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):	HND Computing
Programme Content	The content of the programme remains largely unchanged. Level 5 module 'The Internet of Things' will be replaced by 'Cloud Computing'. Programme and learning outcomes remain the same. Either there are no field trips or placements, or they are taking place as expected.
Programme Structure	There has been no reduction or change to available modules.
Programme Delivery	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. For Level 4 students there will be a mixture of face to face and online workshops and lectures delivered synchronously plus an additional hour of study skills, delivered asynchronously. Level 5 students will also have a mixture of face to face and online workshops and lectures delivered synchronously. As things change so will your learning. You will start with more online study supported by innovative teaching practices, but we hope that we will be able to move to a more interactive face to face learning experience in small student groups as quickly as possible, whilst following government guidelines. You will also 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 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.

	You will have timetabled activity and directed learning clearly communicated to you via Moodle.
	All teaching that would usually have taken place on campus, can be delivered effectively online.
	The overall balance between teaching and independent study remains broadly the same as when the programme was validated.
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	*Any changes detailed here*
Location of delivery	Delivery will be subject to national and local restrictions and we will carefully follow relevant Government and public health guidance. 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.
Additional Costs	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 *(or are we providing?)* 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.)
Entry Requirements	There will be no changes to the published entry requirements for 2020/21