



Student FAQs and sample answers

How long is each module?

Each module is 8 weeks long. There is often a week's break between modules, however this cannot always be guaranteed.

How many modules are required during the course?

This will depend on whether students are completing a PGCert (4 modules), PGDip (8 modules) or MSc (8 modules and a dissertation).

How will I be assessed on the course?

There are a range of assessments that will differ across modules. This will include, but is not restricted to, discussion boards, statistical analysis, and research projects. There are no exam-style assessments on the course.

Will I receive a timetable?

There is no fixed timetable for activities within each individual module such as lectures, however, there is a timetable and calendar available to keep track of the start and end dates of each individual module.

I have a disability. Who should I talk to if I need help and support with my studies?

Student services have a dedicated Disability Support Hub that can help with guidance with specific needs students may have. They advise on support plans, help with Disabled Students Allowance (DSA), and assist with various ways any disability may be impacting a student's studies. The service can be contacted via email here: disability@study-online...

I would like to develop my academic skills. How do I get help with this?

Students may be struggling with their academic skills in many areas, including how to plan assignments, understanding referencing or using statistical packages. There is a Study Skills team available to help with these areas and others who can be contacted Monday-Friday. One-to-one sessions can be arranged on Zoom to assist students who feel concerned about any areas where their academic skills may need improving. The team can be contacted here: study-skills@study-online...

There is also a section on the VLE dedicated to helping with study skills. This has information around skills such as digital fluency, academic integrity, and skills needed for different types of assignments. The online library is also explained here, and live workshops are also on offer to book onto throughout the year for different skills.

How do I give feedback?

At the end of each module, there is the opportunity for students to fill in a feedback form for that individual module. Students are encouraged to engage with this to offer their opinions on

module structure, assessments, and other feedback that may be able to help improve the course. Course representatives also engage with students to ask for general course feedback in order to work towards changing any issues that negatively affect course experience.

Are the lectures ‘live’?

No, the lectures are pre-recorded, with all lecturecasts on each individual module available open to view at any time as soon as the module becomes available to view.

How do I ask questions about the course, such as about the content or assessments?

There is a page within each module that is dedicated to information about the course leader, which includes their email address and their Zoom office hours. Students are encouraged to contact the lecturers for any queries and to book meetings if they feel they are struggling academically. Students will also be assigned an academic personal tutor with whom they will have meetings with periodically via Zoom/Teams, but they are encouraged to also reach out to them if they are having issues with the course more generally.

How many assessments am I expected to undertake per module?

Modules usually require 4 assessments over the 8 week duration, with some split over various weeks. The percentage weighting of each assessment will vary per module. As soon as a module is available to view, students will be able to view what the assessments are for that module in order to plan ahead for the variation of assignments and for deadlines. Emails are also sent out in the week leading up to a deadline as a reminder, with module leaders also prompting students with criteria tables and expectations.

How is feedback from assessments received?

Feedback will be given within 7 days of submitting an assignment. Lecturers will clearly highlight the strengths of work as well as offering areas for improvement. Students are encouraged to contact their lecturers if they have any questions about the feedback they have been given.

I am worried about feeling isolated from other students. What resources are available to stay in contact with other online students?

On the VLE, there is a discussion board for students to talk and leave ideas for their student course representatives. Discussion boards are also used within modules to encourage students to engage with each other in an online format similar to seminars, to share ideas on relevant topics. There is also a messaging service within the VLE for students to contact each other, either one-to-one or in groups. If students wish to share social media such as Facebook and Whatsapp with each other to stay in touch outside of the VLE, this is down to personal preference, but many current and past students have taken the opportunity to do so.