

All Student Communication
Friday 29 May

[Confidential]
University of Chichester
Business as usual from Sept 2020

Our commitment to both our prospective and current students at this time of uncertainty

Dear Student,

I wanted to update you on our plans for delivery of teaching from September 2020 onward. As we are beginning to witness the easing of lockdown rules, we recognise that many of our applicants are trying to plan their future, whilst our current students will want to know when they can return to the University. We wanted to make clear that throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, it has always been our aim and intention that the University will be open and operational for our students from September 2020. Whilst there are still some uncertainties, this letter will explain what we aim to deliver for you, and what changes you might expect to find at the University from September.

Firstly, our **key aim is to provide a student experience that is as close to normal as possible**. At present, we are working hard to plan for multiple scenarios to ensure we can deliver this experience. Our two spacious campuses, which cover 69 acres in total, mean that we have enough space to teach our community of students. We also know that our excellent academic and support staff stand ready to teach and support our learners in a way that will adhere to the latest UK Government guidance on safety.

One of the reasons we are confident we can deliver on this commitment is that our average Staff to Student ratio (SSR) is within the top third in the country. The latest 2020 Guardian League Table lists our Staff to Student Ratio (SSR) as just 14:1. This places us 32nd out of 122 universities listed in the table. This means that not only will you continue to benefit from smaller average classes, it's also easier for us to ensure these are conducted in a socially distant manner.

There are many other safeguards we are putting in place, all of which are aimed at ensuring you have a great learning and living experience at Chichester. Therefore, our commitment to you is as follows:

- Firstly, we will aim to start the next academic year on time, with teaching and our induction programme commencing for new students on the 14th September (PGCE students will start on the 7th September).
- Teaching for continuing students will be in line with the Academic Calendar as planned. <https://www.chi.ac.uk/about-us/course-semester-dates>
- We will work to ensure that the majority of your lectures, seminars and practical sessions taking place in the next academic year will be delivered in a face to face manner, whilst adhering to the latest government guidance on social distancing.
- Over the summer months, we are creating several new teaching spaces within existing buildings, allowing you to access additional rooms for classes.
- We will record as many lectures as possible, which will permit students who are shielding to catch up with any material they might have missed.

- Most of our smaller lectures, seminars, laboratory sessions, rehearsals or practical sessions will be delivered in a face to face manner. Where necessary, we may repeat classes to ensure we allow students to be taught in accordance with the guidance.
- We will be regularly cleaning our facilities, lecture rooms and also continuing to remind our community of the importance of good hygiene at all times.
- Lastly, we always work closely with our Students' Union (SU) to provide a great learning and living experience at the University. We want to ensure you have fun throughout your university experience!

To deliver this experience we are planning for the changes we will need to make to deliver classes. The health and wellbeing of everyone within our close-knit community remains our first priority, and so we have issued the following guidelines to which everyone must adhere so that we all remain as safe as possible:

1. Initially we will move the largest lectures online where required. These will still be interactive, and will only apply to the larger sessions you would have experienced. We aim to revert to the standard form of teaching once social distancing rules are amended.
2. We may have to occasionally teach outside of normal hours. This means the teaching day may extend temporarily until 8pm in the evening. This provides us more space throughout the day to place classes into larger rooms, which ensures socially distancing rules are adhered to.
3. Where necessary, some teaching sessions may be slightly shortened, permitting the rooms to be cleaned between sessions.
4. Signage will be placed around campus to remind both students and staff of the importance of good hygiene at all times, and certain one-way corridor systems that we might employ. We expect all members of our community to be considerate, and follow this guidance, at all times.

It is likely that some of these changes will particularly impact the early weeks of term, but some may continue until lockdown measures are lifted entirely.

We appreciate you may still have questions, and whilst we might not be able to provide all the answers, we are always happy to try and help. For prospective students, please email admissions@chi.ac.uk with general queries or contact your academic department directly if you wish to ask about an academic matter. Current students can use the normal channels of communication.

Overall, I hope this has reassured you of our intention to continue to provide you with a first-class student experience. We shall be writing again with updates as further guidance is issued. **For prospective students, I look forward to welcoming you to the University this September, and for our current students I hope to be able to say hello to many of you personally after such a long absence. In the meantime, my team stand ready to help with any questions or queries you might have.**

Do take care and stay safe over the summer.

Warmest wishes,

Professor Jane Longmore
Vice-Chancellor
University of Chichester

ENDS