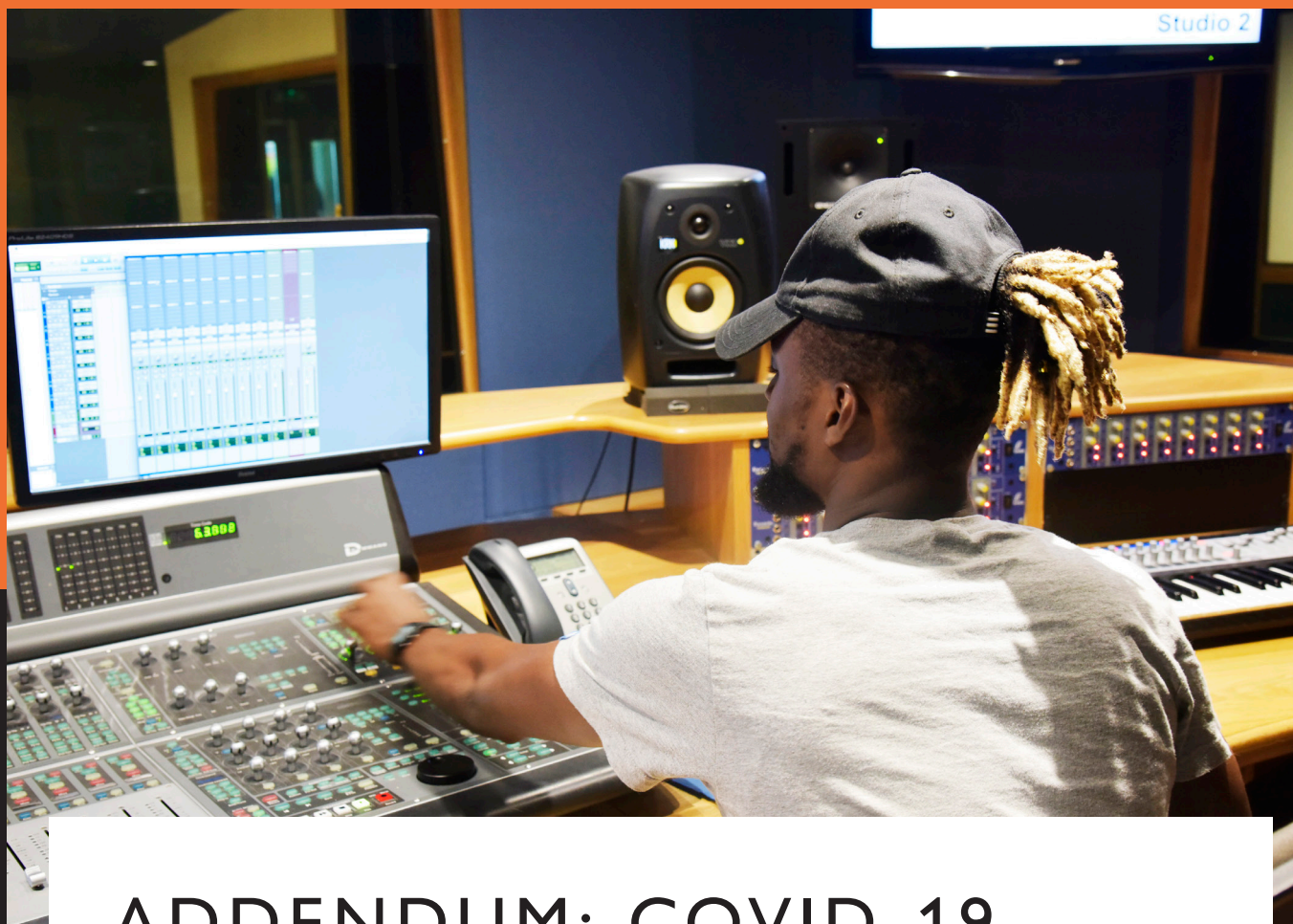




BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
NEW UNIVERSITY

EST. 1891



ADDENDUM: COVID-19 AND THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Addendum: Covid-19 and the *Student Code of Conduct*

The University has a duty of care to safeguard staff, student and visitors to its campuses and is operating a Covid-safe campus and accommodation. All members of the University community have a role to play in this and are expected to follow social distancing guidance and Government legal requirements. This will help reduce the risk of infection both in other members of the University community as well as the wider general public.

The University has launched a new [Student Code of Conduct](#) ('the Code') for this academic year (2020-21). This sets out the University's expectations about student behaviour and sets out the process for managing incidents of student misconduct (or breaches of the Code). In particular, students are expected to: behave in a responsible manner; act within the law; comply with reasonable instructions; and to adhere to health and safety requirements.

This addition to the Code has been prepared in the light of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and outlines the University's approach to reported breaches by students of social distancing legislation and restrictions on public gatherings, or other health and safety recommendations. It will remain in force for as long as social distancing restrictions remain in place, or Senate determines that the requirement is no longer necessary, and will automatically expire after a period of 12 months (18 September 2021), unless renewed by Senate.

A breach could occur in the following circumstances (list is not exhaustive):

- Persistent or serious breach of social distancing legislation or guidelines while on University premises
- Refusal to wear a face covering while in an enclosed public area of the University, e.g. corridors or social spaces, without an exception being granted (e.g. for a medical condition)
- Deliberately organising a large social gathering against guidelines, e.g. parties in excess of maximum numbers permitted by current legislation
- Intentionally gathering in large groups against guidance
- Refusal to respond to a reasonable instruction, e.g. to disperse when requested by a member of University staff, or to provide identification to support test and trace initiatives
- Intentionally endangering another member of the University community, e.g. by deliberately coughing or spitting at a member of staff or a fellow student
- Fighting
- Physically or verbally threatening others with infection by coronavirus
- Intentionally undermining the University's Covid-19 preparations or guidelines, e.g. via social media
- Any action or behaviour that brings the University into disrepute

Such acts could be considered as Gross Misconduct, which is defined as conduct representing a fundamental breach of behavioural standards. The above actions could take place on University premises or in the local community where students can be identified.

In the interests of the health and safety of the University and general community, the University will act quickly under the Code by **immediate referral of alleged incidents to a**

formal Conduct Panel. Students retain the right to be represented at a Conduct Panel and can request support from the Students' Union Advice Centre.

If an allegation of misconduct is subsequently upheld this could result in a range of penalties being imposed, up to and including temporary or permanent expulsion from the University.

Please contact the Governance & Quality team (resolution@bucks.ac.uk) for more advice and guidance about the University's *Student Code of Conduct*, or to report any breach.