

Dear student

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the current situation relating to COVID-19 and the start of the next academic year.

As outlined by the Deputy Dean in the previous communication, the safety of students, staff and patients remain our key concern. However, we are working hard to ensure that our facilities will be open and ready to accept students in September with the appropriate social distancing plans.

We have agreed that Year 1 students will start on Wednesday 9th September 2020. This initial period will consist of a two-week induction period. We strongly recommend that you plan to arrive in Malta on the **7th or 8th September 2020**. You are advised to book your flights as soon as you are able to and inform the enrolment team of your flights details - malta-offer-holders@qmul.ac.uk

The purpose of this communication is to advise you of the procedures that we will be taking on your arrival to minimise the further spread of the COVID-19 virus.

We are advising students that you should have had **a COVID-19 test prior to leaving your country**. This should be completed **no more than 7 days prior to your departure date**. Please ensure that you bring your COVID-19 results slip with you when you travel. We ask that you send us an electric copy of your 'negative' slip prior to arrival: malta-offer-holders@qmul.ac.uk. We must receive this confirmation from you to proceed with enrolment procedures. Students may be required to have repeat COVID-19 tests when in Malta, but this will be arranged by the Medical School and dependent on how the situation develops.

If you receive a 'positive' result - please do not travel. Ensure that you follow the quarantine guidelines as outlined by your local Public Health authorities and please inform the Medical School of your situation - malta-offer-holders@qmul.ac.uk

If you are travelling from a country that is not on the Malta 'Public Health Corridor' (PHC) list, you will be required to quarantine on arrival. We will provide further details on this in subsequent communications with you, as it is likely that the guidance may change on this. For your information, the up-to-date PHC list can be found here: <https://reopen.europa.eu/en/map/MLT>

Online teaching for those unable to travel

We truly appreciate that this is an ever-changing situation. However, we understand that due to local restrictions in your home country, or if you are in quarantine, you may be unable to join us 'in person' for the start of term in September.

If you are unable to join us 'in person', you will be taught online initially, before joining us 'in person' later on in the term, when your situation allows.

I can assure you that my academic colleagues are working tirelessly to ensure that we are prepared for the online teaching option. You will not be at a disadvantage should you be required to learn online initially.

We are here to support you and we will be in contact regularly as the situation evolves.

Should you wish to discuss your situation with a member of the team, or have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us - malta-offer-holders@qmul.ac.uk

I look forward to welcoming you to Malta soon.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Rowlands
Head of Academic and Pastoral Support Unit.