

## Programme change proposals

At York each degree programme has its own, tailored set of distinctive learning outcomes. These won't change, no matter what your location or mode of delivery, and our academics are working hard to ensure your programmes and modules next year continue to inspire and motivate you.

Your health and safety is our number one priority and in light of the Covid-19 pandemic we have needed to make changes to some of your programmes of study for the coming academic year. This document summarises the changes that are proposed.

Programme(s)	MSc Green Chemistry and Sustainable Industrial Technology <a href="https://www.york.ac.uk/students/studying/manage/programmes/programe-specs/postgraduate/chemistry/">https://www.york.ac.uk/students/studying/manage/programmes/programe-specs/postgraduate/chemistry/</a>
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### Summary of Overall Plans

The course will be delivered in a variety of ways with the aim to maximise face-to-face teaching opportunities where possible. Our priority will be to ensure that all students have the opportunity to fully engage with their studies - both those that can attend campus, as well as those who may be self-isolating for a period of time, to ensure cohesion between all students.

All our lectures will be pre-recorded and available on our online Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). This will allow students the flexibility to listen at a time convenient to them, and refer to the material throughout the course. In addition, there will be smaller group activities such as seminars and workshops, some of which will be delivered face-to-face and some will be online. Both formats will enable all students to meet the same learning outcomes of the course. To ensure students still have opportunities to ask questions about material, just as in any standard lecture, we will schedule regular online drop-in sessions for students to raise any queries about the material being covered.

Depending on the size of the MSc cohort, we will timetable as many face-to-face classroom sessions for workshops and seminars as allowed by physical distancing guidelines. For students unable to attend these sessions in person, we will provide online alternatives to ensure they still cover the same material and have the same opportunity to participate in active discussion and activities. Some of these activities will be online for all students and we will make use of technology such as Zoom breakout rooms for small group discussion and activity.

Our teaching and research laboratories will be open with physical distancing rules in place which will enable our practical chemistry sessions to take place as planned. Students who are not able to

attend practical lab sessions due to self-isolating will have access to alternative secondary data to still provide them with the opportunity to complete assignments and meet the same learning outcomes. Practical work on research projects will start later in the course (early summer), but should further restrictions or another lockdown be enforced, projects can be altered to non-lab based alternatives.

As a relatively small cohort, students on the MSc in Green Chemistry spend a lot of time together and bond as a group. To ensure this opportunity is maintained, regular cohort meetings will take place online to ensure the group gets together regularly. Led by an MSc tutor, these meetings are also to provide pastoral support.

The course has always included a variety of assessment methods and this will continue, including written work, presentations, workshops and likely an online to replace the usual closed examination. We hope that the majority of these will be able to go ahead of planned, although physical distancing requirements may influence the assessment format for our public awareness activities. Specific assessment plans will be available for each module by the start of that module, but we remain committed to providing a variety of assessment methods to ensure all students have an opportunity to develop different skills.

#### Programme Structures

The overall structure of the MSc programme will remain broadly the same. All modules will run, with adjustments to delivery as outlined above in our Summary of Overall Plans.

We plan to make a slight adjustment to the timing of the final taught module - Commercialisation in Green Chemistry - which usually takes place in the Summer term. We plan to move some of this material to the second half of the Spring term, with the remainder taking place in the first half of summer term. There is capacity in spring term to make this change as a review of the course in recent years led to a reduction in the number of assessments. This redistribution will allow students to complete the taught assignments sooner, and therefore have more concentrated time to dedicate to their projects for the remainder of the course. Based on student feedback, we think students will find this beneficial.

#### Further changes or information of note

All our programmes are accredited by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). The RSC is aware of the limitations imposed on Chemistry departments by the current pandemic situation. They have recognised that reduced laboratory time is an inevitable response being made across the sector and they are relaxing their criteria to accommodate this. We are also in receipt of their guidance on how to preserve key learning in the area of practical work (and other areas of the subject) through the encouragement to share best practice across the sector.