

Update on the new academic year:

Dear student,

I hope you are enjoying your summer break so far. Whilst there is still plenty of the summer left to enjoy, I wanted to update you on our plans for the new academic year from September, and also to remind you of the support available on-campus throughout the summer.

As you will no doubt have seen in the media, the government are proceeding with the removal of many of the existing Corona Virus restrictions from Monday 19th July. In the new academic year from September, it is our intention that all courses will be delivered on-campus, with the vast majority of modules taught face-to-face. We recognise the importance of interacting with tutors and fellow students in the classroom and we also understand how important it is to be able to access face-to-face advice and help when you need it. However, the past year has also taught us a lot about how some elements of the student experience can be enhanced by online delivery, so we also intend to keep some aspects of this available, such as one-to-one tutorials. Your precise timetable will be communicated to you later in the summer, but our firm intention is to ensure that you have access to the vast majority of lessons and support on-campus, with the option to engage in some aspects of this support online, if you choose to.

All our plans will of course reflect the local and national government guidance in place in September and throughout the year. If it is necessary to reduce or cease on-campus delivery, we will ensure that teaching and assessment is delivered online. We will of course communicate with you about this if it becomes necessary.

Timetables:

The new term will commence with Welcome Week on Monday 13th September, and teaching will begin in the week commencing Monday 20th September. Your precise timetable will be issued to you later in the summer, along with your induction timetable. Please contact your course team directly if you would like to know what days you are likely to be on-campus prior to receiving your timetable. Your course team will also be able to confirm what support will be available online, in addition to all your timetabled face-to-face lessons.

Enrolment:

As a returning student, you will not need to re-enrol, however if your circumstances have changed (e.g. you have moved house, or changed name or contact details) you should provide your new details to the HE Student Services team as soon as possible. You must also re-apply for Student Finance if you receive it, and provide evidence of an approved loan to the HE Student Services team.

On-campus activity over the summer period:

The UCO library will remain open throughout the summer and will be operating on holiday hours, as follows:

Monday – Friday 9.00am – 4.00pm

There is no need to book a slot in the library. However, despite the easing of government restrictions from the 19th July, we intend to move gradually towards that, and will therefore be maintaining social distancing in the library, and will also encourage all library users to continue to wear a face covering at all times (unless exempt) and to make use of the hand sanitiser and anti-bacterial wipes available.

In addition to the library, UCO support services and tutors will continue to be available throughout the summer, but will of course also be taking some holiday. If you would like advice or help, please email the relevant team or individual in the first instance.

Academic Development:

Come and join us for a 'Refreshers' Day'- an opportunity to refresh your academic skills and prepare you for the new term.

Refreshers:  **steps²success**
steppingUP

Getting back on track with your higher education journey

Date: Wednesday 1st September
Time: 10.00am – 15.00pm
Venue: Academic Success Hub (S1/7)

Programme	
09-45	Registration & Welcome
10.00	'Making the Most of Your Assignments'
11.00	'Embedding Sources and Critical Thinking'
12.00	Lunch
13.00	'Searching for Sources'
14.00	'Harvard and APA Referencing'
14-45	Closing Discussion and Feedback

To book please email ASC@oldham.ac.uk

Covid-secure safety measures:

Throughout the summer we will be ensuring that all relevant government guidance is implemented in advance of the new term. If you are on campus during the summer period, we would encourage you to continue following the existing safety protocols below, as a precaution. We will issue further information related specifically to the new term later in the summer.

- ✓ Maintain a two metre distance from others at all times wherever possible;
- ✓ Wear a face covering in all communal areas, including the library;
- ✓ Wash hands regularly and using the hand sanitiser available;
- ✓ Regular Lateral Flow Tests at home, which can be collected from UCO.

The biggest thing we can all do to minimise risk from Corona Virus is to get the vaccination. All adults aged 18 and over are now eligible to get their vaccination and we would strongly encourage all students to get theirs as soon as possible, and to get their second one when the time comes. By getting the vaccination, we can collectively minimise the risk of virus transmission on campus in the new academic year, making it safer for everyone and minimising the risk of any disruption to your learning. More information on how and where to get your vaccination can be found on the [Oldham Council website](#).

I want to reassure you that throughout the summer, all the teams at UCO remain available to offer help and advice if you need anything at all. Whilst staff will be taking holidays, there will always be someone available to help, so please don't hesitate to get in touch with your course team, or any of the UCO support services if you need help or advice, or have any questions at all about your studies.

I hope you have an enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing you on campus in September

Kind regards,

Dave Fallon

Director of HE Curriculum

[UK Government advice](#);

[NHS advice](#);

[Vaccination bookings](#).