

AUB's Commitment to Students

Academic Year 2020/21

We know that this academic year may be challenging because of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ways in which this has affected the whole of society, both in the UK and across the world.

Whilst there is still uncertainty throughout this unprecedented time and we cannot predict whether further disruptions, such as a second wave, will occur, we hope that the following information will give you some reassurance that we are planning for all eventualities.

The detail for the year ahead will be found in your course handbooks, but in addition we are providing the following commitments for all full-time students.

Please be reassured that the exceptional high standards and quality of our academic provision will not be compromised. We will continue to be a leading specialist arts University and strive to give you – our students – the experience and support you deserve as an integral part of our creative community.

Safe Learning Environment

In order that we can continue to provide a safe on-campus experience, including access to studios, workshops and equipment, we have developed a comprehensive health and safety risk assessment that follows Government guidelines. It outlines safe ways of working and socialising throughout all spaces and will inform delivery of our courses. We shall review this regularly, which may mean that there are some changes to how some physical resources are accessed to ensure that social distancing requirements can be maintained.

Digital Support

At the start of the academic year we will evaluate and review the digital capabilities of each student. This will ensure we can work with every student to engage fully in a digital and blended learning experience and to have the appropriate software as and when this is required.

Accessible Resources

We want to ensure all students can enjoy the creative benefit of digital and remote learning. We acknowledge that many of our courses have dedicated digital software learning in support of their creative practice and as a result, we have made all relevant software free to all students at all times. This includes the most up to date Microsoft Office 365, Autodesk and Adobe Creative Cloud software packages. In addition to previous years, students will now be able to access these prior to the start of term and use them on personal devices.

Revision of Skills

For continuing students, and in line with the 'No Disadvantage Plan', we are implementing practical workshops and other refresher activities prior to the start of the next level of study; providing 'get back to study' time and a chance to hone practical skills following the absence from campus. We will not charge additional fees for this two-week period. Please see the revised dates of the academic calendar.

Mitigating Further Disruption

We are aware that there could be further periods of disruption, including potential further lockdowns at short notice or individual circumstances requiring periods of self-isolation, and our Course Teams are making sure that their plans for the year take account of this. You will receive course specific information prior to the start of the academic year.

Continued Welfare Support

We are maintaining the excellent and comprehensive access to welfare support throughout the year, initially by remote contact and subsequently as Government restrictions allow, alongside service user preference. In addition, all students will have free access to the 'Headspace' app to support their wellbeing: work.headspace.com/aub/member-enroll

Consistent Review

We will keep the situation regarding the COVID-19 guidance under review. AUB has convened a number of teams and working groups in order to ensure that all guidance is in line with the most up-to-date and current practices. Frequent updates will then follow, as and when appropriate.