

Year 1, 2020-21: Impact of COVID-19 on teaching

Lancaster Medical School has reviewed all of their year 1 teaching to identify the best way to deliver quality teaching and an excellent student experience, whilst ensuring the safety of our students and staff. We are pleased to be able to confirm that we are still able to deliver the full Year 1 curriculum, albeit with some adaptation to teaching delivery. The current plans for October – December 2020 are outlined below.

The measures outlined below are in addition to the standard safety measures of regular cleaning of teaching spaces, regular hand washing, provision of hand sanitiser where hand washing facilities are not available, and the wearing of face coverings in areas of campus where social distancing is more difficult to ensure.

Problem-based learning (PBL): PBL is a form of small group teaching and is the main vehicle for delivery of our curriculum. As such, we have prioritised this teaching activity for in-person delivery. PBL sessions will be conducted in larger than normal rooms, to ensure that students and staff can maintain appropriate physical distancing at all times.

Clinical anatomy learning: Anatomy teaching will be a mixture of in-person and online delivery. Face to face sessions will have reduced class sizes to ensure appropriate physical distancing can be maintained. To accommodate smaller class sizes, staff will provide shorter, more-focused sessions supplemented with online and self-study resources, which students should complete in advance of the in-person teaching. Where teaching is delivered online, access to the Clinical Anatomy Learning Centre and resources within it will be offered at timetabled sessions.

Clinical skills teaching: Similarly to clinical anatomy teaching, class sizes will be reduced and staff will deliver shorter, more focused sessions supplemented with online material and resources. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) will be provided for these sessions. Students should engage with the online resources in advance of the in-person session, to ensure that they can make the most of the condensed time in the clinical skills laboratory.

Lectures: Lectures are a non-compulsory element of our curriculum and are designed to support the students' self-directed learning for PBL. It is not possible to deliver lectures to large numbers of students safely. Lectures will be delivered online in a variety of formats. Student feedback about the delivery of online lectures in 2019-20, during lockdown, has been used to shape the way we deliver this type of teaching.

Other teaching: Lancaster Medical School supports and supplements students' independent learning with a variety of different teaching activities throughout the year. These will be delivered through a mixture of in-person and online sessions, appropriate for the activity and restrictions in place at that time.