

Education Resilience Framework for Postgraduate Research - Principles and Approach

Senate approved this Education Resilience Framework for Postgraduate Research in July 2020.

Background

1. This document presents an Education Resilience Framework for Postgraduate Research produced in light of the significant challenges and implication of the Covid-19 pandemic. **The purpose of this document is for use by Academic Units and Research Groups in UK to determine how to adjust their PGR provision for the remainder of 2019-20 session and going forward to 2020-2021.** It builds on the document '[Guidance to Doctoral and MPhil students and PGR Supervisors](#)' issued April 2020. As a consequence of the different regulatory framework for Public Health in Singapore, this document does not apply directly to PGR education at NUIS, but will form the basis on which related guidance will be produced.
2. The Education Resilience Framework for Postgraduate Research is set **in a context of the existing Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students, the uncertainty afforded by Covid-19 and the fact that postgraduate research study is by its very nature a highly individualised experience.** Whilst the document consolidates the fixed points adopted in light of Covid-19 impact which pertain to all students and as such provides certainty on several issues, the authors are mindful that in some cases individual decisions will need to be made in conjunction with the PGR Dean.
3. An Education Resilience Framework for Postgraduate Research is a companion to the Education Resilience Framework for Taught Programmes detailing the approach for institutional planning relating to delivery of our taught academic provision for the academic year 2020-21 approved by Senate in May 2020. Where appropriate, this framework shares the same points of reference as the Education Resilience Framework for Taught Programmes, but there are differences, reflecting the different nature of PGR study.
4. The Student Experience Resilience Framework, which runs in parallel to the Taught and Post Graduate Education Resilience Frameworks, will consider the needs of research students in those areas where it is appropriate to do so.
5. The document is presented as **a staff facing document** the content of which, once approved, will be used to communicate to stakeholders the nature of the University's approach to PGR students during this time.
6. The framework adopts a 'One University' approach which exemplifies the ethos and direction set in the commitment to a University Doctoral College in the University's Vision and Strategy.
7. The framework aims to work within the principles established in the University's Athena Swan Action Plan (2019-23), Faculty and School commitments under Athena Swan.
8. The framework does not deal with:
 - a. The taught credit-rated components of our PGR programmes (PhD and Research Masters) which is covered by the Education Resilience Framework for Taught Programmes, however the Education Resilience Framework for Postgraduate Research is relevant to the research project components of these programmes.
 - b. The detail of PGR return to campus, which will be covered by the document 'Newcastle University – opening of research facilities during COVID19 restrictions' and those for Research Masters students are presented in the Education Resilience Framework for Taught Programmes.
9. The framework does not currently include information relating to the financial support for PGR students as UEB is currently working through the following issues :
 - a. Extended stipendiary payments (or "funded extensions")
 - b. PGR Student 'hardship' funding
 - c. The approach to expenditure on student research projects

(Additional information on our approach to these issues can be found in the [Covid-19 Guidance](#) section of the [Student Progress Service](#) webpages.)

The Education Resilience Framework for Postgraduate Research has been developed by a group led by the PVC Education which includes PVC Research Strategy and Resources, PGR Deans, Academic Registrar and Senior Student Policy Manager with input from Academic Unit PGR Directors, Faculty Doctoral Training Programme and Doctoral Training Partnership Directors, PGR Student Coordinators and NUSU PG Officers. Feedback was also gathered from Faculty PGR Committees, UEB, FEBs, UEC including sabbatical officers before the framework was presented to Senate for consideration and approval, or post-hoc ratification where those changes have, by necessity, already been implemented.

Key Considerations

10. It is clear that physical distancing and other restrictions required in response to the Covid-19 pandemic are likely to last until at least the end of the 2020 calendar year and that we face further likely periods of lockdown. The impact of such circumstances on our ability to deliver our PGR programmes in the way we would under normal circumstances has been and continues to be significant for 2019-20 and most likely will be for some or all of 2020-21.
11. In this environment of uncertainty, the following are important points of reference which have guided our response and will continue to do so throughout the remainder of 2019/20 session and over the next session:
 - **Newcastle University is a first-class teaching and research institution**, and excellence in these areas is central to our purpose and both will need to continue during 2020-21.
 - **Our fundamental commitment in our Strategy and Vision remains unchanged:** to provide all our students with an education for life, that engages, challenges and supports our students to discover and fulfil their potential. Our challenge now is to deliver on this commitment, albeit under different circumstances and with differences in emphasis.
 - **We have a commitment to our continuing students** to enable them to progress/graduate as anticipated in line with Office for Students' expectations and those of our external accrediting bodies as well as to engage with the wider academic community through publication and other activities. We also **have a commitment to applicants to whom we have made offers, and who meet our requirements**, to induct them appropriately into our academic community and to enable them to also progress/graduate in line with external expectations.
 - The impact of the **Covid-19 pandemic will raise different issues and restrictions for different sub-groups of our university community (staff and students)** recognising age, ethnicity and health-related vulnerabilities, fear/anxiety, concern around getting to and from work, and (often gendered) caring responsibilities including those of childcare given the uncertainty associated with return to school. This will mean that PGR supervisors and students may need to deliver and/or receive supervision and access learning remotely at different times throughout the year. Additionally, these issues and restrictions will inevitably place significant pressure on those who teach, including our PGR communities.
 - **Our Doctoral, MPhil and research masters students are valued as part of both our teaching and research communities.**
 - **Our ability to succeed as an institution relies on all of us being flexible, finding new ways of working and re-assessing our immediate priorities.** The Covid-19 situation means that alternative and additional support may need to be provided for PGR students. It is recognised that 'one size doesn't fit all' and the ways of working and how this is organised may vary between and within faculties.
 - **We trust supervisors and those involved in delivering PGR programmes to work within existing approaches and the framework presented to develop local solutions** to the challenges that this global pandemic presents for PGR study currently and into 2020-21. We recognise that knowledge and experience of Academic Units and Research Groups will be key to supporting our PGR students in their research.

12. The approach to delivery of PGR study detailed in the remainder of this paper is set in the following context:
- a. As a result of Covid-19 impacts it has been necessary to implement changes to our regulations, administrative procedures and guidance/support to students and supervisors in Academic Year 2019-20. This document does not, therefore, reflect a wholesale proposed change for Academic Year 2021-22; rather, it is a description of an ongoing process, with some changes already effective as indicated in the points set out below. Where at all possible the Code of Practice for PGR will operate as normal; the detail below indicates areas of the academic and broader experience for PGRs which have operated differently since March 2020, and will continue to operate differently, because of the Covid-19 situation.
 - b. The document also reflects the role of the PGR sub-committee of University Education Committee and presents the dynamic situation which results from the continuing enhancement of PGR study and development of the Doctoral College facilitated by the work of the sub-committee.
 - c. Compared to pre Covid-19, many forms of day-to-day interaction have already moved and will continue to move partly or wholly online, in particular, supervisory meetings, Annual Progress Reviews and much of our PGR Development Programmes (PGRDP).
 - d. There has been and may continue to be limited ability to perform a range of activities that are commonplace within PGR projects, including those involving specialist equipment, travel, or access to people. Research projects have been and will continue to be altered as a result of this, and this may have impacts on theses.
 - e. The focus has been and will be on adaptation, allowing students to progress, complete their studies and gain their qualifications according to their original timetable wherever possible and to minimise the number of students whose completion of their project is delayed. This may require various forms of adjustment when it is in the interest of the student.
 - f. The experience of a PGR student is individual, and the impact of Covid-19 will depend on the nature and stage of the students' research project. It will vary between being highly significant and relatively minimal. Many adjustments that have been made and will be made are on an individual basis.
 - g. An expectation that the student is responsible for the development of their project in collaboration with their supervisors but that the supervisors are required to provide guidance regarding any adjustments needed as a consequence of the Covid-19 situation.
 - h. The main starting point for PGR programmes is in September each year with additional points in January and April depending on the individual faculty arrangements. Varying individual student journeys mean that even students in the same stage can be at different points and the length of period of study differs due to part-time working, project design, interruptions and placements, while completions happen throughout the year.
 - i. Whilst the evaluation of theses will take account of the different activities that can be undertaken during Covid-19 restrictions, the expectation is that both the quality of the thesis and the integrity of the qualification will remain, as befits 3 years of full-time study (or part-time equivalent).
 - j. The changes suggested in this document will be in place for as long as seems prudent based on the state of the Covid-19 situation. Where changes are restrictive, they will be reviewed regularly and will be removed as soon as possible; where changes provide additional guarantees, these will remain for academic year 2020-21, but not automatically roll forward to future academic years. PGR sub-committee will review and make recommendations to University Education Committee where appropriate.
 - k. It is recognised that the experience of the current situation may well shape practice in future including Doctoral College working/collaborative approaches. New opportunities and thinking are being generated and we encourage and welcome the involvement of PGRs in developing the direction of these opportunities.

Alterations for Elements of PG Research Programmes Impacted by Covid-19

Recruitment

Student recruitment has continued and will continue. The University will not as a matter of policy, restrict PGR intake and offers. Obligations to students with existing offers will be met and new offers will continue to be made where appropriate. As described later, many projects will be affected by the current Covid-19 situation and the institution's ability to deliver research projects as originally designed and/or provide support for the research. Students with existing offers should be informed of these limitations by Academic Units and new offers should be made in light of them. Supervisors and/or PGR Directors or PGR Student Coordinators should discuss the need for alteration of projects with applicants who have accepted their offer prior to registration. It is recognised that some students will choose to defer entry to a later start date (see Annex 1) particularly if they are unable to travel to Newcastle because of restrictions in their home country, or if personal circumstances mean they cannot take up the study offer. PGR Sub-committee, Faculty PGR Committees and Admissions undertake to continue to examine and work with student representatives and other stakeholders to create inclusive and equal opportunities for all our PGR students within the recruitment process under the Covid-19 impacted situation.

Admissions, Arrival and Induction for New Students

Arrival and induction sessions have continued during the lockdown period in line with normal entry for each Faculty. Newly arriving PGR students will continue to engage with sessions at University, Faculty, Institute and School levels to induct students into University, City and on-campus life as well as the on-line learning and communication systems being used.

Induction will include different types of activities to bring together cohorts of students in new ways and guidance on physical distancing measures in place for the safety of all students, which will be developed as part of the Student Experience Resilience Framework.

The primary start date for PGR students is September with opportunities for additional starters in January (all Faculties) and April (FMS and SAgE) (see Annex 1). It is anticipated that September will remain the most common point of entry. Any start dates at times away from the defined PGR start dates require Dean's permission which may be granted through the normal process.

Continuing students will have update sessions from University, Faculty, Institute and School to provide them with support through the changes; building-specific guidance will be provided to students as they return to the parts of Campus that they use. Academic Units should work in partnership with new and returning students to provide mutual support in the changed circumstances.

However, for both new and continuing students there may be Covid-19 related circumstances, particularly relating to personal and family circumstances, which prevent/restrict/delay their travel to/return to Newcastle. Especially for students travelling internationally, these delays may be unpredictable, substantial and be either at the point of departure or in Newcastle via quarantine. Academic Units should work with these students to plan their academic journey and/or their return, including online induction and learning opportunities which may be identified as initial periods of outside study.

Access to IT

The University has and will ensure that new and continuing PGR students will have access to IT resources, both hardware and software, to enable them to undertake their research and engage with their supervisory team online. In the light of Covid-19, the University has set up an IT Support Scheme to ensure that all research students have access to the hardware and software they need to progress their studies at a distance. The Scheme applies to new and continuing students and includes laptop loans and grants for internet access, and access to specialist software. More information is available [online](#). Some resources may be limited by practicality, commercial, or legal issues to on site access.

Project

Some projects have already been revised and others will require changes to the original project strategy, plan or design. We recognise that there are different subject specific alterations and these adjustments will be made collaboratively between the student and supervisory team. For new Doctoral and MPhil students, these changes should be discussed and agreed as part of the project approval process. For continuing students, these changes should be documented as part of the Annual Progress Review. Some components of the study may need to be rescheduled in discussion with supervisors.

Project detail will be discussed in light of any additional requirements relating to wellbeing or special needs that the Covid-19 situation may bring. It is recognised that underlying health conditions may restrict the ability of students to alter the project design as a consequence of Covid-19 restrictions. In such circumstances, alternative solutions, such as study interruption, should be discussed with supervisors and Graduate School staff.

Study undertaken outside the university

It is recognised that some of our PGR students have been and will be spending more of their time away from Newcastle as a consequence of Covid-19 restrictions, so it is necessary to secure assurance that such students have appropriate access to the facilities and support needed to undertake their study. Students should complete an Outside Study Form (on e-portfolio) and appropriate risk assessment for this purpose.

Outside study regulations were reviewed by PGR Sub-committee in June 2020 to ensure there is sufficient flexibility to accommodate these extended periods of outside study, as well as extensions to outside study periods.

It is recognised that extended periods of outside study may not be an option for some students including those with particular personal circumstances, those with visa restrictions or those receiving stipendiary payments, including those from UKRI.

UK, EU and International fieldwork/travel/placements

The University has restricted all mobility/travel for PGR students, in line with Government guidance. However in time, it is anticipated that Government guidance will change and travel restrictions may ease. As the situation develops, the University will consider the restrictions to mobility and the mobility needs of PGR students, in line with those of those of staff.

For EU and International travel, the public health guidance of both the UK and the country of travel will be considered. However, the University will at all times be guided by the advice of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. If the FCO does not state that it is safe to travel to a particular destination, it may not be possible for the University to provide sufficient or any insurance for the student. There may be occasions where the University deems the travel to be safe outside the scope of its travel insurance cover. In such circumstances the situation would be reviewed on a case by case basis.

As the travel restrictions lift, the University will do what it can to support PGR mobility on university business in the UK, EU and internationally including that for primary research/fieldwork, placements, conferences etc. We recognise that for some students to undertake their PGR studies in line with their original project strategy mobility is essential. However, the University also has a duty of care and responsibility for ensuring the safety and welfare of its students. Therefore, even when restrictions begin to lift, the process for approving PGR mobility (outside study for PGR students) will require a thorough approach to assessing the risks which will include the requirement for the PGR student to demonstrate an awareness of the risks and the provision of additional support from the Insurance Office to ensure the potential risks of the outside study, and the legal and insurance implications are understood. If it is not possible for a student to undertake a period of mobility which is essential for the project, this may mean that the project may need to be revised.

It is recognised that some students are currently internationally located 'at home' or wishing to travel internationally to their country of permanent residence to undertake primary research/fieldwork where local restrictions may be different to those in the UK. Such issues should be considered on a case by case basis by the

supervisor, PGR Dean and Head of Academic Unit taking advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Health and Safety and the Insurance Office to ensure that appropriate risk assessment is undertaken to fulfil our duty of care. Whilst for collaborative PhD projects it is also important to consider the views and perspectives of the partner institution, the liability resides with Newcastle University and consequently the final decision regarding mobility also resides with Newcastle University.

As a result, the outside study process is currently under review to ensure that sufficient information is captured on the activities to be undertaken during the period of outside study, that there is a robust risk assessment covering all of the potential risks and that there is liaison by the supervisor, PGR Dean and Head of Academic Unit with Health and Safety and the Insurance Office for outside study requests where there is any concern.

Students who do not wish or are unable to travel nationally or internationally will be supported if they need to change project as described above.

Supervision and Support

Supervisors should provide first point of academic support for PGRs and the University guarantees to continue with the online supervisory support introduced in 2019-20 for its PGR students in Academic Year 2020-21. We will continue to create a positive, supportive culture for PGR students to reach their potential. It is recognised that the changes necessary to support the delivery of our Taught Programmes or the staffing of the National Health Service are likely to have significant workload implications for supervisors but that this may be uneven in terms of impact on supervisors and, therefore, also students. Additional support that students may choose to consult can be provided by: Graduate School Managers, School PGR Directors, Institute PGR Student Coordinators, PG Tutors, Degree Programme Directors, and the PGR Dean or deputy as appropriate.

As part of the general enhancement of PGR study, to ensure appropriate supervisory support from entry, a proposal that all students will have two supervisors at point of entry rather than on project approval submission at three months will be considered at PGR Sub-committee in June 2020. This will be advantageous in the current situation given potential impact of Covid-19 on supervisor availability and will be effected as soon as possible for new students once approved. Review of the supervisory team will be carried out at project approval stage and approved by the PGR Dean.

Supervisory training and support will continue to be provided for existing and new supervisors through supervisory workshops organised by Faculty and Academic Units, to cover new and emerging areas linked to the demands of the situation including student support and pastoral care. If difficulties arise with supervisory support, students and staff can continue to report difficulties through existing reporting mechanisms; there are already several routes available including Student Staff Committee, Student Representatives, PG Directors, PGR Student Coordinators, School or Cohort administrators, Graduate Schools, HoAU, the Annual Progress Review Panel, Degree Programme Directors, Deans and Postgraduate Tutors, as well as School Student Representatives and either/or Newcastle University Students' Union (NUSU) and University and College Union (UCU).

The University's "change of supervisor" processes are undergoing review to ensure that a prompt change to supervisory teams can be achieved if necessitated by Covid-19 impact. This will come into effect for Academic Year 2020-21.

Progression and Completion

The Annual Progression Review process for Doctoral and MPhil students has continued as an online process and will continue in this format and with a normal frequency to monitor the progress and provide support for students through their period of PGR study. APR will continue as an online process until it is possible to revert to an in-person on campus activity.

Students and supervisors should record the impact on their studies through the e-portfolio system and APR process as this will become part of the documentation considered in any future extension application.

For current students who have not had an APR during the period 1 March to end of September 2020, an additional support review will be carried out by staff nominated by the PGR Director and scheduled to consider the impact of Covid-19 on the PGR student before the start of Academic Year 2020-21.

Any such reviews outside the normal APR process will not be seen as a formal progression point but the purpose is to advise and discuss any necessary project changes in light of Covid-19 impact. It is anticipated that these will be reviewed through the normal sequence in e-portfolio from students, supervisor, panel, Academic Unit and Dean for sign off.

Some students (including clinicians who might have returned to NHS duties and other PGR students engaged in Covid-19 related work) may wish to interrupt their studies or start later when facilities or other research opportunities are available. It is recognised that this will only be an option for a few, as it may impact on stipendiary or other support payments, as well as Visas; nor can guarantees be given about when facilities/other opportunities will be available.

The University has and will continue to support students to submit their thesis within the maximum period of candidature for their programme. However, it is recognised that during the Covid-19 impacted period there will be an increased number of applications for extensions to due submission dates. The University originally provided three-month fee-free extensions for those for those Doctoral and MPhil students due to submit between the 1st March 2020 until the end of September 2020.

Update

In July 2020, the University extended these extensions to Doctoral and MPhil students due to submit up to the 31st December 2020. In addition, a further fee-free extension of up to three months, (providing 6 months of fee-free extension in total) was approved, where progress continues to be disrupted.

Review of this scheme will be done on a rolling programme with the next review point at the end of October 2020.

Where a research masters student requires an extension for their research dissertation due to Covid-19, which will extend their registration in to the 2020-21 academic year and this is supported by the Degree Programme Director, the University will provide a three-month fee-free extension.

Researcher Development Programme

The Researcher Development Programmes have moved online and the University guarantees to continue to provide an online option for PGR students in 2020-21 and aims to provide some in-person on-campus opportunities if the situation permits.

Academic Interactions and Networking

It is recognised that the ability to build social relationships through interaction between students within cohorts and networking with other students, researchers and academics is important for the academic success of all including PGR. Existing learning and networking activities have already moved online. The University commits to the development of further online options for Academic Year 2020-21. Through FEBs, PGR Deans will ask Faculty Research Institutes, Schools, Research Groups, Themes and NUCoREs to plan for further inclusive online networking activities, including both formal (such as seminars) and informal (coffee breaks). The University also understands that some students may find online interactions difficult, such students should be advised to discuss needs initially with supervisors and with the Wellbeing Service.

In addition, NUSU and student reps will play an essential role in helping to catalyse student-instigated activities that can be supported by Faculties.

Pastoral Issues

We have workshops covering pastoral aspects of supervision, these will continue to be delivered. The content will also be updated in light of the changes made to regulations, procedures, etc in light of the Covid-19 situation. A key part of these sessions is discussion of case studies and sharing of experiences between attendees with particular emphasis on supporting the wellbeing of students and student experience. New case studies will be developed in relation to the Covid-19 situation in consultation with PG Deans, PGR Supervisors, PGR students and the Student Health and Wellbeing Service to facilitate discussion and how best to support our research students.

The University has a [Free 24/7 Post Graduate Support Service](#) for students who require assistance. A range of services exist specifically exist for research students, and supervisors are encouraged to signpost students accordingly:

- 24/7 Telephone support 0800 030 5182
- An online health portal and Health E App providing students with medical information; the Free Health E App is available on both iOS and Android and is the UK's largest free library of wellbeing resources. These include videos, guides, and webinars which can be accessed whenever needed, anywhere in the world.
- Free Legal advice
- Support for those affected by EDI issues

Teaching Duties

PGR students have taught during the Covid-19 impacted period in 2019-20 and there will be opportunities for PGRs to teach in 2020-21. However given the nature of taught programme delivery in 2020-21, the availability of PGRs and the different contributions PGRs can and do make, it is currently difficult to predict how this will affect the opportunities for individual students in terms of opportunities to access teaching duties and the experiences available. The University encourages Academic Units to employ PGR students where qualified to support the move to online taught programmes.

To support PGR students to access teaching duties, an online version of the ILTHE/NTA will be available. In addition, bespoke training on online teaching skills is being developed by some DTPs and DTCs and the potential for opening up online teaching training sessions to PGRs is under investigation.

Examination

Some students may choose to add a Covid-19 impact statement to their thesis, either within the thesis or submitted to examiners separately which will be indicated in the Examination Entry Form. This may describe the original plans and subsequent actions, where the situation has had an unavoidable effect on their research.

The viva voce process has moved and will remain online until restrictions are such that in-person on campus viva voce can be scheduled. Prior to the Covid-19 restrictions the University already supported online viva voce, through Dean level concession. All viva voce will be online for the remainder of 2020, however students must consent to the online examination. Current University practice is that the viva voce process should not be recorded.

If a student does not wish or is unable for personal/health reasons to undertake the examination online, alternative arrangements will be considered by the relevant Dean on a case-by-case basis.

Our experience of online examination will be evaluated by the PGR Sub-committee and the approach in 2021 will be considered in light of any easing of restrictions.

Guidance for students and examiners has been produced and will be updated as experience of the online viva voce examination provides additional information:

[Updated Section 4.7 of the Handbook for Examiners of Research Degrees by Theses](#)

[FMS Guidance \(available in oral examination section\)](#)

[HaSS and SAgE Guidance \(available in oral examination section\)](#)

Next Steps

Following approval of the Education Resilience Framework for Postgraduate Research by Senate, , the FAQs, PGR webpages, Code of Conduct, Regulations, associated processes and e-portfolio have been updated to reflect and enable the implementation of the approaches described in the Framework. Students will be encouraged to access the FAQs as their initial source of information which will be enhanced such that these lead through to the other information sources listed above.

Suzanne Cholerton (PVC Education), Brian Walker (PVC Research Strategy and Resources), John Kirby, Maggie Roe and Phil Lord (PGR Deans), Lucy Backhurst (Academic Registrar) and Nicky Houghton (Senior Student Policy Manager) 18 June 2020

Annex 1 – Key Dates

PGR Start Dates

Start Date	FMS	HaSS	SAGe
28 th September 2020	Yes	Yes	Yes
11 th January 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes
26 th April 2021	Yes	No	Yes

Induction Dates

Induction Type	FMS	HaSS	SAGe
Continuing PGRs	Awaiting information	29 th September 2020	24 th September 2020
1 st Year PGRs	8 th October 2020	29 th September 2020 19 th January 2021	6 th October 2020 19 th January 2021 6 th May 2021

PGR Training Dates

Information on available workshops will be available at the following webpages once finalised and available to book at <https://workshops.ncl.ac.uk/>

FMS - <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/fms/postgrad/skills/>

HaSS - <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/hss/learning/postgraduate/training/phdstudents/>

SAGe -

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/sage/education/postgraduate/postgraduateresearcherdevelopmentprogramme/#introduction>

Staggered Arrival and start dates for Research Masters students

Student group	Online registration starts	Earliest arrival on campus date	Phase 1 Induction (Induction materials available online)	Phase 2 induction	Programme module teaching start date
New PGT students New Research masters	31 st August	5 October 2020 (international students may need to undertake part of the induction in quarantine)	28 September 2020	5 October 2020 (2 weeks of induction [University/Discipline Online /on-campus induction Package])	19 October 2020
Staggered Arrival and start dates for other taught student cohorts (for information)					
Stage 1 UG students	19 th August	28 September 2020	28 September 2020 [NUSU Fresher's Week element]	28 September 2020 (materials available from 28 th September, 1 week online induction, 2 weeks blended induction [University/Discipline	19 October 2020

				online/on-campus induction Package])	
UG and IM Finalists	31 st August	5 October 2020	28 September 2020	5 October 2020 (2 weeks of induction [University/Discipline Online /on-campus induction Package])	19 October 2020
Other returning UG, IM, PGT and Research Masters	7 th September	12 October 2020	28 September 2020	5 October 2020 (2 weeks of induction [University/Discipline Online /on-campus induction Package])	19 October 2020

Students with programmes which rely on access to third party provision including MBBS, BDS, SLS and PG Education may have induction and programme teaching start dates which are different to those given above. **Students on such programmes will not be on-campus before 28 September 2020.** In exceptional cases where a compelling case can be made, arrangements for these programmes will need to be agreed in detail with the relevant Dean of Taught Programmes.