

# Learning, social life, health & wellbeing, in a changing world



## On-campus teaching

Lectures in small groups and intensive tutorial sessions

Social distancing as guided by the Government



## Practical work on campus

Laboratory work, access to the arts studios, simulation, clinical work etc.

In safe environments



## Online teaching

Adaptive teaching and learning

Using state-of-the-art learning technologies



## Personal tutoring

One-to-one tutoring and student support services

Blended model on-campus and online



**Blend of on-campus and online delivery:** to be based on COVID guidance, type of degree programme, and time in the academic cycle



# On-campus learning & social life

#UniAsItShouldBe | #UniForTheFuture

**We are writing to you to let you know our plans for the start of academic year 2021/22 this September and the arrangements that the University has put in place to ensure you have a holistic University experience in a safe environment i.e. teaching, learning, social life, health and wellbeing.**

### **A holistic learning and social life with health and wellbeing, in a changing world**

We have worked hard to ensure we deliver a holistic University experience when you arrive in September 2021 whatever the status of the pandemic. It is noteworthy the University of Bolton has remained open throughout the pandemic, keeping staff and students safe. If as we hope, the UK Government have moved the country past stage 4 in the unlock roadmap, and we are able to be together with no restrictions then we will provide you with a fully functional campus environment. We will retain many of the safe COVID-19 features implemented around the campus until we are confident that the pandemic has ended. We will keep a small proportion of our sector leading and proven online delivery where this complements and enhances our face-to-face offering on-campus. Our focus, will however, always be on in-person teaching, giving you regular access to your tutors and the opportunity to learn alongside other students.

If there are any Government COVID restrictions still in place, you can be assured we are well prepared

for every scenario including increased levels of online learning if we are guided to do so by the Government. Our careful timetabling and scheduling system will limit the number of staff and students on-campus at any one time to ensure safety, in-line with government guidance.

### **On-campus teaching, maintaining social distancing in a secure environment**

All our courses will adopt a 'Campus-Based' design framework with lectures, practical sessions, social life and extra-curricular activities delivered face-to-face in a safe environment on-campus, unless guided otherwise by Government. Within the 'Campus-Based' design framework, we will keep a small proportion of virtual/online delivery to complement and enhance your face-to-face interactions. Your personal tutorial sessions will take place face-to-face on campus with whatever necessary social distancing parameters are in place as well as online.

### **Practical work on-campus - maintaining social distancing in a secure environment**

Practical work within the necessary social distancing parameters will take place on-campus in engineering laboratories, arts & creative studios, clinical suites, simulation spaces, sports facilities and other specialist facilities. These spaces are being redesigned to provide a safe environment for you to carry out this essential part of your learning and practice.

### **Online teaching**

Online will be limited to those elements that complement and enhance your on-campus face-to-face learning. Our online and on-campus delivery will utilise adaptive teaching and learning techniques while taking advantage of the state-of-the-art

learning technologies such as Zoom and our virtual learning environment, Moodle. This will enable us to customise teaching, learning and personal tutoring to suit your individual learning needs. Our online learning tools are already tried and tested with our students and provide materials to allow you to learn in your own time outside the classroom. If we are guided by Government because of future COVID restrictions we will increase our online proportion.

### **Personal tutoring**

When you join the University of Bolton community, you will be assigned a Personal Tutor who will look after your academic journey and welfare. Regular one-to-one sessions will take place both on-campus and remotely via video call. Our range of outstanding student support services will also be available on-campus and remotely depending on the specific need. We have worked hard over the past year to provide systems to enable you to regularly and easily access your personal tutor and our student services support staff remotely.

### **Students' Union, social and peer learning environments**

We know that learning also takes place beyond the classrooms or laboratories. Working closely with our outstanding Students' Union, we have also created COVID-secure social learning zones across the campus for you to carry out group work, meet with other students, and make the most of university life. These will stay in place until we are sure that the pandemic is behind us. You will also have a wide range of opportunities to participate in campus life, including Student Societies, Clubs, etc., organised by the University of Bolton Students' Union.

## University facilities

Appropriate measures will be in place to enable you to use our library, computer suites, and food and drink services safely. Student support services will continue to be available to all students on-campus and online remotely. We have installed temperature scanners at every key entrance of the University buildings, providing face-coverings, and preparing managed walking zones around campus to make you feel safe so you can make the most of your University experience. Again, these measures will remain in place until we are absolutely sure it is safe to remove them.

## Dealing with your individual circumstances

We understand that, even in September 2021 for exceptional personal reasons related to COVID-19, it may not be possible for you to join us on-campus for the start of your course. The University of Bolton

remains committed to providing accessible learning and teaching for all our students, including those unable to attend on campus for exceptional reasons relating to COVID-19. We are putting in place arrangements that will ensure such students can join classes remotely for as long as necessary. This may include recorded lectures and practical sessions, remote personal tutoring and support services, and access to course materials via our virtual learning software. It is important that you let us know as soon as possible if you need to study remotely, so that we can provide you with the needed support and information.

## Government regulations and advice: updating you as the situation changes

The University of Bolton is working to ensure that the current regulations that are in force are adhered to at all times. This will include following

health and safety standards for dealing with the ongoing pandemic and other Government advice. The arrangements outlined here are current at the time of writing and adhere to the UK Government's phased unlock process. However, this may change with the developments related to the pandemic and further Government advice nationally and locally. Should the situation change, we will advise applicants and students as soon as possible and provide further details of alternative arrangements as per the Government, PHE and other regulatory guidelines.

This information applies to the University of Bolton main campus, Institute of Management and Queens Building. Where courses are delivered by one of our off-campus partners, these arrangements may vary. Our partners will communicate with you individually regarding their arrangement.

We encourage you to regularly keep up to date with the University's guidance and FAQs for students at [www.bolton.ac.uk/coronavirus](http://www.bolton.ac.uk/coronavirus)

## Government Tiers for Higher Education Provision

<b>September 2021 delivery</b> (Conditional upon Govt. guidance) HE Tier 1	<b>Fallback</b> HE Tier 2	<b>Stricter</b> HE Tier 3	<b>Lockdown</b> HE Tier 4
<b>Post-COVID campus based blended design, driven by student attainment, continuation and satisfaction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-campus teaching and practical work</li> <li>On-campus independent and group work - state -of-art social learning environment</li> <li>Online teaching - live or pre-recorded, appropriate to type if content, degree, and time in academic cycle (normally no more than 30% of contact time for non-practical or 25% for practical programmes)</li> <li>Flipped classroom and/or guided independent learning - supervised in-person or online</li> <li>Follow government, and health guidance e.g. hands, face, space</li> </ul>	<b>Increased online where possible</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-campus for practical/practice based that require specialist facilities</li> <li>On-campus where statutory requirement or in support of key workers (e.g. health and education)</li> </ul>	<b>Online unless critical</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Face-to-face provision for priority courses (for example clinical and medical courses or teacher education), and in as limited number of situations as possible</li> </ul>	<b>Majority online</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buildings open only for essential workers and students who are required to attend because in-person teaching essential</li> </ul>