

Dear offer holders,

This is just a short message to say that we look forward to welcoming you to Cambridge in October and to address some of the queries you may be having in the meantime. You will be hearing from your College (or may already have heard) about arrangements to do with your arrival, accommodation, etc. We wanted, however, to say a little about what you can expect in the Faculty itself.

In short, there will be a mix of in-person and virtual teaching. We will provide a lot more detail about all this before you arrive.

Meetings with your supervisor are expected to take place in person if possible and safe for both of you. Some students and some staff members may, however, choose to conduct supervisions remotely at certain times. Seminars will, we hope, also be in person wherever possible although, once again, there may be considerable need for remote or part-remote seminars. Given the public health situation, flexibility will be needed from us all. Other things such as training and the full Graduate Research Seminar Programme will take place as usual but, because of numbers involved, sessions are likely to take place remotely. If you are already aware that your own situation will be complicated and/or that you will not be able to attend any in person teaching, then please do indicate this as soon as you can when confirming your place, so that we can plan effectively for your needs.

You may also be concerned about library access. We are delighted to say that the University Library, which has spent the last few months hugely increasing its holdings of digital materials, has now re-opened for borrowing physical books. We hope more facilities will be available by the time you arrive in Cambridge. You can find up to date details here: <https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/news/coronavirus-faqs>

This is a very unusual time in which to take an MPhil and if there are particular questions that you have, please don't hesitate to get in touch - with Anna Fox (the postgraduate administrator), with your MPhil convenor, or — before term — with me. I hand over to a new Director of MPhil Studies, Dr Sarah Haggarty, in late September but will field any questions until then. During September, you will also find out who is to supervise you, after which point you can also correspond with your supervisor.

In the first instance you might also like to consult the University of Cambridge's FAQs for prospective students here: <https://www.graduate.study.cam.ac.uk/coronavirus>

Finally, if you haven't yet confirmed your acceptance, please do so as soon as you can.

With best wishes,

Helen Thaventhiran

Director of MPhil Studies, 2018-20