

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. There will be no changes to the structure of the course due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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. The full Postgraduate Training Programme will take place as usual alongside your supervisions, but, because of numbers involved, sessions are likely to take place remotely. For the same reason, the Graduate Research Seminars and the PhD induction session will also take place remotely. We will provide a lot more detail about all this before you arrive.

You may also be concerned about library access. We are delighted to say that in the last week or so, 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 begin a doctorate 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 prospective supervisor (the person who interviewed you), or with me. 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>

You might also like to have a look at this selection of videos made by current PhD students talking about their projects, the Faculty, and their experience of research and writing under lockdown:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1x6xuatsb2avnom/AABK50ea6lNTX3BTrNM47KJZa?dl=0>

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

See you soon!

With best wishes,

Kasia Boddy