

Dear Athlete

Congratulations on finishing your exams, like you we are very disappointed that we were not able to finish the year off in our normal way with the AU Dinner, our Colours and Awards reception and of course your own end of season dinners, not to mention great events such as Touch Duckes and Cricket Varsity.

It had been a great sporting year for Exeter once again and we were sitting comfortably in 4th place in BUCS before the season was cut short and we know the disappointment of not being able to finish your season and represent Exeter in the knockouts and finals. We believe this will only fuel our desire to succeed and we look forward to coming back stronger next year.

We wanted to write to you, to let you know what we are doing to prepare for the academic year 2020/21. We are busy preparing and are very much looking forward to welcoming you back into our facilities and programmes as soon as feasibly possible but the safety and well-being of our students and staff has to be at the forefront of our minds and we are carefully planning our approach to reopening ready for September. We are putting in place additional safety measures, enhancing our cleaning schedules and creating clear usage guidelines to enable you to have full confidence for when you return. Whilst at this time we are unable to confirm an official start date for our sporting programmes, we wanted to share with you what we are working on;

- Planning a safe approach to reopening facilities in line with Government recommendations and social distancing guidelines, working with the industry body UK Active to ensure we consider all areas and deliver best practise.
- Reviewing our student sports club and performance squad timetable and numbers, considering social distancing and the cleaning of the equipment and spaces between sessions.
- Working closely with BUCS and NGB's to understand what a return to play will mean in each sport. It is expected that the main BUCS leagues will not start until January with some competition possible in Term 1. However, this is evolving all the time and we will of course keep you updated as information is made available.
- To clarify there will be no pre-season training commencing before the start of term, the only exception being where any teams are to return to weekend domestic competition in early September. We will confirm this in due course.
- Working on options to utilise different areas of the building, therefore allowing additional spacing to support student activity, whilst following social distancing regulations.

- Looking into how we may operate a bookable timetable for access to our facilities, to enable cleaning and customer management for each session.
- Working on our membership and pricing options for when you return, to enable you to get the best experience possible.
- Ensuring our cleaning measures adhere to Public Health England / Wales / Scotland guidelines and BICS (British Institute of Cleaning Science) standards
- Providing pandemic awareness training for all teams, to ensure the safety of all our staff and students

We understand you may still have questions, so please do send these over to us so we can respond fully; [auadmin@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:auadmin@exeter.ac.uk) or [sportperformance@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:sportperformance@exeter.ac.uk)

We know you are all eager to get back, as are we and we thank you for your continued understanding and patience. We look forward to seeing you again in the very near future. Stay safe, stay healthy and look after yourselves and each other.

Yours sincerely

University of Exeter Sport Team