

Dear student,

I hope this email finds you safe and well, and you are continuing to enjoy your learning. This week, I wanted to talk about next semester, and about social activities on our campuses.

Semester B

I imagine many of us had hoped that by January the situation with Covid-19 might have improved. This does not, unfortunately, now look likely. Please do remember though that whatever national Covid tier an area is in, government guidance is clear in that universities and other educational establishments should remain open. That means that Queen Mary will be open in Semester B as it is now and you should plan to return to our campuses after the Christmas break. We will continue to offer the blended education you are receiving at the moment. The backbone of our educational provision will continue to be online, with in-person educational activities also available for all students, alongside student support and social activities. All our on-campus study spaces and other facilities will remain open.

I know how important in-person educational activities are to students. As I said in my last message, staff in our Schools and Institutes are working really hard with your Student School/Institute and Course Representatives to put on in-person education activities that are attractive to students, and are continuing to adapt the educational offer according to student feedback. I'm getting great feedback from students, which is fantastic to read. Your School or Institute will be in touch with the details of your blended education for Semester B. If you have any comments or ideas please do contact your School/Institute.

I'm also continuing to work hard with national policy makers and partners to ensure that students are treated no differently from the rest of the population in terms of restrictions placed upon them. As I mentioned previously, this is wholly reliant on all our students continuing to follow our [Covid Code](#) and [government guidelines](#).

Social activities and in-person student support

Now we are in national Tier 2 for Covid no one can socialise with others in different households indoors. I realise this makes life very difficult, whether you are living on or off our campuses. Working with our Students' Union, we have put on a range of [Covid-safe social activities](#) for you to enjoy. We will continue to work hard to develop more Covid-safe social activities for you: if you have any ideas of activities you would like us to run, please contact qmul-student@qmul.ac.uk. Please do also attend the in-person study groups and other educational activities your Schools and Institutes are running: these activities are exempt from the restrictions regarding not meeting with people from other households indoors and I have seen from feedback that students really appreciate the opportunities they provide to meet each other, as well as our academic staff.

Covid-19 cases at Queen Mary and keeping safe

Thankfully, our number of Covid-19 cases [remains relatively low](#). This is a direct result of everyone following the [Covid Code](#) and [government guidelines](#). It is incredibly important you follow this guidance for everyone's safety.

If you have any enquiries or concerns, please contact the [Student Enquiry Centre](#) or the [Housing Services team](#) if you are in residences, or the [central Covid-19 enquiries line and email](#). Please do look after yourselves and stay safe. I will write again next week.

Best wishes,

Colin

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