

02 November 2020

Dear Students,

We are all coming to terms with the recent update from the Government and the lockdown that will be taking place from Thursday. This is very different to the last lockdown in March, and we do anticipate further information from the Department of Education soon. However, five keys points seem to be clear:-

1. The Government expects universities, as with schools and colleges to remain open, and that placements should continue
2. That a blended approach to learning continues
3. That facilities such as libraries and other study spaces remain open with mitigations in place
4. That students who have relocated to study should remain based at their accommodation and not move back to or visit their home
5. That staff should work from home when possible, this means that support staff at UCSD may increasingly be working from home but can still be reached via telephone, email and Teams

As we set out in our letter and information on our [website](#) in September, we will always work within the Government guidance.

We have and will continue to provide options for remote access if they are needed, either to enable social distancing or to support your individual circumstances. All staff involved in HE delivery now have the required equipment, software and training to be able to provide synchronistic delivery so you can access lectures, seminars and tutorials from home at the same time as students in classrooms. In almost all cases these are also recorded so you can access them again to recap and revisit the session.

Our Higher Education Student Support [Hub](#) always remains available for you during these difficult times and can provide support with areas of academic development and practice, employability and your next steps, wellbeing and counselling as well as support any students with a disability. Details are linked above.

Our [FAQs](#) provide more information for you about your experience, with specific information about Track and Trace, and guidance for those students living in Houses of Multiple Occupation.

Our commitment remains to provide you with the very best learning experience in the safest possible environment and we will absolutely do this following Government guidance and directives and best practice. However, if you have any concerns or questions please do speak to your tutor or a member of the Higher Education team in UCSD.

Best wishes,

Alastair Wilson
Head of Higher Education and Academic Registrar