

How your learning experience may change due to COVID-19

As we get closer to the beginning of the 2020/21 academic year, we are looking forward to welcoming both new and returning students to our learning community.

Studying at UCNL is going to be different this academic year because of the coronavirus pandemic and naturally you will want to know what to expect. The information below provides details about what we are committing to deliver in the current climate, how we will achieve this, and further changes we might need to make in response to changing Government and Public Health guidelines.

Your safety is, and always will be our number one priority, so we have introduced further sanitising stations and increased cleaning across the campus. We have also changed our timetables, reduced class sizes and staggered start and end times. Additionally, we have introduced one-way systems to support social distancing. Campus lifts are now limited to one person only and can now only be used by people unable to use the stairs.

Historically, we would hold sessions with up to 60 students in the Chambers Lecture Theatre, but to keep everyone safe there will be no large lectures this year. Instead, where possible and whenever it is safe to do so, you will learn with small groups of students in workshops, seminars, face to face, laboratory and fieldwork sessions.

We will be delivering our courses using a blended style that mixes face to face teaching with online learning experiences. This means students enjoy the best of both worlds, so whatever the situation is going forward we can keep you safe, provide you with a quality education and adapt to the latest government advice.

We recognise it is going to be a unique and challenging start to the new academic year, but we are here for you. Staff are available online through a variety of platforms and as guidance changes, we will keep you informed every step of the way.

Delivery in the event of a further lockdown

We have worked hard to ensure our programmes can be delivered flexibly, meaning that should there be a further national or local lockdown during the academic year, effective and quality assured delivery of your programme will continue.

What to do if you are required to self-isolate

If you are required to self-isolate or shield, you should let your programme leader or academic advocate know as soon as possible. They will be able to provide support and the options available regarding the continued delivery of your programme.

Other options available

We will make all reasonable efforts to fulfil our contract with you by continuing to deliver our programmes, either online or as blended learning. We understand that not all students may be comfortable with the changes we have had to make. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss your options, which may include deferring your studies for a year, transferring to another programme, transferring to another institution or withdrawing from your programme

Offer holders/Current students

We hope this information helps you make an informed decision about your future study and whether you; want to start your programme of study and accept these adjustments, would prefer to defer until we can deliver the course as originally advertised or would like to choose a different course or provider.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in contact with your programme leader to discuss the options available to you.

COVID 19 Mitigation Overview

Programme Name(s):	BA (Hons) Social Science
Programme Content	<p>The content of the programme remains unchanged. Programme and learning outcomes remain the same.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the annual Prison visit is highly likely not to go ahead in the next academic year (2020-2021). However, there are plans in place to reinstate this for the following academic year and to ensure that all students (across all levels of study) have the opportunity to engage in this trip as part of their enrichment activity.</p>
Programme Structure	There has been no reduction or change to available modules.
Programme Delivery	<p>We will be delivering our courses using a blended style that mixes face to face teaching with online learning experiences. This means students enjoy the best of both worlds, so whatever the situation is going forward we can keep you safe, provide you with a quality education and adapt to the latest government advice.</p> <p>Each student will spend a minimum of 3 hours per week in direct contact with their module or personal tutors on campus (face-to-face), with additional opportunities for peer-group interface both in person and online and 1:1 tutor support.</p> <p>Across all levels of study, we will implement a 2-week rolling timetable that ensures all students spend valuable time with their module tutors in seminars facilitated on campus. These seminars will last one hour each on average and will be delivered back-to-back spanning 2/3 modules (2 for level 4 and 5 and 3 for level 6) on one half day/evening per week.</p> <p>The seminars will be used to facilitate student-led discussion, debate and activities which are associated with the weekly lecture topic or relevant topical events. It is imperative that students engage with the lecture material in advance of their timetabled seminar session to ensure effective learning and recall.</p> <p>All weekly lectures will be pre-recorded and delivered to students at the earliest opportunity at the start of the academic</p>

year. These lectures will be accessible at any point and will provide students not only with the opportunity to enjoy seminars having prepared in advance but, will also allow them opportunities to revisit lecture material for revision purposes and, to work at a pace suiting their individual circumstances. Each lecture recording will last around an hour, accounting for 40% of all learning in the next academic year.

In addition, there will be weekly, live online activities for students to access across their modules, from reading groups and Wikis to group viewings of pertinent documentaries, etc with tutor commentary and discussion. Each session will again relate to the specified weekly lecture topic for each module and will last 30mins-1hour. The 'live' aspect of these sessions requires students to participate and sessions will be timetabled accordingly. These online, synchronous sessions account for 20% of all learning in the next academic year and enhance the learning taking place in both online lectures and face-to-face seminars.

Seminar groups will be of no more than 12 students, ensuring all students have the opportunity to engage thoroughly online and to create an environment supportive of effective learning and rapport building, both amongst student peers and students/tutors. Seminar groups will mirror personal tutor groups which are a further addition to the coming academic year.

Students will be invited to meet with their personal tutors on a weekly, group basis for one hour and should utilise this time to seek support, guidance and signposting with any academic or pastoral issues, as well as allowing the opportunity for frequent and increased academic advocacy. This will also continue on a 1:1 basis at intervals throughout the academic year.

Finally, we are also introducing a peer-mentoring scheme in the next academic year where students can take advantage of the knowledge, skills and experience of current students both working at their own level and above. This enables the students to take ownership of their learning and provides additional opportunity for students to seek group-based support from module tutors where necessary, either on an online or face-to-face basis (where pre-arranged). Students will be given the resources to facilitate this level of autonomous learning and will be in a position to utilise these at their leisure.

You will learn through online content and lectures via Microsoft Teams and our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), Moodle.

Online and on campus you will stay in regular contact with your lecturers. In addition, we have an academic support team who

	<p>offer support with for example study skills and DSA applications. Again, these will be online initially, moving to a more blended approach to suit you as we can introduce more face to face meetings.</p> <p>You will have timetabled activity and directed learning clearly communicated to you via Moodle.</p> <p>All teaching that would usually have taken place on campus, can be delivered effectively online.</p> <p>The overall balance between teaching and independent study remains broadly the same as when the programme was validated.</p>
Programme duration	We do not anticipate any material change to the length of time it will take students to complete their programme.
Assessment Strategy	Assessment(s) will be modified for the following modules: Awaiting confirmation from Awarding Institution.
Programme Title or Award	There is no change to the programme title or the award that students will receive upon successful completion.
Professional Accreditation	<i>n/a</i>
Location of delivery	<p>Delivery will be subject to national and local restrictions and we will carefully follow relevant Government and public health guidance.</p> <p>You will learn through a blend of online and on campus small group teaching, while receiving support from Programme Teams and the Student Support Team.</p>
Additional Costs	<p>Your programme will be delivered through a blended learning approach and will include online teaching and learning. If you do not have IT equipment (Laptop with webcam), we recommend you include this as part of your study budget</p> <p>Your tuition fees will cover most costs associated with your programme (registration, tuition, assessment and examination). Any other extra costs should be considered including printing and ownership of textbooks (Copies of key reading materials are available to borrow from the UCNL library.)</p>
Entry Requirements	There will be no changes to the published entry requirements for 2020/21