Your studies

Department of History

Postgraduate taught

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2020-21
Welcome to the Department of History!

We all hope that you will enjoy your years at Essex. We know things are a bit different at the moment, but we have been working really hard to make sure you get a great education and have an enjoyable experience this year. We want to make sure you feel part of our History community.

This guide contains much of the information you will require during your time in the History Department, as well as some useful advice on, for example, writing coursework. It is revised regularly, and we would welcome your comments on how it might be improved. In particular, let us know if you feel that we should incorporate new or additional material.

We hope you get the most from your studies.

Dr Andrew Priest
Head of Department
# Contents

Welcome to the Department of History! ................................................................. 1  
Introduction ................................................................................................................ 5  
Practicalities and Getting Started ............................................................................. 5  
  Right to Study ........................................................................................................... 5  
  Choosing your modules ............................................................................................. 6  
  Explore your Campus ................................................................................................. 6  
  Get connected ............................................................................................................ 6  
    Find Your Way ......................................................................................................... 7  
  Working while studying ............................................................................................. 7  
  Your personal belongings ......................................................................................... 7  
The Essex Experience .................................................................................................. 7  
  Equality, Diversity and Inclusion .............................................................................. 7  
  Student Communities ............................................................................................... 8  
  Essex Sport ................................................................................................................ 8  
  Students’ Union ........................................................................................................ 8  
  Essex Spirit, social media and What’s on? ................................................................. 9  
  The History Society ................................................................................................. 8  
About the Department of History .............................................................................. 10  
  Meet the team .......................................................................................................... 10  
  Graduate Director Taught ......................................................................................... 10  
  Staff research interests .............................................................................................. 11  
  Departmental resources and facilities ...................................................................... 11  
  Department Common Room ...................................................................................... 11  
  Departmental prizes ................................................................................................ 12  
  - MA Dissertation Prize .......................................................................................... 12  
  - The John S. Appleby Prize for the best MA Dissertation on an Essex History Theme ... 12  
  Departmental awards ............................................................................................... 12  
  - The Friends of Historic Essex Postgraduate Award .............................................. 12  
  - The Essex Society for Family History Postgraduate Award .................................. 12  
  Communications ....................................................................................................... 13  
  Student and Staff Expectations ................................................................................ 14  
    The use of personal devices ................................................................................... 14  
Learning and Teaching .............................................................................................. 15  
  Your Course ............................................................................................................. 15  
  Module enrolment ................................................................................................... 16  
  Work Placements ..................................................................................................... 16  

Module Materials ................................................................................................................................. 17
Teaching timetable ................................................................................................................................. 17
Recording your attendance ...................................................................................................................... 17
Making changes to your study ................................................................................................................... 17
Library Services ..................................................................................................................................... 17
Academic Skills and Support .................................................................................................................... 18
Proofreading services ............................................................................................................................... 18
Language classes ..................................................................................................................................... 18
Assessment and Academic Integrity ......................................................................................................... 19
Rules of Assessment ................................................................................................................................. 19
Academic Integrity and Academic Offences ............................................................................................. 20
Methods of Assessment in Department ................................................................................................. 20
Coursework ............................................................................................................................................... 20
Return of coursework ................................................................................................................................. 22
Ethics in research ..................................................................................................................................... 22
Moderation and marking ............................................................................................................................ 22
Feedback .................................................................................................................................................. 23
The Board of Examiners ............................................................................................................................ 23
Failure to pass ........................................................................................................................................... 23
Reassessment ........................................................................................................................................... 24
Extenuating Circumstances ....................................................................................................................... 24
Computers, Learning Technologies and your Information ........................................................................ 25
Computers ............................................................................................................................................... 25
Learning Technologies and Systems ......................................................................................................... 25
Your information ....................................................................................................................................... 26
Student Voice .......................................................................................................................................... 26
Student Representatives ............................................................................................................................ 26
Student Voice Groups ............................................................................................................................... 26
Student Surveys ....................................................................................................................................... 27
You Matter ................................................................................................................................................. 27
Student Services Hub ............................................................................................................................... 27
Support for disabilities and conditions .................................................................................................... 28
Seeing a Doctor ......................................................................................................................................... 28
Counselling services ................................................................................................................................. 28
UK Immigration Advice and Guidance ..................................................................................................... 28
Money management ................................................................................................................................. 28
Students’ Union Advice ............................................................................................................................ 28
Residence Life .......................................................................................................................................... 29
Introduction

All Schools and Departments at Essex create a Student Handbook each year. These are designed to be useful tools for you to find out what you need to know about your department, the University and its academic policies and procedures, and all of the resources available to you.

We know things might be a little different this year, but we remain absolutely determined to provide you with the best Essex education and student experience we can while safeguarding your health and wellbeing. Make sure that you keep up to date with what we all need to do to keep safe as a community.

At Essex we celebrate diversity and challenge inequality. You are welcomed to a truly diverse community where differences are celebrated, and individuality is valued. Your contribution is welcomed and encouraged based on your own thoughts and experiences. As part of our community you will have the freedom to explore, experiment, challenge your discipline and have your ideas shaped by peer and professional knowledge from all over the world. Essex is about more than just getting a degree: we have so much to offer our students!

Things might have to change and adapt over the year, so make sure that you’re checking online and keeping in touch with your department for the latest updates. The Student Directory contains a wealth of other helpful sources of information which you may also find useful.

Practicalities and Getting Started

You’ve made it to Essex! We’ve outlined below the most important things you need to make sure you do as soon as possible to get your time at Essex started.

Registration

Whether a new or returning student, you will need to officially register at the start of each academic year. Registration is not only a formal procedure of enrolling you into the University, but also connects you to a number of vital systems which allow you to access your online Welcome and Induction information and start your studies. As part of this process, you will need to activate your Essex IT account, register online and, once you arrive on campus, undertake a Right to Study check and collect your student registration card.

Right to Study

The University must ensure all students have the right to study at the University of Essex for the whole duration of their course. If you require immigration permission to study in the UK, this will be checked when you first arrive on campus and as necessary thereafter. Students have a duty to maintain valid UK immigration permission that allows study for the duration of their course, failure to do so may lead to withdrawal from the University under the University’s General Regulations.

Student visas

The University has many duties as a Tier 4 sponsor and must ensure we remain compliant in order to retain our Tier 4 sponsor status. Students with a Tier 4 or Short-term student visa have responsibilities to the University and the Home Office. There will be conditions attached to your visa that restrict what you can do in the UK, breaking any of the conditions may mean you can’t remain in the UK and complete your course. Please be aware that changes to your course, whether due to
academic failure or choice, must be considered against the Immigration rules and guidance in place at the time, this can mean that some academic options may not be available to you.

If you are coming to the UK on or after 1 January 2021 to study, you may be applying for a visa under the new immigration rules that the UK government intend to introduce. These rules will also apply to European and Swiss nationals who do not already have EU settled status or UK immigration permission. The government aim to release the new rules in the autumn of 2020, we’ll publish more information on our immigration web pages after they have been published and considered.

Choosing your modules
You may have module options to select as part of your course structure. If you do, you must select the modules you wish to enrol on before the academic year begins. You can view and choose your specific options through the eNROL system. New students can do so from the end of August and returning students can from the April preceding the next academic year. Early module enrolment ensures that timetables can be scheduled effectively. We’ll talk more about how you might decide which modules to take in the Learning and Teaching section of this Handbook.

Explore your Campus
There is a broad range of facilities across each of our campuses to support your experience at Essex, whether in person or virtually. For the latest information, see the updates on campus services on campus and make sure that you’re aware of the guidance for those coming onto campus.

Get connected
Your IT account
You will need to activate your Essex IT account. Once you’re set up, you can access your Essex email, log in to Moodle, access lab computers and library services, print for free on campus, connect to campus wi-fi, and much more. When you activate your account, you should register an external e-mail address and passphrase so that if you forget your password, you can also reset it using these details. If you have forgotten those also, you should either visit the IT Helpdesk or call 01206 872345. Make sure you keep your password safe and do not share it with others!

Campus Wi-fi
If you are studying on any of our campuses, connect to our Wi-Fi by simply finding the ‘eduroam’ network on your device and use the same log in details as your IT account to connect up!

Essex Apps
The University has a variety of online systems and platforms designed to enhance your learning and help make processes, such as submitting coursework, easier. We have rounded up the top platforms, portals and apps that you need to know about!

MyEssex
MyEssex is your online account. This is different to your applicant portal – you can use MyEssex to view your timetable, update your personal details, request replacement student cards or supporting documents, monitor your course progress, let us know if you’ll miss a lecture or class, contact the Student Services Hub, and much more.

PocketEssex
Pocket Essex is the University’s official app for students; its interface of icons act as a portal through to a variety of areas and resources. PocketEssex links to many areas that MyEssex does, but also takes you through to other key resources, such as the Students’ Union, FindYourWay and the Library.
Find Your Way
When on campus, we know that finding your way can be challenging to start with. Our Colchester campus in particular can be difficult to navigate with a historically complex room numbering system! 

FindYourWay is our interactive campus map designed to get you from A to B on either the Colchester or Southend campuses with quick and easy directions.

Working while studying
Many students choose to work part-time to supplement their income. Working during your course can also give you excellent skills and experience to boost your CV. Our Student Services Hub can help you find part-time work. There are also many opportunities to work in paid jobs on campus.

You can access recommendations on working hours, as well as guidance on rates of pay and National Insurance contributions on the Careers Services webpages.

If you have a student visa, please read our information on working in the UK for international students before you start looking for a job. The country you’re from and your visa type will determine whether or not you can work in the UK. If you can work, the type of work you are allowed to undertake and the number of hours you can work will be restricted.

Your personal belongings
The University does not cover costs for personal damage or loss of possessions; only in instances where the University has been negligent would a claim be viable for compensation for personal belongings. Therefore, you are strongly advised to take out personal insurance cover for your possessions. This is especially important for valuable items, such as laptops, phones and tablets.

The Essex Experience
The University of Essex is proud of its inclusivity and its international community. Our campuses and our University are places that are welcoming, where every single person can feel they have a place where they belong and where you can find the world in one place. As part of our ongoing commitment we have created a Student Charter as a pledge that every student becomes a part of when they join us. With the Student Charter you agree to support our community and we promise to provide you with a transformational educational experience.

Embrace the Essex Values
We are different at Essex. We are brave, we are bold, and we embrace challenges and drive change. Our values are underpinned by this very culture. While we full heartedly encourage students to challenge the status quo and explore the unknown, we expect that students do so respectfully, intelligently and act as true ambassadors for the University. The University has a Code of Student Conduct that outlines the rules and regulations that help us maintain our high standards of behaviour.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
The University recognises the value of diversity and is committed to equality of opportunity within the University. It therefore aims to create the conditions whereby students and staff are treated with dignity and respect, and solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential, regardless of race, ethnic or national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, socio-economic background, family circumstances, religious or political beliefs and affiliations, or any other irrelevant distinction.

The University is committed to a programme of action to ensure that this policy is fully effective.
**Student Communities**

We pride ourselves on being a welcoming and inclusive student community. The University recognises the value of diversity and are committed to equality of opportunity within the University. We aim to create an environment whereby students and staff are treated with dignity and respect, and solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential regardless of their background whether that is race, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, or any other distinction.

We offer a wide range of support to individuals and groups of student members, such as our postgraduate students – our student communities - who may have specific requirements, interests or responsibilities- to help fulfil your potential. Whether you are an international student, a mature student, a BAME student or have any other requirements or needs, we here at Essex want to welcome you with open arms. The University is committed to a programme of action to ensure that this policy is fully effective.

**Essex Sport**

Learning doesn't just happen in the classroom. Keeping active during your studies is a great way to meet new people, help relieve stress, maintain good physical and mental wellbeing, increase productivity, and improve your employability.

Visit the Essex Sport website or download the app to discover all the ways you can keep active during your time at Essex. In order to ensure the welfare of our community there may be changes to opening hours or what's available, so do check on the website for the latest information.

**Students’ Union**

We’re famous for our Students’ Union at Essex, and for good reason. Here you’re not just a member of a normal Students’ Union; you’re part of a family. We work hard to support our PGT community, and are here from day one to the moment you graduate to support you in any way we can.

The Students’ Union is run by students for students, and you have the ability to shape what we do. From deciding who leads the SU by electing our entire Student Leadership team including the PGT officer, to shaping your own experiences at Essex, we are here to represent your views and work with you to make amazing things happen.

Get involved!

There are opportunities to join Sports Clubs, to get involved with our BUCS teams which offer the opportunity to play competitively in a wide range of sports across the year. If you just want to try a sport, don’t want to commit to a regular team, or would rather not play competitively, check out our Just Play programme.

We have 120 Societies where you can meet people with similar interests, challenge yourself with something new or, if you can’t find what you’re looking for, start your own!

We also have our very own letting agency SU Homes designed to offer help and support for students to find off campus accommodation.

**The History Society**

The History Society offers you a chance to get to know history at Essex beyond lectures and seminars. Whilst this year may be a little different in terms of society events, we are dedicated to making sure we still have fun socials - even via Zoom or Kahoot! Look out for quizzes, talks, study support and more. We are built and run by students so if you have any suggestions or questions, just contact the History Society via uoehistorysociety@gmail.com or find us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/UoEHistSoc/ or Instagram @essexhistorysoc.
Essex Spirit, social media and What's on?

Keep up to date with important news, events and offers from across the University with our Essex Spirit newsletter, delivered directly to your Essex email address.

Follow us on social:

Facebook /uniofessex
Twitter /Uni_of_Essex
LinkedIn /uniessex

Our Events calendar brings together all the events happening across our three campuses, so you can make the most of your time at Essex.
About the Department of History

Meet the team

A full list of all staff can be found on [https://www.essex.ac.uk/departments/history/people](https://www.essex.ac.uk/departments/history/people). Below is a summary of the roles of staff that can help you with a variety of areas during your time at Essex.

Professional Services staff:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Willis</td>
<td>Senior Student Administrator</td>
<td>Lisa deals with postgraduate administration and enquiries. You can find Lisa in the History Department Office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma McClelland</td>
<td>Department Manager</td>
<td>Emma deals with departmental administrative matters and can arrange appointments with the Head of History.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduate Director Taught

The Graduate Director Taught is the member of staff responsible for the smooth running of taught postgraduate schemes. He/she is the first 'port of call' for any general enquiries. The Graduate Director Taught helps students in the initial stages of selecting a suitable subject and supervisor for the MA dissertation.

The Graduate Director Taught can also advise you on related practical or personal matters, or matters relating to the University’s formal requirements. He/she can be contacted in person during academic support hours, or by email or telephone.

| Graduate Director Taught            | Dr Jeremy Krikler (au)                                               | Room: 5NW.7.9                                                          |
|                                     |                                                                      | Email: krikjm@essex.ac.uk                                              |
| Graduate Director Taught            | Dr Felix Schnell (sp/su)                                             | Room: 5NW.8.7                                                          |
|                                     |                                                                      | Email: fschnell@essex.ac.uk                                           |

If the Graduate Director Taught is unable to help you, you may contact the Director of Education. Other staff you may wish to contact:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head of Department</td>
<td>Dr Andrew Priest</td>
<td>Room: 5NW.8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Education</td>
<td>Dr Matthew Grant</td>
<td>Room: 5NW.8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employability Development</td>
<td>Dr Justin Colson</td>
<td>Room: 5NW.8.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:apriest@essex.ac.uk">apriest@essex.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:m.grant@essex.ac.uk">m.grant@essex.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:jcolson@essex.ac.uk">jcolson@essex.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teaching staff and support

All teaching staff hold regular weekly academic support hours during term time. This is a time when you can discuss with them anything to do with your modules, from difficulties you might be having with your seminar readings, to discussions about feedback on your coursework.

Details of academic support hours are indicated on individual staff profile pages on the website. If you are not available at their advertised time for any reason, you can e-mail the tutor to make an arrangement to speak with them.
Please note that academic staff do not hold regular academic support hours during the vacations, and may, on occasions, be away from the University on research trips and visits. Therefore, if you need to get in touch with them during the vacation periods, you should e-mail them in the first instance.

**Module Tutors**
There are dedicated Module Tutors to support students for each module. The module tutor for each module can be found on Moodle. You can contact your module tutor about anything to do with your modules, from difficulties you might be having with your seminar readings, to discussions about feedback on your coursework. See above section on Teaching staff and support for information on academic support hours.

**Your Personal Tutor**
All undergraduate and postgraduate taught students have a Personal Tutor who will meet you soon after you arrive, and regularly throughout your course. Your Personal Tutor will be a member of academic staff and is someone you talk to about your course or any difficulties that may encounter. They can recommend and direct you to other support services that might be able to further help and support you. You can find out who your Personal Tutor is through MyEssex.

**Staff research interests**
Our Department is internationally recognised for the quality of its research across a broad range of areas from 1450 to the present, ranging from social and cultural history to politics, international relations and global history. Themes of particular interest in research include protest and citizenship, gender, race, class formation, nationalism, cultural history, violence, wars and revolutions. Details of staff research interests and their publications can be found at www.essex.ac.uk/history/staff.

**Research Seminars**
The Department arranges and hosts research seminars by both Essex and other university academics, on a wide variety of historical themes. These usually consist of a fairly informal paper about work-in-progress, followed by extensive discussion. The seminars are an excellent way to meet staff as well as students, both undergraduate and postgraduate. Members of the public are also welcome to attend. For more details of the research seminars and other public history events, please see the History website.

**Departmental resources and facilities**
A wide range of facilities and resources are available for all students to access and use as part of their study at Essex. Each department and school also has a selection for the exclusive use of their students. Below is a summary of the facilities and resources that are likely to be most useful to you.

**Department Common Room**
The Department Common Room (5NW.7.1) is located on the same corridor as the History Office and is for the use of all students (both undergraduate/postgraduate) and staff.

**Postgraduate Training**
Postgraduate Taught students are provided with structured training throughout their scheme of study. The Department offers a wide range of postgraduate taught modules that either explore particular fields and concepts or offer specific training in research methods and skills. Students should peruse the modules available and discuss with the Graduate Director Taught which of these modules would be suitable.

**Printing, photocopying and scanning**
All students can print, copy and scan for free at Essex! You can even print from your mobile by sending your attachment to mobileprinting@essex.ac.uk.
Once you’ve located a device, simply log in using your Essex login and password, or tap with your student card to print. Whilst printing is free for all students, please think of your carbon footprint and only print if necessary.

Please note that there are strict laws about infringement of copyright; more information can be found on the library website which explains what and how much you are permitted to copy. Usage is monitored and subject to a fair use policy.

**Premium printing**
Premium services for printing and finishing, including binding your documents for presentational purposes, are available at The Copy Centre (Square 4, Colchester Campus). These services are chargeable.

**Noticeboards**
Every department and school has their own noticeboard providing information on staff, courses and classes, updates, careers, events and opportunities. A list of academic staff and their contact details and location of seminar rooms is posted on the noticeboards situated on Level 7 near the History Office and the Common Room. Other noticeboards on Levels 7 and 8 have information on Careers, Seminars and Public Lectures, Local History and Student Experience.

**Departmental prizes**
Each year we are pleased to award prizes signifying excellence. The following prizes are available for award to postgraduate taught students:

- **MA Dissertation Prize**
  Awarded by the Board of Examiners in History to the MA student deemed to have written the best Dissertation.

- **The John S. Appleby Prize for the best MA Dissertation on an Essex History Theme**
  The Prize (of £50) will be awarded by the Department of History for the best MA dissertation on a subject related to Essex history. If no suitable dissertation on Essex history is submitted in any particular year, the Prize may be awarded to the best dissertation on a topic related to John Appleby’s various interests (e.g. local history, India, Russia, Atlantic World, history of education, history of medicine, etc.).

**Departmental awards**

- **The Friends of Historic Essex Postgraduate Award**
  The Friends of Historic Essex offer one or two annual awards (amounting to £750 in total) to postgraduate students (at Masters or PhD level) working on historical Essex sources. The award is made either to support research or to fund an MA placement at the Essex Record Office. The award is competitive and administered through the Centre for Public History. Contact Professor Alison Rowlands for further details.

- **The Essex Society for Family History Postgraduate Award**
  The Essex Society for Family History offers an annual award of £500 to one postgraduate student (at Masters or PhD level) working on an Essex-related subject in the field of Local or Family History. The award is competitive and administered through the Centre for Public History. Contact Professor Alison Rowlands for further details.
Communications
The University will predominantly use e-mail for routine communication between staff and students. Your Essex e-mail address will have been added to the relevant e-mail groups specific to your department or school, course and modules to ensure that you receive the essential information relevant to you. It is recommended that you check your Essex e-mail each day to ensure you do not miss any important updates to classes and assessment.

You will also automatically be subscribed to a small number of opt-out lists, again, based on your course. You can always opt in or out of these communications online.

How you should communicate
While email can be a quick and easy means of communicating, you should still consider how you structure and write each email to ensure it is appropriate when contacting members of staff at the University. How you communicate is a reflection on your professional and academic self, and so we have provided some useful tips to consider when constructing an email for different purposes. These are also useful when contacting professionals and academics outside of the University and are widely recognised as a matter of courtesy in the United Kingdom.

- **The level of formality:** If you are writing to your lecturer for the first time, it is good practice to use a relatively formal manner and use their correct title, for example, ‘Dear Dr Bercow’ or ‘Dear Professor Hammond’. If your lecturer signs their reply using their first name, then it is generally acceptable to reply using just their first name in your response; if not, continue to address them with their full, formal name. If you are unsure of your lecturer’s title, you can find their full details at [https://www.essex.ac.uk/departments/history/people](https://www.essex.ac.uk/departments/history/people). If no title is noted, then you should use the member of staff’s full name.

- **Identify yourself:** In the first few weeks of term, academic staff will be busy getting to know all of their students. Therefore, it is important that you begin by introducing and identifying yourself to them as they will not know every student right away. For example, ‘I am taking module AB123 and was at your lecture on Research Methods on Tuesday morning…’ You should always use your Essex email as your full name will appear to the member of staff you are emailing, but still remember to sign off your email with your name, including your preferred name if this is different to your official legal name on your record and account.

- **Consider your question:** You should always check that who you are contacting is the most appropriate person to answer your query. The useful department contact list provided earlier in this section should help you determine who will be able to help you on a range of different queries. Before emailing the member of staff, you should make sure that you have checked the resources provided, including the University website, Student Directory, Departmental Moodle pages and this Student Handbook in case the answer to your question can be found in one of these.

- If your question is particularly long or complex, it may be quicker and more useful to see someone in person. Your department office is open daily and all staff hold academic support hours when you can just drop in. If you cannot make the advertised support hours, or wish to notify the member of staff before you drop in, you can always email them beforehand to arrange an alternative time or make them aware you will be coming along.

Social Media
You can keep in touch with the Department via our social media:

- [https://www.facebook.com/UOEHISTORY/](https://www.facebook.com/UOEHISTORY/)
- [https://twitter.com/essexhistory](https://twitter.com/essexhistory)
Student and Staff Expectations

It will help both staff and students if they can try to meet the following expectations.

What students can expect from their teachers:

- for each module, a module description with aims and objectives, a reading list and assessment rules;
- a series of well-prepared lectures and seminars, the themes of which are clearly indicated in the module description;
- for modules with separate seminars, that the seminar will discuss material relevant to topic(s) covered in the previous lecture;
- to be informed at least two weeks in advance if they are expected to make a seminar presentation;
- that coursework submitted on time will be returned within 20 working days of the relevant coursework deadline;
- that legible comments will be provided on or with essays - these comments will normally offer a broad rationale for the mark awarded and where possible suggest some direction for further development. The length of comments will vary but will usually be about 50-100 words;
- that members of staff will be available to see students during academic support hours, the times of which will be posted on the member of staff’s office door;
- that members of staff will normally reply to emails within two working days during term-time and a week out of term-time, unless otherwise indicated;
- that students will be informed of any last minute changes to the timetable (e.g. due to teacher’s illness) by email or text message;
- that any cancelled teaching will be rescheduled for a time at which all students can attend.

What teachers can expect from their students:

- that students arrive punctually, and attend regularly, all lectures and seminars - in the event of an absence, an explanation is expected;
- that any required reading has been completed before the relevant lecture or seminar;
- that a sufficient amount of time is spent each week reading and preparing for each module, including the writing of coursework;
- that students participate actively in seminars and honour commitments to produce work for a seminar, including presentations;
- that coursework is submitted on time;
- that all coursework is properly documented, cites all sources used and is the student's own work;
- that students be familiar with the Departmental Student Handbook, and the rules contained therein, particularly relating to essay writing, submission and the coursework deadline policy;
- that students read, reflect on, and take account of feedback.

The use of personal devices

You can use laptops and tablet PCs during teaching classes for purposes related to the class you are attending. You should refrain from using your mobile phone during all teaching events, except in cases where a lecturer uses a programme which requires these devices to be switched on for participation.
Learning and Teaching

The University is committed to providing equal opportunities for all our students regardless of where or how you study. Our diverse student population is considered when developing the resources, services and facilities on and off campus, when we create our courses, write publications and course materials, and set our policies and regulations.

The academic year

The academic year uses a week numbering system that covers the 52 weeks of a calendar year but corresponds to typical term dates. So, the start of the academic year is week 1, which is Welcome week, with teaching commencing in week 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Week numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>2-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>16-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>30-39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can view the University’s week numbers with the equivalent dates in the week by week calendar. The University’s key dates include an overview of the start and end of each term and exam periods.

Some courses have slightly different term dates. In the Department of History this does not apply. You will find that all campus activities and events make reference to the standard academic year terms and schedule noted above.

You are expected to be available during term time to attend teaching events, unless otherwise advised by your Department.

Your Course

Each course at the University has its own syllabus, full details of which, including the aims and learning outcomes of your course, can be found in the University's Programme Specifications Catalogue.

Your own course structure, including your specific programme specification, can be found in the MyStudy section of your MyEssex homepage.

Credits

Your course will be made up of a certain number of credits, depending on your level of study and specific postgraduate course. Each year of study will hold a credit value, with credits allocated to each module. You will need to meet the required learning outcomes and assessments to be awarded credits.

Learning outcomes

Each course has learning outcomes which need to be met in order to progress. Course learning outcomes are categorised into knowledge, intellectual, practical and key skills, and are also defined more specifically at a modular level. Having this information means that you can measure your progress against the outcomes, for example when reviewing coursework feedback.

Grade boundaries

On most Masters degrees, an overall mark of 50 is a pass. An overall mark of 60 is classed as a pass with merit, and an overall mark of 70 is classed as a pass with distinction. Methods for calculating your final postgraduate award classification vary across awards and may depend on other factors. Full details are set out in the Rules of Assessment.
Module enrolment
Most modules taught reflect the individual research interests of members of our academic staff. New modules are regularly explored, researched and developed in collaboration with the University’s Quality and Academic Development Team to expand our transformative educational offering at Essex.

The University provide further guidance on choosing modules, and meetings for first and second-year students will be held by your department where students can discuss their choices with their Personal Tutor. Your preferred choices must be submitted prior to the start of term through the eNROL system.

A full list of modules available can be found on this webpage.

Changing Modules
In instances where you need to make a change to your module choice, you may do so up until the second week of the Autumn Term. If you wish to change an optional module after the deadline, you should seek advice from the Department or School Office that runs the particular module that you may wish to change to.

Late changes may be permitted but will be subject to the approval of the department that runs the module and the relevant Dean. Late changes of modules that run for one term or less will not usually be permitted. Students may not change modules that are core or compulsory for the course for which they are registered.

If there is a module that you would like to study that isn’t available as an option on your course, then you can ask for a change to your syllabus to be made by submitting a special syllabus request. Special syllabus requests are not automatically available and require approval. It is a good idea to talk to your Department or School responsible for your course, as well as the Department that teach the module if it is an outside option.

Module Directors
Module Directors are responsible for individual modules. They design, teach and examine them. They monitor student progress and can also talk to students about any related academic issues.

Work Placements
There are a variety of opportunities to undertake work-based learning and placements either during or as part of your studies. Our primary concern is for the safety and wellbeing of our students and we want to ensure that students are not put at undue risk. We also want to ensure that students get the best possible placement experience. In many cases placements planned for the Academic year 2020/21 will go ahead - these are being approved on a case by case basis. For further information or to discuss your own placement circumstances, you should contact the Placements team (placements@essex.ac.uk) or the Academic Supervisor in your department. Students expecting to undertake clinical placements should contact their Academic placement/module supervisor or your Personal Tutor if they have any outstanding questions or concerns.

If undertaking a placement, it is your responsibility to find a work placement, however, the Industry and Placements Team can help prepare and support you and will advertise relevant placements. If you are interested in undertaking a work placement, or other work-based opportunities that may be available to you and your course, contact the Industry and Placements team. Some work placements may require a DBS check where you are engaging in regulated activity with vulnerable groups. More information about the DBS check process can be found on the University’s DBS webpages.
Module Materials
Reading lists can be accessed online. Use this service to find out the details of each week’s reading and to access resources through the library.

Teaching timetable
Once you have selected all of your modules (if applicable) and received confirmation, they will appear on your personal timetable. Every student has a personal timetable published at the start of term which shows when and where your teaching is taking place. You can access your timetable on most mobile devices, including smart phones and tablets. You will need to have registered and activated your University of Essex log-in before you will be able to access your teaching timetable.

If you wish to report a timetable clash or request a class change, you should do so via the online timetable or from the Pocket Essex mobile app.

During Welcome Week (week 1) you may find that your timetable is blank as teaching normally commences week 2. Please be aware that there may be changes to the location of teaching during the year, so regularly check your personal online timetable and Essex e-mail for up to date teaching information.

Information about teaching timetables, including requesting a class change, reporting a timetable issue and accessing your individual timetable can be found on the University’s website.

Recording your attendance
We monitor your attendance at teaching sessions on campus using your student card and an electronic recording system called Count-Me-In. Your attendance at online teaching sessions is monitored by reviewing your logins to sessions on Zoom. You’re expected to attend all of your mandatory sessions on your individual timetable and report an absence if you are unable to do so. Please be aware that for Tier 4 students, poor attendance may affect your visa.

Please contact your Personal Tutor, department staff or the Student Services Hub for advice and support, particularly if you are going to be absent for several weeks.

Making changes to your study
Changing your course
If you are thinking about changing course, you will need to do so by a certain date and should first speak to your department and personal tutor. They will be able to advise of the things you should be thinking about before changing your course.

Thinking of leaving or taking a break?
You may experience doubts at some point during your studies, if you’re thinking about leaving Essex, we’re here to support you and give you the advice you need to help you make an informed choice. You can contact your department, Personal Tutor or Student Services Hub to speak in confidence about your concerns, and also the different options available to you and the impact they may have.

Library Services
The library aims to provide all of the resources you will need to succeed in your course, via online reading lists and access to extensive digital collections of books and journals. The library team can help you learn how to search effectively so you can find appropriate resources for your assignments. They can also provide advice on referencing, academic integrity, using reference management software and evaluating sources. A range of online support in these areas is also available via the library website, including subject guides for each department, and support in developing search skills.
In addition, the library offers ‘On Track for your Masters’, an annual programme of workshops delivered in collaboration with other professional services teams to help you with a whole range of research skills.

At our Colchester Campus, the Albert Sloman Library on Square 5 is open for long hours and has a variety of study spaces, including individual and group work areas. The Library offers a wide range of learning resources, online and in print, with a dedicated Helpdesk, live chat and the opportunity to book appointments with your Academic Liaison Librarian to help you through your studies and beyond. There is also a dedicated Postgraduate Study Room on the ground floor.

See the Library website for the latest information on all our libraries and the services available, including opening hours.

**Academic Skills and Support**

Every student arrives at Essex with the same spirit of determination but different experiences of education and levels of academic readiness. Skills for Success can help you identify your talents and strengthen those areas you need to develop.

We are committed to ensuring that every student is able to get the most out of their academic study and achieve their potential on their course, which is why Skills for Success team is available to help by providing support, resources and workshops on:

- Academic writing
- Maths and stats
- Digital Skills
- Research and referencing
- English language
- Exam revision

The Skills for Success team can also provide further learning and study skills information and support for disabled students.

**Proofreading services**

Before considering the use of proofreading services, all students should first discuss their work with their personal tutors. Many students seek ‘proofreading’ services at some point during their studies, but different types of editing can occur under this name which may not be appropriate in an academic context where work is assessed and could potentially qualify as an academic offence. The University is keen to ensure as far as possible that students understand what proofreading work should entail and the acceptable boundaries to which any proofreading or editing must adhere to.

The University maintain a list of local freelance proofreaders who offer services to students and staff at Essex that have read and agreed to abide by the University's policy and guidance on proofreading.

**Language classes**

**English classes for dependants**

The Department of Language and Linguistics offers dependants of international students and staff at the chance to improve their English language, through our ECDIS programme, at no extra cost. Classes are taught at the Colchester Campus at three basic levels: Elementary (A1/A2), Intermediate (B1/B2) and Advanced (C1/C2) and will focus on listening, speaking, reading and writing.

**Learning a language**

Learn a language at Essex to increase your global and cultural awareness. Language learning can give you the confidence to work and travel internationally, expand your options for studying abroad,
and get a competitive edge when you're looking for a job. There are a number of ways to do it, so look online to discover the best option for you.

Assessment and Academic Integrity

All schools and departments at the University employ a variety of assessment methods designed to ensure that the learning outcomes of each module, and course, have been successfully met by the student.

Rules of Assessment

The Rules of Assessment are used to calculate your results. There is a main set of rules for Masters and other postgraduate award courses, but some departments also have additional variations which can be found alongside the Rules of Assessment for your year of entry.

In the Department of History we do not have a variation to the Rules of Assessment:

Each module you take has a credit value which you are awarded if you successfully complete the module. You need to obtain a certain amount of credits to be awarded your degree, and the Rules of Assessment and the Framework for undergraduate courses give you more information about this.

The following is only a summary of the key points. You should read the rules and make sure you understand them. If you need advice, ask your personal tutor, departmental administrator, or SU Advice.

Core, compulsory and optional modules

To understand the requirements to pass your course, you need to know the status of the modules that you are taking. You can find details of the status of your modules in Section C of your programme specification via My Essex.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core</th>
<th>You must take this module</th>
<th>Must pass this module. No failure can be permitted.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>You must take this module</td>
<td>There might be limited opportunities to continue on the course/be eligible for the degree if you fail it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>You can choose which module to study</td>
<td>There might be limited opportunities to continue on the course/be eligible for the degree if you fail it.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most modules in each year must be passed, with only a small number of credits, if any, being allowed to be failed in the degree.

Marking criteria

| 70 or above | = MA distinction standard |
| 60-69 | = MA merit standard |
| 50-59 | = MA pass standard |
| 40-49 | = Fail, condonable if one module only |
| less than 40 | = Fail |

Senate requires that all Departments inform their students of the specific criteria for their marking ranges. In an essay-based discipline such as History, grade descriptions can be, at best, suggestive; judgement must include a subjective element that cannot be quantified. However, members of the Department have provided the following indicators for the respective marks:
80+ A truly outstanding performance covering everything one would hope to find in an answer, and based on wide, critical reading. Well organised, well-expressed and having overwhelming originality and flare. Excellent and striking work of a publishable standard shedding new light on the field, richly researched and theoretically sophisticated.

75-79 A very strong distinction. As well as being comprehensive, such an answer must show that the candidate has synthesised and analysed the material necessary to engage with the question directly, and to fit the points he or she wants to make. Marked originality in approach and ideas is required. An exceptional performance.

70-74 A solid distinction. Well-structured and written, with a wide coverage of the literature. Evident originality in approach, ideas, and methodology. A high standard of excellence in terms of argument and presentation.

60-69 Well-structured and argued, with a good literature review that connects well with theoretical development and/or methodological analysis. Clear understanding and critical engagement with ideas and methods.

50-59 Good, competent account, with a structured argument, and a decent coverage of literature. Shows a respectable grasp of key issues and the ability to analyse. An adequate scholarly apparatus.

40-49 Fail, but condonable in one module only, if all other modules are passes. Insufficient engagement with the question for an MA pass. Relatively unreflective use of literature, with gaps in the analysis. Modest depth of analysis. Issues with scholarly apparatus and literary style.

0-39 Fail. Does not engage with the question, and fundamental problems with the structure and argument. Serious gaps in reading and analysis. Deficiencies in the literary style and a lack of a proper scholarly apparatus, which make the piece difficult to follow and to verify evidence.

Academic Integrity and Academic Offences
The University expects students to complete all assessment with honesty and integrity and to follow our conventions for academic writing (including appropriate referencing of sources) and ethical considerations. If you don’t meet these expectations, then you may be charged with having committed an academic offence, a matter the University takes very seriously.

It is your responsibility to make yourself aware of the regulations governing examinations and how to correctly prepare your coursework. An academic offence can take place even if you didn’t mean to commit one, and examples include plagiarism, falsifying data or evidence, and communicating with another candidate in an examination.

Methods of Assessment in Department
Whether a module is core, compulsory or optional, all methods of assessment are compulsory. If you do not complete coursework or attend examinations, and do not have extenuating circumstances to support your non-submission or absence, then you are at risk of being withdrawn from the University.

Coursework
Coursework is compulsory in all modules and failure to participate in coursework is interpreted as evidence of lack of academic progress. Your academic progress is monitored throughout the year. In severe cases, students with poor academic progress can be required to withdraw from the University (even before the final examinations).
Samples of coursework
We have samples of previous MA coursework and dissertations available to consult. If you are interested please contact Lisa Willis (lwillis@essex.ac.uk).

Referencing in coursework
Respecting authorship through good academic practice is one of the key values of higher education in the UK. Referencing is how you acknowledge all sources used within a piece of work. You must reference all work used whether cited directly (quotes), or indirectly (paraphrasing and summarising).

Referencing allows you to give credit to other’s ideas, work, research, theories, concepts, outcomes and results, and demonstrates your breadth of reading and knowledge on a subject. If you do not reference properly, this could amount to plagiarism, which is an academic offence.

There are styles of referencing which will determine exactly how you format your reference. Your departmental referencing style is MHRA. You must use this referencing style. Guidance on your referencing style is available online, including an interactive referencing tutorial. You can also take the Academic Integrity course on Moodle.

Submission of coursework
You should submit all coursework online via FASER – the University’s online submission system. You are encouraged to log on to FASER at the start of the year so that you understand how it works before you reach your first deadline. There is a trial module and deadline available for you to use as a practice submission, as well as helpful guidance on how to use FASER.

You can upload as many draft versions of your work as you like onto the server and are encouraged to use this as a safe and secure area to store your coursework. This can help to avoid the problem of your computer crashing at the last minute and your important files being lost. In cases where multiple versions are uploaded you will need to make any which you do NOT want to be included in the final submission a ‘draft’ otherwise just the most recently uploaded file will be taken as the final version. The maximum file upload size is 50MB.

Problems with FASER
If you have technical difficulties: Please contact the FASER Help centre as soon as possible to find out if this is a University issue or whether it may be a problem with your computer. This will count towards your claim when submitting a late coursework form should you need to. You can also contact IT Services helpdesk on it.helpdesk@essex.ac.uk

If you are confused or unsure how to upload, or are having any non-technical difficulties you should contact Lisa Willis (lwillis@essex.ac.uk).

Late submission of coursework
We have a single policy at the University of Essex for the late submission of coursework in postgraduate taught courses: all coursework submitted after the deadline will receive a mark of zero. No extensions will be granted. The policy states that the mark of zero shall stand unless you submit satisfactory evidence of extenuating circumstances that indicate that you were unable to submit the work by the deadline.

Where a student is unable to undertake the assessment by the deadline, and it is deemed impossible to consider a late submission request due to the nature of the assessment (e.g. absence from in-class tests, practical assignments and presentations), an extenuating circumstances form should be submitted which will be considered by the Board of Examiners.

Dissertation Extensions (PGT Only)
Postgraduate taught dissertations (or equivalent) are not counted as coursework and are therefore not covered by the policy on the late submission of coursework. Students can request an extension
for their postgraduate dissertation if they find that, due to extenuating circumstances, they will be unable to submit the dissertation by the published deadline. Students can request an informal extension of up to four weeks from the department. Where a longer extension is required, an application for an extension to a postgraduate taught dissertation can be completed via the online form on the ESF SharePoint website, for consideration by the relevant Deputy Dean (Education).

**Return of coursework**
Seminar teachers will mark assignments and provide feedback, within a maximum of 20 working days of the deadline.

**Ethics in research**
All research involving human participants, whether undertaken by the University’s staff or students, **must** undergo an ethics review by an appropriate body and ethical approval **must** be obtained before it commences. You should first read the [Guidelines for Ethical Approval of Research Involving Human Participants](#) and then submit an Ethical Approval application form via [ERAMS](#). You should be aware that ethical approval cannot be granted retrospectively so it is very important that you make your application before you start to recruit participants or collect data from them.

Research involving the NHS may require and research involving human tissue or adults lacking capacity to consent will require Health Research Authority and / or NHS Research Ethics Committee approval.

**Moderation and marking**
The [University’s Marking Policy](#) can be found online and includes our policy and procedure on the moderation of work.

**Marking**
All student work is marked in line with the University’s Marking Policy. If your assessment is worth up to and including 40% of your module mark, it will be marked by one member of academic staff. If it is worth more 40%, then it will also be moderated. If the assessment is worth 30 credits or more, it will be marked by two members of academic staff. The full procedure and assessment marking requirements can be found in the [Marking Policy](#) – there is a useful flowchart in Appendix C to visually represent the requirements, and detailed definitions of marking and moderation within the policy itself.

**Moderation**
Moderation is a process separate from that of marking and provides additional assurance that the assessment criteria has been applied appropriately. When work is moderated, it means that a second member of academic staff takes a random sample of the work for a particular assessment and reviews the marks given.

**External Examiners**
External Examiners are academics from other universities, but may also be from industry, business or the relevant profession depending on the requirements of the course. They give an impartial view of the course and independent advice to ensure that modules and courses at the University meet the academic standards expected across UK higher education.

**Re-marking of coursework**
You may, under certain circumstances, have the right to request a re-mark of your coursework. Should you feel that your work needs to be reviewed and potentially re-marked, you should first contact your department to advise you accordingly and assess whether you meet the criteria to be able to submit a request for re-marking.

If a request for a re-mark is accepted, your marks are **not guaranteed** to increase, however, the mark awarded after re-marking will override your original mark. Therefore, please be aware that
in all incidences where coursework is re-marked, it is possible that your marks could go down, as well as up.

**Appeals**

Appeals on academic grounds can be made following the meeting of the Board of Examiners and the publication of your results. There are limited grounds available to appeal on and strict deadlines to adhere to. As such, we strongly advise all students thinking about making an appeal to contact the SU Advice Centre.

**Feedback**

Feedback will be returned via FASER in the majority of cases, if this isn’t the case for a particular module, your seminar teacher or module director will let you know.

**The Board of Examiners**

The Board of Examiners meet at the end of the Summer Term to consider marks for taught modules and final boards meet in the Autumn, and use the Rules of Assessment to determine whether:

- you have passed the modules you have studied and can be awarded credit
- you have met the requirements to progress to the next year of your course (if you are on a course which lasts more than one year)
- you have met the requirements to pass your course and what classification you will receive for each module
- you are eligible to receive a merit or distinction

If it determined that you have not passed sufficient credits to progress to the next stage of study, or, for final year students, to graduate, the Board of Examiners will also determine:

- what reassessment you could be offered and when you can take it

**Publication of results**

The publication schedule for results can be found on the website. You will receive an email to your Essex email account as soon as your results are published online.

**Failure to pass**

The following is only a summary of the key points. You should read the rules and make sure you understand them. If you need advice, ask your personal tutor, departmental administrator, or SU Advice.

If you fail your course, you are not able to repeat it. The Rules of Assessment for Postgraduate Taught Awards only allow reassessment for up to a maximum of 60 credits worth of modules for taught masters degrees. The Board of Examiners will inform you if you are eligible for reassessment once it has considered your marks.

If you fail your dissertation you may be permitted by the Board of Examiners to resubmit your work, provided you meet the criteria as set out in the Rules of Assessment for Postgraduate Taught Awards. Alternatively, if you have obtained enough credits in your taught modules, you may be eligible for another award such as a postgraduate diploma or certificate.

---

1 The Board of Examiners will not be aware of any student’s immigration status. As a result, some reassessment options may be offered that are not compatible with individual Tier 4 visa rules. All options should be considered in conjunction with applicable visa restrictions.
Credit accumulation
You can decide if you want to **accumulate credit** by taking individual modules with the aim of achieving a postgraduate award; this is called **Modular study**. The Rules of Assessment are different when you study individual modules. There are opportunities to achieve postgraduate awards through credit accumulation study in an increasing number of departments, as an alternative to standard full or part-time study.

Reassessment
You may only undertake reassessment if the Board of Examiners says that you may do so.

If you have to take compulsory reassessment, whether coursework or examination, it is really important that you do this. If you do not, it is likely that you will be unable to progress with your studies at the University. The Board of Examiners will not consider permitting you to proceed carrying fails if you have not undertaken the required reassessment offered.

Reassessed modules are normally capped at the pass mark of 50% unless you have extenuating circumstances which are accepted by the Exam Board. Please be aware that reassessment in examinations and coursework carries a fee.

Exit Awards
If you decide to withdraw from your course before you finish, or you fail too many credits to be awarded your degree, you may be awarded a qualification at a lower level, if appropriate and applicable.

Extenuating Circumstances
**Extenuating circumstances** are circumstances beyond your control which cause you to perform less well in your assessment than you might have expected, or in some instances, may prevent you from submitting coursework or attending an exam entirely. In general, valid extenuating circumstances will be of a medical or personal nature that affects you for any significant period of time and/or during assessment.

If you do need to make an extenuating circumstances claim, you should first read the guidance very carefully and seek advice from **SU Advice** or the **Student Services Hub**. Please be prepared that you may need to include supporting evidence with your claim. Extenuating circumstance claims must be submitted via MyEssex by the **appropriate deadline** noted.

Your department will review your claim at an Extenuating Circumstances Committee and determine whether it will be accepted or rejected. The **Board of Examiners** will determine an appropriate course of action, such as permitting further reassessment opportunities for uncapped marks. Please note that extra marks **cannot** be given in light of extenuating circumstances.
Computers, Learning Technologies and Your Information

Computers

Using a campus computer
If you need to use a computer on campus our computer labs are the perfect place to study or work. We also have group study pods which are ideal for group projects. Many labs stay open until late and some are open 24/7. Labs may be booked for teaching, and so it is best to check availability first.

IT Help and Guidance
You can search the Student Directory for more IT information, including software available to students, how-to guides, answers to frequently asked questions, and links to video screencasts.

If you can’t find what you’re looking for, or if you need to talk to someone, then the IT Helpdesk team are here to assist you further.

Learning Technologies and Systems

Learner Engagement Activity Portal (LEAP)
LEAP is our student centred, personalised engagement tool. LEAP displays your engagement with university resources and an algorithm within LEAP combines your use of these resources and activities to produce an overall engagement indicator. There are 5 engagement indicators (high, good, partial, low and very low) which will help you map and better understand your engagement pattern over time. Full details on the resources included in LEAP, the engagement ratings and how LEAP uses your data can be found on the LEAP webpage.

By providing you with a more holistic view of your studying experience, LEAP offers you the opportunity to take control of your own learning and make more informed choices about your studies, enabling you to:

- Reflect on your academic activities and overall engagement to make informed decisions about your academic studies
- Review the notes created in LEAP from meetings with Tutors or other university staff
- Check your attendance and ensure the information is correct

Tutors and other university staff may use the information in LEAP to:

- Suggest ways you could achieve better outcomes
- Check that all is well and offer information, advice and guidance
- Help you in areas of your studies that you are finding a challenge

Moodle
We use Moodle as our online learning environment. It holds key course and module materials, discussion forums, chat facilities, quizzes, surveys, glossaries and wikis.

FASER
FASER is our online coursework submission and feedback system. Use it to check coursework deadlines, upload coursework and receive electronic feedback all in one place.
Online reading lists
Reading lists can be accessed online. Use this service to find out the details of each week’s reading and to access resources through the library.

Listen Again
Did you miss something? Our Listen Again digital recording service lets you listen again to lectures so you grasp every detail. It’s available in teaching rooms or lecture theatres where you see the sign.

Zoom
You can use Zoom to join online lectures delivered by the University or attend online meetings and tutorials. If your lecture or class is going to be online, we will let you know in advance and the link to join will be in your timetable or emails.

This quick start guide gives you an introduction to the essentials of joining and participating in a Zoom webinar or meeting.

Your information

Changes to your information
During your period of study at Essex, you may wish to be known by a preferred name or update your legal name on our student record database (ESIS) if your circumstances change. It is important you keep your information up to date, which you can manage and update online.

Your personal information
We collect and hold lots of information about you, your course, and your progress so that we know who you are, what you’re doing, and how you are getting on. This means we can support you and also improve our services to reflect the need of our students.

All information about you is kept securely, and access to your information is only given to staff who need it in order to do their job. Where possible, we will ask you for your permission to share.

You have a right to ask for copies of information we hold about you. To find out more about what information we collect, what we do with it, who gets to see it, and your rights under the data Protection Act 2018, read our Privacy Notice for students.

Student Voice
At the University of Essex, the views, ideas and feedback of our students are at the heart of what the University does. The time students take to offer feedback is hugely appreciated and this feedback, both positive and developmental, is used to help make short and longer-term improvements, both to the experience of current students, but also for Essex students of the future. You can do this in a number of ways at Essex through your Student Voice.

Student Representatives
You can contact or volunteer to be a student representative who represents the voice of fellow students in departmental Student Voice Groups (SVG) and other University level committees.

Student Voice Groups
Student Voice Groups (SVGs) are made up of student representatives and members of staff. SVGs typically meet once per term and provide an accessible arena for students to discuss with staff issues connected to teaching, learning and student support. They also provide an opportunity for the department or school to consult with students and receive feedback on new proposals.
Student Surveys

Student satisfaction surveys enable the University to gauge overall satisfaction amongst students. When the results have been reviewed and analysed, the University can then enhance your experience of learning at Essex.

Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES)

The Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) is the only UK higher education sector-wide survey to gain insight from postgraduate taught students about their learning and teaching experience.

The PTES gives you the opportunity to provide open and honest feedback on your experience of study at Essex, your course and your department. It considers your motivations for studying your chosen programme and your experience, where relevant, of undertaking a major project/dissertation.

If you’re eligible to complete the survey, we will contact you in the Spring Term to invite you to take part.

Student Module Feedback

Every year, we will ask you to complete Student Module Feedback (previously known as Student Assessment of Module and Teaching, or SAMT). This survey allows you to feedback on each of the modules you have studied. Receiving feedback at this level is critical for the University to understand what works well, and what could be improved, from the perspective of students. All feedback will be summarised and discussed by SVGs and will inform reports written for central University committees as part of our quality assurance processes.

There are also many other satisfaction surveys taking place, to ensure students are happy with the services the University of Essex provides. From time to time you will be invited to participate via an email.

If you have some feedback but don’t know who to tell, email: studentvoice@essex.ac.uk

You Matter

We know university life can throw up all kinds of concerns and questions. Everyone has mental health – sometimes your mental health may be good, other times it may be not so good. It could be stress related to deadlines, general worries or concerns about friends and family members. Whatever is worrying you, if you need some information, advice or support, the University offer a wide range of services and support to help you.

Student Services Hub

If you need practical advice, a confidential conversation, or general information and guidance on University life, no matter what the issue is, the Student Services Hub can help. You can find out about health and wellbeing, accommodation, careers services, money matters and much more. Your questions matter and you’ll get answers from our team of experts.

To Contact the Student Services Hub please use this link to access our web pages and talk to us on Live Chat: Ask the Hub
Support for disabilities and conditions
We encourage all new students with a disability, long term medical condition, specific learning difficulty or mental health difficulty to disclose and register with the Student Services Hub so that we can plan how best to support you in your studies.

Funding opportunities
UK students may be eligible for a Disabled Students’ Allowance grant. If you are not a UK student, you may be eligible for other grants and funding. We would recommend you contacting the Student Services Hub to discuss all the options that may be available to you, as well as for general advice, support and information on health and wellbeing issues.

Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEP)
If you have a permanent or temporary disability that may mean you have difficulty in evacuating one or more areas, you can arrange for a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP).

Seeing a Doctor
If you’re studying on a course for more than six months, you’re required to register with a local doctor. Our Colchester Campus has its own health centre or you can use the NHS Choices postcode finder to find your nearest doctor. If you require emergency medical or mental health services, there are a number of options available both through the NHS and also the University, regardless which campus you are studying at.

Counselling services
Our University offers a wide range of services and resources to support all of our students with a variety of counselling opportunities.

If you feel you would benefit from support, including counselling, please contact your Student Services Hub. You can find more information, including the full range of counselling services available to you.

UK Immigration Advice and Guidance
Immigration advice and guidance is regulated in the UK by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) and can only be given by those that are authorised to do so. We publish lots of information and guidance on our website for students and you can contact one of our authorised advice services via the ‘ask us a question section’ for further advice about the UK’s student immigration rules.

Money management
If you get into financial difficulty you should get help and talk to someone as soon as possible. The sooner your problem is identified, the sooner it can be solved. You may be eligible to apply for financial support to assist you with short-term unexpected and unforeseen costs. Advisers in our Student Services Hub and our independent Students’ Union Advice can listen and talk you through the issues you are experiencing.

Students’ Union Advice
Our SU Advice service also offers free, confidential, independent and impartial advice on many issues that might be affecting you. Our friendly, trained staff are on hand to support you throughout your time at Essex. You can speak to us about Academic processes and procedures, representation at University meetings, Tier 4 UK visa extensions, housing, complaints, welfare and consumer issues. suadvice@essex.ac.uk; 01206 874034
Residence Life
Our Residence Life team is here to help you settle in and support you during your time living on campus. Each residents’ assistant (RA) is assigned an area and will aim to get to know you and organise a range of social activities. Plus, they can help if you’ve got any concerns or complaints. Residence Life operates outside of office hours when other University support services are closed.

Religion, faith and beliefs
We’re proud of our vibrant and diverse multicultural community and welcome everyone, of all faiths and none. The calm, friendly and supportive atmosphere in our Faith Centre is a welcoming place for staff, students and the wider community to meet, interact and engage with each other.

Harassment support
We are Essex. We pride ourselves on being a welcoming and inclusive student community. We offer a wide range of support to individuals and groups of student members who may have specific requirements, interests or responsibilities – to help you fulfil your potential.

We encourage a culture of dignity and respect. We’re committed to upholding an environment that’s free from any form of harassment or bullying. Though rare, these incidents can occur and if they do our Harassment Report and Support Service of trained Harassment Support Workers are on hand to help.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus)
The health and wellbeing of our students is our priority. This means we are constantly monitoring advice from the UK Government, Public Health England, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the World Health Organisation, and updating our guidance on students in line with their advice.

Our guidance to students on protecting yourself and others from COVID-19 is updated regularly. It is advisable to check the page frequently to be sure you are up to date with the latest guidance and information from the University.

Health and safety on campus
Our campuses are generally very safe environments. We want to ensure that things stay this way. In order to achieve this, we work closely with local agencies including the police and borough councils. Take a look at our website for general information and advice.

Please familiarise yourself with fire safety and emergency evacuation procedures for your accommodation, work or study location. If you have a permanent or temporary disability that may mean you have difficulty in evacuating one or more areas, you can arrange for a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP).

Please take note of our advice on the safe use of electrical items and prohibited electrical items in residential and non-residential areas.

All students residing on campus should complete the Moodle Fire Safety Course for Residents training.

If you have any health and safety concerns or need to report an incident, please use the University’s reporting service to notify us.

Making a Complaint
The University is a large community engaged in many activities of both an academic and non-academic nature. From time to time, you may feel dissatisfied with some aspect of your dealings with
the University and, when that happens, it is important that the issue is dealt with constructively and as quickly as possible without risk of disadvantage or recrimination.

The University aims to resolve complaints quickly and informally in accordance with the Student concerns and complaints procedure which can be found on our website.

**Student Development**

**Careers Services**

The Career Services team offer a programme of information, advice, guidance and support through various events, workshops and one-to-one sessions. We also have teams dedicated to Work Based Learning, Placements and Internships that can provide information and support as needed.

Find out more about the Career Services available to you here: [https://www1.essex.ac.uk/careers/](https://www1.essex.ac.uk/careers/)

**CareerHub**

Find hundreds of part-time jobs, internships and graduate vacancies, book on to careers events and workshops, take career assessments, practice your interview skills, build your CV, and connect with employers on CareerHub, the online Essex careers and jobs portal. Login with your Essex username and password.

[careerhub.essex.ac.uk/students/login](careerhub.essex.ac.uk/students/login)

**Big Essex Award**

The Big Essex Award is a way to get recognition for the extra-curricular and voluntary activities that you complete during your time at Essex, both on and off campus. All verified activities will be included on your university transcript, the Further Achievement Report (FAR). Postgraduate students can use GradIntelligence to record any extra-curricular activities you may be involved in through the Big Essex Award.


**Volunteering**

Join the vTeam and be the difference. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer during your time at Essex. The vTeam, run by the Students Union, is a fantastic opportunity to meet new people, make friends, give something to the local community, and gain valuable skills.

[www.essex.su/vteam](www.essex.su/vteam)

**Essex Interns**

Essex interns create paid internships exclusively for you as an Essex student. They're flexible too: part time during term time or full time in vacations. Sign up for Essex Interns to kick-start your career.

[www.essex.ac.uk/careers/internships](www.essex.ac.uk/careers/internships)
You Are Essex

Year and Degree Marks
Once your exam board has met, it can take between 7-10 working days for your results to be confirmed and published. The University's exam board and publication of results schedule is updated in the summer term, and you will be notified once this information is available online. As soon as your results are ready, you will be sent an email and directed to a password protected web page. You will be able to see your marks obtained and any decisions that you must make in order to progress to the next stage of study.

Upon graduating from your studies, you will receive a degree certificate and a copy of your academic transcript. You will also be invited to attend the next Graduation ceremony available to you.

Graduation
The culmination of all your hard work, Graduation ceremonies take place at our Colchester Campus each July in the Ivor Crewe Lecture Hall. All eligible students studying at our Colchester, Loughton and Southend Campuses will be invited to attend.

Students with exam boards held in Autumn term will be invited to attend our Winter Graduation ceremony where these are held; students with exam boards held in Spring or Summer term will be invited to attend our Summer Graduation ceremony.

GradIntelligence
If you studied an undergraduate degree with us at Essex, you would have had access to your Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR) record which would also show any awards or additional achievements you have received formal recognition for. However, this is currently only available for undergraduate awards; postgraduate students can instead use GradIntel to record any extra-curricular activities or achievements during your studies, such as the Big Essex Award.

References
Requesting references from members of staff
If you require a personal reference, always ask permission from a member of staff before giving their name as a referee. You should consider from whom it is most appropriate to request a reference and who will be best equipped to evidence your character and performance in the subject.

For example, final year project supervisors, year organisers, and core course supervisors are likely to be more suitable than lecturers that have taught you on a first-year option course. Every reasonable effort will be made to meet a request for reference for a student who has undertaken study within our Department. Requests received from students who have graduated from the University within the last three years will be prioritised. Requests received outside of this period may, of course, be met if a member of staff is equipped with the necessary information and is willing to provide a reference.

It is always helpful if you can provide the member of staff with details about the course or job you have applied for and, if relevant, a CV or other summary of your qualifications and experience. Please try to ask for references in good time – it is not always possible for a member of staff to write a reference immediately.

Copies of references
A copy of any reference provided will be retained within our department for no longer than three years for taught students.
Alumni
Essex is forever and although your time here will fly by, you'll be part of the Essex family for life. When you graduate, you'll get an alumni card and join a community of over 100,000 fellow graduates around the world. We'd love to keep in touch and invite you to our alumni events, networking and volunteering opportunities, as well as offer you special alumni benefits. Want to know more? Visit our website!

What comes next?
The world is your oyster! The options and opportunities open to you as a graduate can be overwhelming. You may know the exact path and next steps that you wish to take, or you might not, and this is okay. Our Careers Services can offer information, guidance and advice on your different options after graduation and you can return to Essex for these services at any time.

Spread your wings graduand; but you can always come back! As an alumnus of Essex, you can take advantage of generous discounts on further postgraduate study and postgraduate research degrees.

We are proud of our world-class research at Essex and your invitation to contribute is lifelong. If you do decide to stay on for further study with us, you'll develop extensive knowledge in your chosen area and learn from some of the top academics in the field. You can explore our incredible range of courses online.

Whatever you choose to do, please stay in touch! Keep us up to date with your achievements and explore the variety of ways through which you can give back to Essex too.