

Our ref. C.14138

25 March 2020

Dear Students

COVID-19 UPDATE - IMPACT OF THE LOCKDOWN



The Independent Institute of Education supports the call of the President for this drastic measure to flatten the curve and we will be supporting it in every way. We remain equally committed to you and your education and we will be resuming our teaching and learning programme for contact students on the 15th of April remotely. For distance students your learning has not been disrupted and will continue.



We will return to contact tuition on our campuses when it is safe to do so, and we are permitted to do so in terms of national regulation.



In the interim we encourage you to continue to engage with the work covered so far and even to read and work ahead wherever you can. Please familiarize, yourself with the tools on Learn (or Moodle) if you are not already an expert so that you are comfortable when teaching starts again.



Your campus will communicate specifics to you, but these are the general things you need to know:

- We will be posting the details of how to submit assignments, work offline using Learn (if that is your learning management system) to save data and how to participate in several of the activity types on both your Student Portal and on the announcements page of Learn. This will be done by Tuesday 31 March.
- For students who will be getting an IIE qualification a Learn module for each of your modules has been opened – even if you were not formerly enrolled in one. That becomes your virtual classroom. Your campus will send you details on how to access this.
- For students who will be getting an MSA qualification, Moodle will be used in the same way.
- The formative assessments for each of your modules is being reconsidered and a new programme assessment schedule will be made available to you next week on the Announcements Pages and on your portal – please study the detail.
- We will also be releasing assessment briefs for any assessments where we have made changes to you on the student portal to help you navigate changes in the way we will be assessing you.
- We will make up the lost teaching days.
- At this point we intend to do the summative assessments (which were originally planned under examination conditions) in a different way. We are planning to keep to the existing schedule in terms of the sequence of assessments, but we plan to only start these on the 22nd of June so that we have time for boosters and other student support. Please watch out for detail in the next three to four weeks.
- We will be releasing a short learning programme on Learn with some tips on how to study online effectively – this should be available to you by Tuesday next week (31 March) too. Look out for it. We suggest you complete this before resuming your study programme on the 15th April.
- Practical sessions that require equipment or software that you will not have at home will be rescheduled for when contact classes start and will be taken in to consideration in planning your assessment – again, please monitor your Learn and student portal Announcements for information related to you and your qualification.

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This situation is fluid and we wish to assure you that if anything disrupts the above (including your ability to engage with us online) that we will assess who has been impacted as we go along and develop further contingency plans for you to catch up. Some of the ideas include “boot camp(u)s” and “booster” sessions for missed sessions. We will communicate with you as we go along – please do your utmost to participate in the online teaching but let your campus know if you can’t.

Please monitor your student e-mail account as we will communicate with you through it.

Like you, we are committed to your success and to not letting this situation derail your ambitions. We will be applying our best efforts to achieve this and will need you to engage with us in the same spirit.

We wish you and your families and friends well over this stressful period and we look forward to welcoming you back on to campus soon. In the interim we look forward to engaging with you through the mechanisms outlined above.

Please stay in touch with your campus if you have questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Coughlan'.

Dr Felicity Coughlan
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Group Academic Director – ADvTECH