Applicant statement 11th June

Subject: Updates on our plan for 2020/21

Dear Student,

I hope you and your family are safe and well.

We look forward to welcoming you to City in September. While the 2020/21 academic year will look and feel different as we adapt to new ways of life, we remain committed to delivering a high quality educational experience. We are working closely with the Students' Union to develop our plans which continues to be invaluable in informing our approach.

I know many of you will have questions about how the academic year will work and I would like to share a summary of our plans and to provide as much clarity as possible.

We will update regularly the frequently asked questions and answers on the applicant pages and we will be in touch with you directly with further updates by the end of June.

Start of term and 2020/21 academic year

We can confirm that we will be starting the academic year on the following dates:

• Welcome Week: Monday 21st September
• Teaching beginning for the majority of courses: Monday 28th September
  o Professional Law programmes (LPC and BVS): Monday 7th September
  o School of Health Sciences programmes: start dates will remain as usual
  o Cass Postgraduate Programmes: The School will be in touch to confirm your start date and details about your programme.
  o Journalism (Erasmus students) and International Journalism Programmes: Monday 14th September

Term 1 will end on Friday 11th December for the majority of courses (PG Journalism will end on Friday 4th December) and we will confirm dates for the rest of the 2020/21 academic year, including the start of Term 2, in the coming weeks.

As a result of the current situation, we are redesigning the delivery of our educational programmes, student support services and broader student experience for 2020/21 to comply with continuing social distancing requirements. We will be ready to deliver online the teaching that would usually take place in large groups, such as lectures and this will be combined with some small group teaching activities on campus. We know some students will be unable to reach campus so all small group teaching activities will also be available online. We will resume other campus activities as soon as restrictions ease and we are able to do so safely.

As a central London university, we recognise that many of our students and staff use public transport to reach our campus and this is a factor we are considering in our plans.

Welcome Week is an important part of the year, where we welcome you to our community and provide you with a positive start to your life at City. Within the context of the current environment, this is likely to be mainly online and we will share more information with you over the summer to help you prepare for your studies with us.

Campus opening in September

Parts of our campus, such as the Library, study areas and some classrooms will be open and available
for limited access from September 2020. The health and safety of our students and staff remains our top priority and we are putting appropriate social distancing and hygiene measures in place to ensure our community can safely use the campus when they are here, including:

- Carrying out thorough risk assessments for all areas of the campus and mapping capacity in line with social distancing requirements
- Putting one-way systems into place where possible
- Arranging seating areas so people can socialise safely
- Installing hand sanitation stations across our buildings
- Ensuring appropriate cleaning programmes are in place
- Adding clear signage about social distancing to the entrances and inside our buildings
- Encouraging the use of face coverings on campus
- Purchasing safety screens for our reception desks.

Staff across City are working hard to ensure we implement the latest Government guidance and we will continue to update our plans as required. As such, we look forward to welcoming more students onto campus at any one time, as restrictions ease.

Teaching and Learning for the 2020/21 academic year

We are working to deliver the majority of teaching online for the 2020/21 academic year until we are able to resume our usual campus activities safely. We will deliver this by:

- **Providing your lectures and core content digitally** so you can access them from home and review them at your own pace.
- **Offering face-to-face interactive sessions with smaller groups** of students and staff where possible, which will also be available online.
- **Arranging for specialist facilities such as clinical skills and engineering laboratories to be used safely**, in a socially distanced way, where on-campus practical work is required.
- **Ensuring that an online equivalent of any in-person teaching is provided**, as we appreciate that some of you will be unable to attend any activities on campus due to travel, health or other reasons.
- **Remaining flexible in our approach.** While we are planning to deliver teaching online for the whole academic year, we also plan to deliver face-to-face classes in person later in the year, if we are able to.

The details of how your programme of study will be delivered are being developed and we will be in touch when we have further information.

Student support

We have a tremendous range of specialist support services at City, which are available to help you whether you are joining us remotely or coming onto campus. They include:

- Careers and Employability
- Student Centre
- Mental Health, Counselling and Accessibility
- Academic Learning Support
- Health Centre
- Chaplaincy
- Students’ Union
All our teams will still be available to you throughout your time with us: as with our programme delivery, the majority of the support will be online. You will be able to contact our teams through one-to-one appointments on Microsoft Teams, webinars and email, as well as reading the guidance and advice they provide on the Student Hub and Moodle.

We are also planning to provide some on-campus support where possible, which will be delivered with social distancing in place and with due consideration of your safety and wellbeing.

**Accommodation**

We know that you may have questions about your accommodation, in particular whether it will be possible to move in earlier or later than the usual contract allows. We are working with our accommodation partners to discuss possible flexibility with tenancy agreements and will update you when we have confirmation.

If you wish to apply for accommodation for 2020/21, please follow the usual application process.

**Student experience**

Despite joining City in these unprecedented circumstances, you will be part of our diverse and thriving community. City and the Students’ Union offer many activities, societies and networks to help you meet new friends and make the most of your time with us. We are working on ways to ensure you are still able to take advantage of these opportunities, both while studying online and with some time on campus.

We will be in touch again by the end of June with more information on the 2020/21 academic year.

Best wishes, stay safe and stay alert,

**Professor Sir Paul Curran**
President