

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)	BSc Natural Sciences specialising in Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics BSc Natural Sciences specialising in Biology, Chemistry, Physics BSc Natural Sciences specialising in Archaeology, Biology, Chemistry, Environment BSc Natural Sciences specialising in Archaeology, Biology, Environment BSc Natural Sciences specialising in Mathematical Bioscience BSc Natural Sciences specialising in Biophysical Science BSc Natural Sciences specialising in Nanoscience BSc Natural Sciences specialising in Neuroscience MSci Natural Sciences specialising in Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics MSci Natural Sciences specialising in Biology, Chemistry, Physics MSci Natural Sciences specialising in Archaeology, Biology, Chemistry, Environment MSci Natural Sciences specialising in Archaeology, Biology, Environment MSci Natural Sciences specialising in Mathematical Bioscience MSci Natural Sciences specialising in Biophysical Science MSci Natural Sciences specialising in Nanoscience MSci Natural Sciences specialising in Neuroscience
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Summary of Overall Plans

Natural Sciences students on all programmes and pathways 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 social distancing. Lectures will be pre-recorded and uploaded to the VLE for students to access, both on campus and working remotely. Small group teaching will be offered both in classrooms and online. Some laboratory sessions

will also occur. Programme learning outcomes will not be affected or change. Sessions will be timetabled to allow as many students as we can safely accommodate in classrooms, giving all students the chance to engage in face-to-face learning and teaching. There will be timetabled online versions of these sessions so that those who are not able to attend campus, as well as those who might be self-isolating, will also be involved in lively interactions and meet the same learning outcomes. Students will continue to be assessed through a combination of coursework and online exams, and specific assessment plans will be available for each module by the start of the module.

Since most teaching experiences for Natural Sciences students is delivered by contributing departments, we recommend consulting departments pages for specific approaches, all of which conform to the philosophy of highly engaging teaching outlined above.

Programme Structures

Very few structural changes are proposed. In some cases, the laboratory and field work may be moved from the autumn term to the spring and summer terms to maximise face-to-face engagement with these activities. Submission dates for assessments will be modified as appropriate in such cases.

Further changes or information of note

While changes to Natural Sciences Hour will be required, at least in autumn term, the main benefits will be retained:

1. Interesting events / speakers / experiences
2. Cross-disciplinary experience
3. Inter-year socialising
4. Skills training

The Natural Sciences Hour will run every week (as in previous years) but streamed live such that all students are able to engage online. A sub-group of students will be invited to join the speaker in person, or join a watch party, although this will be both optional and dependent on room capacity. All sessions will have a face to face component at which a member of staff is present. It is anticipated that, assuming current social distancing protocols are maintained, this year each student will be able to attend approximately four of the sessions face-to-face and the rest live but online.

