

Dear students and learners,

The Prime Minister announced yesterday his [four-step plan](#) to release England from lockdown, and the Government also updated its [guidance which is available here](#). We're really excited that there's now a path ahead for our University community to be back together again before too long.

Michelle Donelan, the Minister for Universities has written to all students and you [can read the letter here](#). The Minister explained that from 08 March universities can invite students on practical and creative courses who need access to specialist equipment and facilities back to in-person teaching.

We've missed you so much and can't wait to see you back in person. As we posted on social media yesterday, we're working hard and fast to provide each of you with clarity about what the Government's latest announcement means for your course.

In the meantime, I want to share some important messages with you:

- In line with the Government's guidance, please don't return to campus until your course leader contacts you with further details. You'll hear from your course leader by the end of this week about where your course falls within the guidance and what your teaching will look like from 8 March onwards. If you are already studying on a future critical worker course, your teaching arrangements will remain unchanged.
- As you know, the University has extended specific measures from the No Detriment Policy to be in place for the rest of this academic year. That's because we recognise that students have faced disruption to their personal and academic lives because of COVID-19. We're proud of what's in place to support you, which includes waiving the penalty for late submission of assessments; giving you the full mark rather than a capped one for reassessment work; and, for final years, taking any detrimental impact of grades from [2019-20](#) into account. Remember that these measures automatically apply, so you don't need to do anything. We're also continuing to relax evidence requirements for 'mitigating circumstances' claims and requests for extensions which will make it easier for you to follow the process. More information is available in these [FAQs for students on our website](#).
- You may have questions about other aspects of university life. We're working on all those details so please bear with us. We promise that you'll have all the information you need before you return to our COVID-secure campuses.
- We all need to keep doing our bit to prevent COVID-19 outbreaks in our University community. That's why it's really important that you play our part and take up the free testing we've made available for you. There's more information [here](#), and please keep an eye on your emails about how our testing programme will keep us all safe as and when you return to our campuses.
- We appreciate that you may have mixed emotions about the Government's latest announcement. Please tell us if there's anything we can do to help and support you by emailing [studentcentre@bucks.ac.uk](mailto:studentcentre@bucks.ac.uk). If you're an apprentice, please contact

your employer representative, Apprenticeship Partnership Manager or email [apprenticeships@bucks.ac.uk](mailto:apprenticeships@bucks.ac.uk). You can also email Bucks Students' Union Advice Centre: [SUAdvice@bucks.ac.uk](mailto:SUAdvice@bucks.ac.uk). And 24/7 online mental health support is available, using your Bucks student email to register, at [www.togetherall.com](http://www.togetherall.com).

[Our FAQs for students](#) reflect all you need to know as of now. We'll be working to update these once we have all the details in place for 8 March onwards.

We're so proud of how you've all risen to the considerable challenges you've faced in recent months and we're looking forward to welcoming you back to our campuses.

If you're an apprentice learner, some of this information may not be directly relevant to you. If you have any further questions, please contact your employer representative or your nominated Apprenticeship Partnership Manager.

Take care, look after yourself and stay safe.