

COVID-19 RETURN TO STUDIES ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/21

All new and returning students to HEI Worcesterstershire can be assured that we will be providing an accessible and inclusive learning and teaching environment for September 2020. Our focus is to provide as much access to face-to-face learning as possible whilst adhering to current public health advice and government guidance Covid-19 Guidance.

The key factors for a successful return to studies will be:

- Safety and wellbeing of all students and staff
- Clear communication and inclusion
- Depth and integrity of the learning experience
- Assured quality of our provision
- Flexibility to respond to changing circumstances

The safety and wellbeing of students and staff is our primary aim. We will continue to be informed by guidance from government and consult with students and staff ensuring that our campuses are safe and welcoming to all.

We have taken guidance from several agencies to provide an informed and creative response to the current pandemic and what will be the 'new normal'. Since the beginning of lockdown in March 2020 we have successfully adapted and transferred our teaching, learning and assessments to online methods that have enabled student success; upholding the integrity of our provision. We are in a strong position to further develop these methods of learning as we will have access to many resources already present in our delivery approaches. We also excel in the ability to provide a supportive and more tailored approach to education, largely due to our small group sizes, allowing us to create a secure environment.

New and existing approaches for face-to-face delivery in a socially distanced way will be at the heart of our delivery. Online blended, hybrid and other innovative approaches will be used where suitable to enhance the learning experience. This will include induction week programmes, study skills workshops, services such as mental health and wellbeing, student finance and careers support. The flexibility of these approaches will be key in providing students with a choice, enabling the opportunity for engagement throughout the changing environment. This will involve clear methods of communication between students and staff, championing the compassion and inclusivity of our provision.

HEI Worcesterstershire (Heart of Worcesterstershire College) along with its partners is committed to providing a highly responsive, employment and future-focused curriculum that develops the knowledge and skills required for advancement in industry, work and life.

Supporting documents:

[Creating Socially Distanced Campuses and Education Project AdvanceHE](#)

[Preserving Quality and Standards Through a Time of Rapid Change: UK Higher Education in 2020-21 guiding principles for higher education providers in planning teaching and assessment for 2020/21](#)