Department of Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies

Undergraduate
Welcome

I would like to offer a warm welcome to all new students this autumn and welcome back all who are returning for another year. I hope you will enjoy your time with the Department of Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies (PPS) and find your studies rewarding and engaging. Students joining us or returning in 2021 have been living through a potentially disorientating period in the radically changed social environment of Coronavirus, Black Lives Matter, climate change and political and social upheaval. This is something you will all have in common. The ethos of the Department is to accept change, pull together and support each other through this period, as students who have just graduated will tell you. We also want to think about how we can help to shape the environments of the future using our psychoanalytic and psychosocial insight in doing so. Each one of us can make a difference.

As such, all the modules and courses we run encourage both academic learning and personal growth, so you can look forward not only to being intellectually and emotionally stimulated, but also challenged to think about problems in new ways. As people search for individual meaning and ways to find personal, social and political relatedness in a conflicted and uncertain world, the work of our Department is relevant as never before.

The Department provides the setting for a very wide range of courses and modules, from foundation degree to doctoral programmes, and across a multitude of often intersecting subjects including psychoanalysis, analytical psychology, psychosocial studies, refugee care, therapeutic care, childhood studies, counselling and management and organisational dynamics. Our research explores theoretical and clinical knowledge, as well as applying these in many different social and cultural settings. You will be tapping into this breadth of interest and expertise and starting to make your own contribution to a vibrant and expanding field.

We know you will be busy with your chosen studies, but we hope you will also make broader use of what the Department and the University have to offer. As well as conferences and workshops, the Department holds an Open Seminar Series in term time – these are free talks with invited speakers on a wide range of topics and full details can be found on the Department's web page. There is also the PA123 Club and our student society, the Psychoanalysis Society, also hold many events. I urge you to get involved and enjoy all that we have on offer. We also encourage you to follow your interests and take full advantage of the rich offerings in other departments and make full use of the University environment and facilities.
We strive to be an enabling academic environment for all our students and staff, and we are a department in which kindness and a sense of mutual responsibility are seen as key principles. All of us at PPS want to help enable you to make your time here successful and enjoyable. There are many sources of advice and support available to you, should you require it. Besides the teaching staff on individual modules and your Personal Tutor, the members of the Professional Services Team are knowledgeable and helpful about all aspects of the Department and University life.

You will have many opportunities to let us know how you are experiencing your time here: individually, in tutorials; through end-of-module evaluations; through Student Voice Groups (SVGs) and student satisfaction surveys. It is important for us to have feedback and we take your input seriously and use it to improve our programmes.

As Head of Department and Senior Tutor, I will also be available by appointment if you have a specific concern. You can arrange this through Mrs Debbie Stewart in room 5A.203, or by phone (01206 873640) or email ppsdm@essex.ac.uk. Please also feel free to e-mail me direct at cnich@essex.ac.uk. I am always happy to meet with you.

Finally, I would like to recommend that you visit Student Minds website. This is a UK Charity that works with students and universities to develop new and innovative ways to improve the mental health of students. I particularly want to recommend the section: ‘Transition to University’ because this contains excellent tips and advice to help you with this transition.

Chris Nicholson
Head of Department
Department of Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies
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Introduction

Your Student Handbook will tell you everything you need to know about your department, the University, its academic policies and procedures, and all of the resources that are 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. We are 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

Registration

Whether a new or returning student, you will need to officially register and pay your fees (if required to do so) at the start of each academic year and prior to the published latest Registration date. 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 (including payment of fees where required) 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 aren’t a UK or Irish national, your immigration permission to study in the UK 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 Student Sponsor and must ensure we remain compliant in order to retain our sponsor status. Students with a 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. The Board of Examiners are not aware of a student’s UK immigration status, it is each students responsibility to check what impact any option offered would have on their student immigration status, before making a choice. Continued or future sponsorship is not guaranteed.

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.
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

Essex Values
The University of Essex is proud of its values of inclusivity and internationalism. Our campuses are places that are welcoming, where everyone can feel they belong and where you can find the world in one place.

Our Student Charter is a pledge that every member of our learning community signs up to when they join us, but in exchange you’ll receive support and encouragement and a transformational education to achieve great things.

Our Code of Student Conduct 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. All of our 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.

The Department of Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies has been awarded the prestigious Athena SWAN Charter Bronze Award

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 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’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 train, recruit and support hundreds of student reps each year. These reps gather feedback to share student viewpoints on academic experiences. You can find out more about student reps including how to sign up and getting trained here.

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
- /uniofessex
- /Uni_of_Essex
- /uniofessex
- /uniofessex

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 Department of Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies

Meet the team
A full list of all staff can be found on our website. Below is a summary of the roles of staff that can help you with a variety of areas during your time at Essex.

**Head of Department**
Dr Chris Nicholson  
5A.205  
3075  
cnich

**Professors**
Professor Matt ffytche  
5A.125  
3903  
mffytche
Professor Sue Kegerreis  
5A.209  
3263  
skeger
Professor Roderick Main  
5A.207  
4842  
main
Professor Renos Papadopoulos  
5A.213  
3558  
renos

**Reader**
Dr Raluca Soreanu  
5A.114  
raluca.soreanu

**Senior Lecturers**
Dr Norman Gabriel  
5A.210  
4944  
n.r.gabriel
Dr Carolyn Laubender  
5A.208  
3958  
c.laubender
Dr Kevin Lu  
5A.123  
4971  
klu
Chris Tanner  
5A.213  
3962  
chris.tanner
Dr Julie Walsh  
5A.208  
3903  
walsh

**Lecturers**
Dr Ann Addison  
TBC  
TBC  
abbadi
Dr Manuel Batsch  
5A.204  
2921  
mbatsch
Dr Jessica Clark  
5A.210  
4943  
jessica.clark
Dr David Henderson  
5A.204  
2921  
david.henderson
Dr Zibiah Alfred Loakthar  
5A.204  
2921  
z.laokthar
Dr Leonardo Niro  
5A.211  
3962  
l.niro
Arianna Pulsoni  
5A.204  
2921  
Arianna.pulsoni
Dr Mark Saban  
5A.204  
2921  
msaban
Rodrigo Sanchez Escandon  
5A.204  
2921  
rs18114
Dr Alison Swartz  
TBC  
TBC  
alison.swartz
Dr Marita Vyrgioti  
TBC  
TBC  
allyvyrg
Dr Deborah Wright  
5A.204  
2921  
dlswr

**Centre for Myth Studies:**
Professor Roderick Main (Director)  
5A.207  
4842  
rmmain

**Centre for Trauma, Asylum and Refugees (CTAR)**
Professor Renos Papadopoulos (Director)  
5A.213  
3558  
renos

**Emeritus Professors**
Professor Karl Figlio  
kfiglio
Professor Bob Hinshelwood  
rhinsh

**Professional Services Staff:**  
Debbie Stewart - Department Manager  
3640  
ppsdm
Alison Evans - Student Administrator  
4969  
ppspgr
Emily Gordon - Student Administrator (Part-time)  
4172  
ppspg
Sarah Smith - Student Administrator  
3745  
ppspg
Anne Snowling - Operations Assistant (Part-time)  
4554  
pps
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.

Arrangements for academic support hours will be available on the PPS student Moodle page.

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.

Department Disability Liaison Officer: Dr Deborah Wright
The Departmental Disability Liaison Officer (DDLO) is a direct link for you between the Student Services Hub and your department. They can help make sure that the Disability Service knows about any adjustments you need.

Module Supervisors
There are dedicated Module Supervisors to support students for each module. The module supervisor for each module can be found on Moodle or in the Module Directory. If you have a specific study question please contact the relevant module supervisor.

Your Personal Tutor
All undergraduate 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.

If you have a disability, long term medical condition and/or Specific Learning Difference and have not registered with Student Wellbeing & Inclusivity Service, to discuss your support needs, please email include@essex.ac.uk.

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 Emily Gordon (email egordon@essex.ac.uk) for further details.

Staff research interests

Dr Ann Addison
- Historical, philosophical, social and cultural contexts of the work of C.G. Jung
- Comparative studies relating to C.G. Jung and W.R. Bion
- Implicit theories in psychoanalysis
- Psychoanalysis and its application in the arts
- The relationship of body and mind in psychoanalysis
- Law and psychoanalysis
Dr Manuel Batsch
- Freud’s metapsychology
- The connections between the theory and the practice of psychoanalysis
- The writing of the psychoanalytic session
- Psychoanalysis and post-structuralism
- Psychodynamic approaches to depression

Dr Jessica Clark
- Sociology of childhood and youth
- Psychosocial Studies of Children and Childhood
- Ethics in research with children
- Representation and Popular Culture
- Discourse Analysis
- Agency and Interdependency
- Intergenerational relations
- Critical disability studies and disabled children’s childhood studies
- Children’s Geographies

Professor Matt ffytche
- The history of psychoanalysis (particularly mid-twentieth century)
- The relation between psychoanalysis and modernist literature
- The psychoanalytic imaginary and its integration with social and psychosocial theory
- Nineteenth-century theories of the unconscious
- Psychoanalysis and critical theory
- Outsider writing

Dr Norman Gabriel
- Integrating relational psychoanalysis with relational sociology
- Norbert Elias and process sociology
- Comparing the national habitus of different childhoods
- Beyond developmental psychology and social constructionism?
- Crossing the narrow bridge: the socio-emotional development of young children
- Challenging the adult establishment – children’s humour

Dr David Henderson
- Comparative psychoanalysis
- Apophasis and psychoanalysis
- Analytical psychology
- Deleuze and Jung
- Jung and Lacan
- Bion, Jung and unknowing in psychotherapy
- Psychoanalytic theory and practice
- Psychoanalysis and religion
- Cultural homelessness

Professor Sue Kegerreis
- Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy
- Psychodynamic Counselling with Children and Adolescents
- Psychoanalytic technique and its adaptations to different client groups and settings
- Organisational Dynamics
- Eating Disorders
- Training issues with Counsellors and Psychotherapists
- Applications of Psychodynamic Thinking in non-clinical work
Dr Carolyn Laubender
- Psychoanalytic Theory & History
- Politics & The Clinic
- Critical Theory & Cultural Studies
- Feminist Theory & Queer Theory
- Generationality & Intergenerational Relationships
- Childhood & Race, Gender, Sexuality
- Post/De-Colonial Theory
- Psychoanalysis, Literature, and Film

Dr Zibiah Alfred Loakthar
- People's experiences of seeking refuge from persecution
- Voicing identities: power and belonging
- Diasporic community development
- Psychosocial perspectives on Human Rights
- Therapeutic humanitarian interventions
- Charity sector work, social justice campaigns and ethical conundrums
- The changing nature of the refugee voluntary sector in London
- Oral History, museums and public archives
- Life stories of talking therapists
- Equality and Social Inclusion

Dr Kevin Lu
- C. G. Jung, analytical psychology, Jungian and Post-Jungian theory
- Psychoanalytic history, psychohistory, psychobiography and oral history
- Transgenerational transmission of trauma
- Chinese/Vietnamese Diaspora
- Psychology of Religion
- Graphic Novels
- Racial hybridity

Professor Roderick Main
- Historical, philosophical, religious and cultural contexts of the work of C. G. Jung
- Depth psychology (especially Jungian psychology), religion and modernity
- Analytical psychology and society
- Synchronicity
- Myth

Dr Leonardo Niro
- Epistemology of Psychoanalysis, Psychology and Psychological Practices
- Psychoanalysis and Evolutionary Theory
- Ethology and Attachment Theory
- Psychoanalysis, Neuroscience and Philosophy of Mind
- Psychoanalytic approaches to Depression and Manic-Depressive (Bipolar) Disorder
- History of Psychoanalysis, Psychology, Psychiatry and Psychological Practices

Dr Chris Nicholson
- The nature of hysteria and trauma
- Transition in looked after children and higher education
- Psychoanalytic observation and learning
- Therapeutic community theory and practice
- Enabling Environments
- Terror and Islamic terrorism
- Psychoanalytic applications to literature
- Robert Graves: modernism, poetry and The White Goddess
Professor Renos Papadopoulos
- Involuntary dislocation (forced migration), trauma and refugees
- Working with survivors of violence and disasters
- Psychosocial humanitarian interventions
- Psychosocial perspectives on Human Rights
- The interface between Analytical Psychology and systems, family therapy, and culture
- Epistemology of therapeutic endeavours
- Academic and professional interface with Eastern Orthodox Christianity

Arianna Pulsoni
- Infant mental health
- Digital mental health
- Intergenerational family difficulties and trauma
- Autism in relation to early trauma
- Organizational dynamics and group dynamics
- Wellbeing interventions in schools
- The integration of Psychoanalysis with Philosophy
- The application of Psychoanalytic theories to non-clinical disciplines

Dr Mark Saban
- The prehistory and early development of analytical psychology
- Psychosocial aspects of analytical psychology
- Philosophical dimensions to psychoanalysis (especially Schelling and Simondon)
- Myth

Dr Raluca Soreanu
- Psychoanalytic theory and metapsychology
- The history and epistemology of psychoanalysis
- The Budapest School of Psychoanalysis; the work of Sándor Ferenczi and Michael Balint
- Trauma theories and the study of collective trauma
- Fragmentation and psychic splitting
- Theories of recognition
- Psychosocial studies of collective creativity
- Time studies
- Contemporary social theories; post-humanist theories; feminist theories
- Sociology of emotions; sociology of creativity; sociology of knowledge
- Epistemologies and methodologies of the social sciences and of psychosocial studies

Chris Tanner
- Creating effective learning environments
- Psychoanalytic perspectives on organisational dynamics
- Executive coaching and consultancy practice in organisations
- Leadership development-psychodynamic perspectives
- Compassionate care in health and social care

Dr Marita Vyrgioti
- Psychoanalytic theory, history and epistemology
- Psychoanalysis, race, coloniality
- The dialogue between psychoanalysis and anthropology
- Post/Decolonial approaches to psychoanalysis
- Psychosocial theory and ethics
- Monstrosity, savagery, barbarism
- Anachronisms

Dr Julie Walsh
- Psychoanalysis
- Gender & sexuality studies
- Social & cultural theory
- The meeting of psychosocial studies and literature
Dr Deborah Wright
- Freud, Klein, Bion, Winnicott and Object Relations
- Human relations with the non-human world
- Psychosocial and psychoanalytic perspective on humans’ relationships with their environment
- Children and residential care clients’ relationship with their (bed)rooms
- Patients’ relationship with the consulting room
- Spatialisation, environmental usage and political connotations

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 of Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies Common Room (5A.325) is located at the end of the corridor from our main Department academic and professional services offices. It is for the use of all students and is shared with the Department of Sociology.

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. Ours are located in the 5A corridor near to the professional services office 5A.202. We publish an electronic weekly newsletter with news and events relevant to the Department.
**Departmental prizes**
Each year we are pleased to award prizes signifying excellence. The following prizes are available for award to undergraduate students:

**The FdA TCTO Prize for Critical Analysis**
This is a prize for the best essay (with the highest mark) in our Critical Analysis (PA121) essay.

**The BA Therapeutic Care Prize for Critical Analysis**
This is a prize for the best essay (with the highest mark) in our Critical Analysis (PA121) essay.

**The Hannah Curtis Prize**
This prize is awarded for the best BA Therapeutic Communication and Therapeutic Organisations long essay mark (PA213, long essay mark not overall module mark).

**The Kegerreis Prize**
This prize is awarded to the student with the best overall mark on BA (Hons) Therapeutic Communication and Therapeutic Organisations.

**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.

**Social Media**
https://www.facebook.com/ctaressex/?ref=py_cscow
https://essexmyth.wordpress.com/
https://twitter.com/PPS_Essex

**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 Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies that does not apply. You will find that all 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.

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree mark</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>69.5% and over</td>
<td>Class 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59.5 - 69.4%</td>
<td>Class 2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.5 - 59.4%</td>
<td>Class 2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.5 – 49.4%</td>
<td>Class 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.4% and under</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 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.

**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**
Some courses contain employability modules. Details can be found in the module outlines on Moodle.

Please contact Dr Norman Gabriel if you have any questions about Employability modules or employability in general.
**Study Abroad**

**Essex Abroad** supports you to have an international experience during your time at Essex. You can study, volunteer, intern or complete research abroad as part of our programmes. Many courses can be taken as a four-year variant to include a year studying abroad at one of our partner universities across the world. You can [find out more about applying](#) and what you’ll need to consider if you’re interested in a study abroad year. Students with disabilities should also liaise with the Student Wellbeing and Inclusivity Service – [include@essex.ac.uk](mailto:include@essex.ac.uk).

As well as a year abroad, we have a wide range of [summer programmes](#) including volunteering programmes, international internships and research abroad opportunities which are open to all Essex students. These programmes vary in duration, location and cost and can be a great addition (or alternative!) to a full year of study abroad.

**Work 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 2021/22 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 Industry Engagement and Placements team ([placements@essex.ac.uk](mailto: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.

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 Engagement 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 Engagement and Placements team. If you have a student visa, please be aware that the immigration rules restrict the length of placements and the type of work you can do.

Placements form part of BA Psychodynamic Practice and BA Childhood Studies. For guidance contact your Course Lead, Personal Tutor or Module Lead.

**DBS Checks for Placements**

Some placements may require a DBS check where you are engaging in regulated activity with vulnerable groups. This may include placements that are core, compulsory or optional, depending on the relevant module. Some activities may be carried out on an ad hoc basis for research purposes only, which are not required to meet the learning outcomes of the module or course, but will help inform your learning. More information about the DBS check process can be found on the [University’s DBS webpages](#).

**Module Materials**

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

Every student has a personal timetable published at the start of term which shows when and where your teaching is taking place, and zoom links if teaching online. 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 and selected all of your modules (if applicable) 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.

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.

Reading weeks

Some modules include a reading week which means there is no scheduled teaching that week. Please see your timetable for information on when teaching takes place and refer to the module outlines on Moodle.

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. If you have a student visa, please be aware that poor attendance and engagement may mean we have to withdraw our sponsorship and your visa would be cancelled by the Home Office.

It is your responsibility to remember your student registration card. Lost or faulty cards can be replaced at the Student Services Hub.

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 of 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 collections of books and journals both on our shelves and online. 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 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.

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

Academic Skills 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 the Skills for Success team is available to help by providing support, resources, workshops and 1:1s on:

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

Departmental Support
All first-year students have a study support module or sessions as part of their degree. The Department of Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies often offers study support events throughout the year which are promoted via the Newsletter.

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.

All students should ensure that any agreement entered into with a proof-reader conforms to 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 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.

In the Department of Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies 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 administrators, 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.

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 the Department of Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies

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.

Details of the methods of assessment for each module can be found on the module outline in the module Moodle page.

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).

Modules are assessed by an essay or essays with various word counts; you can find full details on the module outline. A margin of ± 10% will be allowed in both cases. Please note that marks will be deducted if the essay/dissertation is more than 10% over the permitted word count. Please see details below:

- Between 10-20% over - 3 marks deducted
- Between 20-30% over - 8 marks deducted
- More than 30% over - 15 marks deducted

The word count is the total number of words excluding the final reference list and any appendices. All other text must be included (quotations, footnotes, references in the text, tables etc.)

Preparation of assignments
All assignments should have the following information at the front of the essay. Please do not add your name.

- Student registration number
- Module code
- Essay title
- Word count

Please note:

- When you log on to FASER (the portal for submitting coursework) you should see a list of your modules. If a particular module is not listed, please contact the Student Administrator.
- For each of the modules listed, you will be able to store your work-in-progress while you are preparing your assignments. You can add or delete files just as often as you wish.
- All work (essay, reference list, appendices) related to any one assignment must be submitted in one file.
- You must supply a computer generated word count, preferably printed at the beginning of the written work.
- Essays and dissertations must be one and a half line spaced and the font in at least 12pt type size.
- You must only submit Word files. Microsoft Works (.wps) files must not be submitted. If you create a document with Works, you must convert (file, followed by save as) the file to Rich Text format (.rtf) before submitting to the system.
- Only the file submitted immediately before the deadline will be treated as the formal electronic submission.
Do not put your name on your work. Your work is identified as yours by your registration number which is captured electronically. Your work is marked by staff who will not know your registration number. They will not know if any piece of work belongs to a specific student.

Submission deadlines are on FASER.

You will automatically receive an email receipt to your University of Essex email address once your essay has been successfully submitted. If you do not receive a receipt immediately this may mean you have not submitted correctly. Please try again ensuring that you have submitted to the correct assignment code. We have had students who have submitted to the test page by mistake.

Finally, check that you have submitted the correct document.

Samples of coursework
If samples of coursework are provided, these will be available on the module Moodle page.

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
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 your Undergraduate Administrator.
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.

Return of coursework
Coursework feedback and marks will be returned via FASER. The University has a policy to provide feedback on assessed work within twenty working days from the submission deadline.

Ethics in research
All research involving human participants and animal subjects, 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 or Guidelines for Ethical Approval of Research Involving Animal Subjects 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.

Exam timetable
The University publishes the dates for exam periods at the start of each year. A link to your personalised exam timetable will be sent to your Essex account when it is ready to view.

Attending an exam
You must bring your registration card to any invigilated exams on campus. You may not be allowed entry without it.

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).
**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**
Sample exam papers are available on the Moodle page for the relevant module.

**Revision classes**
Modules which are assessed by examination will have a revision class timetabled during the first two weeks 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 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
The University has a policy to provide feedback on assessed work within 20 working days from the date of submission. Feedback and marks for coursework will be returned via FASER. Feedback is provided on a coversheet on the marked coursework. Should you require more detailed feedback on your coursework please contact your Student Administrator who will send the essay back to the marker requesting further feedback.

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
- 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.

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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 student visa rules. All options should be considered in conjunction with applicable visa restrictions.
**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 attempted the reassessment.

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

The reassessment strategy for each module is available on Moodle.

**Resit exams**
*Resit exams* are usually scheduled in late August and 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.
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

The University has a Student Engagement Policy, which provides a structured approach based on support and mutual decision-making to maximise the success and achievement of every student.

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 a Listen Again 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, the link to join will be available in your individual timetable.

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 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 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

Your Department will also welcome your feedback. They will have a range of quick feedback mechanism for you to use. Contact your departmental office if you are not sure what these are.
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 students with disabilities or additional needs

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).

Essex Accessibility Forum

The Essex Access Forum is a university-wide discussion and advocacy forum and consultation body working to support excellence in all aspects of physical and intellectual access at Essex (student education, staff employment and visitor experience). Membership is open to both staff and students, with and without disabilities.

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.
Drop In/Wellbeing Appointments
The Wellbeing Assessors provide support to students with anything affecting their wellbeing, mental health and/or disability through pre-booked appointments (whilst remote working) or face to face appointments within the Silberrad Centre. To book an appointment please find further information on the website and scroll down to “enquiry form”.

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, student UK visa extensions, housing, complaints, welfare and consumer issues. Colchester students – 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, provide advice and support with any wellbeing issues and organise a range of social activities to help you connect with others. Find your RAs contact details on your flat kitchen poster if you live on campus. During term-time, our friendly RAs are available for a virtual chat via Zoom every day from 7pm – 8pm use Zoom Meeting ID: 920 1237 9049, all Essex students are welcome to drop in. You can find out about all our exciting events by following us on Facebook or by checking out the University Events page.

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.

The University offers lateral flow testing on all its campuses at our Asymptomatic Testing Clinic and require students to test twice weekly when studying on campus.

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 must 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 Careers 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.

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.

Your Personal Development at Essex
Activate your GradIntelligence account to discover the broad range of extra-curricular and voluntary opportunities available to you at Essex using Chart My Path, your personal development navigation tool. Find activities to inspire and develop you in your life, your studies and for your future. You can achieve Big Essex Awards through the activities that you complete during your time at Essex and gain University recognition on your digital transcript, the Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR).

Join the Career Mentoring Programme and get matched with a mentor who can share their industry expertise, empower you, listen, talk through your plans, fears, and aspirations, and give you the time and space you need to make decisions that are right for you.

If you are a first year and want to start building a network of peers, careers professionals and industry experts, sign-up to Rising Stars and discover opportunities to develop your skills, experience and confidence for the future.

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.

Get Work Experience
Frontrunners is the University’s award winning on-campus placement programme. The scheme provides opportunities to students with little or no previous work experience to gain valuable skills and experience in Frontrunner level placements, as well as supporting more experienced students to develop new career pathways through Frontrunner Plus roles.

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.
You Are Essex

Graduation and Awards
Once your exam board has met, it can take between 7-10 working days for your results to be 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.

You will be able to access your full academic transcript electronically via your Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR).

Upon conferral of your award, all graduates will receive both an electronic and hard copy parchment award certificate. Your electronic Certificate will be available on your GradIntelligence account within 5 working days of your conferral and your hard copy parchment will be available to collect at graduation. If you are unable to attend graduation, the Graduation and Awards team will post this to your home address.

Graduation ceremonies
The culmination of all your hard work! Graduation ceremonies take place at our Colchester Campus in the Ivor Crewe Lecture Hall with a departmental Reception held afterwards on campus. All eligible students studying at our Colchester, Loughton and Southend Campuses will be invited to attend their course's ceremony at the next available Graduation. Confirmed dates for future graduation ceremonies are published online.

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 in July.

HEAR
When you study at Essex, you graduate with far more than just a degree. Your Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR) 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.

Your HEAR will be updated within 5 working days of results being release following ratification at a Board of Examiners.

When you graduate, you will have full electronic access to your HEAR and award certificate 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, 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 sometimes be overwhelming. You might know the path you wish to take, but if you need help to reach your graduate goals, our Careers Services Team offer information, guidance and advice on your different options after graduation. Whether it’s discussing different career paths, bringing your CV or LinkedIn profile up to date, or prepping for that interview you have worked all year for, we offer careers support for life, so we’ll always be here for you.

We know you’ll go on to great things, but you can always come back! As an Essex graduate, 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. We’d love to hear about your achievements and discover where your Essex degree has taken you.