Potential Course Changes for September 2021-Summary for Students

Course Names:
Biomedical Sciences (Medical Molecular Biology) MSc

We are excited to be planning our return to campus next academic year and look forward to welcoming both new and returning students. It remains our firm intention that we will be returning to campus with our facilities and resources open as normal in September 2021.

Your wellbeing, health and safety remain our primary concern and, while we cannot predict the future, our learning from the last 18 months have enabled us to make contingency plans for your education delivery to ensure that we are able to respond to any future COVID-19 related changes.

This document sets out how we intend to deliver your course should there be a change in circumstances which require us to respond to new government restrictions in relation to the coronavirus pandemic.

We have listened to feedback from students on their experiences of the last academic year and have used these experiences to plan for all eventualities. Should we need to implement social distancing and/or reduce our onsite presence the following steps would be likely to take place:

- Tutorials and other teaching would be delivered online except for the onsite activity outlined below
- Any examinations on your course would be delivered as online timed assessments
- Course teams would provide virtual alternatives to field trips and visits
- Work placement opportunities might need to be postponed or alternatives offered, depending on the workplace environment
- Travel restrictions might require us to cancel or limit opportunities for studying and working abroad, particularly in the 2021/22 academic year.

As your course includes practical elements and access to specialist teaching and resources, if we are required to limit our presence on campus we anticipate that you will receive onsite practical and employability focused activity at least once a semester. This is based on our experience during 2020-21 and is subject to change depending on the nature of restrictions in place.

To access specialist resources we will run laboratories in a socially distanced way and will therefore organise multiple sessions and appropriate academic and technical support for those sessions. Onsite practical sessions will be accompanied by tailored break-out sessions to discuss results and to meaningfully contextualise the practical work. In addition, all practical sessions will be available by live stream for those that cannot or do not wish to attend onsite (please note that International students on a student visa must attend onsite activities and will not have the live stream option).

Please be reassured that these steps will only be implemented if COVID-19 restrictions are in place. However, if you are unsure about this we have set out some options for you below, in line with our Student Terms and Conditions:

- For **new students** joining in September 2021, you can either defer your entry until September 2022 or withdraw your application.

- For **continuing students** returning in September 2021, you can interrupt your studies until the 2022/23 academic year or withdraw from your course. If you withdraw, you will receive a transcript of the credits you have achieved so far.

To withdraw or defer your studies without incurring fees, you must notify us before the start of teaching week three **(midnight on Sunday 10 October 2021)**. New students should contact admissions as set out in their offer letter and continuing students should contact their Campus

Registry Office to complete the process. If you need any support or have questions regarding deferrals you can contact the Students Union who can offer impartial advice to students at uwsu.com/advice.

We do hope you will continue your studies with us over the coming year. You will receive the highest quality of education whether this is delivered on campus, online or a blend of the two. We wanted to send this letter to reassure you that we are prepared for any eventuality. We look forward to welcoming you in September 2021.