



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

**16<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

## **Our next academic year**

### **To: Postgraduate Research Students**

Dear student,

I hope you're keeping safe and well.

I know the past few months of University life have been incredibly challenging – particularly as we have all adapted to a new way of studying and working.

While we are very much looking forward to welcoming our students back on-campus, you will notice some changes as we must do it in a way that prioritises the health and safety of our students and staff.

We are beginning to reopen laboratories, research facilities and libraries for access to research materials, and are carrying out a huge amount of activity to allow us to gradually reopen our campuses fully, with all appropriate measures in place to enable us to do this in a safe way and following the latest guidance.

**Please remember that at all times we are following [Scottish Government advice](#), which might differ from UK Government advice.** For example, in Scotland you must now – by law – wear a face covering in shops and on public transport, and we are strongly encouraging you to also wear these in University buildings. If you are travelling from further afield, specific travel and self-isolation measures may also apply, so please ensure you check out the [Scottish Government's website](#) for the correct information.

A huge part of the student experience is about building connections, through your studies, your work and your free time. We are determined to give you as much of an on-campus and in-city experience as is possible. While life will be different for a while due to physical distancing guidelines, you will still be able to immerse yourself in University life in the new academic year.

It's important that you continue to keep in contact with your supervisory team, and we will continue to do all we can to support you over the coming weeks and months. Our [support services](#) might be working remotely, but please be assured that they are still open and ready to help you.

I appreciate that this has been a stressful period – so thank you for your patience and cooperation as we navigate these extraordinary times. We will be in touch with you as soon as possible to provide more details about our preparations to ensure that you receive the highest quality of education and student experience in the coming Semester.

In the meantime, please continue to check out our [Student webpages](#) for the most up-to-date information.

I look forward to welcoming you back on-campus soon.

Best wishes,

**Professor Colm Harmon**  
**Vice-Principal Students**