

Covid-19 – Week Four Check In Survey: Response from the Department of Biology and Biochemistry – UG – final Yr

Good afternoon,

I would like to thank all the students who provided feedback on the teaching activities in the Department in the Week 4 survey. We appreciate that this is a difficult time for you all and will endeavour to address as many of the common issues as possible.

What is currently working well? The feedback shows that very many of you believe that the staff are providing good quality recordings of lectures and that LOILs are generally effective (more so with Final Year students than other years). It is clear that the flexibility offered by the recorded lectures is valued by a significant number of students, again particularly Final Years.

What can be improved?

Most comments were around the provision of IPT. Whilst some of the comments were positive many were not, so this is the area we are targeting to change. There were some suggestions from individuals about changes to IPT but these were not extensive and unfortunately some were not feasible in a COVID context.

Based on the suggestions provided in the survey the Department wishes to propose the following possibilities for Semester 2:

1. Offer unit linked IPT on a rota basis and in response to demand through Semester 2 (i.e. if you wish to have more IPT sessions associated with a particular unit we will provide wherever feasible and within timetabling or other constraints).
2. Use IPT sessions to run group tutorial sessions.
3. Drop the Research News except for an occasional one in Semester 2 (some students found this useful particularly in terms of career advice).
4. We may run some laboratory sessions which students could sign up to attend on Friday afternoons. We would welcome suggestions from students as to what they would be interested in doing in these 4 hr lab sessions (with the equipment and resources we have).
5. As most year groups found the study workload overwhelming, we will offer a single LOIL session per 6 credit unit for lecture-based units along with pre-recorded content (so not increasing workload as much as is perceived). We will encourage staff that LOILs should focus on the most important points (not additional content).

To ascertain which of these are popular or not, there is a short survey at:

<https://forms.gle/DGz5NKbRfEgvjk1i7>

We would ask as many of you as possible to complete the survey by the end of next week (20th November).

Thank you again for your input into the decision making process.

If you have any questions or comments please email me directly (but please do not respond to all).

With thanks,  
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Head of Department

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