

Update from the University on research labs, your feedback and study spaces

Dear doctoral student,

Following the email from Cassie and Jeremy on Wednesday ('Update from the University ahead of new lockdown restrictions in England'), you can find more information on our website about [how the University will operate under lockdown](#). This includes details of plans for research laboratories and support for students; please be reassured that the University intends to support research activity wherever possible for as long as we can.

Your feedback on student experience

Now we're almost six weeks into the new academic year, the last week has been all about listening to you, our doctoral students. Your feedback through the recent student survey has been invaluable; thank you so much for taking the time to let us know about your experiences this year so far.

This information is being looked at in detail by your departments and you should soon be hearing from them about your feedback and our response.

We have been pleased to receive so many positive messages reflecting the efforts being made by staff. We have also identified some areas for improvement, which we are working on with departments right now.

Study spaces

If you're here in Bath, thanks for your feedback on booking study space. Following your requests, our [online study space booking system](#) has now been updated to remove the limit on the weekly number of hours you can book.

Remember you have study spaces that are exclusive for postgraduate use in 10 West and 8 West. You can also book the general study spaces in The Library, Norwood House, East Building, The Virgil Building and Lewis House in the city centre and, at weekends and in the evenings, in The Chancellors' Building. These spaces still have plenty of room, even with social distancing and Covid-secure measures, so we'd encourage you to use them.

Over the lockdown period, we will be requiring all students to use face coverings in the Library and study spaces. Do make sure you are continuing to observe social distancing, use hand sanitiser and follow instructional signage in these areas.

Thank you for all your feedback and please do keep communicating with us; your constructive criticism helps us make changes promptly and improves the experience for everyone.

Finding private accommodation for next academic year

You may be already thinking about living arrangements for autumn 2021 and your next year at University, if you're planning to be here in Bath. Please do not worry about this, we are in touch with the local private housing providers and will be letting you have more information at the end of January.

We'd like to express our thanks to all our doctoral students. Many of you have had to self-isolate in your households or tackled other challenges already this academic year and we know that the vast majority have acted responsibly and with real kindness to one another.

Remember you can find more information about support from the Doctoral College on our website, including online [Doctoral College Events and Activities](#) and information about [looking after your wellbeing](#).

Thank you and we look forward to being in touch again soon.

With warm regards,

Dr Cassie Wilson
Vice President (Student Experience)

Prof Jeremy Bradshaw
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International and Doctoral)