



University of Central Lancashire

At University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), the safety of our student and staff communities is our paramount concern. This duty of care has driven our widespread and continued response to the coronavirus pandemic since its outset last year. The University introduced several new safety measures in response to COVID-19. These measures were and continue to be in full compliance with the Governmental coronavirus guidance, as well as the applicable local restrictions.

Teaching At times when government guidance required it, we moved to fully online learning. Teaching became a mixture of face-to-face and online learning when safe and allowed by government guidance. Students on some programmes were given permission and supported to study from online until they felt comfortable coming to campus.

Campus Safety We reduced the number of people on campus, running at around a third of capacity. This was achieved by asking non-student-facing staff to work remotely and a staggered return of students to campus. Our Preston Campus also opened seven days a week to allow for a more flexible teaching timetable.

We have safety ambassadors posted on site to help encourage social distancing, mask wearing, keep left systems, and the use of hand sanitiser stations. Extra cleaning of teaching, study and social spaces continues to be undertaken. A 'click and collect' service for Library resources was introduced.

Testing and Quarantine Students arriving from other countries were assisted to quarantine if required and received food packages and support throughout. Lateral Flow COVID-19 tests are now undertaken twice weekly for all students and staff who returned to campus in 2021.

Social Life and Wellness Our new students still experienced welcome week with activities online and face-to-face where safe. A programme of online activities is available the year to enable student get-togethers even when not possible physically. The UCLan My Wellness app has online and guided training sessions for physical and mental health for all students and specialist services are all still available.

Staff and Student Response We are immensely proud of our staff and students and how they have responded to needs of their peers and the wider community. Some of the projects our staff and student community have been involved with are:

Fashion staff at UCLan faced up to health and safety obligations- by going into mask production. A project saw Fashion Design staff at the university make surgical caps, gowns, and face coverings for a local Hospital during the initial peak of COVID-19 cases. They then moved to make reusable face coverings for all our students and staff.

UCLan transforms engineering facilities into COVID-19 manufacturing hub The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) assisted with the initial response to COVID-19 by manufacturing over 200 items of personal protective equipment (PPE) and vital machine parts for staff at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, and other ambulance, physiotherapy and care home staff. Specialist technicians at UCLan utilised their skills and made use of the existing chemical compounds' stock to create much needed hand sanitiser to help fight the spread of coronavirus.

Journalism students go international to cover COVID-19 story UCLan students joined forces with their counterparts in America and China to collaborate on a coronavirus inspired international learning project. Around 30 journalism students from UCLan, Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) and Guangdong University of Foreign Studies (GDUFS) shared their stories and experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic from across the globe.

We do of course recognise that university life continues to feel a little different until a time when the additional safety measures can be relaxed in line with Governmental guidance. Until that time, we will continue to review our own approach and amend our safety procedures as necessary.

There are encouraging signs that the coronavirus could be brought under control in the coming months with the rolling out of the UK vaccination programmes; let's hope that this materialises worldwide and that we can all adapt back to normality swiftly and comfortably.

To find out more, visit: www.uclan.ac.uk/international



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