Dear Sammy,

You will no doubt be aware that the UK Government has now announced that it is moving its focus from containing COVID-19 to delaying its spread.

Whilst the University will remain open we are, as you would expect, reviewing our approach in light of the Government’s changed position and the fast-developing international situation.

As a result:

- All non-essential international visits and field trips are being cancelled
- All UK-based field trips are being reviewed
- All planned University events are being reviewed

We are also reviewing arrangements to enable the remote delivery of learning, teaching and assessment online should this become necessary. We will also ensure that any impacts of COVID-19 on your learning and teaching are taken fully into account through mitigating circumstances processes. And please be assured that regardless of events, all students will still be able to progress or graduate as normal this year.

Everyone has a role to play in helping to prevent the spread of the virus and should follow the latest official advice:

- wash your hands often with soap
- cough or sneeze into a tissue and dispose of this into a bin as quickly as possible
- Stay at home for 7 days if you have or develop either: a high temperature; or a new continuous cough
- Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital

You do not need to contact NHS 111 to tell them you’re staying at home. If you still feel unwell after 7 days you should contact NHS111 online.

We recognise that the virus will be a cause of anxiety for some of you. There are a range of resources available to help with this including access to your Student Support and Guidance Tutors, online counselling via Big White Wall and specific guidance on our website.

We will issue further updates, but in the meantime, we would advise all students to continue to attend their scheduled teaching and to refer to the existing guidance on our website.

Best regards

Professor Ruth Whittaker
Pro-Vice-Chancellor Education and Student Experience
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