

Dear All

I thought it would be good to catch up with you before the weekend. Things are quiet at the University without you being around as much as usual. I am particularly missing those of you who wave as you pass my window. on a normal day.

The University Senate has met this afternoon and has made the sad decision that we will need to delay this Summer's graduation ceremonies until early December. I know that some of you will be disappointed by this, but what we are hoping is that it will give as many people as possible the chance to finish their studies and be at the ceremony. This is particularly in the light of the many of you who have written to me with concerns about being unwell or having children at home making studying difficult. In these cases there may be opportunities for extension of deadlines.

Notwithstanding the date of the ceremony, we will endeavour to publish degree results in the early Summer for anyone who has completed their studies. We will also publish a second tranche of degree results for the cohort who have been unwell etc and have needed to submit their work later. Obviously, there is a lot of detail to clarify on this matter, so I would be grateful if you would have patience whilst the Registrar gets some clarity on the relevant dates. I will fill you in further next week.

A similar situation will apply to students in other levels. Where results are complete we will publish progression outcomes in the early Summer. Where assessment outcomes are delayed we will aim to publish in September and you will be able to move onto the next stage of your studies.

I hope that these decisions will provide a little bit of breathing space for those of you who are concerned about illness and caring responsibilities. As I said, I would be really grateful if you would wait until the detail is fully formed and I share it with you before sending in queries. I will also ask that the website FAQs are updated asap.

Please try to get some well earned rest this weekend and get out into the sunshine if you can. I will be back to you on Monday.

Look after yourselves

Best wishes
Penny