



Quick Hit, May 2020

## Scottish Further & Higher Education During Covid-19

**\*\*Information may be subject to change\*\***

**“This is not a closure of the institution. This is a temporary suspension of group teaching.”** SRUC

The [Scottish government](#) has confirmed that while lockdown will be eased eventually, social distancing will need to be maintained, likely until the end of the year, if not beyond. They have also confirmed that periods of lockdown may have to be reintroduced, should we see surges in infections. Consequently, all universities are scenario planning, how will they make the next Academic Year 2020/21 work?

### ACADEMIC YEAR 2020

During the Coronavirus lockdown, all university services, teaching and learning that could be moved online has been. Many universities already have strong distance and online learning programmes to build from.

**Universities do plan to start back in the Autumn**, and are getting systems in place for different scenarios:

If Coronavirus restrictions are...

- **Lifted**, universities will begin the Autumn Term as normal.
- **Still in place**, universities will provide packages of distance/online learning until restrictions are lifted.
- **Reduced**, universities will offer a blended learning package, with face-to-face and distance learning organised in ways that meet Government recommendations and keep individual students and teachers safe.

Flexibility, and support for individuals will be at the heart of planning. For example, if restrictions are lifted but an individual is in a high-risk group, a suitable package of learning and support can be put in place.

### EXAM RESULTS & ENTRY CONDITIONS

**“ (we) accept SQA 2020 estimated grades as having equal validity to grades awarded in other years”** Dundee

Universities are working closely with [SQA](#), schools and colleges to ensure the ‘estimated grade’ model is fair and can be used for entry to university in the same way as traditional exam results. Scottish Universities use a contextualised admissions approach so will look at carefully at personal statements, reference and personal circumstances. This year ‘contextual’ information will be even more important. If there is additional information the university should be aware of contact them as soon as possible. Those with Conditional Offers who are worried about, or unable to meet, a conditions should also contact the university.

#### ADVICE FROM UNIVERSITIES:

- Admissions teams are reviewing applications, there may be some delays in responses due to the change in remote working. Don't worry, and keep an eye on [UCAS Track](#) for all offers.
- Contact the university or course lecturer to discuss how to meet any conditions or share any concerns
- Make the most of this time to find out more about the university, online and via virtual events, and to build subject knowledge via MOOC's, Podcast's or any packages of learning suggested by the university.

### INFORMATION & SUPPORT

Universities should be in regular contact with any prospective students who have received or accepted an offer. All universities have a dedicated Coronavirus / Covid-19 web area to help current and future students stay connected to ongoing changes. Almost every institution has Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) to address common questions. The amount, quality and visibility of information for ‘Applicants and Offer Holders’ varies.

#### ADVICE FROM UNIVERISTIES:

- Get in touch with any questions and concerns, admission teams are working remotely and are there to help
- Follow the university Social Media Channels and check the website regularly to stay up-to-date.

### INTERVIEWS / OPEN DAYS / EVENTS

All Spring / Early Summer on-campus events, including Offer Holder Visit Days and interviews/auditions, have been cancelled or postponed. Universities are organising alternatives like phone interviews or recommending virtual tours and online information. Open Days and events scheduled for the Autumn remain on the calendar.

### GENERAL ADVICE

- **DO APPLY FOR FUNDING AND ACCOMODATION** as normal
- Universities are more likely to respond to **online contacts and phone** than post at this time.
- **Keep an eye on your email** for communications from universities – check your Spam filter.

**Note:** while this information is most relevant to undergraduate applicants based in Scotland. However, the web and social media links below will provide information for a wider range of students and applicants.

## SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES

### Key Data for University Applicants During Coronavirus

**\*\*Information may be subject to change\*\***

#### ABERTAY UNIVERSITY

[www.abertay.ac.uk/life/covid-19-coronavirus/](http://www.abertay.ac.uk/life/covid-19-coronavirus/)

Admissions - [admissions@abertay.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@abertay.ac.uk)

##### Stay Connected

[Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [LinkedIn](#); [Vimeo](#); [YouTube](#)

##### 2020 proposed start date

Academic Year 2020/21 Term 1 start delayed till September 21. Orientation week is currently planned to start on 14 September.

##### Virtual Open Days

[Virtual Open Days](#) and [Virtual Applicant Days](#) for undergraduate courses

#### EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY

<https://www.napier.ac.uk/about-us/coronavirus>

Admissions - [ugadmissions@napier.ac.uk](mailto:ugadmissions@napier.ac.uk)

##### Stay Connected

[Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [LinkedIn](#); [Twitter](#); [YouTube](#) and [Podcasts](#)

##### 2020 proposed start date

7 September start date for the next academic year, view announcement [here](#).

##### Virtual Open Days

Offer Holder Visit Days now virtual events. Those registered will be sent details. Also see [UCAS Virtual Events](#) and [YouTube Virtual Tour](#)

#### GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY

[www.gcu.ac.uk/student/coronavirusuptodateinformation/](http://www.gcu.ac.uk/student/coronavirusuptodateinformation/)

Helpline: +44 141 331 3130 or [coronavirushelpline@gcu.ac.uk](mailto:coronavirushelpline@gcu.ac.uk)

##### Stay Connected

[Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#); [Everbright GCU Events](#) plus [GCU Career Service Blog](#)

##### 2020 proposed start date

Induction 29 September 2020. Teaching begins 5 October 2020

##### Virtual Open Days

[Open days & Tours](#)

#### GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

[www.gsa.ac.uk/about-gsa/key-information/coronavirus-\(covid-19\)](http://www.gsa.ac.uk/about-gsa/key-information/coronavirus-(covid-19)) Contact - [www.gsa.ac.uk/about-gsa/contact-us/](http://www.gsa.ac.uk/about-gsa/contact-us/)

##### Stay Connected

GSA [Media Centre](#); [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [LinkedIn](#); [Twitter](#)

##### 2020 proposed start date

Induction Wednesday 9 September. Teaching starts Monday 14 September 2020

##### Virtual Open Days

[Virtual Open Days & Events](#) and [Vimeo Virtual Tours](#)

#### HERIOTT WATT UNIVERSITY

[hw.ac.uk/coronavirus.htm](http://hw.ac.uk/coronavirus.htm)

Coronavirus student helpline 0131 451 8899 (10:00-16:00)

Admissions - [studywithus@hw.ac.uk](mailto:studywithus@hw.ac.uk)

##### Stay Connected

[Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [LinkedIn](#); [Twitter](#); [YouTube](#).

##### 2020 proposed start date

[Welcome Week on Scottish campuses](#) to take place on 7-14 September 2020

##### Virtual Open Days

HW will send all offer holders an invitation to the upcoming virtual events.

HW [Open Days](#) & [Virtual Tours](#) by campus /course and [UniBuddy](#) chat pages

#### QUEEN MARGARET UNIVERSITY

[www.qmu.ac.uk/coronavirus/](http://www.qmu.ac.uk/coronavirus/)

Admissions – [FAQ's and Contacts](#)

##### Stay Connected

[Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#); [LinkedIn](#); [YouTube](#); [QMU Podcast](#)

##### 2020 proposed start date

Induction Week: 7–11 September. Teaching starts 14 September 2020

##### Virtual Open Days

[Open Days](#) webpage

#### ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY

[www.rgu.ac.uk/coronavirus-guidance](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/coronavirus-guidance)

Admissions – [admissions@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@rgu.ac.uk) or 01224 262728 plus

[Admissions Live Online Chat Events](#)

##### Stay Connected

[Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#); [LinkedIn](#); [YouTube](#)

##### 2020 proposed start date

Induction/Fresher Activities 21 September. Teaching starts 21 September 2020.

##### Virtual Open Days

[RGU Virtual Tour](#) and [Virtual Events & Drop in's](#) or email: [visit@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:visit@rgu.ac.uk)

<b>ROYAL CONSERVATOIRE of SCOTLAND</b>	<a href="http://www.rcs.ac.uk/coronavirus-fags/">www.rcs.ac.uk/coronavirus-fags/</a> Admissions – <a href="mailto:admissions@rcs.ac.uk">admissions@rcs.ac.uk</a>
Stay Connected	<a href="#">Facebook</a> ; <a href="#">Flickr</a> ; <a href="#">Instagram</a> ; <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> ; <a href="#">Twitter</a> ; <a href="#">YouTube</a>
2020 proposed start date	Monday 21 September 2020
Virtual Open Days	<a href="#">RCS Virtual Tours</a> , also see, <a href="#">RSA at Home</a> online creative community, and <a href="#">Focus West Widening Access to Creative Arts</a> videos

<b>SRUC</b>	<a href="http://www.sruc.ac.uk/coronavirus">www.sruc.ac.uk/coronavirus</a> Contacts - <a href="http://www.sruc.ac.uk/contactus">www.sruc.ac.uk/contactus</a>
Stay Connected	<a href="#">Twitter</a> ; <a href="#">YouTube</a> ; <a href="#">Facebook</a> ; Also see Campus Facebook pages for: <a href="#">Craibstone, Aberdeen</a> ; <a href="#">Elmwood, Cupar, Fife</a> ; <a href="#">King's Buildings, Edinburgh</a> ; <a href="#">Oatridge, West Lothian</a> ; <a href="#">Botanic Gardens, Glasgow</a> ; <a href="#">Riverside, Ayr</a> ; <a href="#">Barony, Dumfries</a> .
2020 proposed start date	Varied across campuses – timetable usually confirmed in the summer break
Virtual Open Days	<a href="#">UCAS SRUC Events</a> also SRUC <a href="#">animated video for prospective students</a>

<b>UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN</b>	<a href="http://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/coronavirus/">www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/coronavirus/</a> contact <a href="mailto:study@abdn.ac.uk">study@abdn.ac.uk</a> with your Applicant ID number
Stay Connected	<a href="#">Facebook</a> ; <a href="#">Instagram</a> ; <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> ; <a href="#">Pinterest</a> ; <a href="#">Twitter</a> ; <a href="#">YouTube</a> ; <a href="#">Weibo</a> (Chinese)
2020 proposed start date	Welcome week 21 September 2020
Virtual Open Days	<a href="#">Aberdeen Virtual Events &amp; Meetings</a> ; also see UCAS <a href="#">Virtual Open Days</a> , including Plus <a href="#">Facebook Virtual Tour</a>

<b>UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE</b>	<a href="http://www.dundee.ac.uk/coronavirus">www.dundee.ac.uk/coronavirus</a> Admissions - <a href="mailto:ugadmissions@napier.ac.uk">ugadmissions@napier.ac.uk</a>
Stay Connected	<a href="#">Facebook</a> ; <a href="#">Freshers 2020 group</a> ; <a href="#">Instagram</a> ; <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> ; <a href="#">Twitter</a> ; and <a href="#">YouTube</a>
2020 proposed start date	Monday 5 October 2020 and end Friday 18 December. Welcome Week for Freshers will begin Monday 28 September.
Virtual Open Days	<a href="#">Online campus tours every Thursday</a> . Link will be emailed for online applicant sessions with academics, student services and current students. Applicant will receive a link via email. Also <a href="#">Open Days &amp; Online Visits</a> and <a href="#">Virtual Open Days</a>

<b>UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH</b>	<a href="http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/covid-19">www.ed.ac.uk/news/covid-19</a> with <a href="#">Prospective Students</a> FAQ. Admissions – go to <a href="#">Contact Us</a> complete enquiry form
Stay Connected	Extensive <a href="#">Social Media List</a> including: <a href="#">YouTube</a> , <a href="#">Facebook</a> ; <a href="#">Twitter</a> and <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> .
2020 proposed start date	Not available at this time
Virtual Open Days	UofE will contact offer holders with recommended online content. UCAS Virtual Tours link to <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/EdinburghUniversity">www.youtube.com/user/EdinburghUniversity</a> Open Days planned for 26 September and 10 October 2020 remain on schedule. Alternative online options for prospective 2021 applicants are in development.

<b>UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW</b>	<a href="http://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/news/coronavirus/">www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/news/coronavirus/</a> Admissions – <a href="mailto:ugadmissions@glasgow.ac.uk">ugadmissions@glasgow.ac.uk</a>
Stay Connected	<a href="#">Facebook</a> ; <a href="#">Instagram</a> ; <a href="#">Twitter</a> ; and <a href="#">YouTube</a>
2020 proposed start date	Monday 21 September, or Monday 5 October for International student
Virtual Open Days	Finalising scheduling of our programmes, available on <a href="#">events pages</a> shortly.

<b>UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF SCOTLAND</b>	<a href="http://www.uws.ac.uk/about-uws/coronavirus-covid-19-information/">www.uws.ac.uk/about-uws/coronavirus-covid-19-information/</a> Admissions – <a href="mailto:admissions@uws.ac.uk">admissions@uws.ac.uk</a>
Stay Connected	<a href="#">Facebook</a> ; <a href="#">Instagram</a> ; <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> ; <a href="#">Twitter</a> and <a href="#">YouTube</a> ;
2020 proposed start date	7th September rather than 31st August 2020 as previously indicated
Virtual Open Days	UWS launched a web area with <a href="#">360-degree tours of each campus</a> .

<b>UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREW'S</b>	<a href="http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/coronavirus/">www.st-andrews.ac.uk/coronavirus/</a> Helpline: (0)1334 46 4146 or <a href="mailto:theasc@st-andrews.ac.uk">theasc@st-andrews.ac.uk</a>
Stay Connected	<a href="#">Facebook</a> ; <a href="#">Instagram</a> ; <a href="#">Twitter</a> ; <a href="#">YouTube</a>
2020 proposed start date	7 September Orientation week. Teaching begins 14 September 2020.
Virtual Open Days	<a href="#">Virtual Visits</a> ; <a href="#">Virtual Talks &amp; Tours</a>

<b>UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING</b>	<a href="http://www.stir.ac.uk/coronavirus/">www.stir.ac.uk/coronavirus/</a> Contact Information - <a href="http://www.stir.ac.uk/about/contact-us/">www.stir.ac.uk/about/contact-us/</a>
Stay Connected	<a href="#">Facebook</a> ; <a href="#">Instagram</a> ; <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> ; <a href="#">Twitter</a> ; <a href="#">YouTube</a>
2020 proposed start date	Monday 14 September 2020
Virtual Open Days	<a href="#">Stirling Virtual Tour</a> ; <a href="#">Webinars</a> ; and <a href="#">Virtual Open Days</a> . Also see <a href="#">UCAS Virtual Events</a>

<b>UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE</b>	<a href="http://www.strath.ac.uk/coronavirus/">www.strath.ac.uk/coronavirus/</a> Contacts – <a href="http://www.strath.ac.uk/contactus/">www.strath.ac.uk/contactus/</a>
Stay Connected	<a href="#">Facebook</a> ; <a href="#">Instagram</a> ; <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> ; <a href="#">Twitter</a> ; <a href="#">YouTube</a>
2020 proposed start date	Monday 14 September 2020
Virtual Open Days	<a href="#">University Virtual Campus Tour</a> and 'Visit Us' list of Podcasts, Also see <a href="#">UCAS Virtual Events</a>

<b>UNIVERSITY OF HIGHLANDS &amp; ISLANDS</b>	<a href="http://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/students/support/coronavirus-covid-19/">www.uhi.ac.uk/en/students/support/coronavirus-covid-19/</a> Admissions – <a href="#">UHI Contacts</a>
Stay Connected	<a href="#">Facebook</a> ; <a href="#">Flickr</a> ; <a href="#">Instagram</a> ; <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> ; <a href="#">Twitter</a> ; <a href="#">YouTube</a>
2020 proposed start date	Monday 14 September 2020
Virtual Open Days	<a href="#">Virtual Open Days &amp; Events</a> also see <a href="#">UCAS Virtual Events</a>