

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):	Cert Ed./PGCE
Programme Content	The content of the programme remains unchanged. Programme and learning outcomes remain the same. There are no anticipated changes to placement requirements.
Programme Structure	There has been no reduction or change to available modules.
Programme Delivery	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</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> <p>Part-time Cert. Ed/PGCE</p> <p>Part-time Cert. Ed/PGCE programmes will now be delivered wholly online for Semester A. This will be reviewed in advance of Semester B.</p> <p>There will be one synchronous virtual class per week, on an evening at the usual scheduled time (Monday 5.30 – 8.30) in which independent, paired and group activities, and peer discussion will still be facilitated over Teams, and we will also use digital breakout areas on Microsoft teams, for peer work.</p> <p>Trainees will be supported and trained in the use of digital tools for learning to facilitate this and also to support them with their</p>

	<p>own virtual teaching. Weekly drop in sessions for one to one support are available, one to one support will be on demand to enhance and support online learning. All materials, activities and resources are available on a dedicated website for PGCE.</p> <p>Full-time Pre-Service PGCE</p> <p>Full Time Pre Service PGCE will be delivered using a blended learning approach with face to face contact occurring on a monthly basis, for one whole morning or afternoon (to be reviewed for semester B). Face to face seminars will include input from a number of tutors and guest lectures, in small peer groups.</p> <p>3 synchronous virtual sessions will be delivered per week, in which independent, paired and group activities, and peer discussion will still be facilitated over Microsoft Teams, and use digital breakout areas for peer work. Trainees will be supported and trained in the use of digital tools for learning to facilitate this and also to provide support with their own virtual teaching. Weekly drop in sessions for one to one support will be available, with one to one support available on demand to enhance and support online learning. All materials, activities and resources are available on a dedicated website for PGCE.</p> <p>In addition to the three synchronous virtual sessions per week, there will be blended activities set each week, which will equate to the number of class contact hours previously provided.</p> <p>This will hopefully minimise the amount of face to face contact that Trainee Teachers are required to engage with, in addition to their own teaching, and will ensure that all Trainee Teachers are in the best possible position to be able to teach online themselves, by the end of semester A.</p> <p>*Subject to Awarding Institution Approval</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	<p>Assessment(s) will be modified for the following levels:</p> <p>Level 4: Placements and observations may be in a virtual format, and/or face to face. The number of observations and placement hours are still under review.</p> <p>Level 5: Placements and observations may be in a virtual format, and/or face to face. The number of observations and placement hours are still under review.</p>

	<p>Level 6: Placements and observations may be in a virtual format, and/or face to face. The number of observations and placement hours are still under review.</p> <p>Level 7: Placements and observations may be in a virtual format, and/or face to face. The number of observations and placement hours are still under review.</p> <p>*Subject to Awarding Institution Approval</p>
Programme Title or Award	There is no change to the programme title or the award that students will receive upon successful completion.
Professional Accreditation	n/a
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> <p>All face to face contact will take place at UCNL.</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 and microphone), 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 text books (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