

Covid-19 – Week Four Check In Survey: Response from the Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering

Dear Architecture and Civil Engineering students,

Thank you very much for your thoughtful and constructive comments in the Check-in Survey that took place in week 4. They are invaluable for us to understand what works and what does not work for you in the Bath Blend. Your comments as well as a summary with recommendations will be discussed at our upcoming Staff Student Liaison Committee (SSLC) and our Department Learning and Teaching Quality Committee (DLTQC). Academic staff have been discussing our experiences and exchanging good practice, which together with your comments helps us to improve the way we are running our Bath Blend. Our Directors of Teaching, group heads and myself have been looking at how best to respond to your comments, both for the remainder of this semester and also to take forward in the delivery of Semester 2.

We received a breakdown of your comments by year of study, which are quite generic, so please continue using the feedback mechanisms of individual units to provide more specific feedback and highlight what works and what does not. Below is a summary of your comments with some commentary on our response to date. We have reported these under the headings undergraduate taught programmes, postgraduate taught programmes and postgraduate research, as there are some differences.

Undergraduate taught programmes:

Many of you report positive experiences with the independent learning and LOIL as it allows you to work at your own pace. Similarly, many of you are positive about the material and staff engagement. There were comments about inconsistency between units and between lecturers in how material was presented to you, and we are working to enhance LOIL sessions by highlighting and disseminating best practice. We are also looking at how we can make IPT more meaningful for those who attend, and more accessible for those who cannot; the details are subject specific and we are taking a subject specific approach. We are also looking at how best to communicate in a more consistent, effective and transparent way. For example, by improving consistency across unit delivery (especially Moodle pages, communication and dissemination of independent learning materials).

Postgraduate taught programmes:

The response rate was quite low, however it was encouraging to see that you are enjoying the online sessions and that the recorded sessions are allowing you to work at a pace to suit you. It was also reassuring to see that the communication between students and staff was working well. There were some comments about improving the course structure. This is the first delivery of our new portfolio of programmes and we will

be reviewing this to see what adjustments may be needed, so please continue to feedback to the individual programme Directors of Study and or our Director of Teaching (postgraduate) Dr Marion Harney.

Postgraduate research programmes:

It was reassuring to see that you are happy with your supervisors and level of supervision. There were a few issues raised that are specific to individual projects, and we would ask that you raise these with your supervisors please. Alternatively they can be raised with the Director of Postgraduate Studies, Dr Tristan Kershaw. Please continue to check the [Covid-19 funding support for doctoral students](#) webpage since this contains the most up to date information about what financial support is available for postgraduate research students.

As a final comment, please note that the limit on the number of hours that you can book study space per week has been removed and you can book slots of up to 4 hours at a time with a 1-hour break between bookings, both on the campus and in the city centre, see:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/where-you-can-study-on-campus-and-in-the-city/>

Best wishes,

Stephen

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