

**Changes to September 2020 delivery and a COVID-19 safe environment.**

We know you are keen to start the next academic year so we would like to confirm plans about how the University Centre Bishop Burton will operate in September 2020.

We have been working tirelessly to ensure we are providing a COVID-19 safe environment for all students and staff. We are very lucky to have such unique rural setting in the beautiful countryside with acres of open space. We intend to use this our advantage so we can deliver a blended teaching provision from September.

This means that some lectures will be taught through live virtual learning environments, using video and IT based technologies to enable remote teaching and engaging learning. However, because of the practical nature of many of our programmes, where it is safe to do so and whilst maintaining social distancing measures, we will be committed to delivering practical sessions. As always, the safety and well-being of our students and staff is our primary consideration.

This approach also means that the balance between online and face-to-face delivery will vary from one programme to another. Whilst our more practical based subjects require more on-campus delivery, there will still be elements of on campus delivery for theoretical based subjects also. Employability is a key focus for the college and this approach also supports the new way of working that many employers have adopted and so will support developing students with the skills required for the modern work place.

It is likely that the delivery of teaching will vary over the whole academic year, depending on the government's guidance, but we will endeavor to provide the best experience and quality possible. Similarly, other support services - both academic and pastoral - will be available both on campus and remotely. As restrictions are eased, our expectation would be that this allows the college greater opportunity to increase face-to-face delivery. We will keep you fully informed as the situation continues to change and evolve.

The staff in the University Centre have been sharing their experiences of delivering online teaching in 2019-20 to ensure a consistent and quality approach. Where we have received positive feedback from students, or we are aware of innovative approaches that proven beneficial to our students, knowledge has been shared between staff. They have also attended each other's online teaching sessions to make sure knowledge and best practice is shared across the whole HE provision.

In addition, the college has been updating its online technologies which support teaching and learning, in preparation for future, ongoing online delivery. The use of digital technologies means that the majority of sessions and teaching materials will be available for students or staff to view online, remotely. So, should anyone be unable to physically attend

the campus due to self-isolation, shielding or care commitments, we can continue to provide teaching and support learning with flexibility and accessibility.

We recognise that the outline above does not reflect our original intentions for delivery, as originally published when you applied for your programme. However, although we have adapted our delivery model, out of necessity, we do not anticipate significant changes to the theoretical content, nor the ability for students to achieve the award they have applied for.

### **Awards and assessment**

There are no expected changes to student award titles. However, should regulatory circumstances mean that practical assessments, which are reliant on practical resources, not be possible at any stage, alternative assessment methods will be used.

There are no invigilated exams planned for semester 1. Semester 2 will be reviewed with a contingency plan in place to offer invigilated exam alternatives should they be necessary as we progress through the academic year. Please note not all programmes have invigilated exams as part of their assessment strategy anyway.

### **Work based learning**

Placement opportunities have already resumed with some providers. It is therefore expected that students who are following foundation degree programmes will still have the opportunity to work within an industry setting. However, as a precaution these modules do have a contingency for assessment, should this not be viable due to circumstances beyond our control. The alternatives will be linked to a broader understanding of the sector and employability. This will ensure that students will still be able to meet module outcomes and achieve their award, should the guidelines during the academic year restrict their access to live workplace opportunities.

### **Study trips and competitions**

All trips will also be subject to the restrictions at the time. We are fortunate in that many of our resources allow for practical application and industry experience on campus. Likewise, we still intend to enter competitions, although this too will be subject to any restrictions. We will adhere to both government and competition organiser's restrictions and conditions. Whilst they have occurred in the past, we do not currently have any overseas trips planned. This is to minimise the risk of any financial loss to students through planning trips which may then be subsequently cancelled.

### **Length of the course**

There are no expected changes to the length of our programmes for the coming year (2020-2021). However, we can confirm that the college has the flexibility to extend the length of our programmes, should this be required. At present, it is our intention to complete programmes within the published timetable.

All aspects will, of course, be reviewed on a regular basis and we will communicate to you any changes. If we do have a situation where public health guidance requires that all face to

face delivery is stopped then our student protection plan does identify that technology will be utilised to provide virtual online delivery of your programme.

**Additional costs**

The college has sufficient on campus IT resources for students, which are available to access online activities. However, if you prefer to access online sessions from home you will need a suitable device with internet connectivity.

As always, our college complaints procedures are available on our website.

By enrolling on your chosen programme you will be agreeing to the changes which are outlined in this document and also available on the website.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please get in touch with our friendly support team:

Email: [enquiries@bishopburton.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@bishopburton.ac.uk)

Telephone: 01964 553000