



## **Information for Students on Tuition Fees**

Dear Student

This is a difficult and anxious time for everyone. As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak there are concerns for the health and safety of all members of our College community and their friends and family. We would like to assure you that the health and wellbeing of everyone in our society, and in particular our student population remains our top priority.

In an attempt to protect you and your health and wellbeing, in line with other Higher Education providers, and based on Government advice, we have ceased the face-to-face delivery of our courses. As a result of this decision, courses will now be delivered by other means including the use of our new VLE platform, Canvas.

We are aware that a few students have raised issues about the payment of fees and therefore it is important for us to clarify this issue with you.

Fees are set each year by the Department for the Economy, who have overall responsibility for Higher Education in Northern Ireland, and therefore this is something over which we have no control. The fee is charged for the entirety of the degree course being provided. It is not simply a payment for face-to-face teaching.

Stranmillis University College is open for business, and it is our intention that over the coming weeks, course material will still be delivered, albeit in a different format than normal, and in line with guidance from Queen's University, coursework and assignments will still be marked and assessed. We still expect that students will undertake assessment to complete the current academic year and proceed to the next year of study or graduate. Accordingly, full fees for the 2019-20 academic year remain due and usual penalties for non-payment apply.

This is however a rapidly changing scenario and we will continue to closely monitor all government advice. If the situation were to change in such a way as to impact these plans, we will of course review them again.

As you will have seen from the range of emails distributed to all students "*we are currently working hard to identify alternative forms of assessment should they be needed. Unless advised otherwise, the current examination/assessment schedules will continue as published*", and likewise, "*we are taking steps to ensure that students whose studies may be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic are not disadvantaged at the point of assessment*". Please be assured that we continue, even in the current situation, to work hard to provide a high-quality academic experience for all our students.

As a College we look forward to continuing our work with you over the coming weeks and months and please remember to keep a regular check on your College emails and on your courses on Canvas.

Stay safe and keep well

With best wishes

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