

Dear student,

I hope this email finds you safe and well. Remember that we are here to support you, and do get in touch if you need help, through your School/Institute, our [wellbeing services](#), or the [Student Enquiry Centre](#).

### **Government announcement yesterday: implications for our educational offer for the rest of this semester**

You will by now know that primary and secondary schools in England will be reopening from 8 March, which is great news for those of you who have children or younger siblings and have been juggling home schooling with studying. From the end of March, national Covid restrictions will be eased such that 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 will be looking to see how we can make the most of this easing of government restrictions in our [events and activities programme](#). Do keep checking the programme as events and activities are added frequently.

In relation to universities, the new national guidance states that we can welcome back students on practical or practice-based courses who need access to specialist facilities or equipment as an integral part of their courses for in-person educational activities from 8 March. Your School/Institute will contact you in the next couple of weeks to tell you how the new government regulations apply in relation to your course, and whether we are able to offer you some in-person educational activities.

We are now working to timetable in-person educational activities for students on practical courses requiring specialist facilities or equipment from 8 March until the end of the semester. We realise that these activities are particularly important for final year students on courses that are eligible under the guidance, and for those on one-year postgraduate programmes. We will prioritise these students, recognising we have more time for catch-up activities for those of you who are in earlier years. We will, however, offer all students on eligible courses as determined by the guidance as many activities as we can, while continuing to ensure that our facilities are Covid-secure.

If you are on one of the courses where in-person education is allowed from 8 March, your School/Institute will let you know what in-person educational activities will be offered in the next couple of weeks. Please be aware that although we encourage you to come to the activities, 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).

I am very sorry we are not at this point able to invite all our students back for in-person educational activities. For those of you who are not on practical or practice-based courses, the Government is set to review whether we can welcome you back in mid April. I realise this is disappointing news. We will discuss what we can offer you within the constraints of the new national government guidance, but in the meantime, I'm afraid your learning will have to remain online, in line with the latest government restrictions. If you have any questions about your learning, please ask your Advisor or your School/Institute.

### **Keeping safe on and off our campuses**

Please do everything you can to ensure you keep safe on and off our campuses. Please 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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