Date: 23.09.2020
To: All UG and PGT students
From: coronavirus.info@durham.ac.uk

Dear students,

The start of the academic year is almost upon us and we’re looking forward to welcoming you back to campus, in a way that prioritises the health and safety of our community. While we know that you are looking forward to commencing your studies, we also understand that this is a worrying time for some of you.

This email provides an update on teaching and learning in Term 1 and the measures put in place to safeguard everyone on campus.

**Blended learning approach**

Our blended learning offer combines socially distanced face-to-face teaching with quality online delivery. To further protect staff and students and to prioritise in-person engagements with those who are new to our community, we are implementing a graduated approach to the resumption of face-to-face teaching.

On **Monday 5 October 2020** face-to-face teaching will commence for **Foundation students (Level 0)**, students studying **Level 1 undergraduate modules** and **most Postgraduate taught students**.

On **Monday 5 October 2020** all teaching for students studying **Level 2 – 4 undergraduate modules** will be delivered online*, with the exception of practical classes which will continue as planned.

On **Monday 12 October 2020** all scheduled face-to-face teaching activity will be delivered as stated in timetables for **all students**.

*Please note that during week 1, teaching will be delivered online and not in the room shown on your timetable.

**What this means for you**

If you are studying Level 2 - 4 undergraduate modules, your academic departments will soon be in touch with details of how they will be delivered. If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please contact your department directly.

**Planning for the return to campus**

In June, we consulted with staff and students to develop a set of operating principles to create a framework for planning the return to campus. We also received many helpful suggestions about how to put these principles into practice, which have been captured in our Covid-19 Planning Group (CPG) action plan.

**Health & safety on campus**

University buildings have been reopened in line with guidance from official sources. Before reopening, all buildings have passed our University Five Test approach and are made Covid-secure, providing safe working and learning spaces for all.
Late last week, the Vice-Chancellor shared an overview of how we’re managing Covid-19 and preparing for the return to campus, including our Outbreak Response Planning, H&S measures on campus and our internal reporting systems for staff and students who test positive for Covid-19 or display symptoms. You can read the update on our website.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your ongoing understanding and your continuing adherence to national and local restrictions. We know that the next academic year will not be without its challenges but by working together, we can maintain a healthy community.

Best wishes,

Claire O’Malley  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global)  
Covid-19 Planning Group Lead

Tony Fawcett  
Deputy to the Vice-Provost (Education)  
Teaching Recovery Group Lead