

Dear Saskia, Ruth, and Alison,

The students' union executive team have been made aware of rising student concerns around January Exams.

The concerns are outlined as follows:

- **Clear Information:** In light of the recent email to all students regarding exams, and the necessity to complete an LFT before in-person examinations, will this information be advertised using other mediums?
- **Availability of LFT:** Students are aware LFT's can be collected from reception, but they are concerned due to the national shortage of LFT's at present. Can the university guarantee supply for all students who require LFTs?
- **Delayed Exams:** If students test positive for COVID or are self-isolating and are unable to sit exams in January, causing them to be delayed, they are concerned they will not be able to accept jobs and masters courses that require transcripts by July 2022. They stress that sitting January exams in the May period alongside other May exams would be unreasonable. How can we ensure students are able to accept jobs and masters they have worked hard for?
- **Morality:** Considering the above, students may be more likely to ignore positive tests results to attend exams in person. This puts the students at increased risk of contracting COVID.
- **Transmission:** Students are concerned about transmitting COVID to their loved ones. The hallways during the exam periods are often crowded, and they cannot foresee how they could be socially distanced.
- **Accreditation:** Degrees with accreditations have been used as justification for in-person examination. Students do not understand this justification as they have examples of other students from different universities (including UOB) also receiving accreditation whilst completing degrees online.
- **Road Map:** Considering all of the above, students would benefit from a clear roadmap of what to expect if they are positive or have to isolate. Including: which forms they may need to fill out (E.g. – extenuating circumstances, and where to find them), when they can expect to re-sit these exams, and when they can expect to graduate. Clarity of information would decrease the likelihood of ignoring positive tests. Ease of access to information will protect the mental health of those who do have to isolate/test positive as they won't be distressed trying to access support.

We are aware the NSS survey is being promoted soon, and we are sure you share our concerns about the decline we could see due to student dissatisfaction. We anticipate your response swiftly,

Kind Regards,

The Aston SU Executive Team