

Covid-19 – Week Four Check In Survey: Response from the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering – UG PGT

Dear Students in Department of Electronic & Electrical Engineering,

Many thanks to all of you who took the time to complete the Check In Survey in week 4, in particular for the constructive open comments. which are invaluable in helping us understand which aspects of the Bath Blend are working well and which less well. Your comments have been summarised and shared at yesterday's Staff Student Liaison Committee, discussed at a Department Learning and Teaching Quality Committee (DLTQC) meeting and provided to all staff, together with recommendations.

The comments were broken down by undergraduate and postgraduate years but covered a lot of general issues so please continue to provide feedback though the other channels that are available (personal tutorials or to unit conveners, year directors, Directors of Study and Academic Reps) to give us detailed feedback on what is and what is not working well. For example, many very helpful comments were provided by your Academic Reps at yesterday's SSLC. Through this academic year your comments will be especially valuable for us – we know that not everything has worked as well as planned and specific details about what you would like more (and less) of are always very welcome.

Bath Blend (Moodle, pre-recorded lectures, LOIL and IPT)

Summary of your comments

Pre-recorded lectures have been almost universally well received, the interactions at LOIL, IPT and the lab sessions provided have also drawn some favourable comments, as was the support from the lecturers. While the Bath Blend style of teaching received some positive comments, other comments raised concerns about the increased workload and the extra support needed for self-paced learning. Organisation of and consistency of Moodle and other recourses was raised by several (and also by Academic Reps at yesterday's SSLC). Some comments requested that LOIL sessions were used for live lectures while others felt that LOIL sessions should be used for explaining material previously covered and were sometimes unnecessary (especially if they mainly repeated lecture material). While some students enjoyed IPT sessions including coming to campus and working with other, there were more students commenting that they felt the additional benefits over remote IPT were minimal given low attendance of staff and students; this is supported by the decrease in IPT numbers though the semester. Others felt support from remote IPT could be improved.

Our actions and plans in response to your comments

- The Moodle pages of all semester 1 units have now been audited by the Faculty's Instructional Designers, looking at their structure and organisation of material through the eyes of a student, with particular emphasis on ease of navigation, usability and accessibility. All units were given a red/amber/green (RAG) rating and the Instructional Designers have initially been working 1-2-1 with the conveners of units with the lowest rating, to them up to a common standard. These improvements have now happened, and I hope they give an improved experience.

- Staff have been and asked to be consistent in the used of tools for LOIL and remote IPT, and to make sure they are available for in-person and remote students are accommodated, for example by running IPT on Zoom.
- Recommendation that LOIL sessions reduced to one per week unless needed by the unit, with the second session available for Q&A where needed.
- Ensure LOIL sessions are used for consolidation rather than repeating material covered in lectures.
- Make sure you know what preparation you should do before a LOIL session and that material for this is available well in advance of the session.
- Given the reduction in IPT numbers, we will be making our spare rooms available so you can use them for self-study. We will provide more information on how this will be managed as soon as we can.

Other comments on the campus and study spaces

A number of comments related to the campus, rather than Department. The limit on the number of hours that you can book study space per week has recently been removed and you can book slots of up to 4 hours at a time with a 1 hour break between bookings both on campus and in town <https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/where-you-can-study-on-campus-and-in-the-city/>. The Lime Tree continues to serve take-away food and drink on campus and there are heated marquees on grass just outside where you can eat and drink <https://www.bath.ac.uk/locations/lime-tree/>.

Kind regards,

Adrian

Dr Adrian Evans, Head of Department
Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering | University of Bath |
Bath, BA2 7AY, United Kingdom
Telephone: +44 (0)1225 386303 | Email: A.N.Evans@bath.ac.uk
<http://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/rankings-and-reputation/>