

## 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 <a href="#">French/German and Philosophy</a>
--------------	--

### Important note:

You will find below statements of the overall plans for teaching and assessment prepared by the two departments responsible for your programme. Please read these carefully. Note that the approaches taken by different departments will differ at least in details, so please read both sets of notes to see how each department's plans will impact on your modules in the relevant disciplines. If you want to return feedback on the proposals, please specify which department's arrangements you are commenting on, where appropriate.

### French/German

Summary of Overall Plans
<p>You will be invited to engage in your learning in a variety of ways - both on campus and online - with flexibility built in to allow us to maximise on-campus teaching in line with any changes in the UK government guidance on physical distancing.</p> <p><b>A mix of online and on campus</b> Lectures that are usually delivered to large groups will be pre-recorded and shared online, but timetabled small group teaching will be offered in classrooms on campus and/or online.</p> <p>Most modules will run in a 'mixed' mode, with some online activities (either a pre-recorded lecture, a timetabled online 'live' class or an hour of asynchronous work) plus some timetabled on-campus classes each week.</p> <p>A few modules will run 'mostly online' where this will best support your learning. In these modules all weekly activities will be online e.g. a pre-recorded lecture plus a timetabled online</p>

'live' class, but there will be some timetabled on-campus sessions at key points in the module as well, so that you can meet your tutor(s) face-to-face.

### **Other scenarios**

In a few cases a module may need to run 'fully online' throughout (e.g. if one or more of the teaching staff on the module is shielding). If this happens we will write to all students on the module to inform you of how the module will run as soon as it is practical to do so.

For students who are unable to attend on-campus classes regularly, or who might be self-isolating or shielding, we will arrange an alternative way to engage with the learning in those classes. For large modules this might be by arranging for one seminar group to run as a timetabled online class every week, instead of as a timetabled on-campus class. For smaller modules there might be an 'asynchronous' version of the tasks covered in the class available to work through, with an opportunity to receive feedback online or in an online tutorial.

Our [Languages for All \(LFA\)](#) modules for each language and level will be available in two modes: i) 'mixed' mode (with one timetabled on-campus class and one hour of asynchronous work each week) and ii) 'fully online' mode (one timetabled online 'live' class and one hour of asynchronous work each week).

### **Module overview and assessments**

For all modules, online and on-campus classes will run alongside the normal programme of independent study tasks for students to work through as individuals or in groups, such as set reading, seminar preparation and/or practical exercises. The module information sheet will set out the pattern of tasks and activities that make up the module, at the start of the module.

We will assess your learning through a combination of coursework and online exams. For languages we will run oral exams in person on-campus if guidelines for physical distancing permit it, or as online live exams or by submission of a video recording if needed. Group presentations may be run online or in a safe manner in person on-campus consistent with social distancing. Specific information about the number and format of assessments for each module will be available by the start of the module, but may be subject to changes in the format of assessments later in the year for year-long modules as the advice changes.

### **Programme Structures**

There are no planned changes to the structure of these programmes for students starting in 2020/21.

### **Further changes or information of note**

The Department offers several different support structures intended to ease your transition into university life and study style. These will take place on campus and/or online, depending on what is practical and feasible, and will include (1) additional weekly contact hours with your English Language or linguistics seminar tutors, as well as, in the first term, (2) weekly peer-assisted learning sessions attached to the languages and selected linguistics modules, in which you will work on the skills and content from the module in groups with your peers and

be guided by UG students from the year above you with no member of staff present, and (3) weekly informal sessions on different issues relating to adjusting to academic life and culture, led jointly by a 2nd year UG student and a member of staff.

Students on programmes that include a Year Abroad as an additional year of study may find that their study abroad plans are affected by the evolving situation in future years. The Year Abroad Coordinators are supporting current students in their decision-making, with tailored advice for each student's individual placement plans, and this support will continue in future.

For modules which involve data collection, students will be restricted to planning online data collection until and unless the University Ethics Committee confirms that it is permitted to resume in-person data collection with human subjects.

## Philosophy

### Summary of Overall Plans

For modules with lectures, lecture material will be recorded and made available online for you to watch 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. Office hours will also be held, either face-to-face, or online.

We do not expect that most on-campus students will be participating frequently in online seminars. However, we will make sure that students and staff are prepared to transfer from a face-to-face to an online seminar, in case the need arises—for example, if students or staff need to self-isolate, or in case of local lockdown.

Teaching in Philosophy modules in Summer Term — which was entirely online — was in general very well received. Student feedback was positive, with feedback scores overall as high as for modules in Summer 2019. Student comments indicate that live online seminars, and the other measures we introduced to provide excellent learning opportunities, worked well. We don't currently anticipate having to do a lot of non-lecture teaching online, but we're confident that we can teach well online if it's needed.

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.

Programme Structures
----------------------

We are not planning to make any changes to programme structures in Autumn term 2020/21: we do not plan to cancel any modules or move them between terms.
--

Further changes or information of note
--

None
------