

Two-stage Delivery model Academic Year 2021/22:

Stage 2 Blended Learning

Stage 1 Lockdown

Process for moving between stages

Background

This document outlines the proposed updated 2-stage system and clarifies how we will operate during the current pandemic in the 2021/22 academic year. This paper is designed to clarify our process for moving between stages to ensure all stakeholders, including students and staff, clearly understand the rationale for changes that will impact their study, and the associated practicalities.

The delivery model has been subject to consultation with student representative including the Student President and Vice President and Course representatives. The Student Council and Academic Board have discussed and agreed the proposed delivery model for 2021/22.

The delivery model that we have agreed for the academic year 2021/22 is stage 2 and will do the following:

- 1.1. allow for compliance with any ongoing social distancing requirement.
- 1.2. allow for a quick response to any further disruption caused by COVID.
- 1.3. afford ICMP the flexibility to respond to student/staff concerns about social contact, even in the event of all COVID restrictions being lifted.
- 1.4. ensure that we can deliver all programmes in keeping with their specifications and the expectations of the awarding bodies/organisations.
- 1.5. respond to students' expectations of ongoing improved integration of digital learning.
- 1.6. provide a 'bridge' from the current COVID context, to envisaged post-COVID delivery model that better blends onsite provision with online learning where appropriate.

Proposal Delivery Model and Rationale

The proposal is to adopt a blended delivery model comprising:

Level 4 and 5 students; normally two days of onsite face-to-face teaching per week, with the remainder of the timetable delivered online through a combination of Canvas and MS Teams

Level 6 students at least one day of onsite face-to-face teaching per week, with the remainder of the timetable delivered online through a combination of Canvas and MS Teams

Level 7 Postgraduate students' on-site delivery the default position, supported by online supervisions/classes on those modules where this works effectively and with no detriment to the student experience.

The proposed model will allow us to instigate a new simplified 2-stage plan COVID contingency, consisting of either 'blend' or 'lockdown'. The requirement for an ongoing COVID contingency over the next academic cycle further justifies our use of a blended model as the default position. Informal feedback from students has so far suggested that some form of blended provision and/or the permanent migration of aspects of our programmes into online learning is desired, though the maintenance of core face-to-face teaching remains an essential part of the experience. The 2-day onsite model responds well to this position.

Depending on the impact group sizes on timetabling, the proposed model may result in greater availability of ICMP facilities for student self-booking. The proposed model will allow us to move to groups of 12 or 14, depending on the nature of the facility required.

Support, advice and guidance is available from your Programme Leader on the specific details of the delivery model for your programme. We think that the proposed model will continue to provide an excellent student experience for students studying at ICMP, however students that may want to consider transferring to another institution are able to discuss options with their Programme Leader.

[Student Protection Plan](#)

We will be unable to provide this delivery model if government guidance makes it impossible for us to do that due to another wave of covid leading to a local or national lockdown. However, we are committed to delivering a full student experience to ensure each student has the opportunity to achieve their learning and developmental goals, enjoy the benefits of being an ICMP student and receive excellent value for money.

If we are required to move to a lower stage because of local or national lockdowns, we may need to make those decisions and changes extremely quickly as it will be outside of our control. However, it benefits no-one to make sudden transitions to a higher stage. Students and staff will want enough time to make their arrangements and as such any changes of this nature will be carefully considered, planned, and communicated.

Student consultation is important to us. As we move between stages, we must ensure that it is in the best interests of the majority of our community. To be clear, if we are required to move to a lower stage, i.e., increased lockdown, student consultation may not be possible.

Process

Moving to stage 1(Lockdown) Increasing restrictions

We will increase restrictions (i.e., move to stage 1) in response to Government guidance only. The decision to move down a stage will be taken by the Senior Management Team (SMT) under our business continuity procedure.

Any decision to move down a stage will probably have to be implemented immediately, as advance notice of a government decision may not be available. There may be no opportunity for student consultation.

We have developed internal procedures for the following which will be implemented in these cases:

- Changing the timetable over from Stage 2 to Stage 1 so that all classes will be offered online.
- Closing the campus
- Communication with staff and students.

Individual circumstances

Some students may have individual circumstances that mean they cannot return to on-campus attendance at the same time as others. This might be due to a long-term health condition that makes you more vulnerable than others, or it may be because you live with a vulnerable relative, or for some other reason.

Pre-existing long-term healthcare conditions are disabilities and protected by the Equality Act. We make reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities. If you speak to our Disability and Wellbeing team, we can plan appropriate reasonable adjustments with you in advance of any change. You will need to provide suitable evidence, and we will document the agreed adjustments in a support agreement.

If your circumstances do not amount to a disability, we will still do what we can to help you manage your attendance and get the best out of your time at ICMP. You can use [this form](#) to tell us about your individual circumstances.