

Covid-19 – Week Eight Check In Survey: Response from the Department of Economics – UG  
– 1<sup>st</sup> Yr

**From:** Peter Postl <pp430@bath.ac.uk>

**Sent:** 09 December 2020 15:32

**To:** ES-YR1@courses.bath.ac.uk

**Cc:** Andreas Schaefer <as3516@bath.ac.uk>; Matteo De Tina <mdt28@bath.ac.uk>; Maria Sarigiannidou <ms962@bath.ac.uk>; Student Engagement <studentengagement@bath.ac.uk>; Nathalia Gjersoe <ng495@bath.ac.uk>

**Subject:** Survey Feedback and S2 IPT plans from your Department

Dear first-year Economics students,

I'd like to say a big Thank You to those of you who have once more taken time to complete the University's Week 8 Check-In survey. We have received the anonymous responses from first-year economics students and have analysed them so that we can get a better sense of your experience and take a second opportunity (after listening to your feedback in Week 4) to react to your suggestions for improvement. You can see the headline student satisfaction figures below, along with a summary of the most frequent open comments.

I'd like to give you here a brief outline of how we are responding as a Department, and how we are adapting (within the constraints such as physical room availability and social distancing measures) our delivery of the Bath Blend and the IPTs in Semester 2. Your timetable will be available to you from mid-January with full details of what you can expect in Semester 2 in IPT and LOIL sessions, but in the meantime, here are some key highlights we'd like to bring to your attention:

- **Semester 2 IPT** will continue to be unit-linked and designed to be as close as possible to traditional seminars with a focus on exercises and 'hands-on' problem-solving.
- In particular, each **IPT** week and 4h slot will feature two 2h seminars, delivered by the teaching teams associated with two different units. In odd-numbered weeks, you will have a 2h seminar-style IPT session in ES10006 'Core skills for economists: mathematics 2' followed by a 2h seminar-style session in ES10008 'Economic policy in the UK' (instead of ES10008, Economics and Mathematics students will have ES10096 'Mathematical Economics'). In even-numbered weeks, you will have a 2h seminar-style IPT session in ES10002 'Introductory macroeconomics' followed by a 2h seminar-style session in ES10004 'Core skills for economics: statistics and data analysis'.
- To answer any questions that you may have about our Semester 2 IPT and our **January assessment format**, we have organised a **MS Teams session on Friday 11 December at 9.15h**. All first-year students are invited to join in and ask any questions they may have. For those of you who can't make it, we'll record the first part of the meeting in which we outline the assessment format and the Semester 2 IPT provision. We will also share with you ahead of Friday a 'Frequently Asked Questions' document about the upcoming January assessments.

I'd like to thank you once again for your feedback and your open and constructive interaction with us. May I also encourage you all at this point to please complete the currently open unit evaluations so that we can get a good insight into your experiences with our individual taught units. We look forward to continuing to offer you high quality learning and teaching, building on all we have learnt so far in this exceptional year, whilst prioritising the safety and wellbeing of our community.

If you have any questions regarding this email, please don't hesitate to contact us.

If you have any concerns relating to returning to campus / Bath or your personal wellbeing don't hesitate to contact your Personal Tutor or reach out to Student Services for further support.

If you would like to discuss your individual circumstances The SU Advice & Support service is also available remotely.

Take good care of yourself over the break, get some rest, and have a good start to the new year.

All the best,

Andreas, Matteo, Maria, and Peter

#### First-year Week 8 Survey Responses

Headline Survey responses (from a total of 82 responses):

- **63.42%** of first-year students say they are **satisfied** (down from 70% in Week 4)
- **24.39%** of first-year students say they are **neither satisfied nor dissatisfied** (up from 16% in Week 4)
- **12.2%** of first-year students say they are **dissatisfied** (down from 14% in Week 4)

Positive

- online lectures and the possibility of taking notes
- the interaction with the teachers
- the way IPTs have been refocused on assessment preparation is appreciated
- the quality of online delivery has improved throughout the semester
- appreciation of some IPTs

Suggested Improvements

- IPTs are too long - better to have something closer to seminars style