

Welcoming

YOU TO CAMPUS



THE UNIVERSITY OF
BUCKINGHAM

Welcoming you to campus

We are working towards having the majority of our campus facilities fully open by this September (UK government guidelines allowing). There have already been staged openings of campus facilities since June and we are putting extra safety measures in place wherever possible.

Before coming to campus:



Be prepared

Please read the guidance provided by the UK government in regards to [travel](#) and [staying COVID-19 safe](#). We ask that all our students please respect the safety measures we have put in place once they arrive.



Be alert

Before coming onto campus or moving into your accommodation, please ensure you are well to do so. If you have even the mildest fever, flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat, fatigue or shortness of breath, or loss or change to your sense of smell or taste, please seek medical advice. You can find more details on the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) on the [National Health Service website](#).



Be safe

All registered students are required to register with a local General Practice (GP) in order to receive medical support, even if you do not think you will ever be unwell or need to see a doctor.

Please visit the NHS ['Find a GP'](#) page to find your local surgery, Those on our Buckingham campus can [register](#) with [The Swan Practice](#) and obtain further information from the [Campus Doctor website](#).

Stages of opening:

08

August

In line with the UK government guidelines, we gradually reopened several areas of our campuses. On our Buckingham campus this includes our libraries, Vinson Building, Students' Union bar, takeaway catering facilities and outdoor facilities. In Crewe we also reopened our social spaces, SU, the Seeley, takeaway catering and outdoor facilities.

There was an increase in face to face events organised through the Students' Union (SU) and pilots of events planned for Freshers' Week. Our student support teams such as Students First, the Students' Union, the accommodation teams and fees and finance teams were readily available for students to contact.

09

September

We anticipate that the majority of the campus will be operating as normal.

Lectures will be uploaded online with an opportunity for you to ask questions and to view the lecture segments flexibly in your own time. In accordance with government guidance, we are planning to resume face to face small group tutorials. Tutorials will also be available online for any students unable to attend in person. One-on-one sessions will be able to take place between you and your lecturers and personal tutors, either face-to-face or online.



September 2020 arrivals

1.

Before you arrive you will be asked to register through our online portal. All Crewe September 2020 starters must complete registration by Thursday 10 September. All Buckingham September 2020 starters must complete registration by Monday 28 September. If you do not receive an invitation to register by the 18 of September please contact admissions@buckingham.ac.uk. You must complete this process as soon as possible when asked to. More information about the online registration process and the documents you will need can be found on our [website](#).

2.

Following your online registration, if you will be studying on our Buckingham campus (and not online) for the Autumn Term, you will be invited to attend an arrival day between Wednesday 23 and Friday 25 September. If you are studying on our Crewe campus you will be invited to attend an arrival day on the 14 of September. In adherence with social distancing guidelines, please try to arrive on the correct day and during the time you have been allocated; you will receive this information within 5 days of completing your online registration. If you need to change your allotted time, please email registry@buckingham.ac.uk.

Your arrival day will include:

- Document checking (for international students)
- Collection of your student uCard
- Collection of your accommodation keys

In addition, each School will be hosting an online induction event to welcome you to the University.

If you have chosen to study online for your first term you are not required to attend an on campus arrival day.

More information can be found on our ['When you arrive' page](#).

3.

Our SU is currently hosting lots of virtual and face to face student activities, and are organising more online and appropriately socially distanced events ready for your arrival. Please log in to the SU website to find out more about Freshers' Week events and activities. Visit <https://su.buckingham.ac.uk/>. You can keep up to date with them through their Instagram (@uniofbuckingham) and [Facebook](#) page. Watch this video to get a taste of [what social life will look like in September](#).

You will also be assigned a mentor group. Your mentor will be a current student who will be in contact with you before you arrive to set up a Microsoft Teams call with you and the rest of your mentee group. Your mentor will be your first port of call if you have any questions about joining Buckingham and life on-campus. Plus, they will be able to direct you to the appropriate staff member if they can't answer your question straight away.

4.

Familiarise yourself with the campus sanitation stations where you'll find hand gel, antibacterial wipes and other essentials.

5.

It's possible that you may be asked to self-isolate for 14 days if you are showing any symptoms of COVID-19 or if the UK [government travel rules](#) ask you to do so. If this is the case you will be required to stay within your residence except in limited situations.

When on campus:



Maintain social distancing

Please maintain a 2m distance between yourself and other people, as per government guidelines.



Swipe your card

To gain access to the University buildings you will need to swipe your SU card. We ask students to do this to help us maintain their safety and the safety of others. Please do not follow through doors behind others without swiping.



Wear a face covering

You can find the latest information and a list of the places you will need to wear a face covering on the [government website](#).

In order to keep our students and staff as safe as possible, the wearing of face coverings is currently mandatory when walking through all buildings where it is not possible to keep a 2 metre distance from others (e.g. corridors and staircases), so please carry a face covering or face mask at all times. Coverings or masks can be removed where social distancing measures are in place and 2 meters distance can be achieved.

You will receive a reusable face mask in your welcome pack. A limited supply of disposable masks are also available across campus. In Buckingham, additional masks are available to purchase at the University Bookshop in the Vinson Building.

We ask that you show respect to one another and remember that there are some individuals who are unable to wear a mask due to medical reasons.



Sanitise regularly

Sanitise your work environment and equipment regularly with a disinfectant that is at least 60% alcohol content.

We are requesting that all students use the sanitation equipment provided to wipe down their seats, workspace and any shared equipment before and after each use – this applies in social study areas, the libraries and tutorial rooms.

Wipe down surfaces in your living quarters as often as you can.

Rest assured that our cleaning team will be out in force, regularly cleaning and deep cleaning spaces



Practice good hygiene

Handwashing is the most important thing you can do to protect yourself.

Avoid touching your face as much as possible.

Catch any coughs or sneezes in a tissue or bent elbow. If using a tissue, wash your hands afterwards.

Community responsibility



We are asking that all of our students and staff play their part in fighting against the spread of COVID-19. Together we must all:



Maintain hand hygiene – washing for a minimum of 20 seconds



Engage in online learning and working



Stay at home if we feel unwell



Sanitise any on-campus study spaces and equipment, including chairs and desks, before and after you use them with the wipes provided



Wear face coverings when required



Look after our mental health and wellbeing



Follow any government guidelines on social distancing



Adhere to government guidelines on social gatherings



Support one another and be patient

There are many great amenities in the local area such as shops, restaurants, cafes and pubs. It's important to support these businesses and we encourage you to visit and enjoy them safely. Please ensure that you have read the **government guidelines** before you leave home to make sure you're prepared with any extra safety measures required such as face masks.

Can't travel due to COVID-19?

We are supporting any students who can't join us on campus due to COVID-19 related reasons with high-quality online learning for up to 12 months. We've received great feedback from our students who are currently being taught in this way and you will be provided with the support you need to progress with your studies.

Lectures will be uploaded online with an opportunity for students to ask questions, and to view lecture segments flexibly in their own time. You will be able to join small group tutorials online and you can have one on one video calls with your lecturers and personal tutors.

[Watch our video](#) to hear more about our online experience from some of our students.



How can I meet other students before I start?

Our Students' Union has set up a [WhatsApp](#) and [Facebook group](#) for all September starters to join ahead of arriving on campus. Please follow the links to join.

I'm an international student and I'm worried about the visa process if I start online. How will this work?

Starting a course remotely will not affect your chances of obtaining a Tier 4 visa. Once you are ready to switch to face-to-face learning, you will be issued with the CAS (subject to meeting all Tier 4 requirements) and apply for a Tier 4 visa as normal.

Will I still be eligible for the new Graduate Route if I start online?

Yes. Students graduating after the Graduate Route is introduced will all be eligible for it. You will have to be in the UK under a valid Tier 4 visa at the time of application.

If I am travelling from outside the UK will I need to self-isolate on arrival?

Before arranging to travel please ensure you have visited the government website for the latest [details on entering the UK](#).

Should you need to self-isolate for fourteen days and have chosen to live in a University owned property, you will be provided with a designated room within our student accommodation facilities on arrival. It is likely that this room will be based on your personal choices and will be the one you will live in for the duration of your time in accommodation. There is however, a small chance you may be required to change room after your self-isolation period. Our estates team will be on-hand to help you move into your room when you arrive and will assist with any relocation if needed.

If your visa terms allow, you are welcome to travel to campus from 7 September in order to ensure you have completed your self-isolation period before term begins on 28 September. If you decide to do this there will be a charge of £100 per week for your room up until the start of term. If you would like to arrive early please contact the accommodation team to arrange: accommodation@buckingham.ac.uk.

Whilst in self-isolation, we will provide you with a written guide to help you organise any food or medication deliveries you need. Those who are unable to secure a food delivery slot when they first arrive, will have access to an emergency essential groceries box which can be requested through the SU. If you are self-isolating in a shared facilities household with a group of other students, the SU will supply you with games to play and organise a free pizza night for everyone to enjoy together. In addition to this, you will be invited to join online social events.

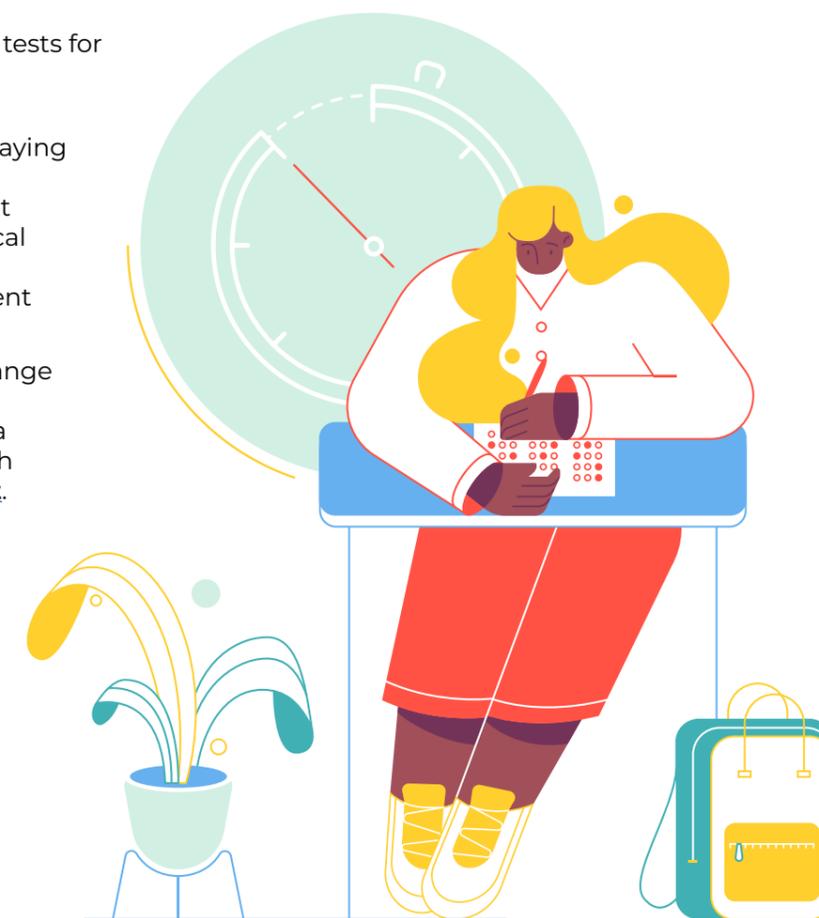
Can I be tested for coronavirus (COVID-19)?

If you are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) while you are studying with us please self-isolate straight away and let your tutor and household know immediately. You and your household will all need to self-isolate for 14 days.

The NHS are offering free swab tests for those who:

- Display Covid-19 symptoms
- Are living with someone displaying Covid-19 symptoms
- Have been asked to take a test by their local council or medical professionals
- Are taking part in a government pilot project

You can get a test online or arrange to visit a testing centre on the [government website](#). There is a dedicated page to help you with [understanding your test result](#).



Student support

If you experience any challenges with university life, with your physical or mental health or your wellbeing, our Students First team are here to provide you with the personalised support that you need. The team are available online and in person and, unlike other universities, we don't have long waiting lists so you'll be able to speak to someone when you need to.

If you need extra academic support, our Academic Skills Know-how (ASK) team can help you.

If you are unable to attend Buckingham anytime during your first academic year due to COVID-19-related reasons, we will continue to support your teaching and learning online so you can progress with your studies. It is our promise to you that you will not be disadvantaged if you are unable to attend campus.

Rest assured that your future at Buckingham is secure.

Key Contacts

If you need help or have any questions about your application, accommodation or would like to talk to someone about your wellbeing, please contact one of the following teams.

Admissions: admissions@buckingham.ac.uk
01280 820227

International: international-office@buckingham.ac.uk
01280 820155

Accommodation: accommodation@buckingham.ac.uk
01280 820351
01270 353118 - Booth Hall, Crewe

Students First students.first@buckingham.ac.uk
01280 820200 Ext: 2200

Students' Union studentsunion@buckingham.ac.uk
Crewe - andy.young@buckingham.ac.uk
01280 827506
