

HAVE YOUR SAY

Thursday 21st January 2021

THEMES

Issues concerning:

Online learning

- Not a blended approach – everything is online for some students
- Little contact hours
- No access to additional resources e.g. other library books
- No feedback (even with harsh marking)
- Lecturers not replying (some are good, but lots not replying)
- PowerPoints on Blackboard, not live sessions or screen casts
- Can sympathise with lectures having to teach online, especially if they are from abroad
- Need a clearer definition of 'blended learning' (e.g. a percentage, may need additional staff for this when we return to the classroom)
- Communication and honest communication about why things are how they are e.g. hours in the classroom
- Anxiety around exams and how they will look
- No printers
- Technical difficulties
- A variety of platforms
- Staff haven't had adequate training to use platforms

Access to facilities

- Shortened time for projects
- Affecting PhD applications
- Can go over the theory but will be difficult to readjust to techniques when back in the lab
- Why have facilities closed? E.g. art studios – this is inconsistent (the library is open)
- Started off well but got less access for seemingly no reason
- Alternative was to just be given the data to analyse rather than practice using the tools – this makes it harder to grasp
- Some staff have made an effort to provide online alternatives to this e.g. links to step by step instructions – could invest in this infrastructure
- Lots of students felt safe in labs and studios when they were open

International students

- Not on campus
- Still paying full fees – more expensive than home students
- Would be keen to engage more with RUSU to support international students

Tuition fees

- Want fees to be lowered because of the decrease in quality of teaching

Sports and societies

- Attendance for societies is low
- Worried about engagement from first years

Lack of structure & consistency

- Inconsistent content publishing
- Last minute live sessions which seem random

- Inconsistency between module conveners – lack of standardisation
- Impacts motivation

Support

- Ineffective communication between DAS and schools
- Many students are struggling in silence
- Lack of communication around social events e.g. get together apart event that the Uni promoting, students don't know about

Complaints procedure

- Being encouraged to use it by the university
- Very slow process – it has taken almost a year for one student
- Not a clear process for students to follow – seeking help from RUSU Advice
- Students feel like they aren't being listened to by being pushed through the complaints process – just want a conversation

University communications

- Sites are down
- Don't check essentials
- Would prefer an email