



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

27th August 2020

What to expect when you're on campus

To: PGR students

Dear Student,

We're really looking forward to welcoming our students back on campus next semester. While many of our Postgraduate Research students continue to work from home, a number of you may have been back on campus and using our reopened laboratories and research facilities.

While we are carrying out a great deal of work to help our staff and students use our campuses again, lots will be different, and we therefore want to give you a clearer idea of what to expect as the University prepares for the 2020/21 academic year.

Hygiene measures

We're making changes so that you can use our campuses safely. All buildings will have hand-washing and sanitising facilities and clear signage in place so you can observe any guidelines, such as one-way-systems, easily. We have also increased our cleaning regimes and will provide facilities for students to clean before and after study spaces are used throughout the day.

In line with Scottish Government guidance, it is now mandatory that face coverings are worn in all of our libraries and study spaces. If and when this guidance changes, we will adjust accordingly but we are already expecting everyone to wear face coverings in all University buildings unless individuals have good reasons for not wearing one.

While we are making sure that our campuses are as safe as possible for you, we still need your help and are relying on all members of our University community to observe physical distancing and other measures designed to keep us all as safe as possible.

The Scottish Government website should be your first point of call for guidance on what local regulations you need to follow off campus. We are also continually updating our Covid-19 webpages with University-specific information for our students and staff.

[Scottish Government](#)
[University Covid-19 webpages](#)

Studying and conducting research on campus

The [Centre for Research Collections](#) reopened on 8 July and a click-and-collect service began for research students and staff at the Main Library from 13 July.

Our buildings continue to be reopened and you'll hear from your School or Institute once you're able to access more of the spaces you need to continue your research activities.

From September, our libraries and some of our School study spaces will be open for use. While the number of study spaces we can offer will be reduced so we can observe physical distancing, we have increased the number of rooms and buildings available to study and from September,

you'll be able to pre-book the majority of study spaces via an app and see what spaces are available in the buildings across our campuses. We'll share further information on the app with you soon.

Fieldwork and Placements

UK fieldwork/placements due to take place in the 2020/21 academic year may go ahead, subject to risk assessments and in line with health and safety assessments. Any fieldwork and placement activity options must be discussed with and approved by your supervisory team, programme director or Postgraduate Director.

Supervisor arrangements

You should expect the supervisory arrangements to be consistent with the Code of Practice for Supervisors and Research Students. If you experience any problems, these should be addressed through channels set out in the Code of Practice and locally.

[Code of Practice for Supervisors and Research Students](#)

On-campus teaching

Some of you may have taught classes to attend, and these on-campus teaching activities will be carried out in line with government guidance. As a result of physical distancing measures and a reduction on the number of people we can have in our buildings, we've made the following changes:

- The teaching day will be extended by two hours, to 9am-8pm, Monday to Friday, where required. While the majority of classes will take place within our usual hours, you may notice that some classes will be a little later.
- Students with on-campus lectures, classes or seminars may now need to queue outside of the building until it begins. Queuing areas will be clearly signposted and physically distanced.

Travelling to and from our campuses

You can find out about all the available travel options to get to the University's campuses on our Transport webpages.

[Transport website](#)

As a result of physical distancing requirements on transport services and in line with government guidance to minimise use of public transport, we have had to take the hard decision to cancel the King's Buildings Shuttle Bus in Semester 1.

The University will instead reinvest funds into new travel options. This includes increased cycling and car parking spaces across our campuses, new cycle routes, and a discounted ticket on Lothian Buses services. More details on this can be found on our webpages.

Support

Our recently launched EdHelp service provides clear and straightforward access to many student administration services from one place. You can find answers to a range of common questions and topics, including IT help, fees, student cards and Library facilities and resources.

EdHelp can be accessed via MyEd or on our website, and you can also raise an enquiry if you can't find the information you need. You'll also be able to visit the service at our on-campus locations in the Main Library, and the Noreen and Kenneth Murray Library at King's Buildings.

[EdHelp](#)

Health and wellbeing

All of our support services are still open and ready to help you. Our Student Counselling Service and Disability Service are currently offering over-the-phone appointments and from September, they'll offer in-person appointments at our new Health and Wellbeing Centre on Bristo Square. These appointments will be available to book online.

[Student Counselling](#)

[Disability Service](#)

Our Chaplaincy's listening service will also run a walk-in service between Tuesday and Thursday for people looking for general guidance or wishing to use the Listening Service.

I appreciate that you'll still have a number of questions as we look ahead to the next few months. We'll continue to keep you updated on any plans that will affect you, as and when more information comes to light. Please continue to refer to our [Covid-19 webpages](#) for the most up-to-date University guidance.

Best wishes,

Professor Colm Harmon
Vice-Principal Students