

April 2021

Dear all

How are you? We hope you had a nice Easter break.

You may know that the Government updated their guidance on university campus opening on 13 April. Currently the guidance states that campuses can open up for all students (regardless of subject) from 17 May. We do not envisage a great change for you but course directors may get in touch to try a little ‘on campus’ socialising (distanced of course). Ahead of the 17 May we will of course continue to support the return of students who do not have access to appropriate alternative accommodation, facilities or study space, where there are health or safety reasons or where there is concern for a student’s mental health or wellbeing. Additionally there is an expectation that university libraries stay open to provide library services, including study spaces, in a COVID-secure environment. An update on our libraries is outlined below. Note that book quarantining is no longer considered necessary in our libraries.

**Testing**

The government is working with HE providers to offer twice weekly asymptomatic testing to all students residing in their term-time accommodation, or accessing university facilities, and to all staff. Students are encouraged to test before they travel back to university, either through their local community testing programme or by ordering a test online. On returning to university, students should take three tests at an on-site testing facility (3- 4 days apart). They should then test twice a week, either using home test kits or at an onsite facility. Some students at smaller HE providers may use home test kits immediately rather than testing on site. Staff are also encouraged to test twice a week, either at an on-site testing facility or at home as appropriate. For those that require it, the UoL testing centre remains open at the corner of Malet Street. Tests can be booked here: <https://london.ac.uk/test-and-trace>

The full OfS guidance on return to campus can be found here and contains important information for international students. Be warned – it is lengthy! <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/977819/Students_returning_to__and_starting__higher_education_in_the_spring_term_130421.pdf>

**No Detriment policy**

We promised to review our No Detriment policy and have now done so. We acknowledge that many of our Masters students will still be struggling with access to resources and inability to travel for the purposes of fieldwork and so at the Higher Degrees Committee held on April 19th we agreed the following:

to extend the dissertation deadlines for this academic year as we did last year. Students are not obliged to accept the extension and there is no penalty for doing so. The revised deadline for submission of dissertations is **Monday 4th October 2021 4pm**.

\***Note that extensions agreed with course directors which are later than this date will result in students being unable to graduate in 20/21 academic year.**

We will not refocus the assessment criteria for the masters degree since it is important that we do not devalue the degree for cohorts which are graduating in pandemic years but we will take account of the circumstances in which you have studied when we are assessing your work. Individual programmes may issue guidance as to how to capture the impact of the pandemic on your research and dissertations.

**Graduation**

Following discussion with the academic body and the student representative’s committee we have settled on a date of 9th December 2021 in Senate House where we will graduate two cohorts of students (19/20 and 20/21) at the same time. Invitations will go out in the autumn term.

**Senate House Libraries**

Our libraries have reviewed and extended their opening hours and in view of your need to access resources for your research and dissertations and are now in the majority open between 4 and 5 days a week. Details as follows:

1. SHL –now open Monday-Friday (10.00-16.00). Bookable browsing allowed, and the click and collect service is being moved up to the main circulating area on the fourth floor. Special collection access will be available for two days a week until the end of April. Services will expand further from 17th May for week day evenings (until 7pm) and Saturdays 10-4pm.
2. IHR – from 12 April the library will be open Monday-Thursday (10.00-16.00) and from 17 May will be open Monday-Friday (9.00-17.00).
3. Warburg – all six floors are open for bookable browsing etc. Opening hours are Tuesday-Friday (11.00-15.30).
4. Institute of Classical Studies –open Monday-Friday (10.00-16.00).
5. Institute of Advanced Legal Studies –open Monday-Friday (10.00-16.00) and from 10-4 on Saturdays from Saturday 22nd May. From Tuesday 1st June IALS Library plans on opening from 9.00am to 8.00pm on Monday to Thursday and from 9.00am to 5.00pm on Fridays.

**Research Training summer term**

We will continue with our programme of research training for the summer term. It’s lighter than autumn or spring terms acknowledging that many of you are writing but we hope that the content reflects some helpful content for this.

**Tuesday 27th April (11am - 12pm)** Revising your Work

**https://www.sas.ac.uk/events/event/24209**

**Tuesday 4th May (11am - 12pm)** Footnotes

**https://www.sas.ac.uk/events/event/24210**

**Friday 7th May (2 - 3.30pm)** Gender Studies and Modern Languages Research

**https://modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/events/event/23817**

**Tuesday 11th May (11am - 1pm)** Introduction to Public Engagement

**https://www.sas.ac.uk/events/event/24142**

**Tuesday 18th May (11am - 12pm)** Writing for Different Audiences: Academic Blogging and Other Formats **https://www.sas.ac.uk/events/event/24285**

**Wednesday 19th May (2 - 3.30pm)** Conducting Research in Post-Conflict Contexts

**https://modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/events/event/24140**

**Tuesday 25th May (11am - 1pm)** Public Speaking

**https://www.sas.ac.uk/events/event/24179**

**Tuesday 1st June (11am - 12pm)** Research as Storytelling: Retelling your Research in Different Ways

**https://www.sas.ac.uk/events/event/24286**

**Tuesday 8th June (11am - 12pm)** Writing (Skills) Workshop

**https://www.sas.ac.uk/events/event/24287**

**Wednesday 9thJune (2–4pm)** Researching Multilingually: Possibilities and Complexities

**https://modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/events/event/24300**

**Tuesday 15th June (11am - 1pm)** Zotero (Pre-recorded session)

**https://www.sas.ac.uk/events/event/24301**

**Tuesday 22nd June (11 - 1pm)** Teaching Skills for the PhD Student

**https://www.sas.ac.uk/events/event/24180**

**Tuesday 29th June (11am - 1pm)** EndNote (Pre-recorded session)

[**https://www.sas.ac.uk/events/event/24302**](https://www.sas.ac.uk/events/event/24302)

Note that all sessions are online and are recorded for your viewing so that you may watch them back at a time to suit you.

**Health and wellbeing**

Some of you have asked about student wellbeing. We know that this service is important to you, particularly at this time. So be assured that Katie and her colleagues are available for you. We are currently supporting this service with extra resource. If you want to talk to them the email is: student.wellbeing@sas.ac.uk.

**Registry staffing**

A number of you have been asking about the SAS reorganisation and registry staffing. As a result of our restructure we have lost a number of registry staff who in the short term will not be replaced. This has necessitated a different way of working and instead of named leads for each institute we have moved to the registry team working across all institutes but split into taught degrees and research degrees. Kalinda Hughes is the Head of Registry Services and Kate Koblos still manages our admissions. Ivan Leonidov and Georgia Reeves manage taught degrees and Elena Aliferi manages research degrees.

Important emails are as follows:

Taught degree queries: please email – taught.degrees@sas.ac.uk

Research degree queries: please email – research.degrees@sas.ac.uk

For all fee queries: please email – sas.fees@sas.ac.uk

For application or visa queries: please email – admissions@sas.ac.uk

For IT account login issues: please email – service@london.ac.uk

For Study Online (VLE) queries: please email – studyonline\_support@sas.ac.uk

**Useful links:**

Current Students - <https://www.sas.ac.uk/current-students>

Study Online (VLE) - <https://studyonline.sas.ac.uk/>

Tuition Fees - <https://www.sas.ac.uk/graduate-study/fees-and-funding/tuition-fees>

Transcripts and Education Verification Requests - <https://london.ac.uk/ways-study/study-campus-london/student-services-and-support/requesting-a-transcript>

**SASiety**

Finally I know that SASiety have been working very hard to get the common room back up and running so that you can come into the space again on a safe basis. Also the adjacent study space in Stewart House is available if you want a change of study environment. These spaces are additional to the library study spaces.

As always the staff are here to help you. If you get stuck or find that you are struggling to get a response from anyone do let me know.

Stay safe and best of luck with researching over the summer.

Elaine

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