



Foundation Year 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)	Undergraduate Programmes in Engineering and Electronic Engineering
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Summary of Overall Plans

Students on the Foundation Year programme 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 shifts in the government guidance on physical distancing. Following a very successful period of teaching after the lockdown occurred, our Foundation Year lecturers will be delivering teaching online but in real time and recording them. These will then be posted via the university based Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), such that you can review the lessons whenever you need. There is also likely to be some small group teaching on offer both in physical classrooms and online where possible.

All students will be offered face-to-face sessions, giving an opportunity for lively interactions. Where space limitations or individual circumstances result in students not being able to attend, all learning opportunities will be duplicated such that remote engagement is possible.

We will be continuing to assess your work 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

None of our Foundation Year programmes have changed their learning outcomes (Electronics and Physics). We will continue to deliver information, teaching and guidance to achieve our usual balance of theory and experience. On the theory side, we are planning to implement an interactive classroom approach where possible. Online reading materials will be provided in advance to enable you to engage prior to attending online teaching sessions where those materials will be explored more deeply. This will mean every student has access to the same learning materials and online sessions, whether you are on campus, self-isolating, safeguarding or still at home, giving all an equal chance to clarify your understanding. We intend to capture as much of the online Q&A as possible so that even those who could not attend, can still gain the benefit of the information discussed.

On the practical experience side, we will obviously stick to Government rules and so there will be significant changes to the way in which students are taught practical skills. However, a blend of traditional and novel approaches will be used to ensure full attainment of the learning outcomes for all our students. We will not be postponing the content of labs to later terms since the uncertain status of social distancing would risk any such move. A reduced number of face-to-face laboratory sessions will take place, with any reduction being replaced by equivalent online experiences.

This arrangement may be revised as and when government restrictions change as we learn more about the effects and impact of COVID-19 on social gathering spaces such as labs, and classrooms.

Supervision:

At this time, all supervisions are expected to take place online, especially group supervision sessions/tutorials. However, where it is safe to do so, with your agreement it may be possible to organise individual face to face meetings with your supervisor.

Finally, we recognise that this situation is not ideal for any of us but we are working hard to ensure your experience of the teaching and learning on offer is commensurate with our usual high standards. We value all feedback received from students, directly or via a student course representative, to continually ensure that you have a positive experience.

Further changes or information of note

We are working with the IET to ensure that students progressing from the Foundation Year are ready to work towards the accreditation requirements. We will be keeping track of the way our teaching and learning in all years might be affecting this aspect of your programme to avoid issues at a later stage.