



27th August 2020

What to expect when you're on campus

To: all students

Dear student,

We're really looking forward to welcoming you back to the University next semester. Lots will be different, and we therefore want to give you a clearer idea of what to expect when you join us on campus.

We'll be providing our University community with more information on a daily basis. Please continue to refer to our [student webpages](#) for the most up-to-date University guidance.

Teaching and learning

While you'll already be aware that our lectures will be delivered digitally in Semester 1, we will be offering as much of our small-class teaching activities (such as seminars, tutorials and lab work) as we can, putting safety first and recognising physical distancing constraints. Schools are also working on a range of other activity around your course to bring the campus experience to life. If you're unable to join us in person at the start of Semester 1, you'll still be able to complete your work digitally and engage with your fellow students and our teaching staff online.

Any 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:

- Our 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.
- If you have an on-campus lecture, class or seminar, you may now need to queue outside of the building until it begins. Queuing areas will be clearly signposted and physically distanced. As you know, Scottish weather can be very variable, so make sure to pack an umbrella or jacket.

To support any studying you'll need to do digitally, we've created some [guidance](#) on the sort of technology and equipment you may need.

Look out for further information from your School on how hybrid teaching and learning will be delivered as part of your course.

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 website](#)
[University Covid-19 webpages](#)

Studying on campus

Our libraries and some of our School study spaces will still 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.

Time away from studying

We know how important socialising is for your University experience, which is why we are creating a range of new spaces across our campus to enable you to safely socialise with your friends and fellow students.

In addition, please check out our Students' Association's website and Sports Union for information on how to get involved with groups and societies this year.

[The Students' Association](#)
[Sports Union](#)

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 [website](#).

Support

Your School is your first point of contact for any teaching and academic support and guidance. If you have any questions specific to your course and continuing your studies, you can speak to your Personal Tutor or Student Support Team.

[Personal Tutor or Student Support Team](#)

Your school will also be able to offer guidance should you have any specific concerns about returning to campus, including any health or risk factor issues.

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 this is a lot of information and you'll still have a number of questions about studying and enjoying your time at Edinburgh. We'll continue to keep you updated on any plans that will affect you, as and when more information comes to light over the coming weeks.

Best wishes,

Professor Colm Harmon
Vice-Principal Students