

Update to students, 17th November 2021:

Dear student,

I hope your studies are going well. As we head towards December, I wanted to update you on some events and activities going on at UCO over the next few weeks and also to provide an update on safety protocols in relation to Coronavirus.

Whilst the national rules in relation to the virus remain unchanged, the continuing high case numbers in some parts of Oldham mean that Public Health Oldham are encouraging staff and students in local education providers to wear face coverings in communal areas. Whilst this is not a rule, it is something we would encourage. The number of Covid-19 cases at UCO remains low and we are keen that this situation continues, particularly in the run up to Christmas.

When on campus, I would encourage you to wear a face covering in all communal areas, including the library, café and corridors and to continue to follow existing advice:

- Get vaccinated – vaccination is the best way to minimise the risk of becoming seriously unwell from Covid-19;
- Test regularly – take a Lateral Flow Test twice per week. You can get testing kits from UCO reception, as well as a wide range of community venues;
- Good hygiene – wash your hands regularly and use the hand sanitiser available;

- DO NOT attend the campus if you have any symptoms of Covid-19. You should get an immediate PCR test and isolate at home until you receive the result. If the result is negative, you may attend campus.

Use your library:

The library at UCO is fully open and available to support your studies. The Library team are on site every weekday (hours below) to help you access any resources you need and can also offer advice on a range of topics, including how to search online databases, digital skills and wi-fi access. The Library offers group and individual study space as well as access to computers and of course, a wide range of books. The Library is open Monday – Friday, as follows, during term time:

Day:	Opening Times:
Monday	8:30am – 8:45pm;
Tuesday - Thursday	8:30am – 7:45pm;
Friday	8:30am – 4:45pm.

The Academic Skills team are also continuing to offer drop-in sessions which you can access without an appointment. Sessions take place in the Academic Skills Hub on the following days:

Day:	Drop-in Times:
Monday	4:30pm – 5:30pm;

Day:	Drop-in Times:
Tuesday - Friday	11:00am – 1:00pm.

There is also a dedicated dissertation/major project drop-in session every Thursday, 1pm-2pm.

As well as the library and academic skills team, you can also continue to access support, advice and help from Vicky Ford (Careers and Employability), Laura Macmillan (Disability Officer) and Charlotte Moran (Health and Well-being Officer), as well as from the wider HE Student Services team based behind reception.

If you need any advice or support at all, you can contact the relevant team or individual as follows:

- Laura Macmillan – Disability Officer (Laura.Macmillan@oldham.ac.uk);
- Charlotte Moran – Health & Well-being Officer (Charlotte.Moran@oldham.ac.uk);
- Vicky Ford – Careers and Graduate Outcomes Officer (Vicky.ford@oldham.ac.uk);
- Academic Development Team (asc@oldham.ac.uk);
- Library Team (ucolrc@oldham.ac.uk);
- HE Student Services Team (info@uco.oldham.ac.uk).

Save the date: UCO Christmas Fair, Tuesday 7th December:

UCO will once again be holding its annual Christmas Fair, on campus, on Tuesday 7th December, 11.30am – 1.30pm. There will be a variety of stalls and activities, so come along and enjoy the festive fun. More information will be on social media and sent to your student email address in the coming weeks.

Christmas closure:

UCO will close for the Christmas period on Friday 17th December, 4.45pm and will re-open on Tuesday 4th January. Please be aware that there will be no access to the Campus during this period. More information on support resources and how best to prepare in advance of the closure will follow in early December.

Please remember that all the teams at UCO remain available to offer help and advice if you need anything at all. Our aim is to provide you with an excellent learning experience and to help you achieve your aspirations so please don't hesitate to ask your tutors, or any member of the team if you need any help at all.

Kind regards,

Dave Fallon.

Director of HE Curriculum.

[UK Government advice](#);
[NHS advice](#);
[Vaccination bookings](#).