What To Expect Transcript

**SUMMARY KEYWORDS**

online, academic staff, teaching, content, activities, learning, support, cambridge, studies, experience, providing, learning experience, blended, range, person, unsure, aim, college, offer, students

Welcome to the University of Cambridge. When you begin your studies this Michaelmas term, there'll be a lot of information to take in and new ways of working to adapt to. This video is the first in a small series aimed at providing some useful guidance, insight, and further support to help you make the most of your new journey. So, what can you expect when beginning your studies this October? We are planning to deliver the small group teaching that is at the heart of the Cambridge experience, that is, supervisions, practicals, and seminars, and as many lectures as possible in person. However, where there is a strong reason, such as it improves the educational experience, or we assess it as safer, we will use online delivery. And so you should be prepared that some of your course content, or subsequent learning activities might be available via blended learning, which is a mix of content both in person and online. This may be via a range of live or pre recorded teaching sessions with additional activities to be completed independently or in small groups. The University is committed to offering an effective learning experience for all students. A blended curriculum can offer a degree of flexibility for students and staff while making the most of the positive impact of technology and supporting the teaching and learning at Cambridge. It's important to note that much like any other element of teaching, not all instances of blended learning will look or feel the same. All content, whether online or in person has been designed by academic staff to best suit the intended learning outcomes for your course, and may be unique to each paper or subject. However, they all aim to offer equitable experiences and ensure a high quality education. Your course materials may make use of a range of platforms including Moodle for teaching and learning content, Zoom or Microsoft Teams for online communication, and other blended activities, and Panopto lecture capture for the provision of recorded sessions. To access your course materials, you will need to have regular access to an internet enabled device. And while most content can be accessed via mobile phones, we recommend devices with larger screens, such as tablets, laptops, or desktop computers to provide the best experience. If you have any issues accessing a suitable device, you can locate suitable facilities via your College or University Libraries. When engaging with staff and peers online, remember that this is an educational setting and professional conduct and respect for others is required. If you are unsure of what may be deemed appropriate, or how you're expected to interact within a given activity, consider how you would respond if you were face to face, refer to any relevant ground rules established by academic staff at the beginning of the year, or ask if you're still unsure. Our goal is for everyone to feel comfortable and safe to share ideas and learn regardless of whether this takes place in person or online. As circumstances requirements and policies change, these methods of teaching and learning are liable to change each year, or sometimes between terms depending on the needs of staff and students. However, you will be made aware of such changes and they will always be considered for the betterment of your course and ongoing learning experience. Providing an inclusive and accessible experience for all learners is vitally important to us. And we aim to ensure a universally inclusive experience wherever possible. However, if you find anything challenging to access, whether that be physically or otherwise, then in the first instance, discuss this with your director of studies or college tutorial office. You may also contact the Disability Resource Centre for more specialised support and guidance should you require any, we understand that transition to a new institution can prove challenging even at the best of times, so please communicate with us. Your college is usually the best starting place, in particular your Tutorial Office or Director of Studies, but you can also seek support from your Course, Libraries and the Student Advice Service. Below you will find a range of links and further reading to help support your transition to learning at the University of Cambridge, and in the coming weeks, we will be releasing additional videos focused on how to approach blended learning content, establishing an effective structure and routine and maintaining positive wellbeing.