

Welcome from John Vinney

We're really looking forward to welcoming you back this year and to providing you with as many opportunities as possible in the circumstances. The health, safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community has been – and continues to be – our first priority.

I encourage you to seek support and advice when you need to, to look after yourself, and this year, more than ever, to think of others. Although things will be different, everyone at BU is excited to reconnect with you and make the most of the new year.

John Vinney
Vice-Chancellor



Returning to campus

We've worked hard to make sure our campuses are safe spaces that make it easy for students and staff to respect physical distancing and to follow government guidance on cleanliness.

Some of these solutions include new layouts in lecture theatres and seminar rooms, one-way systems operating around our campuses and hand sanitisers at the entrance to every building. We're asking everyone to wear a face covering in all indoor communal areas, such as corridors

stairs and lifts, BU shops and on the buses. This applies to everyone, except those legally exempt.

To find out more about the solutions we've put in place, [please take a look at this video](#) and read our [Covid-19 FAQs](#).

If you're concerned at any time that you may have symptoms, please take a look at the information on the [NHS website](#) and [follow the self-isolation guidance](#), if necessary. If you do have suspected or confirmed Covid-19 once term starts, [please inform AskBU](#) as soon as possible.

What are your responsibilities?

We've designed practical solutions to keep you as safe as possible and we expect you to behave in a responsible manner towards yourselves and other students, staff and visitors. Please take a look [at this important information](#) about what is expected of you as you return to campus. This includes respecting the [NHS Test and Trace](#) requirements, where necessary.

Updated Student Agreement

Our new rules, policies and procedures have been published for the 2020/21 academic year. This Student Agreement contains all the important information you'll need for the year ahead and forms the basis of the contractual relationship between you and us. [Please take the time to read this](#).



Apply for your student finance for 2020/21

If you're a UK or EU student continuing your studies in 2020/21, remember to apply for your student finance.

If your parent, partner or carers combined household income is expected to drop by 15% or more in the 2020/21 tax year, compared to 2018/19, you can ask Student Finance England to recalculate your student finances. Full information can be found on the [gov.uk website](#).

Getting started in semester one

For the first semester, we'll be running a blended model of teaching, meaning your online learning will be complemented by face-to-face sessions where possible.

Details of how your course will be delivered have been communicated to you via email or **Brightspace** and this information is also on our **course pages**.

Enrolment

If you haven't yet received an email from us asking you to complete your online enrolment for the year, then please look out for it – it's on its way and will take you about 20 minutes to complete.

IT information

Take a look at our **new IT information pages** to find out how to access the wide range of IT facilities, tools, services and support available to you.

Me@BU

Me@BU offers loads of information about **returning to BU**. It also contains lots of useful toolkits around online learning and study skills, as well as information about self-care and life at BU.

It's accessible at any time and can be found on the right hand side of the **Brightspace homepage**.

Travelling to and from BU

As many of you will be using the UNIBUS service on your return, it's important you read the **latest safety measures that will be in place when the timetable starts running again from 21 September**.

UNIBUS services will be free from Monday 21 to Friday 25 September 2020. The U1 will run up to every eight mins between Lansdowne and Talbot Campus, the U2 and U3 will run every 30 mins, and the U4 will provide an hourly service. If you already have a **key card** from the previous academic year, you can continue to use it. If you don't have one, we encourage you to pay for your tickets by purchasing passes through the **UNIBUS app** and using the BU discount codes available on **MyHub**

The start of term is a great time to consider using a bike to travel to and from campus – as well as getting around the local area. If you have a bike, we recommend bringing it with you (along with a helmet, secure D-lock and lights). We have **loads of facilities and services** for cyclists on campus including secure cycle compounds and locker storage.



We know you might be feeling anxious about returning to campus and we have a range of health and wellbeing support for students including our Student Support and Engagement team, Additional Learning Needs and Student Wellbeing.

You might also want to take a look at the online services provided by **Togetherall** – previously known as Big White Wall. It's a safe, anonymous place to talk, share and support others who may have similar feelings to yours, moderated by professionals 24/7.

Vaccination reminder

It's crucial you **get your vaccinations** to make sure you're protected against

meningitis, measles and mumps. This year in particular, you may also want to consider having a flu vaccination. To find out if you should have the vaccine, **please visit the NHS website**. If you're not able to get your vaccinations done before the start of term, please get in touch with our **Student Medical Centre** to book an appointment. Please be aware that appointments will be **limited** and you'll need to call ahead.



What's open on campus and when?

We're working on giving you the best possible experience for your return to BU this year and planning on delivering as much activity on-campus as possible, while ensuring the safety of the whole BU community.

Please **take a look at the website** to find out how to access our student services.

Welcome back, from your Students' Union President

I'm **Naomie Lebe** your Students' Union President, and since I've been in post, I've been working hard to make sure you get the university experience that you deserve.

I know the past few months haven't been easy, but I hope you've had the time to reflect and realise how well you've done to get to this point. I'm sure the support and encouragement you've provided to your families, friends, and lecturers has been amazing.

As you return to BU, I've no doubt that you will succeed. Things might look a little different, but SUBU is still your home away from home and despite lots of things changing, the SUBU

Officers will always be here to support you. You'll find me on the first floor of the Student Centre and I encourage you to check the **SUBU website** for all the latest information about events, activities and Clubs and Societies.

Naomie Lebe
Students' Union President



Looking to live in halls of residence?

If you're still looking for accommodation for the year ahead, there are still some rooms available in **Corfe House**, located in Poole and **Okeford House**, in Winton.

There are also a few rooms available for returning students in a private hall of residence, **Lulworth House**, on the Lansdowne Campus.

There is limited availability for all of these rooms, so please book as soon as possible. To do this, log into the **accommodation portal** and take a look at the available rooms.



Information for postgraduate research students

Researcher Development Programme 2020-21

The **Researcher Development Programme** is complementary to your research degree and offers you flexibility to develop your academic and research skills from your first to final year, irrespective of degree or study mode. You can pick and choose which workshops, resources and events to engage with throughout the year and all sessions between September and January will be delivered virtually. If you have any questions please email pgrskillsdevelopment@bournemouth.ac.uk.

Doctoral College Brightspace Community

As a member of the postgraduate research community you have access to the **Doctoral College Brightspace community** on the right-hand side of your **Brightspace homepage**, under 'My Faculty'. This is a one-stop-shop for information and support relating to postgraduate research at BU. We're always looking at ways to improve it, so please email any suggestions to DoctoralCollege@bournemouth.ac.uk.

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