Undergraduate 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

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 shifts in the government guidance on physical distancing. Lectures will be pre-recorded and posted via the VLE or departmental Wiki, and small group teaching will be offered both in physical classrooms and online including option/elective modules.   We'll timetable as many students as we can fit into classroom sessions (face to face or online), giving all students face-to-face opportunities in turn for larger cohorts. For those students who don't get a seat for any given session, the timetabled online version of the workshop or seminar (attended regularly by those who aren't able to attend campus as well as those who might be self-isolating or just unable to fit in the classroom) will give an opportunity for lively interactions and will meet the same learning outcomes.   We'll be continuing to 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

Main teaching materials: None of our programmes have changed their learning outcomes. 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 a "flipped" classroom approach where possible. This means you will be provided with online materials (video sessions, pre-recorded lectures, reading materials, exercises etc.) and be expected to engage with those resources prior to attending online workshops or seminars 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 no hardware or software laboratory classes *as we currently understand them* during the Autumn term. However, we will not be postponing the content of labs to later terms because the knowledge and skills derived from laboratories normally held in the Autumn term will be acquired through alternative means such as software simulation, live demonstration, remote operation of lab equipment or a "home kit of parts". We will make some reduced space available for on campus students to carry out experiments in the 4th floor labs and elsewhere on campus as demand dictates. Access to hardware laboratory demonstrators and/or module leaders will be via a video link and will be bookable at times which will be made available on the university timetable. This arrangement may be revised as and when government restrictions change which is more likely to happen after the Autumn Term as we learn more about the effects and impact of COVID-19 on social gathering spaces such as labs, classrooms etc.

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 as good as it usually is and provides continuity in your learning. There will be many opportunities to provide feedback at regular intervals plus of course, the option for immediate feedback via your course representatives or directly to the module leader if things are not working for your module.

Further changes or information of note

We are working with the IET to ensure that students will be able to meet accreditation requirements. At this stage, because we are meeting all existing learning outcomes, this

will not require further effort but we will be keeping track of the way our teaching and learning might be affecting this aspect of your programmes to avoid issues at a later stage.