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24th March 2021

Dear Students,

I hope you and your loved ones are keeping well, and with a further change to Covid-19 guidelines on the [29th March](#) (part B of step 1) you may see some opportunity to begin to meet with others (rule of 6). This email has two updates, firstly the return to in-person delivery and secondly funding for Hardship.

Return to in-person delivery for all students

I last wrote on the 25th February outlining details of Practice-based programme return. I also confirmed that we have been informed of the Government's intention to review the return of all students after Easter.

It remains our understanding that we will be informed with at least one weeks' notice by the Government what the arrangements will be for students' return after Easter. It is therefore our commitment that I will write again by the 14th April detailing plans for delivery from the 19th April through to the end of the academic year.

We have welcomed back Practice-based students, as well as a number of Further Education students. We have tried and tested Covid-19 testing plans in place currently and will scale any testing required for HE student return. So long as we are able to do so, it is our absolute intention to return to in person delivery but, retain remote delivery options as per the period between September and December.

Hardship Funding

We have previously written to provide information about additional hardship funding available. We have now extended the deadline for any applications until 1000hrs 29th March.

The funding is set up to help with:

- **Accommodation and living costs** – for students who are struggling to cover costs such as rent, mortgage, bills or household contributions
- **Technology** – for students who are experiencing difficulties accessing remote learning due to the availability of technology
- **Employment** – for students who have been working to supplement their income to support their education and have since lost their employment

- **Changes in existing financial support** – for students who, for example, are supported financially by a family member who has lost their job as a result of the pandemic or loss of another form of income

For more information and details on how to apply please visit our website:

www.ucsd.ac.uk/student-life/funding-finance-and-bursaries/ucsd-hardship-fund/. You can also find links to housing and financial support from external agencies on our website [here](#), which may also be helpful during this time.

In the meantime, please continue to access support as and when required, and if you feel you need to access our UCSD Hardship and Covid-19 Hardship funding, please visit our website for information and details on how to apply: www.ucsd.ac.uk/student-life/funding-finance-and-bursaries/ucsd-hardship-fund/.

As always, I hope you are staying safe.

Best wishes,

Alastair Wilson

