

2020/21 Academic Year Commencement: An Update

These have been unprecedented times. We understand that for the whole student community, including applicants and prospects, this period has been incredibly challenging. From all of us at AUB, a heartfelt thank you goes out to all of our students and to those looking to become part of the wider AUB community, whether based in the UK or overseas. Your continued patience, fortitude and spirit in the face of adversity has been a real testament to your character, and has significantly helped us in preparing all the necessary steps for reopening our campus and commencing with the forthcoming Academic Year.

AUB will return to campus for the start of the 2020/21 Academic Year. In line with UK Government advice and guidance, we've committed to developing a robust plan for the reopening of campus. We're continuing to send out guidance and information on the next steps to our students and applicants directly. Our professional services and academic teams, as well as our Students' Union, have worked tirelessly in setting the conditions for the University to begin again at the start of term and to support all of our people fully.

The University's mission has not changed – we strive to achieve excellent outcomes for everyone who studies with us. As an internationally leading Arts university, we pride ourselves on providing the highest quality Arts education, course by course and level by level. In keeping with this, we've committed to prioritising studio-based teaching and learning for the future. To help enable this and to ensure a safe learning environment is maintained, we will continue with the delivery of innovative blended learning approaches for some aspects of our programmes where appropriate.

AUB has been ranked in the 2021 Complete University Guide as a top 50 UK university. Our standards will not diminish, and we're committed to providing not only the best University education possible, but also an immensely rewarding University experience to all those who are a part of our community. As an organisation, we've published an official **Commitment to Students**, a full copy of which is available on this page. In summary, we commit to:

- A safe on-campus experience
- Digital support to all students who study remotely
- Relevant software free to all students
- 'Get back to study' sessions at the start of the academic year for returning students
- Contingency plans to mitigate any further disruption to learning
- Comprehensive access to welfare support

AUB thrives as a dynamic and creative community. From our first response to the COVID-19 crisis, what we have achieved collectively has been outstanding, and we should not lose sight of this. Yet whilst we want our campus to be bustling with creative activity again, the safety and wellbeing of the whole AUB community is paramount. Clear and appropriate measures will be put in place for a safe presence on campus, and these will be reviewed regularly throughout the year. To ensure a safe return for all, we've revised the 2020/21 Academic Year dates, including some elements of the start of the Autumn Term for different levels.

More information on each of our key services and the 2020/21 Academic Year is contained within this page, as well as relevant points of contact should further information be required. We will continue to provide full support and guidance and look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Professor Paul Gough
AUB Principal and Vice Chancellor