



STRANMILLIS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
A College of Queen's University Belfast

bulletin

student

Issue 4 August 2020



**Commencement
dates and
timetables**

**Registration and
enrolment and Stran
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I hope this Bulletin finds you well. I hope you are now well rested and I trust you had a pleasant break over the summer period albeit a little different from the “normal” summer. I just want to outline a number of important issues as you either prepare to return to study at Stranmillis or begin your degree studies at the University College – all students “old” or “new” are equally welcome.

Commencement Dates

All **new undergraduate students** studying on the Stranmillis campus will start on Wednesday 23rd September. There will a Welcome and Orientation event on Monday 21st or Tuesday 22nd September. It is **very** important that you attend the session related to your particular degree programme. Further information about dates, times and reporting instructions will be issued by email in due course.

Timetables

As already indicated the health, safety and wellbeing of all members of our College community including staff, students and visitors is our key priority and this will always be the case. We are seeking to determine how we can maximise student engagement on campus while endeavouring to meet Government legislation and the Public Health Agency guidance in terms of safety. We are aiming to deliver courses this academic year through a mixture of blended and face-to-face activity and the balance of this in reality will be determined by the nature of the work involved in each individual module and the guidance in place at the time of delivery. It is clear that some modules will require more face-to-face contact than others and that the balance of face-to-face and blended learning may well change during the year in line with safety guidelines. As you are no doubt aware, guidance around the management of the virus situation is constantly evolving and ever changing and we must respond to that.

All **new PGCE students** studying on the Stranmillis campus will start on Monday 7th September.

All **new M-Level students** studying on the Stranmillis campus will start on

In addition to the formal contact sessions, students will have other course-related activities to complete which will undoubtedly require the use of College facilities. In addition, we are working very closely with our various educational partners to determine how we might achieve the best possible learning experience for all our students.

Personalised timetables will be issued after you have completed the online Registration and Enrolment and, as such, it is vital that you fully engage in the Registration and Enrolment process when asked to do so.

In this time of global uncertainty, we appreciate your understanding and patience as we continue to provide the very highest quality student experience, both blended and on campus, while adhering to evolving guidance. We will provide further detailed information as soon as possible.

Tuesday 22nd September.

All returning undergraduate students will recommence on Monday 21st September.

Registration & Enrolment

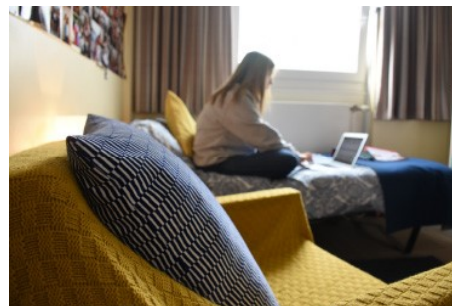
All Registration and Enrolment this year is being conducted online, hopefully this will provide a fast, efficient, and effective service for all. However, to ensure that this works smoothly for all students, it is very important that you fully engage with the process and that you respond to requests for information in a timely manner.

Information

It is critically important that you check your email accounts frequently and that you read and respond, as appropriate to any information presented.

Student Support & Wellbeing

We are keen to support all students throughout their degree and I would like to remind you of the availability of Student Support. If there is anything we can do to help or support you with your studies, please do not hesitate to make contact, in confidence, with our service. A wide range of support is available, all free of charge to you the student. Our aim is to allow each student to maximise the opportunities that the College provides and to enable each to achieve their full potential by growing in confidence. The contact details for Student Support are studentsupport@stran.ac.uk



If you are interested in finding out more about our accommodation packages, please contact the Halls Office, who will be happy to answer any queries you may have. **Email:** halls@stran.ac.uk or **Tel:** 028 9038 4251

Hospitality

Due to the refurbishment of the Refectory kitchen, a temporary catering provision will be in operation on the sports pitches, beside the Refectory Building. This temporary facility will be open for morning coffee, lunch and evening meal. Seating will be available in the Refectory, Scholars and Craigantlet dining rooms. To ensure social distancing tables and seats will be reduced in these areas. We would ask that students would respect the social distancing signage in these areas and follow staff guidance. The kitchen refurbishment is planned for completion by the end of September, after which catering and Chatz dining room will reopen. The temporary arrangements will also be available to all students and staff.

Accommodation

Living in Halls is a great way to get to meet new people and establish new friendships and I would remind you that Stran Halls provide on campus, high quality, exceptionally priced student accommodation.

Stranmillis students can move into Halls on Sunday 20 September. To facilitate social distancing, all residents will be allocated a specific arrival time slot. Students are asked to limit assistance to 1 family member or friend to help them move into their room.

The number of occupied rooms in each flat in Halls has been reduced this year to provide more social space and enhance social distancing.

We are creating separate email groups for residents in each flat plus a group for all Halls residents. We would ask that students check their email accounts frequently so that they can read and respond to any information issued via the Halls Office. Should a student test positive for COVID-19, we have separate self-isolation accommodation set aside.

Covid-19

We would strongly encourage all students to download “The StopCOVID NI Contact Tracing App” to their mobile phone. The app, which can be used by anyone who is a resident in Northern Ireland, is free to download from the Apple App or Google Play stores.

- download the app for an Apple device from the [Apple App store](#)
- download the app for an android device from the [Google Play store](#)

If you, or any of your family members, or indeed any other person you have been in contact with, shows symptoms of Covid-19, no matter how mild, you should immediately make arrangements to self-isolate. If you live at home, you should stay at home and contact your GP. If you are living in Halls, you should contact the Halls Office, by phone, to alert the staff of your situation. If you are not registered with a GP, you should telephone the Emergency Department of your local



hospital. Please do not attend your GP or the hospital without telephoning in advance. Typical symptoms are:

- high Temperature
- new Continuous Cough
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

It is very important that you follow NHS advice at all times. The latest information, and most up-to-date

advice, on covid-19 is available from the [Public Health Agency website](https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-what-situation-northern-ireland) (<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-what-situation-northern-ireland>)



Study at Stranmillis in Safety

The College has put in place a range of measures to help protect all members of the College community. These include:

- the provision of electronic hands-free sanitisers throughout each of the different building on campus. Students are reminded of the need to observe good personal hygiene by frequent and thorough hand washing.
- implementing an enhanced cleaning regime to ensure the safety of all campus users.
- all staff and students being issued with 2 reusable (and washable) face masks (see Use of Face Coverings on Campus on page 5).
- teaching spaces on campus will employ social distancing and the capacity of all rooms has been

significantly reduced to allow for this.

- we would respectfully request that all campus users respect others by adhering to 2 metre social distancing.
- it is important that all students adhere to the control systems operating within each building – some buildings have one-way “traffic” flow in place.

These measures have been put in place to deal with the exceptional circumstances we find ourselves in and to ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of students, staff and all campus users, which is our key priority. If, at any stage, you feel unwell, we would ask you to stay away from College and seek the help and support of relevant medical personnel.

Use of Face Coverings On Campus

As we look forward to the new academic year, the health and wellbeing of our staff, students and the wider Stranmillis community, and supporting a safe return to campus, is our top priority.

Following the recent announcement by the Northern Ireland Executive, it is mandatory to wear a face covering “*in any indoor public space where it is not possible to maintain social distancing*”. This will be applied to the College campus and we would ask that this is adhered to by all staff and students.

Hand Washing

It is important to emphasise that the wearing of a face covering does not reduce the importance of hand washing, good personal hygiene and social distancing, which are recognised as the most effective way of avoiding COVID-19.

Provision of Face Coverings

To facilitate this, as part of the PPE pack for staff, the College is supplying 2 reusable face masks. Should they require them for College-related activities, 2 reusable face masks will

When do I need to wear a face covering?

Study spaces, such as those in the library, and work areas and office spaces, have already been set-up so that social distancing can be maintained. It is therefore **not** mandatory for face coverings to be worn when you are at your work or study station, unless normally required as part of your role (for example in a lab).



STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES

Similarly, with one way systems and other appropriate measures in operation, it is not a requirement for face coverings to be worn when moving along corridors and in stair wells.

However, if you are in communal spaces where social distancing of 2m is not possible, such as lobby areas, social spaces and shared facilities where people tend to gather, **it is mandatory to wear a face covering**. The only exceptions specified by the NI Executive are: when eating and drinking, exercising indoors or for specific personal or health reasons.

also be provided to students. These will be available from 7 September. Until then, a supply of disposable face masks are available at the main reception areas in each building.

Personal Choice

It is appreciated that many staff and students will choose to wear a face covering beyond those areas where it

is mandatory and the College fully supports this position. You should also bear in mind that for personal and health reasons that are not visible, some members of our community will not be able to wear a face covering. All staff and students are expected to respect each other's choices in this regard.