

Communication to Partners: 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I wanted to update you on the current position in respect of trainees currently undertaking professional placement. The current guidance given to trainees is to **continue with their professional placement as scheduled. Tutors will also continue with visits as planned.** The university will monitor this situation and we will update you when there is a change.

However, if a placement school takes the decision to close, trainees must contact the University as soon as possible to advise of the situation. We have also requested that schools inform us of any closure by contacting the partnership team at [partnershipoffice@hope.ac.uk](mailto:partnershipoffice@hope.ac.uk)

The university has taken the decision, with effect from **Tuesday 17 March 2020**, to move teaching online or find alternative ways of communicating with students as we prepare them for their final assessments. **All services and resources for students will remain open and students have been informed that they will still have access to their tutors on-line and they can currently come on to campus if they want to see someone.**

We are aware that some groups are particularly vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19. This group includes those with weakened immune systems, undergoing chemotherapy, asthma, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and especially respiratory illnesses and such like. Students have been advised that if they fit into one of the identified vulnerable groups, to please speak with their professional placement tutor and course leader.

Students have also been advised that if they have any other particular circumstances that they are concerned about, that they do not hesitate to contact their professional placement tutor and course leader.

Thank you for your continued support.

Michelle

Michelle Pearson  
Head of ITE