

## **EMAIL ISSUED TO ALL NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS SEPTEMBER 2012**

Dear [firstname]

I am writing to wish you a warm welcome back to Sussex for 2012/13, and to give you some further information about the changes that are happening this year to the structure of our teaching terms and assessment periods, including how this relates to your degree course. Please follow the link below, which will take you to a video (created in collaboration with the Students Union) which explains this in detail. It is definitely worth taking five minutes to watch it.

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/mtl/coursevideos/index.php>

### **Live link exemplar for the use of QAA Reviewers:**

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/courses/video/LR692U>

We have reviewed and updated all current degree courses to fit into the new academic year shape of two 12-week teaching terms with a mid-year assessment period and a simplified credit structure. The video will give you an overview of the shape of your degree course from 2012/13 onwards. Students on a small number of courses will find that their syllabus path will differ slightly from the standard overview in the video, as a transitional arrangement to avoid repeating courses/topics from previous years. This will be clarified for you by your School if it applies to you, but the video will still give you a good general sense of the updated course structure.

Perhaps the key benefit that we intend the new academic year structure to deliver for most students is a better spread of assessment across the year, so that early in the spring term you can get useful feedback on your academic progress from the new mid-year assessment period.

Can I also remind you that **the autumn teaching term will start this year on Thursday 20th September**. As a returning student, you will have already made your 2012/13 module choices, and if you look on Sussex Direct you should see your weekly timetable for the Autumn term in the normal way. (Note that the component parts of your degree are now called 'modules', not 'courses'.)

I very much hope that the coming year is successful and enjoyable for you. If you do have any concerns, please raise them via your local student representative.

Professor Clare Mackie

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching & Learning)"