

Covid-19 – Week Four Check In Survey: Response from the Department of Economics - PGT

Dear postgraduate students in Economics,

I'd like to say a big Thank You to those of you who have taken the time to complete the University's 'Check In' survey during Week 4 of this semester. We have received the anonymous responses from PGT economics students and have analysed them so that we can get a better sense of your experience and take this opportunity to react to your suggestions for improvement. You can see the headline student satisfaction figures below, along with a summary of the most frequent open comments.

As there is quite a bit of detail there, I'd like to give you a brief outline of how we have responded as a Department. As we still face constraints on room availability and room capacity, we cannot run weekly unit-based 1h seminars as some of you have suggested. While we will have to continue with each IPT week being associated with a specific unit, we have made the following modifications:

- Our IPT sessions will from now on feature a specific focus on assessment preparation. In particular, lecturers will use their unit-linked IPT sessions to discuss solution approaches for the open book assessments that you will be given during the Department's assessment period between 4 January and 22 January 2020.
- Lecturers will use their unit-linked IPT sessions to provide interactive demonstrations of how to tackle/solve relevant sample exercises; You will also receive further guidance about your assessments from your lecturers in your LOILs. Lecturers will offer enhanced signposting of the assessment-relevant materials so that you can structure your revision accordingly
- In order to improve online delivery, we have placed orders for additional teaching equipment for lecturers, including headsets+microphones, web cams, tablets, and electronic pens. We hope that this will enhance your experience of the online lessons
- Finally, we would like to suggest regular Teams meetings with you, your student reps, and your cohort so that we can hear from you directly about any issues or matters arising.

I'd like to thank you once again for your feedback and your open and constructive interaction with us. Take good care of yourself, and all the best for the remaining five weeks of the teaching term.

All the best,

Andreas, Nikos, Stylianos, and Peter

PGT Week 4 Survey Responses

Headline Survey responses (from a total of 38 responses from PGT students):

- **69%** of PGT students say they are **satisfied**
- **26%** of PGT students say they are **neither satisfied nor dissatisfied**
- **5%** of PGT students say they are **dissatisfied**

Positive

- Academic content: interesting and challenging in a good way
- Good careers support
- Recorded lectures and flexibility this offers
- Ability to study remotely
- Regular and structured study load and practice assignments
- Good support from lecturers and helpful learning resources on Moodle
- Face-to-face communication (IPT?)
- LOILs work well and increase interaction compared to traditional lectures in a classroom
- Staff enthusiasm

Suggested Improvements

- Perhaps organise more Ice-breaking events as there seems to be a lack of social interactions.
- More IPT, and more interaction for those present on campus
- Break IPT into smaller chunks – 4h too long. Ideally hold weekly seminars in each unit
- More pre-recorded lectures, LOILs centred on seminar-style activities
- More information/details on assessment timelines