



Dear All,

I hope you and your loved ones are well in these extraordinary times. This email is to update you on some important principles and arrangements for the coming year.

First and foremost, the University and Colleges of Cambridge are preparing to welcome our new undergraduate students to Cambridge for the academic year 2020/21. Cambridge has welcomed and nurtured students for hundreds of years and continues to do so.

Colleges are very much looking forward to welcoming our new students into residence and are busy making preparations for teaching, welfare, sport, social and other extra-curricular activities during the year ahead. Every College is working with student representatives to ensure that induction and welcome events in the autumn give you the information and support you will need as you join the College community. We want to offer you the fullest possible experience of being here, so that you can make the most of what Cambridge has to offer; the Collegiate University provides a deep-rooted sense of community and rich opportunities for learning. Small group teaching – supervisions, seminars or individual tuition – is at the heart of our educational provision and will continue in person as far as possible or via real-time face-to-face technology where not.

The Collegiate University sets out below its principles for delivering education in

the academic year 2020-21. In the light of the COVID-19 pandemic we will seek to mitigate risks to health by applying social distancing and other government guidelines and continuing to respond to the changing public health situation through appropriate changes to our courses, services and facilities. Where official guidance or concerns for the health of students and staff demand it, we will review our approach.

1. Cambridge will be welcoming students next academic year

We will also do all we reasonably can to meet the needs of students whose individual circumstances mean that they cannot attend any in-person teaching. If you have particular concerns, please contact your College Admissions Office so that they are aware and can provide appropriate guidance to you.

2. The academic year will start as normal and term dates will not be changed

Your College will be in touch in July with details about arrival dates and arrangements, and these will be confirmed following confirmation of places in August. If any students are required to self-isolate for a period of time, this will be factored in but you are advised to be flexible in your travel plans for now.

3. Teaching will be delivered by a blend of in-person and online teaching

We will adapt our timetables, teaching methods, course content and locations for delivery of teaching to achieve this. The balance of the blend will depend on the stringency of social distancing and other regulations in force at the time. Where possible, teaching by seminars, practicals, and supervisions will be delivered in person, and it may even be possible for lectures to smaller groups to be given on this basis. In any case, all lectures will be recorded and made available online. If large-scale lecturing in person becomes permissible, the University will reintroduce it as soon as possible.

4. Research and learning facilities

It is our aim that all students who require it for their studies will have sufficient and suitable access to teaching laboratories, libraries, museums and other facilities, subject to the restrictions of social distancing.

5. Minimising risk

All University and College buildings will be risk assessed and managed on an ongoing basis, following government guidelines and advice. This may involve managing how we all enter and leave buildings to allow for social distancing,

reducing numbers of people allowed into a building or area, appropriate cleaning regimes, altered timings of events and any other measures considered appropriate to mitigate risk of exposure to Covid-19. We will promote health and infection control measures across the whole University, and communicate and implement changes to any of these measures resulting from local lockdown requirements as required.

6. Accommodation

As new first-year students, you will have accommodation provided by your College. Further information about accommodation will be issued over the summer if you have not already received this.

7. Support

As well as teaching, Colleges offer you a home environment and pastoral support in many forms; the University additionally provides centralised student support, including the Student Counselling Service, Disability Resource Centre, Careers Service, support for mature students, student parents and care leavers. These services will continue to be provided, either in person or via real time face-to-face technology. For more information on our welfare support, see the [Student Wellbeing website](#) and your own College's website.

By the end of July the University will issue a further statement confirming if any particular changes need to be made to any courses. Any such changes will be notified to you through our existing processes for making changes to our courses as set out in our [Terms of Admission](#). Your College will also provide more detailed guidance about coming to Cambridge and the practicalities of student life in the autumn. They will also soon be sending you information about academic preparation, and some ideas for reading and other work to be getting on with.

We look forward to welcoming you to Cambridge soon and wish you the very best for any results you are waiting for this summer.

Best wishes,

Dr Sam Lucy

Director of Admissions for the Cambridge Colleges