Temporary Modification – Summary for Students

During these unprecedented times due to the global coronavirus pandemic, your wellbeing, health and safety remain our primary concern. We have therefore made some temporary changes to your programme to enable you to continue your studies safely at our University.

We anticipate that these changes will be in place for the 2020/21 academic year. However, if it's possible, we will return courses to their normal operation earlier if UK Government guidance allows.

We feel the changes we are making will benefit you, ensuring you can complete your programme on schedule whist continuing to receive the same high-quality education for the duration of your course.

We do recognise not everyone may feel comfortable with this change and so, in accordance with our Terms and Conditions, we are now giving all continuing students an option to withdraw from your programme without financial penalty. In practice this means you would not re-enrol in September and instead would receive a transcript for the credits you have achieved so far. Alternatively, you could defer your studies until the 2021/22 academic year when we hope to have returned to on campus delivery if Government guidance permits.

We do hope you choose to continue your studies with us at this difficult time for us all. The proposed changes to your course are designed to ensure you will continue to receive the highest quality of education whether this is delivered online or physically distanced on campus or, potentially, a blend of the two.

If you wish to withdraw or defer you have until the start of teaching week two (28th September 2020) to notify us of your decision without incurring tuition fees. Your Campus Registry will confirm the process for doing this. We do hope though that you will continue your studies and remain with our University community during the year ahead.

Course Name: BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences

The teaching on your course contains both theoretical and practical elements and while both these elements remain, the coronavirus pandemic means that we have had to make some changes to the way in which these elements are delivered. None of these changes will impact on your module or course learning outcomes and are intended to enable you to complete your studies in a timely and safe manner. Your course is accredited by the Royal Society of Biology (RSB) and the School of Life Sciences has worked carefully to ensure that any changes made will not impact on the rigorous standards expected for this course.

We expect that the majority of your course content in semester 1 of 2020/21 will be delivered online and we have made changes to the scheduling of your modules to make that possible. Your wellbeing, health and safety are our main concern, along with the continued quality of your education. You will have access to your teaching team through online tutorials, discussion groups and classes – teaching will not simply be replaced by recorded lectures.

We will invite you in for on-campus laboratory based practical sessions where we are able to and where Government guidance allows. The School of Life Sciences also has several years of experience with on-line virtual laboratory simulations and these will be used to supplement the physical

laboratory sessions to ensure that you understand the theoretical background and practical application of laboratory techniques essential to your course. As the external situation improves, and in line with UK Government guidance, we will increase the time you spend on campus, guided always by the safety of students and staff which is our paramount concern. Details will be provided on your timetable and module Blackboard sites.

6BICH002W Proteins and Enzymes	20 credits	The protein crystallography practical (x2) classes will be replaced by bioinformatics classes and additional material on rational drug design as it will not be possible to run the protein crystallisation practical this year due to Covid-19 restrictions.