want to reassure you that we will do everything we can to ensure that no one is disadvantaged in relation to their assessments as a result of coronavirus. We must also ensure we maintain our usual rigour, quality and standards, to retain the integrity of our educational and assessment process, and awarding of degrees.

Coronavirus cases in our community

As the pandemic spreads, I am very sorry to tell you we now have a few confirmed cases of coronavirus within our staff and student communities. We have endeavoured to contact any students and staff who we know to have been in recent close contact with those people who are confirmed to have the virus, in order that they can take appropriate precautions. Anyone experiencing [coronavirus symptoms](#), or living with someone who is showing symptoms, should [follow NHS advice](#). It is really important that everyone follows government rules about social distancing and self-isolation to stop the spread of the virus.

Students joining the fight against coronavirus

I continue to be incredibly proud of the response of our student and staff communities to this pandemic. We have compiled a comprehensive list of volunteering opportunities available, which can be found [here](#). If you are already volunteering, do get in touch with press@qmul.ac.uk so we can share your experiences.

Stay safe and do continue to look after yourselves and each other. I hope these communications are useful to you. I tried using video for the message yesterday; if you missed that have a look [here](#). I'll be back in touch later in the week.

Best wishes,

Colin

Professor Colin Bailey, CBE, FEng, BEng, PhD, CEng, FICE, FStructE, MIFireE
President and Principal | Queen Mary University of London | Mile End Road | London | E1 4NS