

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))	BA in Economics and Philosophy; BA in Economics and Politics; BA in Philosophy and Politics; BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics
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Summary of Overall Plans

Students reading the PPE degree programmes study modules offered by a combination of at least two Department. In addition, the School offers interdisciplinary PPE modules at Stage 3. Although all Departments offer a blend of online teaching and face-to-face teaching, the document lists relevant departmental plans separately because there are some important differentiations.

Philosophy For modules with lectures, lecture material will be recorded and made available online for you at a time that suits you. We will typically record the material in manageable chunks and post it on the VLE. For the vast majority of modules with lectures and seminars, or just seminars, we expect to provide regular, frequent face-to-face seminars for all on-campus students. Wherever possible, seminars will follow the same pattern as they would have done pre-pandemic: typically, weekly. Face-to-face seminars will also often be in smaller groups than would previously have been the case.

For students unable to be on campus, we will provide an online seminar for every module. The length, content and frequency of the online seminar will replicate that of the module's face-to-face seminars, to ensure that students attending in this way are able to meet module and programme learning outcomes.

We will also provide 'bridging' activities in addition to seminars and recorded lecture material. These may vary from module to module but might include quizzes or worksheets. These bridging activities will compensate for a lack of interaction in lectures, as well as ensuring that students are well prepared for seminars.

We will continue to assess students through a combination of essays and online exams. Details of assessment plans for each module will be available by the start of term.

Politics We plan for lectures to be delivered online through 2020-21. Lecturers are currently working to create these new online resources, which will cover the required material in an effective and accessible format.

Around half of seminars to be delivered face-to-face through 2020-21; on a given module, your seminar will take place face-to-face one week, and the following week will meet online. The only exception we expect to this pattern are on a small number of Third Year modules where the lecturer is unable to deliver face-to-face sessions because of an elevated health risk. When we know whether there will be any such modules, we will consult directly with relevant cohorts. Face-to-face and online sessions will typically last for one hour, and Discussion Board activities will be linked to these sessions. We expect that Discussion Boards contributions will require approximately 30 minutes of direct engagement. The move to a one-hour face-to-face session has been driven by social distancing constraints, which severely limit our access to teaching space. As a department we are working hard to ensure that, whether face-to-face or online, seminar sessions are accessible, effective, and enjoyable through 2020-21.

We anticipate that a small number of students will be unable to take part in face-to-face teaching during 2020-21. We have made provision to ensure that, where this is the case, all seminar sessions will be available online.

Through Summer Term 2019-20, we expanded significantly our use of the online open exam format. We plan for this format to continue to replace closed exams through 2020-21. For Second Year modules where ordinarily the closed exam format would have been used, for 2020-21 we plan for the open exam format to be used. No changes to assessment on Third Year modules have been planned.

Economics Following of current UK Government guidelines on social distancing, the University has decided that there will be no ‘face-to-face’ lectures in Autumn Term, and is assuming for planning purposes that this will remain the case for the whole academic year. Lecture material will instead be delivered online, normally in the form of (specially) pre-recorded videos made available on the module vle site.

Face-to-face contact will be maintained as far as possible for seminars, practicals, workshops etc. However social distancing here implies that face-to-face groups will have to be smaller than usual, and therefore more numerous than usual in each module. This in itself increases the demand, from all Departments, on teaching space. So some ‘rationing’ of face-to-face meetings is necessary. Overall, therefore, a student typically will have fewer face-to-face meetings than usual, but in smaller groups than usual.

Student unable to be on campus due to corona virus restrictions will be participating only online. For those elements of a module that are face-to-face, our intention is to provide as near as possible equivalent online contact for these students. Those elements of a module that are online only will be accessible equally to all students.

Please note these Stage specific changes:

Stage One: For first-year students we are planning to run the normal schedule of face-to-face seminar meetings in the following year long modules:

- ECO00013C *Microeconomics 1*
- ECO00014C *Macroeconomics 1*

Your one-term modules will be delivered entirely online, typically using the online-conferencing tools. These are:

- ECO00011C *Probability 1*
- ECO00012C *Statistics 1*
- ECO00016C *Mathematics 1*

Students who are unable to be on-campus due to corona restrictions will be participating only online, as outlined above.

Modification of Assessments: Regarding the year-long modules, *Microeconomics 1* and *Macroeconomics 1*, they would normally be assessed at the end of the year, in Summer Term. However, with a view to promoting student engagement, especially in the context of extensive use of online delivery in 2020-21 across the programme, we are planning instead for ‘dual assessment’ in these modules, with a student’s final mark aggregated from two separate assessments, the first occurring approximately half way through the module, and the second in Summer Term. The first assessment would provide at least 30% of the final mark. We are working to finalise the details of this.

Stage Two: We are planning to run the normal schedule of face-to-face seminar meetings in these ‘core’ modules:

- ECO00001I *Microeconomics 2*
- ECO00002I *Macroeconomics 2*
- ECO00003I *Econometrics 2*

Students who are unable to be on-campus due to corona restrictions will be participating only online, as outlined above.

Stage 3: For *Stage 1* and *Stage 2* students our approach has been to keep face-to-face seminars, as far as possible, in the main ‘core’ modules, with other modules delivered entirely online. But as you know the structure of *Stage 3* in our Economics programmes is rather different, with a larger number of modules, and with more optionality and a greater complexity of students’ choices across those modules. Also, seminar meetings in *Stage 3* modules tend to be more concentrated in the latter half of each term.

We have therefore decided that a more balanced and equitable approach in *Stage 3* is to have at least some face-to-face contact in each module. For each *Stage 3* module, therefore, our plan is for the first seminar meeting in each term to be face-to-face, and for most modules the subsequent meetings in each term to be online, typically using the vle’s online-conferencing tools. Live (‘synchronous’) online sessions will appear on your timetable, in addition to your face-to-face sessions. There will be a few exceptions, for modules where the seminars are of an unusual type or size, in which the subsequent meetings will remain face-to-face.

Students who are unable to be on-campus due to corona restrictions will be participating only online, as outlined above.

Assessment Because of social distancing, the University is planning for there to be no closed examinations in 2020-21. Some of your modules will still be assessed by exam, but ‘open’ (i.e. with access to course materials) and online. Some other assessments may be changed from exam to project or essay-type assessment. We are working to finalise the

details of this.

PPE We plan for all PPE third-year modules to be delivered by a blend of online lectures and a mixture of online and face-to-face seminar teaching. The Autumn Term dissertation workshop will be delivered online, and we are currently planning to deliver the remaining workshops in Spring and Summer online as well. We are planning to deliver the first-year module 'Topics in PPE' entirely online.

Regarding the Autumn Term module 'The Democratic Economy', it will be delivered by a combination of online lectures and weekly online seminars, and three face-to-face workshops in weeks 4, 7 and 10. Students who are prevented by covid restrictions from attending these workshops will be able to participate live online.

Closed examination will be changed into online-examinations.

Programme Structures

We are not planning to make any changes to the existing programme structures through 2020-21, with one **exception**. The Department of Economics has re-scheduled some Stage 2 year-long modules for delivery either wholly in Autumn or commencing January, so that at any time students are taking fewer modules and each more intensively, without loss of contact time. In detail.

- In 2020-21, ECO00001I *Microeconomics 2* will be delivered entirely in Autumn Term, and assessed at the start of Spring Term
- While ECO00002I *Macroeconomics 2* and ECO00003I *Econometrics 2* will instead start in January 2021, and be assessed in Summer Term.

Further changes or information of note

During 2019/20, Summer Term Teaching moved entirely online on short notice. Student feedback was positive as evidenced by feedback scores. Student comments indicate that live online seminars, and the other measures we introduced on short notice, worked very well indeed. We are confident that we will be delivering intellectually challenging and rewarding programmes.