

Programme changes for 2021/2

This document summarises changes in programme structures (the modules that will be taught) and assessment.

Department / School	Archaeology
Programme(s)	BA Archaeology BSc Archaeology BA Archaeology & Heritage BSc Bioarchaeology BA Historical Archaeology MSci & BSc Natural Sciences specialising in Archaeology

Summary of Changes

Year 1

Due to uncertainties surrounding Covid restrictions, rather than a field trip at the start of the year, we will have a series of interactive activity sessions at our York Experimental Archaeology Research (YEAR) Centre on campus. These proved to be exceptionally popular with students last year.

Year 2

As in 2020/21, will again be removing the summative individual presentations from **Themes in Prehistory** and **Themes in Historical Archaeology** in favour of formative group presentations. This will enable students to further develop their presentation skills with peer support and means that the essay will count as 100% of the assessment.

The content of **Communicating Archaeology** remains the same but the format of the summative assessment will change. Weekly in-person workshops provide instructions on how to create outputs, which build towards the summative assessment which will require the production of a 3min pre-recorded video to showcase your outputs.

Year 3

There will be no changes to the structure of the programme.

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Department / School	Biology
Programme(s)	<p> BSc (Hons) Biology BSc (Hons) Biotechnology and Microbiology BSc (Hons) Ecology BSc (Hons) Genetics BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences BSc (Hons) Biochemistry BSc (Hons) Molecular Cell Biology MBiol (Hons) Biology MBiol Biotechnology and Microbiology MBiol (Hons) Ecology MBiol (Hons) Genetics MBiol (Hons) Molecular Cell Biology MBiol (Hons) Biomedical Sciences MBiol (Hons) Biochemistry BSc (Hons) Natural Sciences specialising in Biology BSc (Hons) Biophysical Science BSc (Hons) Mathematical Bioscience BSc (Hons) Neuroscience MSci (Hons) Natural Sciences specialising in Biology MSci (Hons) Mathematical Bioscience MSci (Hons) Biophysical Science MSci (Hons) Neuroscience </p> <p>This document also covers any Year Away options (Year in Industry, Year in Europe and Placement Year) for the above programmes.</p>

Summary of Changes

We are planning to deliver a full complement of practicals. However, if social distancing restrictions reduce our teaching laboratory capacity, we will need to timetable more practical sessions than usual, which might restrict the range of practicals we can offer. If this is the case we will continue to train students in core practical skills necessary for the next stage of their degree and schedule the more specialist subject module practicals

where possible. For practicals that cannot be conducted in laboratories, we will offer online versions of practicals, supported by instructional videos, and model datasets for analysis.

For modules that run throughout the year from the Autumn to the Summer term (the majority of our modules in the first year), we are committing to replace closed module exams with 24 hour online openbook exams. Modules that start in the Spring term might be assessed by a closed exam in the Summer and all assessment plans will be available at the start of the module.

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Department / School	Chemistry
Programme(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSc Chemistry 2020-21 • BSc Chem in Biological and Medicinal Chemistry 2020-21 • BSc Chem in Green Principles and Sustainable Processes 2020-21 • BSc Chem in the Atmosphere and the Environment 2020-21 • MChem Chemistry 2020-21 • MChem in Biological and Medicinal Chemistry 2020-21 • MChem in Green Principles and Sustainable Processes 2020-21 • MChem in the Atmosphere and the Environment 2020-21 <p>(MChem inc. Yr Abr/Yr Ind variants)</p>

Summary of Changes

Chemistry is amongst those departments in York working closely with the Standing Committee on Assessment (SCA) to try to return to closed-book exam-room exams at the earliest opportunity. We believe this is the 'gold standard' in terms of measuring the achievement of our students against our learning outcomes. However, the prospect of online exams remains, especially in January. There will be no closed (invigilated) in-person exams before Easter 2022.

Regardless of eventual mode of delivery, all our named programmes and industry/overseas variants will run as advertised with all the component option and core modules available.

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Department / School	Electronics
Programme(s)	Postgraduate Programmes in Electronics Undergraduate Programmes in Electronics

Summary of Changes

We'll be continuing to assess students through a combination of coursework and online exams, and specific assessment plans will be available for each module by the start of the module. There will be no in-person exams in January 2022. There are no changes to **assessment methods**. We are not planning to make any changes to these degree programme structures, and the modules remain as already advertised.

Programme changes for 2021/2

This document summarises changes in programme structures (the modules that will be taught) and assessment.

Department / School	Environment & Geography
Programme(s)	Undergraduate and MEnv programmes in Environment and Geography

Summary of Changes

We'll be continuing to assess students through a combination of coursework, oral presentations, and examinations. All examinations will be in an open, online format in 21/22. Specific assessment plans will be available for each module by the start of the academic year on our Schedule of Assessment and VLE sites.

We plan to deliver modules in the same terms as in the 2020/1 academic year, with the exception of:

- Ecological Methodology (10 credits) - to run in Autumn term
- Environmental Geochemistry (20 credits) - to run in Autumn and Spring terms

We have suspended two field-based third year option modules in 2021/2 due to the uncertainty around international travel:

- Production and Consumption Geographies - Fieldtrip to Prague (EEE and HuGE)
- The Dynamics of Alpine Environments (ES and EG)

Third year students will continue to have all the same core modules, and will have a wide variety of specialist options to choose from, in spite of this slight reduction. Students who had chosen either of these modules have been contacted by the Department to choose a new option.

All other field trips are planned to go ahead but will be subject to restrictions in place closer to the time.

Programme changes for 2021/2

This document summarises changes in programme structures (the modules that will be taught) and assessment.

Department / School	Mathematics
Programme(s)	Undergraduate Programmes in Mathematics

Summary of Changes

We are not expecting to make any structural changes to our programmes in 2021/22 in terms of what is being taught.

We continue to work with the relevant PSRBs to ensure that students on the Actuarial Science programmes will be able to meet accreditation requirements. This may require a small number of time-limited or invigilated exams if this is permitted under government guidance, but if that is not permitted we will continue to assess students via time-limited online exams in these modules as have already been approved.

With that potential exception, we have decided that all exams will be online for 2021/22.

We are still consulting on the appropriate length of the exam, and you will be informed of this before the academic year starts.

Some modules have had a change to their advertised assessment

- Introduction to Actuarial Science (MAT00020I) will be assessed by 70% exam and 30% coursework
- Portfolio & Investment Theory (MAT00021I) will be assessed by 80% exam and 20% coursework
- Linear Optimisation and Game Theory (MAT00050H and MAT00087M) will be assessed by 100% exam.
- Soft Matter in Physics & Biology (MAT00070M). The assessed oral presentation will now be a written report.

We continue to work with the relevant PSRBs to ensure that students will be able to meet accreditation requirements. This may require a small number of time-limited or invigilated exams if this is permitted under government guidance, but if that is not permitted we will continue to assess students via time-limited online exams in these modules as have already been approved.

Programme changes for 2021/2

This document summarises changes in programme structures (the modules that will be taught) and assessment.

Department / School	Philosophy
Programme(s)	BA Philosophy

Summary of Changes

Assessments

The Philosophy Department will keep all assessments, including exams, online. We have closely monitored all of our online assessments in 2020 and 2021, and have found that the move online has made no difference to student attainment. More information about online exams will be available by the start of Autumn Term.

Programme Structure

We are not planning to make any covid-related changes to programme structures in 2021/2: we do not plan to cancel any modules, or move any modules between terms, in response to the covid pandemic.

Programme changes for 2021/2

This document summarises changes in programme structures (the modules that will be taught) and assessment.

Department / School	Physics
Programme(s)	<p><u>Bachelor of Science degrees</u> BSc Mathematics and Physics (3 year) BSc Mathematics and Physics with a Year in Europe (4 year) BSc Physics BSc Physics with a year abroad/in industry (4 year) BSc Physics with Astrophysics BSc Physics with Astrophysics with a year abroad/in industry (4 year) BSc Physics with Philosophy BSc Physics with Philosophy with a year abroad (4 year) BSc Theoretical Physics BSc Theoretical Physics with a year abroad/in industry (4 year)</p> <p><u>Integrated Masters degrees</u> MMath Mathematics and Physics (4year) MPhys Mathematics and Physics (4 year) MPhys Physics (4 year) MPhys Physics with Astrophysics (4 year) MPhys Physics with Astrophysics with a year abroad/in industry (5 year) MPhys Theoretical Physics (4 year) MPhys Theoretical Physics with a year abroad/in industry MPhys with a year abroad/in industry (5 year) MPhys Physics and Philosophy https://www.york.ac.uk/students/studying/manage/programmes/programme-specs/undergraduate/physics/</p> <p><u>Postgraduate Programme</u> MSc(T) in Fusion Energy (1 year)</p> <p>NB This includes physics modules used by the Natural Science programmes.</p>

Summary of Changes

- **Assessments** will be done through open assessments, which will be submitted electronically by students. Specific assessment plans and deadlines will be available for each module by the start of the module and will be published within our Assessment Calendar. The type of assessment in each year cohort for most taught modules is broadly described here
 - **Stage 1** - You will generally have Open Exams in the Common Assessment Periods for 80% of the module mark for that term and have a single assignment for 20% of the module mark that term about mid-way through the term.
 - **Stage 2** - Assessment will be as in 2020/21. You will generally have Open Exams in the Common Assessment Periods for 80% of the module mark for that term and have a single assignment for 20% of the module mark that term about mid-way through the term. Modules with extended projects or lab reports will be assessed as was done this past year.
 - **Stage 3** - As discussed in our previous consultation, you will generally have two assignments per module per term. The first will occur about mid-way through the term and be worth about 40% of the module mark for that term. A second assignment, typically in the first week of the following term, will be worth about 60% of the module mark for that term. Modules with extended projects or lab reports will be assessed as was done this past year and described in our earlier consultation. This allows us to use more of Term 3 for final year project completion and for Advanced Laboratory skills development. The use of assignments in place of exams is also more robust to unanticipated disruptions and may allow BSc students to begin their careers as planned. This has been very successful this past year and we know we can deliver it successfully.
 - **Stage 4** - Assessments will be as they were in 2020/21. These will be conducted as open exams, assignments, or extended projects, for example, as described in the module catalogue. This has been successful in 2020/21 in supporting project work and engagement with optional modules.
 - **MSc in Fusion Energy** - No change in assessment is planned and these will be conducted as open exams, assignments, or extended projects as described in the module catalogue. This is being delivered successfully in 2020/1 and we are confident it will be robust and flexible for 2021/2

Joint Honours partner departments

- **Mathematics and Physics** - Mathematics has kept their modules and assessments broadly intact. The programme structure has evolved in a similar way to our Physics programme.
- **Physics with Philosophy** - Philosophy has kept their modules and assessments broadly intact. The programme structure has evolved in a similar way to our Physics programme.

There are no modifications proposed to the structure of your programmes in 2021/2 compared to 2020/1. This refers to what modules are offered or in what terms they are offered.

Programme changes for 2021/2

This document summarises changes in programme structures (the modules that will be taught) and assessment.

Department / School	Psychology
Programme(s)	BSc Psychology MSci Psychology BSc Natural Science (Neuroscience Pathway) MSci specialising in Neuroscience (4 years) 2020-21

Summary of Changes

In terms of assessment, we will continue with the combination of coursework and online exams from this year. This means that the exams will continue in the same format as before, this will include online MCQs for year 1 and 2. The advanced modules will be assessed by essay based exams that take place over 24hrs. These are open book exams, where students are asked to write two short essays out of a choice of five questions.

In terms of final year project and literature survey supervision for students in year 3 and 4, this will be in person or through online meetings, depending on staff and students' preferences. The testing for a large proportion of the studies will be online. We have found that using online testing tools such as Gorilla and Qualtrics has allowed students to set up complex studies and recruit large samples. However where students need to use specialist equipment, for example the MSci Cognitive Neuroscience projects, we aim to have face to face testing. This may be affected by government restrictions but we hope to be able to have access to specialist equipment for student projects.

We will not change any of the structure of the degree.