



Subject: Coronavirus Update: Friday 22 May 2020

Dear all,

There are several relevant items of news that have come out of the University/Government this week relating to the gradual relaxation of the lockdown as follows:

1. New advice about students collecting their belongings

The UK Government has now confirmed that students are able to return to universities to collect their personal belongings (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-he-providers-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/actions-for-he-providers-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>). This needs to be carried out in a managed way to ensure we can maintain social distancing and it should happen in one day (i.e. no overnight stays are permitted). Possible timeslots and further details were sent out to those concerned in an e-mail from the Accommodation Manger on Wednesday. Please could you respond to this e-mail asap with your preference for a collection time slot and/or to advise the college that you would prefer packing and shipping or packing and storage. Any queries relating to this matter should be sent to covid19@seh.ox.ac.uk.

2. Reopening of research facilities

Some departments are currently trialling a partial re-opening with social distancing measures in place. It is likely that this will be rolled out across the University in the next 4-6 weeks and those graduates that have laboratory- based research projects may be able to resume their work in discussion with their supervisors/departments. However, the UK Government guidelines are such that we are not currently allowed to reopen our accommodation for those that have moved away from Oxford. Therefore a return to working in the departments can only occur for those who are currently still in residence in Oxford. We realise this is deeply frustrating for all concerned but we hope this situation will resolve itself asap.

3. Assessments changes: impacts on student records

Where assessments have been cancelled or dropped due to the coronavirus pandemic, (i.e. students will not have to take a particular assessment/s at all) these assessments will shortly be automatically graded as 'UO' by the Academic Records Office based on the information already supplied to them, and will appear as such on the eVision reports and dataviews for staff and on the Academic and Assessment Results page on Student Self-Service for students. This will mean that the assessments will be included on final transcripts without any results but with a statement explaining the omission of these.

4. Finalists and end of academic year celebrations

We are painfully aware that for some of you, this is your final term in Oxford and you will be missing



the end of term celebrations and Finals/Schools dinners. We are therefore working hard with other colleges to ensure that these important celebratory events do not get lost but rather are just postponed, possibly to a weekend in the next academic year, when all can return for a proper celebration and hopefully one that doesn't involve social distancing!

5. Michaelmas Term 2020

The University and Colleges are currently working hard to put systems in place to ensure that everyone is back in college for Michaelmas 2020. This will probably involve a hybrid model of teaching (e.g. combinations of in-house tutorials and online lectures) but all the details are currently being worked on, with consideration being given to all formats of teaching (lectures, seminars, classes, field courses and tutorials) and to other aspects of the student experience. This is just to provide reassurance that our firm intention is to have everyone back in Oxford by the beginning of the next academic year and that as we work towards that goal we will continue to consult with the JCR and MCR representatives as plans develop.

We hope you all have a good Bank Holiday weekend and anticipate that we will be touch next week after the next set of announcements from the Government and from the University.

Finally, just to say good luck to all those in the process of, or about to embark upon, university examinations.

Best wishes,

Professor Kathy Willis (Principal) & Professor Robert Whittaker (Vice Principal).