

**Your studies**

**Department of  
Language and  
Linguistics**

**Undergraduate**

**STUDENT HANDBOOK**  
2020-21



University of Essex

## Welcome



A very warm welcome to the Department of Language and Linguistics and thank you for choosing to study with us in what promises to be an exciting year, with many things quite different to what we have all become used to! I look forward to us all discovering together how to make the most of virtual classes, blended learning, dual delivery and all that comes with it. One thing I am sure of is that managing all of these challenges together will turn us into a more coherent

community – and I would encourage everyone of you to contact me with anything you'd like to share, whether it is something you are happy about, something you are struggling with, or something that might have upset you. What my colleagues and I want most of all is for your stay here to be happy and exciting and for you to be able to fulfil your personal and academic ambitions.

This handbook is an essential guide for students joining the department, and outlines the various things you'll need to know about your department as you start your studies with us. It's a useful reference book, so make sure you have it to hand throughout your period of study.

Make sure you bookmark our departmental website, too, and the central University module directory – both of which you can find via the University's student webpage at: [www.essex.ac.uk/students](http://www.essex.ac.uk/students).

Don't forget our helpful and friendly departmental staff members are here to help you; further details are outlined in this handbook.

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## 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.

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## Practicalities and Getting 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 [services on campus](#) and make sure that you're aware of the [guidance](#) for those coming onto campus.

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## 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

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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 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](#) – 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.

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## 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're 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, 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.

## 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:

 /uniofessex

 /uniessex

 /Uni\_of\_Essex

 /uniofessex

 /uniessex

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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 Language and Linguistics

### Meet the team

A full list of all staff can be found on <https://www.essex.ac.uk/departments/language-and-linguistics/people>. Below is a summary of the roles of staff that can help you with a variety of areas during your time at Essex.

### Academic staff

The following staff are some of the Academic colleagues you may need to get in touch with throughout your studies.

	<p><a href="#">Jessie Mallinson</a> <i>Director of Education</i></p>	<p>The Director of Education supports the strategic development of the department's educational provision (undergraduate, taught postgraduate and research degree programmes) in order to achieve excellence in this provision, and ensures that the department's provision is consistent with the University's framework for academic quality and standards.</p>	<p><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:mallj@essex.ac.uk">mallj@essex.ac.uk</a></p>
	<p><a href="#">Dounia Bissar</a> <i>Deputy Director of Education</i></p>	<p>The Deputy Director of Education will work in conjunction with the Director of Education and will be responsible for some specific Education related duties.</p>	<p><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:dbissar@essex.ac.uk">dbissar@essex.ac.uk</a></p>
	<p><a href="#">Christina Gkonou</a> <i>Deputy Director of Education</i></p>	<p>The Deputy Director of Education will work in conjunction with the Director of Education and will be responsible for some specific Education related duties.</p>	<p><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:cgkono@essex.ac.uk">cgkono@essex.ac.uk</a></p>
	<p><a href="#">Claire Delle Luche</a> <i>Employability Director</i></p>	<p>The Employability Director takes a strategic approach to leading the development and enhancement of employability provision for the department, ensuring that it aligns with the University Employability Strategy and work of Student Development.</p>	<p><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:c.delleluche@essex.ac.uk">c.delleluche@essex.ac.uk</a></p>
	<p><a href="#">Rebecca Clift</a> <i>Departmental Disability Liaison Officer</i></p>	<p>The DDLO acts as a link between Support Services, the department and students with additional support requirements due to a disability, medical condition or mental health issues, to ensure we meet our legal obligations.</p>	<p><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:rclift@essex.ac.uk">rclift@essex.ac.uk</a></p>
	<p><a href="#">Teresa Torres</a> <i>Senior Tutor</i></p>	<p>Senior Tutors act as a link between the department and student support services. Responsibilities include the personal tutor system, overseeing peer mentoring, and acting as the under-18's coordinator.</p>	<p><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:tormi@essex.ac.uk">tormi@essex.ac.uk</a></p>

## Professional Services

The professional services team in the department are your first port of call for any non-academic matters. If they are unable to help directly, they will be able to point you in the right direction.

	<a href="#">Samantha Durling</a>  <i>Department Manager</i>	The Department Manager is accountable to the Head of Department and delivers strategic and leadership support. They are responsible for the management of academic quality assurance processes and the administrative structures in the department.	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:sdurling@essex.ac.uk">sdurling@essex.ac.uk</a>
	<a href="#">Karolina Dylewska</a>  <i>Deputy Department Manager</i>	The Deputy Department Manager supports the Department Manager and deputises in their absence. They have specific responsibility for the student services function and is responsible for managing and developing the student administration team.	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:lalddm@essex.ac.uk">lalddm@essex.ac.uk</a>
	<a href="#">Victoria Wheeler</a>  <i>Student Administrator</i>	The Student Administrators are responsible for providing excellent customer service to students and visitors to the department, and high-quality professional support services to programme directors and other academic staff. Victoria specialises in Postgraduate administration.	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:lalpgadmin@essex.ac.uk">lalpgadmin@essex.ac.uk</a>
	<a href="#">Hannah James</a>  <i>Student Administrator</i>	The Student Administrators are responsible for providing excellent customer service to students and visitors to the department, and high-quality professional support services to programme directors and other academic staff. Hannah specialises in undergraduate administration.	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:lalugadmin@essex.ac.uk">lalugadmin@essex.ac.uk</a>
	<a href="#">Tina Robertson</a>  <i>Operations Coordinator</i>	The Operations Coordinator provides administrative and financial administration support to the department's senior management team, and general support to facilitate the day-to-day operations, including facilities, equipment, web and social media.	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:lalopc@essex.ac.uk">lalopc@essex.ac.uk</a>
	<a href="#">Marisa Bostock</a>  <i>Languages for All Administrator</i>	The Languages for All Administrator is predominantly responsible for the administration of the Languages for All programme. In addition, Marisa provides administrative support to various aspects of undergraduate and postgraduate services.	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:lfaadmin@essex.ac.uk">lfaadmin@essex.ac.uk</a>

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## Teaching staff and support

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

Academic support hours are normally published on [individual staff profiles](#) as well as [Moodle pages](#) of the individual modules. During upcoming Academic Year you should make sure that you contact your lecturer in advance, as a lot of the meetings will need to be arranged via [Zoom](#).

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.

**We have also listed some other key staff roles and how these individuals will be able to support you.**

### Module Tutors

There are dedicated Module Tutors to support students for each module. The teaching staff for each module can be found on Moodle. If you have a specific study question, contact the relevant teaching staff: <https://www1.essex.ac.uk/modules/>

### Your Personal Tutor

All undergraduate students have a Personal Tutor who will be in contact with you soon after start of term, 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. You can find out who your Personal Tutor is through [MyEssex](#).

### Your Peer Mentor

All first-year students are assigned a [Peer Mentor](#). Peer Mentors are either a second or final-year student. They will contact you to introduce themselves and organise how you'll stay in contact.

### Become a Mentor

If you are in second or final-year and are interested in [becoming a Peer Mentor](#), a call for mentor applications is usually circulated in the Spring term. If you have any questions in the meantime, you can contact Deputy Department manager via [lalddm@essex.ac.uk](mailto:lalddm@essex.ac.uk) for further details.

## Staff research interests

Our academic staff conduct research in a wide range of specialisms. You can find more information about the teams' research interests here: <https://www.essex.ac.uk/departments/language-and-linguistics/people/academic>.

## 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.

## Language and Linguistics Social Space

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The Department of Language and Linguistics Social Space is located in room 4.305A and is for the use of all students. Due to social distancing measures, the departmental Social Space will remain closed during upcoming Academic Year. All students will be notified once this facility will be available again.

### 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](mailto: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. To ensure all the students have equal access to the information available, we are moving our noticeboard to [Moodle](#).

### Departmental prizes

Each year we are pleased to award prizes rewarding academic excellence.

There are fifteen prizes available to undergraduate students in the Department of Language and Linguistics.

The **John Ross Prize** was set up in 1985 in memory of Dr John Ross, Senior Lecturer in French and a founder member of the Department of Language and Linguistics at the University of Essex. There are two John Ross Prizes awarded annually; the first to the best final year student of French; and the second to the best second year student of French.

The **John Roberts Prize** is awarded annually to the student with the best overall performance in Modern Languages. It is named in honour of a former member of staff, who contributed much to the development of Modern Languages (and Applied Linguistics) in general, and German Language and Linguistics in particular.

The **Martin Atkinson Prize** is awarded annually to the final-year undergraduate with the best overall performance in English Language and Linguistics. It is named in honour of a former member of staff who served for more than 30 years in the Department (twice acting as Head of Department), and who did a great deal to support the development of Linguistics.

The **Mike Jones Prize** is awarded annually to the final-year undergraduate with the best final year project in English Language and Linguistics. It is named in honour of a former member of staff who served for more than 30 years in the Department and is best known for his published work on *Sardinian Syntax* that is highly regarded as a research monograph.

The **Andrew Radford Prize** is awarded annually to the student with the best overall performance in English Language and Linguistics. It is named in honour of a former Head of Department who

achieved international recognition for his book *Transformational Syntax* and contributed numerous articles on the acquisition of syntax by monolingual, bilingual and language-disordered children.

<b>First Years</b>	
Best overall performance in Modern Languages	Certificate + £50.00 voucher
Best overall performance in English Language & Linguistics	Certificate + £50.00 voucher
<b>Second Years</b>	
The John Ross Prize for 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year French	Interrail + book voucher
The Second Year Prize for Modern Languages	Certificate + £50.00 voucher
The Second Year Prize for English Language & Linguistics	Certificate + £50.00 voucher
<b>Final Years</b>	
The Final Year Prize for Spanish	Certificate + £50.00 voucher
The Final Year Prize for Italian	Certificate + £50.00 voucher
The Final Year Prize for Portuguese	Certificate + £50.00 voucher
The Final Year Prize for German	Certificate + £50.00 voucher
The John Ross Prize for French	Interrail + book voucher
The John Roberts Prize	Certificate + £50.00 voucher
The Martin Atkinson Prize	Certificate + £50.00 voucher
The Mike Jones Prize	Certificate + £100 voucher
The Director of Education's Prize	Certificate + £50 voucher
The Andrew Radford Prize	Certificate + £50 voucher

## Communications

The University will primarily 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 all essential information. 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.

## Social Media

Keep up to date with important information, news and events from the Department of Language and Linguistics:



Website: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/langling/>



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lalessex>



Twitter: [https://twitter.com/EssexLang\\_Ling](https://twitter.com/EssexLang_Ling)

## 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.

Term	Week numbers
Autumn	2-11
Spring	16-25
Summer	30-39

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.

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

### My 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. Generally, undergraduate degrees contain 360 credits worth of modules in total during your course at Essex. This is divided into 120 credits per each year of study, with credits allocated to each module that you take.

### 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

Marks for undergraduate modules fall into one of the classifications set out in the table below. Bachelor degrees are usually awarded under these classifications too. The method for calculating

your final award classification will take into account module marks and any other requirements - full details are set out in the [Rules of Assessment](#).

Degree mark	Class
69.5% and over	Class 1
59.5 - 69.4%	Class 2.1
49.5 - 59.4%	Class 2.2
39.5 – 49.4%	Class 3
39.4% and under	Fail

## Module enrolment

Most modules taught reflect the individual research interests of members of our academic staff. New modules are regularly explored, researched and developed to expand our transformative educational offering at Essex.

The University provides [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.

## Module Materials

Online reading lists for your modules can be found via the module Moodle page alongside other information and module materials.

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## **Fitness to practise**

[Fitness to practise](#) is only applicable to students on certain professional courses (such as nursing or social work) and is designed to ensure and regulate that a student is suitable for engagement in the relevant profession.

## **Employability Modules**

This is a compulsory module for all students in the department of Languages and Linguistics. This module gives students the opportunity to develop their employability skills, their awareness of their own skills and career aims, as well as their knowledge of the graduate job market and its requirements. It will also introduce students to the resources that the Employability and Careers Centre and the Department provide for their personal and career development, work placements and volunteering, and their research into the job market.

The three-year module is non-credit-bearing, but obligatory for all Modern Language and Linguistics students in the Department. It is important to note that although the module carries zero credits and thus does not count toward final degree class of students, the results of this module will appear on a student's transcript.

## **Study Abroad**

With a heavy heart, we have taken the very difficult decision to [postpone the 2020-21 Year Abroad](#) for all students. For future years, there will be a variety of opportunities at Essex to study abroad. Many courses may be taken as a four-year variant to include a year studying at an overseas University. It is also possible for students to study abroad for one term in their final year. You may have applied for and been accepted on a course with a Year Abroad, but if not and you are interested in undertaking a Year Abroad or other international experience, you should contact the [Essex Abroad Team](#) for more information.

## **Work Placements**

There are a variety of opportunities to undertake work-based learning and placements either during or as part of your studies. Many courses may also be taken as four-year variant to include a Placement Year. If undertaking a placement year, 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 Placement Year, 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](#). Please be aware that there are restrictions for Tier 4 students under the Home Office rules and guidance relating to the type of work and length of placements.

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](mailto:placements@essex.ac.uk)) or the specific Departmental contact provided in relation to a Placement. If you are unsure of who this is, please contact the Student Administrator relevant to your level of study.

## **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

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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. If you are thinking of undertaking a placement year or year abroad, you should check the requirements and any potential visa implications for these programmes by contacting the [Industry and Placements Team](#) or [Essex Abroad Team](#). Students with a Tier 4 visa may not be able to change their course without first obtaining a new visa, if eligible.

### 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](#).

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.

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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.

## Departmental Support

Depending on the support you may need, you should always reach out to your Personal Tutor who will be able to advise you on number of aspects of your study. They will also be able to signpost you to relevant University services for any other support.

## 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. [Look online](#) for information on learning a language at Essex.

## 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 [3 year](#) and [4 year courses](#), but some departments also have additional variations to the rules, which must be met. These are published alongside the Rules of Assessment for your year of study.

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](#).

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

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.

### 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.

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The use of translation software is not permitted in language assignments/coursework unless this is a specified part of the assessment task.

All coursework/assessment in the target language must be your own work. You must not ask native/advanced speakers of the language for help with writing the assignment, checking or proof-reading work.

## Methods of Assessment in Department of Language and Linguistics

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 failing module/s and then of being withdrawn from the University.

The Department uses a range of assessment methods throughout the academic year as well as summer exams. Methods include online and in-class tests, essay writing, role-play, oral presentations, portfolio submissions, research projects and more.

Further information on module assessment methods can be found at <https://www1.essex.ac.uk/modules/>

**If you take optional modules outside your home department, you should make sure you are aware of their policies on referencing and how to submit coursework.**

## 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).

### Preparation of assignments: assignment and essay length

The length of coursework assignments is specified in number of words for each module that uses this method of assessment. Part of the art of writing assignments lies in the discipline of producing a specific piece of work, of a specific length, by a specific deadline. Coursework must follow the specified length, plus/minus 10%.

For assignments, you should indicate the length of the main text of each assignment you produce (excluding bibliography and appendices) at the end of your assignment.

For more information on coursework and assignment writing, please visit our Departmental Moodle page for current students at <https://moodle.essex.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=7117>

## 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 APA. 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

Depending on the module, you should submit all coursework online either via [FASER](#) (the University's online submission system) or [Moodle](#). 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](mailto:it.helpdesk@essex.ac.uk)

If you are confused or unsure how to upload, or are having any non-technical difficulties you should contact your Undergraduate Administrator at [lalugadmin@essex.ac.uk](mailto:lalugadmin@essex.ac.uk)

## Absence from Class Tests or Classwork Assignments

In cases when assessment takes place at specified times during the academic year, usually in the form of class tests or classwork assignments, students who fail to attend at the specified time, whatever the reason, will be awarded a mark of zero and will not be allowed to re-take the test(s). In cases where absence from a test/classwork assignment is the result of unavoidable circumstances, students should submit an extenuating circumstances form under the normal rules.

## Late submission of coursework

We have a [single policy](#) at the University of Essex for the late submission of coursework in undergraduate 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.

A list of what constitutes, and does not constitute, an extenuation circumstance can be found on the [University of Essex webpages](#).

## Return of coursework

Marked assignments and tests are normally returned to you within 28 days of the submission deadline (excluding days when the University is closed). Where this is not possible (e.g. because of illness or overload), you will be notified by your teacher that they will not be able to mark the work on time and say when they expect to be able to complete the marking.

**You should note that all coursework marks that you receive are provisional until the marks have been ratified by the Board of Examiners.**

## 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.**

## Examinations

Attendance at examinations is **compulsory** and if you do not attend them and do not have [extenuating circumstances](#) then you are at risk of being withdrawn. Information on reporting an absence from an examination can be found [online](#).

### Exam timetable

The University [publishes the dates for exam periods](#) at the start of each year. You will receive your personalised [exam timetable online](#) and will be sent an email to your Essex account when it is available to view.

### Attending an exam

You must bring your registration card and [exam entry form](#) to all invigilated exams where these take place. You will not be allowed entry without them. Remember to check your exam entry form carefully and email the Examinations Office (exams@essex.ac.uk) if there are any errors.

For exams that are more than 1 hour long, you will not be allowed to enter the examination room if you arrive later than 55 minutes after the start of the exam. If your exam is only 1 hour long, you will only be admitted up to 10 minutes after the start of the exam.

### Calculators in Examinations

If you are allowed to use a calculator in your examinations, the only models you are permitted to use in invigilated exams are the Casio FX-83GT X, Casio FX-85GT X, Casio FX-83GT PLUS or the Casio FX-85GT PLUS.

The only exception is for certain **Finance** exams that require a **financial** calculator, in which case you may use the **Hewlett Packard 12c** (all variants) or the **Texas Instruments BAII Plus** (including the BAII Plus Professional).

A limited number of Casio calculators will be available to borrow **on the day of your exam** from the Exams Office on a first-come, first-served basis, on production of your registration card. Please note financial calculators will not be available.

### Dictionaries

Dictionaries are not allowed during invigilated exams. If you take any kind of dictionary into an invigilated exam, even if English is not your first language, this will be considered and reported as an [academic offence](#).

### Sample and past papers

Past papers for each module are stored on [Moodle](#)

### Revision classes

Revision classes will be timetabled at the beginning of the summer term.

## Exam stress

[Exams create stress](#) for most people, but there is a lot that you can do to prepare for them and help manage the levels of stress associated with exams. The University's Skills for Success Team offers a series of [Exam Workshops](#) which are run by specialist staff. These sessions cover revision planning and techniques, as well as sessions on relaxation and how to cope with stress. Staff in the [Student Services Hub](#) can also provide sessions on stress management if required.

## Access to your exam script

If you want to see your script for an invigilated exam, you should make the request to the department responsible for the module within four weeks of the exam. The department should either: let you see the script in the presence of one of the staff responsible for teaching the module or give you a copy or summary of the examiners' comments on your performance. If you need to undertake an exam as part of reassessment on a module, your department will provide you with written feedback on any elements being reassessed.

**Feedback on your exam script will not include a discussion of the mark. The marks will have been approved by External Examiners and ratified by the Board of Examiners.**

## 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 than 40%, then it will also be moderated. If the individual item of assessment comprises 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 information 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 comes in many forms, some more obvious than others and each type will help you in a different way. It is important to understand the types of feedback you might encounter for the work you are undertaking.

Feedback may be provided on a day-to-day basis in seminars/classes and through casual discussion.

Feedback presented in this way can be just as valuable as a written feedback sheet or notated coursework.

For more information on feedback, please visit our Departmental Moodle page for current students at <https://moodle.essex.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=7117>.

If you need to undertake any reassessment on a module, your department will provide you with written feedback on any elements being reassessed

## The Board of Examiners

The Board of Examiners meet at the end of the Summer Term 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
- you have met the requirements to pass your course and what classification you will receive for each module
- how your module marks are used to calculate your degree classification
- 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<sup>1</sup>
- whether you must withdraw from your course, with or without an exit award

## 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.

## 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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Reassessed modules are normally capped at the pass mark of 40% unless you have extenuating circumstances which are accepted by the Board of Examiners. Please be aware that reassessment in examinations and coursework carries a fee.

### **Resit exams**

[Resit exams](#) are usually scheduled in early September or 'out of residence' in the summer of the following year. A considerable amount of useful revision material for each module is available on Moodle. Students can contact staff, particularly Module Supervisors for the modules they are resitting if they need help with revision or specific queries (do not leave this until the last minute as staff availability will be reduced throughout the summer). Staff can give individual feedback on summer exam performance, if requested.

### **Exit Awards**

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

### **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 affect 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](#).

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.

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# 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.

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## 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](#).

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## 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 represent 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.

## National Student Survey

The [National Student Survey \(NSS\)](#) is an independent survey commissioned by the Office for Students aimed mainly at final-year undergraduate students. The survey provides students the opportunity to provide feedback on their University course and experience. The feedback you provide will be used to help shape the future for your fellow students and published on the Discover Uni website to help prospective students make informed decisions about where and what they want to study.

## UK Engagement Survey (UKES)

The [UK Engagement Survey \(UKES\)](#) is a national survey for undergraduate students. It invites you to reflect on your time at University so far in relation to your course and wider learning experience. The survey is run each spring term and is open to first, second and some third/final year students.

We're keen to make sure students have the best possible experience while studying at the University. To do that we need to know what we are doing well and what we can do better. The survey is a chance to reflect on how you study and what might help your studies in future. The results also help the University and Students Union to make changes that will improve what we do in future and to make sure we keep doing the things that are of value to students.

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.

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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](mailto:studentvoice@essex.ac.uk)

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## 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 offers 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.](#)

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## 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.

**Colchester students** – [suadvice@essex.ac.uk](mailto:suadvice@essex.ac.uk); 01206 874034

**Southend students** – [suacsou@essex.ac.uk](mailto:suacsou@essex.ac.uk); 01702 328235 (term time only)

**Loughton students** – [suaclou@essex.ac.uk](mailto:suaclou@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.

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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.

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## 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/>

### 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](https://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 digital transcript, the Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR).

### Chart Your Path

New for 20-21! Discover the range of amazing opportunities available to you at Essex. Use Chart Your Path to find activities, resources and support that are right for you. Build your Essex Strengths and track your development journey as you go. Activate your Gradintelligence account to get started: <https://gradintel.com/index.php/en/account-support/recover/students>

### 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](https://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. You can even take part up to three years after you graduate, as part of our Essex graduates support package. Sign up for Essex Interns to kick-start your career.

[www.essex.ac.uk/careers/internships](https://www.essex.ac.uk/careers/internships)

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## 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.

When in your final year of study, graduating students will receive a [degree certificate](#) at Graduation and will also be able to access your electronic [Higher Education Achievement Record \(HEAR\)](#); which gives details of all marks obtained during your studies.

### Graduation

The culmination of all your hard work! [Graduation](#) ceremonies for undergraduate students 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.

### HEAR

When you study at Essex, you graduate with far more than just a degree. We have replaced the traditional hard-copy transcript with the [Higher Education Achievement Report \(HEAR\)](#) which not only showcases a full record of your academic achievements, but also any activities you have undertaken and logged through the Big Essex Award, and any other awards and prizes that you may have received.

When you graduate, you will have full electronic access to your HEAR for free for life. You will be able to share this with employers and other universities by providing them with a University-certified record of your achievements. You will receive an e-mail from GradIntelligence to enable you to activate your account log-in. As soon as you do this you can start accessing your HEAR!

### 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 and course directors 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

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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. Whether it is discussing different career paths, bringing your CV or LinkedIn profile up to date, or prepping for that interview you have worked all year for, the Student Development Team are here to support you.

Spread your wings graduand; but you can always come back! As an alumnus of Essex, you can take advantage of [generous discounts](#) on [postgraduate qualifications and degrees](#) if you chose to return to study at Essex as a postgraduate student.

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.