

Dear student,

Queen Mary is a truly global University. With staff and students from over 160 countries, we are one of the world's most internationally diverse institutions. International engagement is at the heart of everything we do, from education to research, industrial and policy partnerships, and working with our global community of alumni. This global perspective feeds into the inclusive approach that makes our University unique and is something we are all very proud of.

There is much press coverage and discussion about Coronavirus, and we are working hard as a University to ensure we are prepared. You can read more about our work in these areas at [www.qmul.ac.uk/coronavirus](http://www.qmul.ac.uk/coronavirus)

The University remains open and is operating as normal. We are following the latest advice provided by the UK government, including health advice from Public Health England and travel advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The safety and welfare of students, staff and visitors is our top priority.

One of the unfortunate, and depressing, impacts of the Coronavirus outbreak across the country is a totally unacceptable increase in racism and racist comments. For example, people wearing face masks – which is entirely normal and encouraged in many countries and cultures across the globe – are attracting unwanted comments, and there have also been instances reported in the press of Chinese people in the UK suffering from racism since the outbreak. At Queen Mary we are a family, support each other and absolutely do not tolerate any form of racist behaviour, on our campuses or elsewhere.

We are committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment for all our students and staff and we take allegations of abuse and harassment very seriously. If you witness or have been affected by any incident of harassment, please report this on our [Report + Support](#) website. Please note that reports can be made anonymously. Queen Mary has pledged its support for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets' [No Place for Hate](#) campaign, in recognition of our role in tackling hate and discrimination and promoting community safety.

As well as visiting [our dedicated webpage](#) regularly and reading all communications you receive regarding Coronavirus, we ask that students and staff respect and support their classmates, colleagues and friends across the Queen Mary community. At times like this we need to come together and support each other. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact [studenthealth@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:studenthealth@qmul.ac.uk) for students or [staffhealth@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:staffhealth@qmul.ac.uk) for staff.

Best wishes,

Colin Bailey  
President and Principal

Talhah Atcha  
Students' Union President 2019-20