

Covid-19 – S2 Wk4 Check In Survey: Response from Natural Science programmes

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Sent: 15 April 2021 17:39

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Subject: NatSci response to S2 week 4 check-in survey

Hello everyone,

You may recall that in early March you were asked to complete a check-in survey about how S2 was progressing in terms of academic and broader university experience.

Thank you to those of you who took part – we received 51 responses from across all years which is about 15% of the NatSci students.

The message was similar to last semester, although I was pleased to see that there was some improvement in terms of how the course was being organised and less comment about work overload (although this was still raised by a small number of students).

There was general support for pre-recorded lectures provided that they were not too long because it allows students flexibility in when and how to watch them. We have passed these comments back to subject departments to help them shape their learning and teaching activity going forward.

There were still a small number of students who commented on the variation in when materials were released which makes planning difficult.

That is a very valid point and is something that NatSci will continue to raise with subject departments to try and help our students have the most effective learning environment possible.

On a related note, the NatSci team have been developing an approach to assessment and feedback for you which is being discussed in the SSLC next week. This fits alongside the issue of course organisation and I am hopeful that for the start of next academic year we will have developed a programme of activity to improve the NatSci experience of assessment and feedback – for returning students, look out for messages in the autumn! This is a really welcome and exciting development, and follows on from the collaborations we have had with students on a number of other initiatives – the newly formed Inclusivity Forum and the BUNSS unit choice Q&A sessions as the most recent examples this year. I am always happy to hear about ideas for other NatSci focussed activities – I am hoping that we might as a department sign up to a sustainability challenge next year; a book club (popular scientific writing perhaps?) might also be another activity we can try out.

Thank you everyone for working with us this year. I am sure I will be back in touch before the end of the academic year – in the meantime, I hope that your final couple of teaching weeks go well,

Best wishes

Jane.

K A Jane White

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