

Welcome

Dear student,

Firstly, a very warm welcome to the UCO Community to all of our new students and welcome back for all those returning to studies this year. It is great to see so many students back on campus, after the disruption of the past eighteen months. As we begin the new academic year, I wanted to get in touch to update you on some key aspects of our on-campus delivery this semester, and also to remind you of all of the support that is available, to ensure you have the best experience at UCO and achieve all you aspire to in your studies.

Timetables and teaching:

In line with current government guidance, our teaching is taking place face-to-face on campus, with some elements, such as tutorials available online. We firmly believe that being able to interact with tutors and fellow students in the classroom and to access face-to-face advice when needed, are crucial parts of student success, so we strongly encourage all students to attend all scheduled classes on campus.

We recognise of course that there may be times when you cannot attend a scheduled class. Please be assured that in such circumstances, your course tutors will support you in catching up on any work missed, by uploading teaching resources to Moodle and through the availability of one-to-one tutorials.

Whilst it may be possible to join some classes remotely online, please be aware that routine live-streaming of face-to-face classes will not take place, as we believe that learning is more effective when on-campus. If

you are unable to attend a class for any reason, you should liaise with your tutor or course leader, who will ensure that you receive all the help and support you need. If you feel unable to attend any classes on campus, or expect an absence to be prolonged, you should speak to your course leader as soon as possible, who will be able to advise on your options. Please be aware however, that permanent distance/online learning is not within our core delivery plan, as all of our experience tells us that our students do better when taught face-to-face.

Covid-19 safety measures:

Whilst all government restrictions in relation to Covid-19 have now been removed, the virus has not gone away, and continues to circulate at increasingly high levels within the wider community. All on-campus activities, whether teaching or wider events, continue to follow the most current government guidance, and we continue to regularly monitor this. Should any changes to our operations be required by local or national government, these will be implemented and communicated to you in a timely way. There are of course, some things we can all do to minimise the risk posed by the virus and to reduce transmission:

- 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.

In line with current government guidance, if you are double-vaccinated, and are identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive for Covid-19, you do not need to self-isolate, unless you develop symptoms yourself. In those circumstances, you should follow the PCR test guidance above. If you do not have any symptoms, you may continue to attend classes at UCO.

Supporting you throughout your studies:

In addition to your course tutors, the entire support team remain available on campus to help you in any way you need. The library is now open on normal term-time hours and there is no need to pre-book – just turn up. You can access PCs, books and printing in the usual way, or can seek advice and help from the library team and the Academic Development team. The library is open as follows:

Day:	Opening Times:
Monday	8.30am – 8.45pm
Tuesday - Thursday	8.30am – 7.45pm
Friday	8.30am – 4.45pm

As well as the library and Academic Development 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 Service 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)

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. I wish you the very best of luck as you begin or return to your studies and encourage you to make use of all the support and facilities available at UCO.

Kind regards,

Dave Fallon

Director of HE Curriculum

[UK Government advice](#);

[NHS advice](#);

[Vaccination bookings](#)..: