

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.

Programmes	BSc (Hons) Biology BSc (Hons) Biotechnology and Microbiology BSc (Hons) Ecology BSc (Hons) Genetics BSc (Hons) Molecular Cell Biology MBiol (Hons) Biology MBiol (Hons) Biotechnology and Microbiology MBiol (Hons) Ecology MBiol (Hons) Genetics MBiol (Hons) Molecular Cell Biology
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Summary of Overall Plans

Students on these programmes will be invited to engage in learning in a variety of ways, with flexibility built in to allow us to maximise face-to-face teaching in-line with any changes in the government guidance on physical distancing.

Lectures will be pre-recorded and available on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Small group tutorials and workshops will be offered both in classrooms and online. We are planning to offer practical training in the Biology teaching laboratories and through online materials.

For face-to-face teaching in classrooms, we aim to schedule more occurrences of these sessions to account for restrictions in physical distancing. Students who are unable to attend face-to-face sessions (those who aren't able to attend campus as well as those who might be self-isolating), will receive online materials that ensure the relevant learning outcomes can be met. We will also timetable regular live online 'drop-in' sessions to ensure all students can have lively interactions with staff and have their queries answered.

Having to timetable repeat sessions to allow all students who are on campus to participate in face-to-face practicals means it is likely we will not be able to schedule all of our usual practical sessions. We will therefore focus on training students in our core 'skills passport' practical skills necessary for the next stage of their degree. For practicals that cannot be conducted in laboratories, and for students unable to attend campus, we will offer online versions of practicals, supported by instructional videos, and model datasets for analysis.

We will 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.

Programme Structures

Overall we are aiming to maintain our module structure, content and learning outcomes and we are not planning to withdraw any modules or move credits between terms.

Further changes or information of note

We are working with the Royal Society of Biology to ensure that students will be able to meet accreditation and advanced accreditation requirements.