

Dear student,

I hope that this email finds you safe and well.

The signs are good that most, if not all, Covid restrictions will be lifted on 19 July. I know everyone is looking forward to a return to normal everyday activities! I know many of you are still living on our campuses, or enjoying Semester 3. Please remember that any student is very welcome to come onto our campuses and make the most of our facilities and of the opportunity to socialise. Please do take part in the programme of on-campus activities organised by the [Students' Union](#) and University. It was great to be able to join those students and staff to celebrate England's football victory over Germany when we screened it in one of the tents on our Mile End campus last week! I hope you also enjoyed the match on Saturday.

Coming back to campus in September

I strongly encourage all of you to join us on our campuses for the beginning of Semester 1. Every student will have on-campus education to enjoy as part of their programme: do come to our campuses so that you can take part! However, if you are overseas and are worried you won't be able to travel please don't worry, if you can't travel you will be able to follow your course online until such time as you are able to physically join us on campus*. We heard recently that [remote learning visa concessions will be extended until 6 April](#), and so you do not need to worry about that aspect either. I do however really encourage all of you though to plan to travel and join us as close to the beginning of the Semester as possible. If you can travel then you should join us on campus. Recognising the costs that international students travelling to join us from countries on the Government's current 'red list' will incur, we are offering to reimburse half the current cost of quarantining in a Government hotel for those students – more details to follow shortly. We are also committed to supporting any student from 'amber list' countries who has to self-isolate in our residences with food packages and the full support of our residential team.

Educational offer for next year

Our educational offer next year will be a mix of on-campus and online education. Every programme will have on-campus education for you to enjoy, combined with the best of online learning. On-campus education is likely to be a mix of seminars, small-group teaching, practical sessions and laboratory work, depending on the disciplinary area.

Open day: 25/26 June, 2/3 July

Our open days were a resounding success: many thanks to all our student ambassadors, and our Students' Union Clubs and Societies that supported them! Over 1,360 students joined us in person on campus, with more than 2,220 joining us online from over 50 countries. The open days were fully mixed-mode, with an integrated experience offered to in-person and online attendees. I am not aware of any other university who offered a truly blended approach; most offered an online event and a campus tour. Our open days always make me proud and this year's were no exception! You – our students – are our best representatives and it was great to see so many of you talking to our guests on campus. A huge thanks to everyone involved.

Cases in our communities and keeping safe

Cases of Covid-19 among our entire student and staff communities continue to remain low, but it is of course still important we all keep safe, and get fully vaccinated as soon as possible. Hopefully, all

restrictions will soon be lifted but in the meantime please continue to follow our [Covid Code](#) on our campuses. Remember you can now either collect lateral flow tests from our [test sites](#) to do at home, or [book a Covid-19 test](#) at one of our centres up to twice a week depending on how frequently you are on campus.

Whatever you are doing over the summer months, take care of yourselves and your loved ones, and remember that [we are always here to support you whenever you need it](#). I will write again when there is more news to share.

Best wishes,

Colin

** Not all SMD students will be able to follow their course 100 per cent online. Affected students should contact their School/Institute.*

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