**Lowdown to lockdown Monday 6th July 2020**

**Updates were given by various Universities:**

**University of Bath – Mike Nicholson**

* Dealing with both 2020 entry as well as recruitment for 2021 entry
* Normally by now undergraduate places would be sorted and just waiting for results, but timetables have changed so teams are spread more thinly. All admissions staff are homeworking so email admissions@bath.ac.uk with queries rather than using the phone.
* Expectations by government are a bit ambitious that everything would be sorted by now – detailed information for 2020 offer holders likely to be first week in August
* 650 students still in accommodation over lockdown, and this has provided valuable experience in how we can operate socially-distanced accommodation as well as build a sense of community in the coming academic year.
* Access to library and workstations available from the start of lockdown
* Uni providing 3 free meals a day to all resident students
* The University had already been piloting virtual counselling sessions for student mental health which has allowed us to expand support provision during lockdown.

Going forward:

* Online delivery of big lectures and large group teaching
* Smaller seminar groups offering face-to-face teaching
* 4-6 hours direct with students currently planned with existing social distancing requirements, but this has the potential to change
* Academic year scheduled to start as planned on 19 September, but with a virtual induction starting in early September. Six days set aside to move students into accommodation, as opposed to a weekend
* Online lectures have proved really successful e.g. where student’s English not their first language, dyslexia/ dyspraxia
* No shared student accommodation rooms going forward and at least a sink in all rooms to allow hand-washing. Less than 5% of our accommodation capacity will not be available.
* The SU has run a very effective online COVID community, including a virtual summer ball (with DJ sets, a quiz, and a mocktail/cocktail workshop). These experiences are being incorporated into the planning for the new academic year
* Most sports will get up and running – only 3 where is won’t work at present, rugby, rowing, martial arts
* Limited need to recruit through Clearing this summer because of strong applicant conversion
* Worried about international students – as flights might be very expensive – may join with other SW Universities to look at providing flights.
* The University of Bath has developed a range of on-line activities for the summer of 2020 to support students who are looking to apply to University for 2021 entry.

Activities range for subject-specific virtual summer schools, e-mentoring programmes, live chats with current students, academic staff and admissions specialists, as well as a resource hub for teachers and guidance advisers, as well as a Virtual Open day experience that runs 24/7.

Summer of Outreach activities - https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/summer-of-outreach-2020/

Virtual Experience - https://www.bath.ac.uk/topics/undergraduate-virtual-experience/

Resource Hub for Teachers and Guidance Advisers - https://www.bath.ac.uk/topics/outreach-resource-hub/

* Our admissions and outreach teams have been happy to provide schools and colleges with webinars for students and parents during lockdown. If you would want this activity for September (or alternatively a physical visit, plaese e-mail me at mn458@bath.ac.uk
* University of Bath Information on the activity to address the digital divide https://www.bath.ac.uk/announcements/university-of-bath-leads-campaign-to-help-disadvantaged-school-students-overcome-digital-divide/

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**Bath spa – Mark McGuinness**

* 7.5k students
* Smaller scale university experience
* 1 in 5 students have declared a disability
* Arts and humanities focused
* Huge PGCE provision – 600 school links
* Registration 19/20 September as planned so no change
* Semester 1 to start 21st September
* Delivery will be different
* Will look at it on a course by a course basis
* Balance between physical and online delivery
* Large lectures will be delivered online - live
* Online – lectures have been popular as people can re-listen and go back
* Library, Wellbeing, Students Union facilities will be open
* Accommodation guarantee for first years including clearing students
* CCC – standard grade requirements this year – likely to go up to BCC for 2021
* Do recognise that circumstances are different so happy to discuss people’s individual requirements.
* Excellence scholarships being awarded for high grades or beating their predicted grades
* Single household tours of campus being offered
* Unibuddy – talk to a current student
* Open days – 16th Sept for 2021 – just working out the detail of this.

**Questions**

* Bus queries – Both universities are working with First Bus
* Investigating electric bikes as a possibility
* Keep staff that can working from home, so they are not talking up bus spaces/ car parking spaces
* Timetabling so students are in for a block of time
* Dance and music (Bath Spa) how might these course work under the new restrictions – Smaller groups to try and minimise risk but somethings will have to wait until its safer to do so.

Question – have you seen evidence of students deciding to stay local?

1. Bath Spa – Yes – some
2. University of Bath – No
* Also mentioned that neither University have found that people are deferring and taking a gap year – have even found the opposite with more people applying as Gap year plans have fallen through.

**Useful links:**

See Power Point from Bath Spa

Uni of Bath:

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**Oxford Brookes – Helen Hall**

* Start as planned 21st Sept
* Accommodation arrival may be staggered
* Online lectures – re-designing lecture content to make sure it’s appropriate to deliver online
* Quarantine accommodation provided
* Clearing likely to be busy
* Unibuddy available
* Virtual open day was held in June – is available online to watch
* Outreach – launched an outreach hub that can be found on their website
* Parents project
* Summers schools – being delivered virtually

Oxford Brookes University – information for students, staff and applicants

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/alerts/coronavirus/>

**Uni of Gloucestershire- Fiona Curry**

* Start date as planned 21st Sept
* Not a blanket policy – looking at teaching on a case by case basis depending on what is needed on each course – will be online and smaller group work
* Accommodation deposit will be returned if you can no longer take the place by 28th August
* Induction materials being shared early with students via MyGlos app
* Firm acceptances are up
* Clearing starting and team onsite to deal with questions from 6 July
* Student loans available- not too late to apply, but late apps will impact when received
* Outreach Team are supporting Unitaster days webinars https://www.unitasterdays.com/ut-tuesdays.aspx
* Resources for students and staff being updated here https://www.glos.ac.uk/business-and-partnerships/outreach/pages/resources-for-teachers.aspx

University of Gloucestershire – answers to FAQs

https://www.glos.ac.uk/study/Pages/coronavirus-faqs.aspx

**Questions**

* Will students be housed/accommodated by course – still ironing out the details. Some unis have decided yes, others are not sure this is what students would prefer.
* What plans are there to reassure students about the closure of a course or a university/institution. Domestic students doing well, EU students last year they can pay UK fees as next year will be international students that may be the issue but aren’t seeing the issues that the media are reporting.

 **UWE - Kate Colechin**

* Term Starting a little later on 19thOctober
* Three 11-week teaching blocks
* A block zero to help students get used to how teaching will work, meet teaching staff and fellow students, sort out any technical issues
* Online lectures
* Exploring lots of methods to keep it interactive
* Students will be timetabled in blocks, so they are on campus for practicals etc. all in one block
* Virtual open day and taster days recommended for students
* Clearing and deferrals – usual process in place
* Clusters for study and accommodation
* Graduate attributes and skills are still required by employers
* 66% of graduate recruitment jobs still being recruited
* Big rise in UG students staying on for PG – up 50%
* UWE - guidance for students and applicants

https://www.uwe.ac.uk/news/coronavirus/students

See UWE slides

**University of Bristol - Laura Anders**

* Starting a little later – 5th October
* Blended learning – online and on campus
* Accommodation – bubbles
* Results Day – will look to accept a near miss student and where they have a widening participation flag
* Clearing opened – with lots of live chats
* Deferrals – not seen an increase in deferrals
* In fact, are seeing undefferals – where students are deciding to come this year instead of next
* 2021 entry – supporting current year 11’s
* Taster days in Sept for year 12 and 13

Summary from Uni of Bristol

Careers Advisers Guidance

## Latest updates

The information below is correct as of June 2020 – for the latest updates check: www.bristol.ac.uk/students/coronavirus/applicants/

## 2020 entry

We are working hard to make sure that students joining us this autumn will have a rich and fulfilling experience, whilst keeping everyone safe.

## Start dates

* Term starts on 5 October. Our Student Union will run a range of welcome events to introduce new students to our university.

## Course delivery

* Blended learning – a mix of online and on campus sessions.
* All our facilities are being prepared following government guidelines.

## Accommodation

* Plans for accessing accommodation are being finalised.

## Results day

* We always look to accept “near miss” candidates where we have spaces.
* Do not submit an extenuating circumstance for Covid-19 reasons – for anything else, this form must be submitted by 15 July: www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/after-you-apply/your-application/extenuating-circumstances/

## Clearing

* Vacancies will be posted here from 6 July: www.bristol.ac.uk/clearing/

Deferrals

* 23 July: deadline to submit deferral or un-deferral request

## 2021 entry

## Events and activities

* Virtual resources for Year 12 students – sign up here: www.bristol.ac.uk/study/outreach/virtual-resources-for-students/
* Live chats, subject sessions with academics and current students.
* Series of exclusive online taster days.
* Cohort programmes such as Access to Bristol and Summer Schools.
* Virtual Open Days: www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visits/open-days/

## Applying to Bristol for 2021 entry

* Current contextual offer system will apply: www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/entry-requirements-qualifications/contextual-offers/
* Finalising policy to support students impacted by Covid-19.
* Will not be penalised if Covid-19 has impacted ability to gain work experience.

## Keeping in touch with teachers and careers advisors

* Sign up to our Schools and Colleges newsletter for all the latest updates: www.bristol.ac.uk/study/outreach/support/

**Uni Centre Weston- April Gilbert**

* Small institution
* 1k students
* Blended approach to teaching
* Admissions normal at the moment

This is a link to the live Q&A UCW did about how teaching/student life will look like in Weston from September

 <https://www.facebook.com/UCWeston/videos/211158749887657>

There are lots of videos about our accommodation, courses & students etc. from our the virtual open week as well. <https://www.facebook.com/UCWeston>

University Centre Weston

**Questions**

* Block 0 – how will that work – Kate to feedback further details
* Students are worried about the social element about going to university
* Suzie – Avon and Somerset Constabulary – are not recruiting even though at the last Lock Down session there were reports they were
* Technology – Increase in hardship fund to help support buying technology (Bath Spa)
* Students using Instagram and Zoom to get to know others on their courses before they start

**Other useful links shared by attendees:**

CDI webinar on LMI: <https://www.thecdi.net/Full-Webinar-Calendar/Labour-market-information-LMI-Free-Webinar/73813>

Brighton and Sussex Medical School are currently holding a Virtual WEX course for Y12s so they prepare for medical courses.

Avon and Somerset Police are not recruiting – at the last session it was mentioned that they were.

This webinar last week on Apprenticeships was really interesting if you missed it <https://www.edge.co.uk/news/edge-news/robert-halfon-mp-calls-for-skills-skills-skills-at-edge-event>

The WIN Uni Connect has recently been updated: [www.winncop.ac.uk](https://www.winncop.ac.uk) and we are sharing lots of info for Careers Advisers on our Twitter page <https://twitter.com/WINWessex1>

**Suggestions for other sessions going forward:**

* Hands up for running another session – positive feedback
* After school will be best

**Future Topics:**

* Careers guidance – how will it be delivered next academic year?
* Top tips on how careers guidance can be delivered during Corona
* What is happening with degree level apprenticeships?
* Work experience – how that can work?
* How can schools take advantage of virtual employer visits?