

Dear Partners,

We hope you are all keeping safe and well at this challenging time. I wanted to share with you the steps that the University of Bristol is taking in response to Covid-19 and what this means for our exchange activity in 2020/21. We would encourage you to refer to our [website](#) for further information.

Incoming students to Bristol

We are accepting new students for the upcoming Autumn semester at Bristol and although things will work a little differently, we are confident that our students will continue to receive a world-class, research rich, interactive education.

When will the academic year start?

The new academic year will now start on 5 October 2020. Teaching will start that week, although students moving into University accommodation may need to arrive earlier as we develop safe and socially distanced move-in procedures. More information, including a full academic year calendar will be released in due course.

What will teaching/learning look like?

The University of Bristol plans to adopt a blended learning approach for 2020/21, with a combination of face-to-face and online learning. We will continue to teach small group seminars, tutorials, and laboratory classes in person and wherever possible. Students should be assured of the highest quality teaching in line with government safety guidelines.

We are committed to supporting as much exchange activity as we can in October, but we also wish to be clear about the challenge's students may face especially if they are unable to travel to the UK. It will be possible for our incoming Study Abroad and Erasmus students to engage with the online aspects of the approach, however some teaching will still be taking place in person and some of the online teaching will be synchronous. Where students can travel to the UK the experience is likely to be a very different one from what they may have envisioned, and we would encourage all our partners to give due consideration to this and prepare your students accordingly.

What units will be available?

Due to the significant amount of teaching and assessment that will be moved online to support students from September and to maintain the high quality of teaching, the number and variety of units available to all students at Bristol may be reduced. We do not yet know which units will be available and therefore we would ask partners and students to be as flexible as possible with regards to study programmes.

Are there restrictions on entering the UK?

From 8 June, there will be [new rules for entering or returning to the UK](#), including the requirement to quarantine for the first 14 days. It is not yet clear how long these requirements will be in place for, or if exceptions may be made, but it is something students should bear in mind if they are planning to travel to the UK.

Can entry be deferred until January 2021?

Please note that our application deadlines for September remains as follows:

- *Study Abroad – 1st June 2020*
- *Erasmus – 1st July 2020*

We are receiving a lot of requests from our partners to defer applications from Sept 2020 to Jan 2021. To ensure a high-quality student experience it is unlikely that we will be able to honour all of those requests. However, as a valued partner we would like to be able to support the sudden change to your mobility programme and facilitate as many of your students to study here as possible.

If you would like to consider deferring your students, please contact our incoming team on global-opportunities@bristol.ac.uk to discuss. We will endeavour to make decisions as quickly as possible.

What about summer schools in 2021?

We understand that many students may not be able to travel this year due to the restrictions and we would therefore like to extend a warm welcome to them on our range of [Global Summer](#) programmes in 2021. If you want to find out more, or discuss how we can support your faculty-led programmes, then please contact our Global Summer School Manager, Kathryn Segesser global-summer@bristol.ac.uk

Outgoing students to your institution

Where partner universities have not cancelled their incoming exchange programmes, we continue to work with our students to support them to study abroad. However, we are making all our students aware that cancellations may still happen and that travel restrictions may remain an obstacle. We are not able to automatically defer our Autumn exchanges to the Spring semester or to the following academic year. Therefore, we are in the process of working with each of our Schools to determine the possible options for our students should they not be able to study abroad in September.

Thank you to partners who have completed our partner survey with current exchange information for next semester. If you haven't had a chance to complete it yet, please use the following link: <https://bit.ly/2KUipMA>

For any queries regarding our students coming to your institution, please e-mail go-abroad@bristol.ac.uk.

We hope that this email provides you with a useful update on our response to Covid-19 and what this means for your students. If there is anything further we can do to help, please get in touch.

Best Wishes,

The Global Opportunities team

University of Bristol