

# Natural Sciences (Part II and Part III)

## Course Changes for the academic year 2020-21

Due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and government guidance, we have had to make some changes to the programme in order to mitigate against risks to health and to give you the best possible academic experience in the circumstances. We will continue to monitor and respond to the changing public health situation.

This document outlines changes to Part II and Part III. For information on changes to Part I, see the separate document which can be found at <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/coronavirus/course-information-2020-entry>.

### Astrophysics

Any changes to Astrophysics are TBC.

### Biochemistry

Any changes to Biochemistry are TBC.

### Chemistry

#### Part II

The changes are:

- All lectures will be delivered online
- The Part II Chemistry practical courses will run as normal, but with some small changes to both the experiments and timetabling to comply with social distancing requirements

The Part II Course Guide will be updated around mid-September but the guide for 2019/20 provides a good overview of the lecture courses that will be available.

#### Part III

The changes are:

- All lectures will be delivered online
- The Part III projects will run as normal, but with some synthetic projects being based in the teaching labs to comply with social distancing requirements

The Part III Course Guide will be updated around mid-September but the guide for 2019/20 provides a good overview of the lecture courses that will be available.

## Earth Sciences

### Part II

The changes are:

- All lectures will be available online, and delivered in person where possible
- Practical sessions will be run in person as much as possible; supplementary online video sessions will be prepared as necessary
- Supervisions will be run in person as much as possible, but with the option of online meetings.
- Mapping projects will be replaced by a combination of Cambridge-based exercises and independent work. Opportunities for supplementary field-work will be pursued
- Practical exams and the Seminar Paper will be reinstated as parts of the course assessment

More details will be provided later in the summer, via email notifications and updates to the course handbook.

### Part III

The changes are:

- All lectures will be available online, and delivered in person where possible
- Practical sessions will be run in person as much as possible; supplementary online video sessions will be prepared as necessary
- Supervisions will be run in person as much as possible, but with the option of online meetings.
- Research projects will continue as planned, provided they can be conducted under departmental and public health guidelines. Where this is not feasible, the project will need to be adjusted or changed, in consultation with the project supervisor and Pt III/MASt coordinators.
- The Seminar Paper will be reinstated as an assessed part of the course.

More details will be provided later in the summer, via email notifications and updates to the course handbooks.

## Genetics

Any changes to Genetics are TBC.

## History and Philosophy of Science

The changes are:

- **Lectures and seminars**

All lectures and seminars will be delivered online. Some will be delivered live online at the scheduled date and time and recordings will be uploaded to Moodle within 48 hours of the lecture taking place. Others will be recorded in advance and the recording will be available to download from Moodle by the scheduled date and time. See the timetable for details of when lectures and seminars are scheduled to take place as well as the platform and method of delivery.

- **Submitted coursework**

Primary source essays: Students will submit one 5,000-word primary source essay, not two 3,000-word essays. This is a permanent change that has been introduced in response to student feedback to try to balance the workload at the end of Michaelmas Term.

Dissertation: The word limit for the dissertation has been reduced to 8,000 words. This is a permanent change designed to bring it in line with the dissertation requirements of similar courses.

- **Supervisions**

Supervisions will still be provided, although the format will be variable. Supervisions will normally take place in person in groups of two or three. However, where a student or supervisor is shielding or it is not possible to meet in person e.g. due to local lockdown measures being imposed, supervisions may take place online via Teams, Zoom or Skype.

- **Small group teaching**

Small group teaching such as classes and dissertation seminars will, where possible, take place in person. Information about these will be circulated during the year.

- **Study skills and other activities**

Study skills groups and other activities will take place online or in person depending on demand (groups of 8–10 should be able to take place in person as long as a large enough room is available). Advice of mode of delivery will be circulated prior to the event.

- **Meetings with the course manager**

Dr Stephen John, Part II course manager, will have regular meetings with students to ensure that each student's programme of study is progressing well and to address any concerns at an early point.

For full details of how this course will be run, please review the Part II students' guide, which will be updated before the start of Michaelmas Term.

The content being covered by the Part II papers will be largely the same as in any other year. Key dates and deadlines will also be the same. Advice on method of examination (e.g. in person or open book) will be delivered in due course.

## Materials Science

Due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and government guidance, we have had to make some changes to the programme in order to mitigate against risks to health and to give you the best possible academic experience in the circumstances. We will continue to monitor and respond to the changing public health situation.

The changes are:

- All lectures will be delivered online.
- All course work will continue to run as before, but aspects such as presentations and other in person activities may be reconfigured or subject to social distancing as appropriate.
- Project work (e.g. Alloy Design Project in Part II, and Individual Research Project in Part III) will continue to be delivered in person as far as possible and learning outcomes will be unchanged.
- The provision for Small Group Teaching (e.g. supervisions or examples classes) will go ahead as before but are likely to be run largely online.
- Full details of how the course will be run will be provided via Moodle and updates via e-mail.
- We anticipate no substantial changes to the course content and modes of assessment and expect that the course will continue to be accredited by the relevant professional body (IoM3).

## Pathology

Any changes to Pathology are TBC.

## Pharmacology

Any changes to Pharmacology are TBC.

## Physics

### Part II

The changes are:

- All lectures will be delivered online
- Part II practicals (E1/E2) will run, but students will work alone to comply with social distancing requirements. As a result, there might be less choice of experiment and timeslot than usual
- Part II computing exercises will be delivered remotely

### Part III

The changes are:

- All lectures will be available online, and delivered in person where possible
- All major topics available last year will run again, the list of minor topics will be finalised later

- Part III projects will run close to normal with only minor adaptations, e.g. no in-person project fair. We aim to offer similar numbers of experimental projects as normal.

The latest information for Physics can always be found at:  
<https://www.phy.cam.ac.uk/students/teaching/teaching2021>

**Physiology, Development and Neuroscience**  
Any changes to PDN are TBC.

**Plant Sciences**  
Any changes to Plant Sciences are TBC.

**Psychology**  
Any changes to Psychology are TBC.

**Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour**  
Any changes to PNB are TBC.

**Systems Biology (Part III only)**  
Any changes to Systems Biology are TBC.

**Zoology**  
Any changes to Zoology are TBC.