Getting ready for the start of the new academic year

Dear student,

We are looking forward to welcoming our students back to the University of Edinburgh this week! While a number of you may have been back on campus, many of you will be working from home and waiting to access our facilities.

This email contains the general information to help you make the most of the next few weeks as we welcome the start of the academic year and reopen our campuses for our students.

Things to do during and after welcome week

All undergraduate and postgraduate students can get involved with Welcome Week. We recommend that you download the UoE Events app, which shows you all of the activities during Welcome Week and for several weeks afterwards in one place. It allows you to build your own personalised timetable and to-do lists, check out a number of frequently asked questions, and find out how to access all of the activities (please note: some activities require you to register).

Download the UoE events app

All students are also welcome to attend the Virtual Activities and Sports Fairs which will help you to find out more about the extra-curricular activities that you can get involved in and let you know about any changes there will be as a result of physical distancing or opportunities for those of you who will be studying digitally.

Virtual Activities Fair

Virtual Sports Fair

If you are unable to join us on-campus at any point, you can access most opportunities through digital platforms and many activities will be repeated and/or recorded and shared after Welcome Week.

Social activities
To give all students more space to socialise in safe and open spaces, the University will be installing additional student areas this month which will give you the space to meet friends, get refreshments all while staying a safe distance from others. The new Student Villages will be located at Bristo Square, George Square and King's Buildings.

Student Villages

The Students' Association have a huge range of mainly digital activities and events to ensure that students can meet up online in groups. While many large events won't happen in the same way, you'll still find cafés, bars, shops, and spaces for you to meet, study and socialise. At all times and in

all venues you will need to act in accordance with physical distancing guidelines and the newly introduced rules on the maximum number of people who can meet up with at any one time.

The Students' Association

Campus Safety

Following our safety measures
when using our campuses, it is important that you also take time to get to know the changes in place at the University and become accustomed with the safety guidelines we have in place. It is therefore necessary that you read the Good Citizens Guide which outlines how every student is expected to behave responsibility on-campus and within the city during this pandemic.

Good Citizens Guide

It is really important that you understand and follow the health and safety regulations in Scotland. These include new, strict laws on the numbers of people who can meet up together, both indoors and outdoors. If you intentionally or repeatedly fail to comply with Covid-19 safety measures, you may be subject to a Police fine and possible disciplinary action from the University.

Self-isolation
You will need to self-isolate if:
- You have travelled to Scotland from a country which is not exempt from quarantine requirements (a list of certain exempt countries which can be found on the Scottish Government website); or
- You have symptoms of Covid-19; or
- You have been contacted by the NHS Test and Protect team and identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 symptoms.

Self-isolation is a legal requirement and it is essential that you comply. Guidance what to do if you are self-isolating can be found on the Scottish Government website.

We also recommend that you download the NHS Scotland's free Protect Scotland app, which alerts users if they have been in close contact with another app user who tests positive for Covid-19.

https://protect.scot/

Support from the University if you are self-isolating
Our student support services will be on hand to offer advice and support if you need to self-isolate.

- If you're staying in University accommodation and need to self-isolate, please inform your Residence Life team:
  Self-Isolation in University accommodation
- If you're staying in private accommodation and need to self-isolate or have symptoms of Covid-19, please let us know by completing this short form:
  Informing the University if you're self-isolating

Our new Covid-19 Support Service will support any students self-isolating in private accommodation. Once you've let us know that you're self-isolating, our team will contact you personally once a week, however if you need additional support while self-isolating, you can contact the team or arrange for more regular contact from them at any time.

Covid-19 Support Service

Guidance for students with shielding status
Shielding was paused by Scottish Government on 1st August 2020 and students who have been shielding will be able to return to campus with the appropriate health and safety measures in place.

Changes to shielding advice

If you have received a letter from the NHS advising you to take additional measures to protect yourself, please discuss this with your School's student support team, or your personal tutor/ supervisor. You need not disclose medical information to your School. You must, however, advise them that you have received medical advice to take additional measures to protect your health.

The University will do all it can to implement any additional measures or adjustments needed to protect your health and support a return to campus and/or look at alternatives to being on campus. However, if it is not possible to implement the necessary reasonable adjustments, alternative options will need to be explored, such as:

- An interruption of study or deferment
- Help to move to a different course that supports digital learning
- Identify alternatives to physical presence on campus

Navigating the next few weeks

EdHelp
If you are having difficulties or need an answer to a question about our student services, including IT support, finance and fees, libraries or student administration, EdHelp will help you to find straightforward information. It is a central, easy-to-access, front-line service that offers virtual and physical facilities to answer many of your questions.

EdHelp

Staying up-to-date
We'll continue to keep you updated on anything that's happening that may affect you. Keep on the lookout for specific information about your studies coming from your school or supervisory team.

For the latest information and guidance, visit our Covid-19 webpages. If you have any specific Covid-19 related questions, please email covid-19@ed.ac.uk.

Best wishes,

Colm Harmon
Vice-Principal Students