

The 2020/21 academic year: Further details about the delivery of your course

In our [Statement of Intent](#) for the academic year 2020/21 we set out Loughborough's overall approach to re-opening our campuses for students in the autumn, and the high level principles for our teaching and learning.

With two months to go before the start of term, we are pleased to now be able to provide more details about the content and planned delivery of your degree programme.

How is Loughborough planning to respond to coronavirus?

We will provide students with a full timetable of scheduled sessions as in previous years, and it is our intention that teaching in person will remain at the heart of your student experience.

Our main planning scenario for the start of term is based on current Government guidelines which include social distancing being in place, and we are anticipating that this will still be required at the start of the new academic year. We plan to fuse in person and online teaching delivery, running as much in person teaching as is reasonable, practical and possible to do so.

In this scenario, our teaching spaces will need to operate at reduced capacity, typically with an occupancy which is one third of normal. However, we have been reviewing the use of space on our campuses to maximise the accommodation available for in person teaching. Our intention is to offer every student as much in person delivery as possible, typically between 45-65% of usual in person delivery. There will be a minimum number of in person hours for each undergraduate student, normally of between six and eight hours a week on average, with many courses having more than this.

We have also been carefully reviewing our curriculum to identify which material we feel is best delivered in person, and which best lends itself to online delivery. Our approach is designed to maximise your development, learning and student experience at Loughborough.

What does this mean for students?

We are planning for each student to have a mixture of in person classes (including practical and laboratory work, where relevant to the course), live online interactive sessions, 'on-demand' pre-recorded lectures, individual/group project work and guided independent study, supported by teaching staff and personal academic tutors. We will be ready to change our teaching delivery quickly if Government guidance changes at a national or local level.

We are not planning any other changes to our courses for next year other than putting contingency measures in place to alter our delivery modes should we need to do so, depending on Government guidance. You may, however, wish to look through our [Terms and Conditions of Study for 2020/21](#).

What will happen if the Government guidance changes?

We recognise that the current situation is evolving rapidly. As a result, our plans have been developed so that we are able to easily adapt in line with the latest Government advice and still ensure the health and safety of our campus community.

In the event of a future 'lockdown' at either a national or local level, we may need to move to completely online teaching temporarily. Of course, we hope that this will not be necessary, but should it be imposed we are prepared for fully online delivery to enable you to continue your studies without interruption.

In the case of an extended local lockdown, depending on the stage of the academic year, we would support students to stay in their term time accommodation (on or off campus) if they wished, until it was possible to resume at least some in person teaching. In this scenario, once in person teaching was again possible, we may have to prioritise and/or alter the timing of essential activities to allow you to meet the learning outcomes of your course, and to ensure that it continues to meet professional accreditation requirements, where relevant.

As part of our scenario planning, we are also making arrangements should social distancing no longer be required during the 2020/21 academic year. Our approach to timetabling means that we will be able to easily revert to larger in person class sizes and increase the amount of in person teaching that we offer within a few weeks.

Will the content of my course change?

Each course, or degree programme, has a formal Programme Specification and each module within the degree programme has a detailed Module Specification. The combination of Programme and Module Specifications provide the detailed information about your programme, and if there are any changes, these will remain the definitive source of information for you.

You can view the Programme Specifications for your degree programme [here](#). Module specifications for 2020/21 are close to being finalised although a few may still be subject to minor changes. You can access them via the Module Specification [webpage](#).

How will my course be delivered and assessed?

You will find the planned delivery arrangements for the different aspects of your course under the Teaching and Learning heading in each Module Specification.

The table below is provided to help you interpret what this information now means in the 2020/21 academic year. We have outlined what you can expect the different types of delivery referred to in our Module Specifications will involve as we begin the next academic year.

Lectures	These may be delivered in person, or via online live interactive sessions, or as 'on demand' pre-recorded sessions accompanied by live question and answer sessions. Some lectures will involve interactive elements, whether delivered online or in person, such as independent problem solving or engaging in small group discussions. It is likely that most large lectures will initially be delivered online given our restricted room capacities. This will also allow more of the teaching sessions below to be delivered in person.
Seminars	We anticipate being able to deliver the majority of these in person, but some will be delivered fully interactively online through Microsoft Teams.
Tutorials	We anticipate being able to deliver the majority of these in person, but some will be delivered fully interactively online through Microsoft Teams.
Practical classes and workshops	We anticipate being able to deliver the majority of these in person, although you may be required to engage with some additional online material in preparation for them.
Project supervision	We anticipate being able to offer the majority of supervision in person, but some will be delivered fully interactively online through Microsoft Teams. We recognise that some students might find it more convenient to hold supervisory meetings online, especially if they do not have other on campus commitments that day.
Fieldwork or external visits	These activities will take place in person and typically off campus. Some changes to destinations and detailed arrangements may have had to be made from what was originally planned to ensure student and staff safety and to minimise the risk of potential disruption. We will make best efforts to ensure that you can undertake these activities during the course of the academic year. If a planned activity is not able to take place at any point, we will attempt to reschedule it to a different time so that you do not miss out.
Supervised time in studio / workshop	This will take place in person. We may have to modify timing and access arrangements in order to take into account appropriate social distancing.
Assessment	Your modules will continue to be assessed primarily as described in the assessment section of each Module Specification. Where a module is assessed by an examination, it is possible that the end of Semester exams will be carried out online as 'open book' exams. We plan to let you know at the start of each Semester whether the end of Semester examinations will be carried out in person or online. This will depend on the number of people we are allowed to bring together in our examination venues.