

Meeting of the Academic Board

2.00 - 4.00 pm on Wednesday, 16 June 2021
in MS Teams - MS Teams

Agenda

<i>No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Pages</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
6.	6.2 Student Protection Policy 2021/22: covid addendum	289 - 292	SSM

Date of next meeting

2.00 pm on Wednesday, 27 October 2021

- Members:** Pat Bailey (Chair), Ian Alberty, Helen Aston, Asa Hilton Barber, Craig Barker, Gilberto Buzzi, Alessio Corso, Geoff Cox, Kate Ellis, Steve Faulkner, Nadia Gaoua, Steve Hunter, Rosie Holden, Paul Ivey, Deborah Johnston, Nicki Martin, Sarah Moore-Williams, Luke Murray, George Ofori, Jenny Owen, Md Fazle Rabbi, Tony Roberts, Carrie Rutherford, Harriet Tollerson, Warren Turner, Ricardo Domizio, Helen Young and Maxwell Smith
- Apologies:** George Ofori (sent representative), Patrick Callaghan, Gary Francis and Marc Griffith
- In attendance:** Dominique Phipp, John Cole, Anthony McGrath, Mahmood Dattoo (for George Ofori), Sally Skillett-Moore, Max Smith, Tara Dean, Irina Bernstein (Item 7), Isobel Bowditch (item 8), Argyrios Georgopoulos (item 9), Tony Moss (item 10), Karen McLernon (item 12), Neil Pierce (item 13)

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COVID-19 ADDENDUM

What can you expect with respect to teaching and learning delivery during the Covid-19 pandemic?

The University will always operate in line with public health guidance and with reference to any specific government guidance to Higher Education Providers.

For the 21/22 Academic Year, we have plans in place for the delivery of courses which assume no restrictions on our operation. While this is our primary assumption, the University also has contingency plans which reflect the potential restrictions which we may be compelled to implement at any point during the academic year. The table, below, provides an indication as to how key aspects of both course delivery and access to wider university facilities might alter, depending on the nature of the restrictions which government asks us to put in place.

During the 20/21 Academic Year, government guidance to universities operated under a 4-tier system, reflecting the severity of the restrictions required. We assume a similar system may operate during 21/22, and therefore the guidance below explains how your experience of teaching and learning, assessment, and access to wider university facilities would be altered in line with these different Tiers. Should government guidance operate under a different system, we will update this guidance accordingly.

Tier of Restriction (summary of government guidance)	What this means for the way your course is taught	What this means for your assessments	What this means for the use of student facilities such as the library, wellbeing and other services
Tier 1 (providers are expected to provide blended delivery with some face to face tuition)	<p>Large lectures will be delivered online.</p> <p>On-campus provision may or may not need to be socially distanced.</p> <p>We will continue teaching practicals, tutorials and other small group sessions on-campus.</p>	<p>Wherever possible, exams will be conducted online. Coursework will be submitted online, as usual.</p> <p>For courses and modules with practical assessments taking place in specialist teaching facilities, these will remain on-campus, but may need to be socially distanced.</p>	All services will move to a hybrid approach, via a mixture of on campus and online access and appointments, to meet student need.
Tier 2 (providers expected to provide an 'increased level' of online tuition where possible, with on-campus delivery prioritised and based on local risk assessments)	<p>Large lectures will be delivered online.</p> <p>You can expect socially-distanced on-campus provision in the form of practicals, tutorials or other</p>	<p>For most courses, your exams and assessments will be online.</p> <p>For some courses and modules with practical assessments taking place in specialist</p>	It will be possible to visit our Student Life Helpdesk (no booking required). All other services will provide online access and appointments.

	<p>small group sessions.</p> <p>To accommodate socially distanced delivery, there may need to be changes made to your timetable, due to the requirement to run more sessions to accommodate smaller groups.</p>	<p>teaching facilities, and where an equivalent alternative form of online assessment cannot be offered, these will remain on-campus, but will be socially distanced.</p>	
<p>Tier 3 or 4* (providers expected to increase the volume of online delivery, and the government provides information on the types of course and subject which are allowed to continue on-campus, provided this can be done in a Covid-secure manner. At Tier 4, any on-campus delivery would be extremely restricted)</p>	<p>All teaching and learning will take place online.</p> <p>However, if government guidance allows, some practical or technical sessions will take place in a socially-distanced way on campus.</p> <p>If government guidance does not allow any practical or technical requirements that are essential to your course, we will move such provision to a later period in the 2021/22 year, or to a later academic year if this is possible.</p>	<p>For most courses, your exams and assessments will take place online.</p> <p>For some courses, if government guidance allows, assessment that requires specific practical or technical activities will take place in a socially distanced manner.</p> <p>If government guidance does not allow any on-campus assessment to take place and this needs to happen to achieve your course learning outcomes, we will move such assessment to a later period in 2021/22, or to a later academic year if this is possible.</p>	<p>All provision will be online. This includes access to our student support services who are able to offer most services remotely.</p> <p>However, if government guidance allows, we will provide study facilities on campus for those who cannot access appropriate facilities in their accommodation</p>

*Tiers 3 and 4 are broadly similar in terms of representing the strictest levels of restriction. The government would be expected to allow very limited opportunities for universities to deliver any on campus activity under Tier 3, with further restrictions under Tier 4.

How will you be informed of the impact of restrictions on your course?

If the university is notified that we are required to implement restrictions, we will inform all students of this through our main communication channels (email, social media, website). Given the varied nature of our courses, Course Directors will be responsible for providing specific information on how the restrictions will affect the delivery of your course, including guidance on your timetabled classes, and which may be continuing on campus, and which may need to be delivered online.

Depending on the severity of the restrictions, and the notice period given to the university for their implementation, it may be necessary to pause delivery of courses for a short time to allow both staff and students to manage the transition. Should this be necessary, this will be explained to students in relevant communications.

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