

Covid-19 – Week Eight Check In Survey: Response from the Department of Mechanical Engineering – UG & PGT

**From:** [en-academics-request@lists.bath.ac.uk](mailto:en-academics-request@lists.bath.ac.uk) <[en-academics-request@lists.bath.ac.uk](mailto:en-academics-request@lists.bath.ac.uk)> **On Behalf Of** Gary Lock  
**Sent:** 10 December 2020 12:17  
**To:** All UGs in Dept of Mechanical Engineering on campus <[ME-U@courses.bath.ac.uk](mailto:ME-U@courses.bath.ac.uk)>; Full-time Taught postgraduates in Dept of Mechanical Engineering <[ME-TF@courses.bath.ac.uk](mailto:ME-TF@courses.bath.ac.uk)>  
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**Subject:** [en-academics] Outline of our plans to support your study in semester 2

Dear students in the Department of Mechanical Engineering,

We emailed you in mid-November responding to your scores and comments for the University Week 4 Check In survey and the Department Blended Delivery Survey. We gave details of our plans in response to your views, and we will continue to act on these plans as we prepare for online learning and in-person time for semester 2.

We have now received your further opinions submitted to the University Week 8 Check In Survey. The main themes mostly reinforce those that came through from the surveys in week 4, that the availability of recorded material is welcome so that you can study at your own pace, and that Live Online Interactive Learning (LOIL) sessions and In Person Time (IPT) are valuable where these help you directly in making progress in your units, but that we should be aware of demands on your workload. Satisfaction with your wider student experience was lower than for your academic experience in the Week 8 survey results, with issues such as self-isolation possibly being a contributing factor.

### **Outline of our plans to support your study in semester 2**

For **undergraduate years 1 and 2** we will adapt the in-person time in semester 2 by reducing subject tutorials to 45 minutes and using fewer rooms. Unit co-ordinators will let you know how they plan to use each in-person session. For **year 1** we will maintain as much of the physical lab programme as possible and expect to run three labs and a workshop session during the semester. For **year 2** we will run longer IPT sessions for Design to support your team-based coursework. We will configure in-person time to allow you to work together in your Design groups wherever possible, while also including students who are undertaking the same activities studying remotely. The Department has invested in audio-visual equipment to improve connectivity in rooms where this was an issue in semester 1.

We have discussed the use of timetabled LOIL sessions and IPT in the Department and recognised your views that studying in advance in addition to attending sessions increases your workload. Unit co-ordinators are now deciding how best to make use of LOIL and IPT sessions, and will ask for one of the two weekly LOIL sessions for their unit to be removed from the timetable if they are able to deliver course material and support your study

effectively across fewer timetabled slots. We will continue to ensure that all learning outcomes can be achieved regardless of your mode of study.

We are now planning how we will offer regular contact between academic supervisors and students carrying out **full-time group or individual projects during semester 2**. This will include making suitable study space available in the Department for students who are able to come in. The Directors of Studies for our **MSc programmes** are also discussing their approaches to IPT, to build upon the generally successful experience from semester 1 and centred again mainly around support for group work.

I hope that you will all be able to enjoy a break after the end of this week, and we look forward to delivering blended learning again once classes resume in the new year.

If you have any questions regarding this email, please speak to your Personal Tutor or Director of Studies. If you have any concerns about returning to campus or Bath, or about 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.

Best Wishes,  
Gary

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