

Issued: 19 November 2020

Guidance following changes to Tier Levels

Dear Students

The Scottish Government announced they would be moving a number of local authority areas into Tier 4 yesterday, as part of their efforts to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. One of these local authority areas included Stirling.

New rules will come into force as of 6pm on Friday 20 November and will be in place until at least Friday 11 December.

Colleges and universities will remain open in Tier 4 and we can confirm that all Forth Valley College campuses will continue to operate. Please see further guidance below.

Students on full-time, school partnership, partnership degree and Modern Apprenticeship programmes

- Learning and teaching will continue in line with our blended learning approach. However, curriculum teams will be reviewing work that is planned to take place over the next few weeks to ensure only essential, time-critical activities will take place on campus. Some, or all, activities may be moved online wherever possible. Curriculum teams will communicate any changes to students directly.
- Assessments and exams will take place as scheduled, unless other advised.

Students on evening programmes

- Learning and teaching for accredited evening courses will continue in line with our blended learning approach. However, curriculum teams will be reviewing work that is planned to take place over the next few weeks to ensure only essential, time-critical activities will take place on campus. Some, or all, activities may be moved online wherever possible. Curriculum teams will communicate any changes to students directly.
- Leisure programmes based at the Alloa and Falkirk campuses will continue as planned.
- Leisure programmes based at the Stirling Campus will be moved online or rescheduled for a later date where possible and students will be contacted with further information.

Students on commercial training programmes

- Commercial training courses based at the Alloa and Falkirk campuses will continue as planned.
- Commercial training courses based at Stirling Campus will be moved online or re-scheduled for a later date if not time critical. Students and/or their employers will be contacted with further information.

- Travel is permitted between Tiers for essential, time critical training. Any student with queries should contact the Business Development Team.

Transport

- The Scottish Government Guidelines permit travel between Tiers for essential purposes such as education and work. You can find more information on this here <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-travel-and-transport/>
- A letter will be available in due course which you can use when travelling, although this is not mandatory.

Learning Resource Centres

- Our Learning Resource Centres will remain open for use on all campuses. There are already a range of processes and measures in place to ensure they can be used safely. We recognise the Learning Resource Centres may be the only place for safe learning for some of our students.

Hospitality

- Our refectories based at the Alloa and Falkirk campuses will remain open with a range of processes and measures in place to ensure the safety of customers.
- Our refectory based at the Stirling Campus will be closed until further notice.
- Our Gallery Restaurant based at the Stirling Campus will continue to remain closed.

Sports Facilities

- Our sports facilities based at our Alloa and Falkirk campuses will continue to remain open for learning and teaching purposes with a range of processes and measures in place to ensure they can be used safely.
- Our sports facilities based at our Stirling Campus will not be available for use until further notice and curriculum teams will contact any students directly who are impacted by this.

Student Support

- Student support, including face-to-face support, can go ahead across all campuses where necessary in line with current processes and procedures already in place.

Vulnerable Individuals

- We will work very closely with all those students that are considered vulnerable or with an underlying health condition and they should discuss arrangements with their Curriculum Manager as soon as possible. This is particularly applicable to those based at our Stirling Campus.

Health and Safety

- We already have a wide range of measures and arrangements across all campuses to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and visitors. These ensure that we continue to comply with Scottish Government Guidelines on hygiene standards and physical distancing.

Next Steps

We will continue to work closely with the Scottish Government to ensure that we are following the latest guidelines and will issue any further updates as required.

You can find all the latest information and updates on our website at <https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/covid-19/>

If you have any queries, please contact your Curriculum Manager to discuss.

Your safety continues to be a top priority.

Regards

Andrew Lawson

Depute Principal