

Dear Students,

Following the Government's Covid-19 related announcements yesterday, I am writing to update you all on what the impact will be for the University and the associated teaching arrangements. The latest government [guidance](#) (p.13) now states:

"Those students who are undertaking training and study for the following courses should return to face to face learning as planned

- Subjects allied to medicine/health
- Education (initial teacher training)
- Social work"

This means that for Chichester, most teaching will resume as planned for students who are studying Education (ITT courses), Social Work or Physiotherapy courses. Please await guidance from your academic department regarding detailed arrangements for these courses.

However, for all other subject areas, we will need to move to an online only teaching style, until we can resume blended delivery again. This is because the guidance from yesterday states the following:

"Students who do not study these courses should remain where they are wherever possible, **and start their term online**, as facilitated by their university until at least Mid-February. This includes students on other practical courses not on the list above."

Therefore, this means that the whole university sector has been asked to deliver online teaching until at least mid-February. In the meantime we will maintain and keep open essential functions of the University. This includes the Learning Resource Centres (LRC) at both Chichester and Bognor Regis (revised opening hours are available [here](#)). There are also some specialist teaching facilities that may have to remain open for the small number of students who are still in residence at the University.

I recognise that this is a move away from the blended experience that you were receiving most recently. It will also mean that some performances, teaching and assessments will need to be potentially moved. Therefore, we are exploring the possibility of extending the teaching at the far end of the semester for those areas that require additional time for teaching and assessments that have been lost. We are determined to continue offering the best experience possible for our students under the current restrictions and we are looking forward to seeing you back on campus as soon as possible.

When you do return the University has now established a Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) centre within the SU building at the Bishop Otter Campus, and this will be opening from the 8th January. This remains accessible to students and staff from this date, and we would encourage you to look at the dedicated [website](#) for further instructions.

I am sorry that this is not a happier New Year message but we all need to play our part in defeating the virus and returning to normal as soon as possible.

We remain dedicated to ensuring that your learning continues and that our student support team is able to provide help for any student who is struggling with mental health issues at this difficult time. We will continue to send you regular communication updates as we receive further guidance from Government.

Best,

Professor Jane Longmore

Vice-Chancellor