

13 April 2020

Dear Students

### Impact of extended lockdown on your academic year

As a distance education student, you are not as affected by the planning for the resumption of contact classes that has followed the President's 9 April announcement of an extension to the lockdown period. Nevertheless, we believe that you too are working under constrained conditions and thus the following concessions are being applied to you too.



We have consulted with many other local and international institutions and read their decisions with care so that our quality offering to you is not compromised. The detail for your qualification and modules will be shared with you by your campus and on your portal and on Learn – as these vary depending on what you are studying, we are not covering the full detail in this letter.



- **Campus resources** – it is very likely that staff will be able to return to campuses before students can return full time for contact classes. As soon as we are permitted to have staff on campus, a closely managed schedule of safe (social distancing and hygiene) access for students to the campus and its resources (particularly computers and WiFi) will be communicated by each campus to supplement your ability to engage with the online offering.
- **Assessments** – a document detailing new, flexible, developmental assessment rules for this semester will be available on your portal within the next ten days along with the details for your module. For now, the principles we are adopting to assist you to as a distance student to succeed are:
  - Wherever possible, the summative assessment is also being converted to a take-home assessment
  - Where we have no option other than to use formal examination condition summative assessments you will be notified of when and how this will happen.
  - You may submit each assessment twice should you wish to improve your mark – you will get feedback on your first attempt to enable this.
  - The average of your summative result plus your formative result will be your final module result.
  - There are currently two deadlines only – if your assessments are all in by the end of July you will get first semester results in August; if they are in by the end of August you will get first semester results in September. You control the timing.

We remain committed to your learning in 2020 and we will partner with you towards success. Please speak to your online centre if you are feeling at all unsure. We wish you ongoing success in your studies.

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