

Maintaining the Quality of Higher Education during Covid 19

Information for Higher Education Students on HNC or HND Courses at West Thames College

At West Thames College we have implemented several changes to maintain the excellent quality of our higher education courses during the covid 19 pandemic. We will continue to incorporate these changes into the new academic year to ensure you have the best possible learning experience whilst proving a safe and secure environment in which to study.

The college teaching spaces are large, bright and well ventilated, and also easy to clean. We also have relatively small higher education class sizes so social distancing can be safely maintained. We have strictly followed the government Covid 19 guidelines to ensure the college is a safe environment for learning. This includes signs, one-way systems, hand sanitiser dispensers and regular cleaning of the site and the classrooms. Please see the college Covid 19 safety measures video.

We have not changed our entry requirements as a result of the pandemic. We expect to deliver the course within the planned timescales to enable successful students to progress through and graduate from the course without delay.

We aim to deliver a significant majority of your lessons face to face at college. However we have adapted our teaching, learning and assessment methods into blended learning model with a proportion being delivered on-line. We have created a range of exciting and effective specialised audio visual resources to keep you motivated and engaged in your learning. Students will be fully supported to access these remote learning platforms and websites during our Higher Education Induction programme.

Depending on the current government guidelines on social distancing we can ensure that you have a minimum of 50% of your course face to face here at the college. In most cases this will be more than 50%. If we have another lockdown we will switch to remote learning for that time.

We do not anticipate making any changes to the composition of the course including the number of modules or credits in a year, as a result of the pandemic, however this may change if we have another lockdown. The college will continue to closely monitor government announcements and advice in relation to the current pandemic and, where required, will take any necessary action in order to comply with such advice.

There is no changes planned to additional course costs including kits or trips, however, it should be noted that access to on-campus facilities will be restricted due to social distancing requirements.

During the recent lockdown we successfully delivered on-line teaching including the live streaming of lessons, face to face tutorials on Zoom and Microsoft Teams, we also used blogs and other platforms. Assignment briefs were adapted whilst still meeting the learning outcomes to ensure students successfully achieved their qualifications. Therefore we are ready if we need to move to a remote model again at any point in the next academic year.

Remote learning can have many benefits, you can study in the comfort of your own home whilst being fully supported by your teachers. In the recent lockdown we have managed to engage some specialist industry professionals who would normally not been able to visit the college to deliver live-stream practical demonstrations for our students.

If you have any questions about how your course might be changed because of covid 19, or any other questions please contact the college Information Centre on 02083262000 or email info@west-thames.ac.uk