**Personal Experiences**

Feel free to write about your personal experiences during lockdown in second semester. You can leave it completely anonymous! This will hopefully be added to the handbook so other students can read about what it was like and for ex. any lessons learned, what you enjoyed, what you did not enjoy etc. Write as much or as little as you would like!

Here are some personal experiences, students have made through lockdown and with the abrupt change to online teaching at the end of last year. We hope they help you get an idea of what life can be like studying online and how to make the best of it.

**Excerpt # 1**

Before lockdown I was always someone who was constantly out and about. If it be just revising with friends in 50 George Square or meeting people for coffee, I was never at home. Don’t get me wrong I enjoyed my flat and it was very comfortable, but I am just not a homebody. When lockdown hit, I realised not only was I stuck at home, but I did not have a desk or a table that would not break my back to study at. As a result, I had to temporarily move to my boyfriend’s flat to quarantine because there was desk space for me there. There ended up being seven of us in the flat and we attempted to make the most out of the situation by going for walks, cooking and playing games together (a lot of Catan!). We even designated an unoccupied bedroom as the “the office”. Although it was difficult to be trapped inside finding something interesting to do with your lockdown crew became the highlight of each day!

**Excerpt # 2**

I quite like having my own space and enjoy being alone but the lockdown made me really miss the in-person interaction, and just being able to do anything I want. Before, I would typically go to JCMB or Appleton Tower to socialize – there were always so many people around that I’d talk to them for hours. If I wanted to get work done, I’d need to find a quiet corner where no one would find me. That’s why, most of the time, I used to do most work at home. However, being unable to change the environment for months was tough. My productivity dropped, it was hard to motivate myself. I kept looking forward to doing small things like groceries, and I longed to have a cup of good coffee (I probably save a fortune not being able to go to local cafés though) with friends. On the other hand, I started reading more again (and I could tell my friends did too from their activity on Goodreads), finished some knitting projects (anything to avoid staring at a screen!) and learned many new recipes.

**Excerpt # 3**

I struggled to get much work done at the start of lockdown. I thought with more hours in the day (less travel, socialising, etc.) I would get so much more done—more work, more reading, more films—that was not the case. WOLS did a virtual whisky tasting hosted on discord (the drams were delivered prior to the event) which was a very nice weekly event to take me away from my work and my repetitious daily experiences. Inspired by this, I set up a film club using discord which has been a really nice way to safely engage in cultural pursuits. Many of my friends are really struggling with their mental health in this time and it is tough to see; I try to speak to people on the phone regularly (including my grandparents). Working effectively has been really hard and doing maths over email is nowhere near as good as face-to-face, if an idea is non fully developed I find video chats are much more useful than emails (which take such a long time to write).

**Excerpt # 4**

**Excerpt # 5**

**Excerpt # 6**