HANDBOOK FOR VISITING STUDENTS



School of Psychological Sciences and Health

University of Strathclyde

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Contents

Welcome....................................................................................................................................................................3

Online services...........................................................................................................................................................3

Pegasus.................................................................................................................................................................3

MyPlace.................................................................................................................................................................3

Selecting classes ........................................................................................................................................................4

Assessment ................................................................................................................................................................4

Coursework ..........................................................................................................................................................5

Class Tests............................................................................................................................................................6

Exams....................................................................................................................................................................6

Alternative assessment.......................................................................................................................................6

Disability ....................................................................................................................................................................7

General information ................................................................................................................................................8

Psychology Society ....................................................................................................................................................8

Welcome

Welcome to the School of Psychological Sciences and Health! This handbook has been produced to provide you with some important information that you can refer to throughout your stay. If you experience any problems with your classes at any point during your stay please contact:

**Psychology:**

Dr Kellyanne Findlay, C.Psychol., AFBPsS Teaching Fellow, room 578

Academic advisor for international Psychology students

Tel: +44 (0)141 548 4755

Email: kellyanne.findlay@strath.ac.uk

**Speech & Language Therapy:**

Dr Wendy Cohen,

Senior Lecturer, room 549

Tel: +44 (0)141 548 3793

Email: wendy.cohen@strath.ac.uk

**Physical Activity for Health:**

Dr David Rowe,

Reader, room 533

Tel: +44 (0)141 548 4069

Email: david.rowe@strath.ac.uk

Online services

When you arrive at Strathclyde you will be provided with a username and password that will allow access to the main online systems, Pegasus and MyPlace.

Pegasus

Pegasus is the main online system for browsing the class catalogue, registering classes, and for general admin. It can be accessed here: https://but.mis.strath.ac.uk/login/

MyPlace

MyPlace is an online portal that gives access to class information. Each class has a page on MyPlace where you will find class information such as class statements, timetables, discussion forums, lecture notes etc. You can also participate in class activities such as online tutorials/wikis and sign up to practical classes. MyPlace can be accessed here:

<http://classes.myplace.strath.ac.uk/>

Selecting classes

Prior to your exchange, you should have selected classes that matched your requirements. However, on arrival you may have changed your mind or found that the class you chose does not match your expectations/requirements. If you find yourself in this situation, it is possible to change classes through our online portal ‘Pegasus’. You may change classes during week 1 and week 2 of term, but no later than this. If you do decide to change a class or classes, please seek approval from your Exchange Co-ordinator as soon as possible to minimise any disruption to your studies. It may take some time for the changes to be reflected on Pegasus; however, we will be able to furnish you with class statements and timetables, and can add you to the class list on MyPlace so you do not miss important class content/announcements etc. It is much better to make sensible and informed choices before you arrive because changing classes once term has begun can be very disruptive.

Assessment

Visiting students, both Erasmus and non-Erasmus, are treated in the same way as home students during term time. It is expected that you will fully engage with all aspects of teaching and assessment. No credit is awarded for attendance and you are subject to the same assessments as home students, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

A University marking guide for Undergraduate programmes can be found here: [http://www.strath.ac.uk/media/ps/cs/gmap/academicaffairs/policies/marking\_guide\_for\_UG\_programmes\_-\_Effective\_Sep\_14.pdf](http://www.strath.ac.uk/media/ps/cs/gmap/academicaffairs/policies/marking_guide_for_UG_programmes_-_Effective_Sep_14.pdf%20)

Some visiting students find themselves very discouraged when they get their first mark back

because it appears much lower than they are used to. The marking scheme in the UK means that a mark of 65 is considered a comprehensively good grade. It is very unusual for students to get marks in the region of 80/90% or above. The marking descriptors outline what is expected in order to achieve certain categories of mark. Please consult the subject MyPlace pages for further details on marking criteria. The main categories of mark:

 Below 40% = Fail

 40-49% = Limited demonstration of learning outcomes

 50-59% = Satisfactory demonstration of learning outcomes

 60-69% = Comprehensive demonstration of learning outcomes

 70% and above = Excellent demonstration of learning outcomes

Please read class statements carefully for class-specific information about assessment. If you are unsure about anything at all related to assessment, please get in touch at the earliest opportunity.

Coursework

Depending on the class taken, there may be elements of coursework as well as a final exam. Please consult the class statement for a detailed breakdown of assessment for any particular class. Coursework is submitted via the class page on MyPlace. Psychology students can consult the report writing guide and essay writing guide on the Psychology (Info) MyPlace page when writing essays or reports. The essay writing guide will also be useful for exams because exam answers should be structured in the same way as an essay (see below). Students in other subject areas can contact the module leader if they need guidance on report and essay writing. Students can also contact studyskills@strath.ac.uk for advice and support for academic writing and study strategy skills.

Class Tests

Some, but not all, classes assess performance by means of a class test. Class tests are a form of examination and take place under exam conditions. Please refer to class statements for detailed information.

Exams

Exams usually take the form of essay-type answers; however, some classes require short answers in the exam. Some subjects allow students to look at previous exam papers. This can be done through the class MyPlace page using the`Exam papers’ link in the `Library Links’ block.

If you cannot find it in the class MyPlace then exam papers can be accessed through the library website ([http://www.strath.ac.uk/library/).](http://www.strath.ac.uk/library/%29)



 Alternative assessment

There are two exam periods in the Strathclyde calendar: January for semester 1 classes (autumn term) and May for semester 2 classes (spring term). It is very important that you do not arrange to return home before the exam period. Alternative assessment can only be arranged if there are exceptional circumstances; for example, if term starts early at your home university and you cannot remain in Scotland. The university website provides some

indication of when exams will take place: <http://www.strath.ac.uk/exams/>Please note that exam dates are usually published only around four weeks before the exam period and are not available very far in advance.

Disability

The Disability Contacts for the School are;

Psychology:

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Kellyanne Findlay | Allan McGroarty |
| Graham Hills Building Room 578 | Graham Hills Building Room 579 |
| Tel: | (0141) 548 4755 | (0141) 548 2582 |
| Email: | kellyanne.findlay@strath.ac.uk | a.mcgroarty@strath.ac.uk |

Speech & Language Therapy:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Claire Timmins |
| Graham Hills Building Room 549 |
| Tel: | (0141) 548 3793 |
| Email: | claire.timmins@strath.ac.uk |

Physical Activity for Health:

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| --- | --- |
|  | Alison Kirk |
| Graham Hills Building Room 532 |
| Tel: | (0141) 548 3527 |
| Email: | alison.kirk@strath.ac.uk |

The following text outlines the role of the Disability Contact;

The role of the Disability Contact is to discuss with students, or potential students, with a disability, any aspect of the courses and classes offered by the School that might relate to their particular needs. Disabled applicants, potential applicants and current students in Psychology may contact the Disability Contact to discuss the course curriculum and the teaching and learning activities that are involved with a view to ensuring, as far as possible, that any necessary adjustments are identified or sought.

The Disability Contact acts as a two-way channel for communication between the University's Disability Service and academic and other staff of the agreed and disclosed needs of disabled students, with due regard to the legislative significance of disabled students' disclosure of needs and of students' rights to confidentiality.

The Disability Contact monitors the effectiveness of departmental arrangements for disabled students and tries to anticipate future needs in the light of course demands, such as placements or field trips. The Disability Contact also acts as a source of information and

advice for academic and other colleagues on matters related to disabled students and receives

guidance, support and information from advisers in the University Disability Service.

Students are also advised to contact the University Disability Service. The University as a whole is committed to the principles and practices articulated in its University Disability Equality Scheme (2009-2012).

Mental Health: Students who are experiencing emotional or mental health difficulties can seek advice and support from the Disability Service. The Disability Service is every bit as much for students who have on-going mental health difficulties as it is for students who have a physical disability. Advice is also available from the Student Health Service, Student Advisory and Counselling Service and the Student Union. For more information go to:

<http://www.strath.ac.uk/disabilityservice/informationforstaff/strugglingwithyourmentalhealth/>

If you wish to meet to discuss your needs please get in touch with the relevant Disability Co-ordinator.

General information

For general information about policy and procedure you can consult the course handbooks. These are available on MyPlace:

Psychology (Info) page: <http://classes.myplace.strath.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=16097>

Speech And Language Therapy page: <http://classes.myplace.strath.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=16554>

Sport & Physical Activity: All Year Groups: <http://classes.myplace.strath.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=16414>

Much of this information is related to the degree programmes; however, some of it will be relevant to coursework etc. and so will be of interest to you.

Psychology Society

During your stay, you may wish to become involved with the student body and get to know your fellow students better. For Psychology students a good way to do this is through the student-led Psychology Society. The Psychology Society organises various events throughout the academic year that you would be more than welcome to attend. Announcements about upcoming Psychology Society events are sent to students via MyPlace but if you would like to be put in touch with Psychology Society members, please see Kellyanne.