

31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Students,

I hope you are keeping well and managed to take a break over the festive period. I last wrote to you on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020, and in that letter outlined what we knew at that time, this has now changed. I am sure you have seen the news and therefore might be aware of the arrangements the Government is requiring of Higher Education Providers for the beginning of term.

Therefore, I can now confirm the following updates: -

1. **Online delivery from the 5<sup>th</sup> January for three weeks** - From the morning of the **5<sup>th</sup> January 2021** (in line with DfE requirements) UCSD will be moving to online delivery. As per the Prime Ministers announcement we currently expect this to last until the 25<sup>th</sup> January, this remains under review by the DfE. If you are permitted to return sooner, we will be in touch.
2. **Synchronistic Delivery** – For these first three weeks your delivery will be synchronistic and will therefore follow your normal timetabled pattern. This will follow the same approach as the end of the last term, if you do not believe you can access online learning please discuss this with your personal tutor from the 4<sup>th</sup> January.
3. **Accessing support and facilities** - The University Centre and other College buildings will open from the 5<sup>th</sup> January. However, we ask that you only access our physical facilities if you do not have appropriate study spaces at home or if you require additional support. You can continue to access any support that you might require including Disability, Wellbeing, Study Skills and Employability, remotely (via phone, email and MS Teams), but if due to your personal circumstance you wish to access these in person please do so via an appointment. You can also find information and advice on our dedicated [Student Support Hub webpage](#).
4. **Placements** - If you are a student undertaking placement, you will be given additional guidance about your placements from your programme team.
5. **Non-commuter students** – I previously wrote outlining our plans for testing of non-commuter students. You are now no longer required to collect a test on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and we will provide further updates on this in due course.
6. **Covid Testing** – We are working with local Public Health Officials and still receiving information about testing of students as part of the national rollout. We will be in touch when we have more information.

It is possible that a small number of programmes that have Professional Accreditation may return sooner, if this is the case we will be in touch with students on those programmes separately

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. If you have any concerns or questions, please do speak to your tutor or a member of the Higher Education team who will be available from the 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Best wishes,

Alastair Wilson  
Head of Higher Education and Academic Registrar

