

Dear Students,

This email contains an update regarding the delivery of our undergraduate degree programmes in Semester 2.

In a statement made on 8th January 2021, the First Minister set out the expectations of the Scottish Government with regard to the return of students to University campuses and an extension to the period of restricted blended learning. The statement relating to this can be found [here](#). The Principal has also communicated an update on the overall University guidance for teaching in Semester 2 and this is available [here](#).

The health of our students and staff is of paramount importance. Given the seriousness of the current situation, and in line with the Scottish Government's statement and the University's guidance, we have decided that all undergraduate physics classes provided by the Department of Physics will be taught online for the duration of semester 2.

Our plans for Semester 2 include the following for all modules organised and delivered by the Department:

- All lectures will be online and most will be pre-recorded (or recorded during live delivery) and uploaded onto MyPlace in line with the published lecture timetable.
- All modules will have weekly Zoom sessions as tutorials/workshops/problem solving sessions in line with the published lecture timetable.
- We anticipate that all assessments will be online, but this is subject to change. We will confirm the arrangements for end-of-semester assessment as soon as possible.
- Some students previously indicated a need to attend the Library to undertake e.g. formal assessments. As noted in the Principal's communication, The Library will continue to be open Monday to Friday. Would any students needing this facility please register any difficulties/ongoing challenges in your personal circumstances on Pegasus if appropriate, so that you can be supported and continue to come and work on campus as necessary.

We will continue to monitor the evolving pandemic situation. If, in the event of a significant easing of restrictions and a change to the Scottish Government and University guidance, we are able to offer any in-person teaching we will inform you of this as soon as we are able and offer you the chance to participate if you so wish. This may, for example, include some laboratory practical work (organised taking into account Covid restrictions in place at the time). We will, however, continue to provide all course material online and ensure that the course learning outcomes can be achieved via online delivery, as there may be some students that are unable to return to campus this semester.

Please make sure to review the University FAQs to keep abreast of the most recent University communications. Advice and guidance is available at the following [link](#). If you do have any queries on your personal circumstances please contact your Adviser of Studies in the first instance, at the relevant email address below.

Would those with caring responsibilities that are impacted, for example, by the closure of schools and other respite facilities, please also get in touch with your Advisers of Study to discuss this and also register your circumstances using the personal circumstances process on Pegasus.

We will hold a zoom information session in the near future. Details will be sent out closer to the time. If there is anything you would like raised, please let either your Adviser of Study or your class rep know.

Best wishes,

Paul McKenna, Head of Department, Physics

Brian McNeil, Director of Teaching

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