

Dear colleagues,

The purpose of this note is to bring you up-to-date with developments in Student Opportunity at the start of term.

1 Digital Welcome Week

Thank you for your contributions to a digital-first Welcome Week. I hope this went well for you in departments. It is too early to draw messages from students from the event, but early indications are that many events have attracted high satisfaction rates from students and whilst campus has felt generally more subdued than usual, in-person enquires have been high and Welcome helpers have been busy supporting students. Spreading the Arrivals period over 5 days assisted students settling in and achieving social distancing and there has been strong co-ordination of service providers in meeting the needs of new and returning international students who have needed to self-isolate. Student Opportunity has been reporting in routinely to the BCRP Board on all these arrangements to ensure integration with campus-wide planning for the new term.

2 New Student Opportunity Hub, Senate House

A new central campus Student Opportunity Hub, which will be the focal point for the delivery of our face-to-face and digital services and opportunities for students, has now been completed in Senate House, and is located where the Postgraduate Hub used to be located prior to its move to Junction. We no longer have a base on the piazza.

3 Careers Team

The Careers team will be providing face-to-face interactive small group workshops and short bookable Job Search 1-1 appointments through the new SO Hub daily, 10.00am-2.00pm Monday-Friday.

Careers webinars, which will run frequently and also be recorded, will enable more timely access for students applying for graduate jobs and further study during both autumn and spring terms.

Longer careers appointments for job search and careers guidance will all be provided virtually. With fewer graduate-level jobs available, please note that we will be prioritising 1-1 appointments during the early part of the autumn term for Finalists and recent graduates who are currently still seeking employment.

We currently have fewer careers staff but still seek to respond to increased demand for our services from students concerned about their career prospects and the recession. We may therefore have less flexibility on some occasions to respond to all requests for departmental workshops/other activities as we are prioritising central webinars (for the many) and 1-1 appointments (to provide personalised careers support). All activities are bookable through MyAdvantage.

4 Festival of Careers

We have launched the Festival of Careers, an integrated programme of online events created to connect students with employers and help students to develop their skills and think about their future. The autumn season of the Festival runs from 28th September until 13th November with a packed schedule of webinars, workshops and interactive sessions. For more information please visit www.warwick.ac.uk/careersfestival

The Festival brings together 9 virtual venues, designed to cover the broad range of career interests represented amongst students at Warwick. From The Boardroom business and finance hub to The Creative Stage, students will have a chance to explore a variety of sectors and opportunities and discover what's right for you. Employers include graduate recruiters, SMEs, and Not-for-profit organisations, from those local to Warwick to others from across the globe.

There are also 3 [virtual careers fairs](#) to visit that offer students a platform to meet with over 120 employers from all sectors and explore the opportunities available.

Alongside employers, the Festival provides the opportunity to hear authentic and inspiring stories from Warwick alumni. Students will be able to hear first-hand from former students how their time at Warwick shaped their career path, and what working in their field actually looks like.

Students will also be able to attend sessions run by career professionals in the Student Opportunity team. Staff will be running webinars and workshops designed to help students at any stage in their career journey.

5 Further opportunities for students

Other upcoming events you may be interested to draw to the attention of your students:

- The University of Warwick has partnered with **Bright Network** who enable students to meet leading employers and develop your skills at their student and graduate career events exclusively for Bright Network members. Visit www.brightnetwork.co.uk/bright-network-events/ for further details. Everything they do for their members is free and diversity is critical to their mission to help every student get ahead in their career.
- **BPP Online Regional Law Fair** (Midlands, South West and East of England): Monday 9 November 3.00pm-7.00pm, for students seeking employment at firms with a presence in the Midlands, South West or East of England regions, see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bpp-regional-law-fair-midlands-south-west-and-east-of-england-registration-115178331490>

CONNECT WITH INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYERS EVENTS 2020-21



WARWICK
STUDENT OPPORTUNITY

★	International Webinar Series	<p>These online events will provide you with the opportunity to connect with international employers and hear from recent alumni through a series of webinars and podcasts. If you are unable to attend recordings are also available.</p> <p>https://warwick.ac.uk/services/careers/findingwork/international/webinars</p>
★	International Careers Newsletters	<p>Find out more about careers, employer application tips and roles in Mainland China, Hong Kong, ASEAN, Middle East, Europe and India.</p> <p>https://warwick.ac.uk/services/careers/findingwork/international/newsletters/</p>
★	Global HR Panel Series	<p>Mainland China 14 October 2020 – 11am - 12pm SE Asia 4 November 2020 – 11am - 12pm India 9 December 2020 – 11am - 12pm</p>
★	Social Media	<p>Follow us on social media to find out more about opportunities in different regions of the world</p> <p>Warwick CHINA Careers Warwick HONG KONG Careers Warwick ASEAN Careers Warwick EUROPEAN Careers Warwick INDIA Careers Warwick MIDDLE EAST Careers</p>
★	ASIA Careers Insight Series	<p>March 2021 - This ASIA Careers Insight Series will help you connect with employers who are recruiting in Mainland China, Hong Kong, South East Asia and India.</p>

6 International matters

(a) Student Mobility

After the very challenging year with so many placements cancelled or rescheduled, the Mobility team is now starting to plan ahead for the spring term 2021 intake which is progressing well although we are anticipating lower numbers of spring term starters than usual. Work is now underway to contact partners and to establish where places will be available for our Warwick students in autumn 2021. Some partners are not making decisions yet, and all places will be subject to world health conditions, or individual university decisions. However, the aim is to contact departmental Study Abroad Co-ordinators by the third week in October with a provisional list of places looking forward.

(b) Short term mobility 2021

During 2019/20, we recorded that 101 students were able to undertake some form of short-term international mobility. Of those, 94 received funding and 7 were self-funded opportunities. The majority of these opportunities were undertaken online. As a result of Covid-19, approximately 200 students who were due to go on a year abroad have instead returned to campus this autumn to complete their final year of studies. There are likely to be significant challenges in 2020/21 but the Student Mobility team is committed to developing short-term opportunities for students during the Easter and summer vacation periods. Currently, there are 13 online international opportunities being advertised to students for 2020-21. Opportunities, funding and the mailing list for students to be kept updated can be found at www.warwick.ac.uk/shortmobility

Work is underway on opportunities which we hope will be able to take place later in the year, including:

- Short Term Mobility Bursary – funding support for 80+ students to undertake independently organised international study, work, volunteering opportunities
- A successful partnership working with University of California, Berkeley on their Global Leadership and Innovation programme during Summer 2020 has resulted in 20 students having the opportunity to take part in their 2 week January programme.
- Work is underway with Shanghai Jiao Tong University to develop the content for the collaborative research programme in which 30 Warwick students will participate.

(c) Brexit

Ahead of the forthcoming Brexit deadline we have mapped the student lifecycle and are working to ensure alignment of systems, policies and processes. We are also working with Student Communications colleagues to ensure that during the Autumn Term we reach as many students as possible to update them on the implications of their change of student status in terms of free movement and accessing services in the UK from January 2021. The latest guidance is available at <https://warwick.ac.uk/about/brexit>

(d) Support for international students

Please note that following the discontinuation of the Office for Global Engagement (and its predecessor the International Student Office,) international teams in Student Opportunity do not provide dedicated support for international students on all matters and queries should be directed to services with appropriate expertise. Please encourage students to come to the Student Mobility team to explore year abroad and short-term mobility opportunities. Please reach out to the Internationalisation team to support the integration of international students through activities such as Welcome Week and cultural events or to participate in Intercultural Communication workshops or webinars. Pastoral matters should be referred to Wellbeing Support Services; for more information please visit <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/wss>

7 Skills

[Student Development](#) are running a digital-first programme of workshops with weekly webinars on Warwick core skills, academic skills, and academic writing as well as a very limited on-campus offer of writing mentoring appointments and small group workshops. Students can work through the self-paced activities on the [Warwick core skills moodle](#) and the [academic and study skills moodle](#) and complete the [WSPA](#) wholly online. Live webinars are bookable through [myadvantage](#). Please note that due to resourcing restrictions we have discontinued our 1:1 academic advice appointments for undergraduates and are advising they talk to their personal tutor in the first instance. Personal tutors wishing to know more about our offer are welcome to email skills@warwick.ac.uk

8 Warwick Volunteers

The new five-year strategy for Warwick Volunteers has just been approved and we look forward to this delivering a step change, in due course, to the opportunities available to students and their role as co-creators and co-curators of those opportunities. More information for the coming academic year can be found at <https://warwick.ac.uk/about/community/volunteers/volunteering/strategy>. We look forward to working more closely with departments on volunteering.

9 Placement Learning Toolkit

Many departments participated in the institutional conversation last academic year in relation to placement learning. Colleagues may be interested to know that a placement 'toolkit' has been developed to support staff in departments who are active in this area of work. This is a work in progress but we hope will further support colleagues. Placement Learning Officers across the institution have contributed to its development. The toolkit and further information may be found at <https://warwick.ac.uk/placementtoolkit>

10 Warwick in Africa moves to Student Opportunity

Earlier this year, the Warwick in Africa team moved to Student Opportunity. We are delighted to welcome colleagues supporting teacher development in four partner countries and supporting in-country volunteering opportunities for Warwick students. For more information please visit <https://warwick.ac.uk/giving/projects/wia>

11 Communicating Student Opportunity to students

Please support us by using 'Student Opportunity' wherever you can and by discontinuing use of 'Student Careers & Skills' and 'International Student Office' in your own digital and hard copy information. If you have any queries, please contact Jenny Hughes (jenny.hughes@warwick.ac.uk) or Siobhan Bennett (siobhan.bennett@warwick.ac.uk).

12 Student Opportunity priorities 2020-21

We have adjusted our horizons for 2020-21 to focus time, finance and staff support around key services. Our priorities include;

- Supporting students' employability in these challenging times of global recession, and enabling Warwick students and graduates to stand out;
- Delivering a digital-first strategy across our services, of which the Festival of Careers and the Asia Careers Insight Series; Skills and Immigration Compliance Moodles and digital guidance services are examples;
- Launching our new Strategy for Warwick Volunteers;
- Ensuring our European students receive appropriate guidance on the impact of Brexit;
- Continuing to work to embed Warwick Core Skills across co-curricular activities and opportunities for students;
- Further expanding the Undergraduate Research Support Scheme and short-term mobility for summer 2021;
- Working with colleagues across the University to implement the outcomes of the Professional Services Strategic Review.

We look forward to working with you during 2020-21.

Best wishes,

Roberta Wooldridge Smith

Roberta Wooldridge Smith
Director of Student Opportunity