

Dear student,

I hope this email finds you well and you are coping with the social distancing rules now in place. Keeping in touch with your family and friends is really important in these difficult times – do keep talking to each other, your loved ones and to University staff, and remember we are there to support you: see [the wellbeing pages](#), [our FAQs](#), or contact your School or Institute.

Do keep studying as well! All our staff have worked incredibly hard to move all our education online, and there are now a range of materials for you to use. Continuing to engage fully with your studies is so important: if you are having any problems, contact your School/Institute or the Student Enquiry Centre.

Assessments

As I have said in previous messages, no student will be disadvantaged in relation to their assessment as a result of measures we have put in place because of Covid-19. In applying that principle of ensuring no student is disadvantaged, we must also maintain academic rigour and ensure we continue to prepare you properly for your future career.

I can now share with you the principles we have recommended to our Schools and Institutes to support awards for final year students, progression decisions for those of you continuing into the next academic year, and alternative assessment where required. You can find these principles and their rationale [on this webpage](#).

Your School/Institute will contact you tomorrow (if they haven't done so already) to explain how these principles apply to your specific programme. If you have questions about the information tomorrow do contact your School or Institute. Please note that the schedule for alternative assessments, where required, is currently being developed. A new timetable for those modules which require online submissions will be published next Wednesday, 8 April.

Student and staff response to the pandemic

The student and staff response to the Covid-19 crisis has been incredible and makes me feel extremely proud. Many of you are of course [volunteering within your own communities](#), and we now have our medical students [volunteering on the front line](#), in hospitals and GP surgeries. Their work is supported by very clear [volunteering guidelines developed by our staff](#). In addition, we have sent all the [personal protective equipment \(PPE\) we can spare](#) to the NHS.

Our academics are also contributing their expertise to build understanding of the many issues around the pandemic. This includes a [Lancet article](#) co-authored by Professor Anita Berlin; pieces for The Conversation by [Dr Margherita Malanchini](#), [Professor Sophie Harman](#) and [Professor Richard Buggs and Professor Richard Nichols](#).

I am also very proud that our colleague Professor Charles Knight has been [announced as the Chief Executive of the new NHS Nightingale Hospital London](#).

Do keep sharing stories of your volunteering activities, since others would like to hear about them: please contact press@qmul.ac.uk.

Stay safe, stay put and stay well

Observing guidelines about staying safe is incredibly important. Students who are still on our

campuses should stay where they are for the time being, and if you are in private rented accommodation you should also stay put until the current restrictions are lifted. If you are away from your family, either on our campuses or elsewhere, do make time to stay in touch with family and friends online and also make sure you are looking after your mental and physical wellbeing. We have [resources to support you](#), and if you are in our residences our residential teams are on our campuses and are there to support you.

If you have any questions, please look at [our FAQs](#), or contact the [student enquiry desk](#) or your School/Institute. And, as always, you can contact me at principal@qmul.ac.uk.

Keep well and stay safe.

Best wishes,

Colin

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