

Covid-19 – Week Eight Check In Survey: Response from the Department of Economics – UG
– Final Yr

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Subject: Survey Feedback and S2 IPT plans from your Department

Dear final 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 final 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 be unit-linked and as close as possible to traditional seminars with a focus on exercises and 'hands-on' problem-solving.
- In particular, each **IPT** week and slot will feature a 2h seminar in ES30025 'Advanced Microeconomics' (which is a compulsory unit for the vast majority of you), followed by simultaneous 2h seminars in two further final year units. These latter two units vary each week so as to give you the best chance of experiencing seminar-style activities in your chosen units alongside the compulsory 'Advanced Micro' unit.
- To answer your queries around the Department's 72h coursework format for the **January assessments**, we are preparing a 'Frequently Asked Questions' document that we will share with you before the end of week 11.
- To reassure you further and answer any remaining questions that you may have about our **January assessment format**, we have organised a **MS Teams session on Friday 11 December at 18.15h**. All final 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.
- On the topic of **workload**, we are grateful for your feedback and will endeavour to act on it. We'd like to stress that the reason behind us posting extensive video and

text resources on Moodle ahead of the LOILs comes from a good place: we'd like to give you high quality materials and the flexibility to access them at times that suit you and your learning style. We are confident that your lecturers have not increased the material content of their units for this academic year (in fact, quite a few of us have actually dropped/revised/condensed some material in preparation for the Bath Blend). However, a cursory review of academic studies of blended/flipped classroom delivery models suggests that:

1. While workload dedicated to pre-class learning makes assessment preparation after 'flipped classrooms' significantly less time consuming...
2. ... the amount of pre-class learning (especially in the context of multiple concurrent flipped units) can become stressful if the time required to go through pre-class resources (videos or readings) is underestimated by lecturers.

In light of your feedback and the findings of these academic studies, we will advise Semester 2 lecturers to be mindful and realistic in their estimation of the actual time students need to spend on their pre-LOIL preparation. We will also advise your lecturers to indicate clearly on Moodle which of the pre-recorded materials are essential lesson prep and what is optional (e.g. refresher material, additional optional readings/topics, etc.).

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

Final-year Week 8 Survey Responses

Headline Survey responses (from a total of 31 responses):

- **64.51%** of UG finalists say they are **satisfied** (up from 63% in Week 4)
- **16.13%** of UG finalists say they are **neither satisfied nor dissatisfied** (down from 23% in Week 4)
- **19.36%** of UG finalists say they are **dissatisfied** (up from 14% in Week 4)

Positive

- online teaching works well and allows much more flexibility
- it's good that all LOILs are recorded
- some of you mention that you are happy that you don't have to travel to campus

Suggested Improvements

- too much pre-recorded material to watch / high workload
- 4h IPTs not very efficient
- there remains some anxiety about the format of the Economics coursework assessments in January