

Message from the Director (2 April 2020)

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Dear all,

Further to my message of 25 March, I would like to update you on response to the current situation around Covid-19 in Myanmar.

As I mentioned in my earlier message, the temporary closure of our office was in response to the advice of the government of Myanmar. We are doing everything we can to support the Myanmar government's efforts to reduce risk, and to also help protect the health and safety of all our customers, staff, and the communities in which we operate.

The temporary closure of our office is no way a reduction of our commitment to Myanmar.

In a national address on April 1, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi advised us all to help reduce infection by avoiding physical contact - 'the farther the better' she said. In these difficult times, it is not possible to connect people and institutions in Myanmar to the UK physically. However, it does not reduce our desire to build trust and understanding between the UK and Myanmar.

Quite the opposite.

In our 70-year history here, we have learnt a very important lesson about friendship between countries and people:

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Our desire to connect people to the best learning opportunities from the UK remains as strong as ever. Our teams are working around the clock to find ways to keep connecting people and institutions in the UK and Myanmar. We are finding new and innovative ways to do so:

If you are a learner of English, our online resources are available 24/7. Please try one of our English lessons for free [here](#).

If you are a teacher of English, please use our free resources to enhance your skills and confidence in the classroom [here](#).

You might also find these resources useful:

- [TeachingEnglish teaching online webinar/Facebook Live series](#)
- [LearnEnglish Covid-19 learning support for adults learning English](#)
- [Covid-19 support for parents on LearnEnglish Kids](#)
- [LearnEnglish Kids: How to wash your hands song in English](#)
- [Covid-19 support for teenagers](#)
- [The English Channel](#)

We're already offering virtual placement tests for our students in our Yangon centre. We hope to start virtual classes by the end of April.

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We have other online courses available 24/7. If you'd like to learn more about British literature, and Shakespeare, sign on for one of our Mass Open Online Courses (MOOCs) here:

Exploring English: Shakespeare - starts 6 April: www.futurelearn.com/courses/explore-english-shakespeare

If you are preparing for your IELTS, take a course with us for free:

Understanding IELTS: Writing - starts 27 April: www.futurelearn.com/courses/understanding-ielts-writing

Understanding IELTS: Listening - starts 27 April: www.futurelearn.com/courses/understanding-ielts-listening

And our digital library remains open, 24/7 in all four corners of Myanmar here – find out more [here](#).

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Elsewhere, we're working with our project partners, and international agencies to re-shape our delivery in line with government advice. For example, we're planning to deliver our professional development programmes in higher education virtually.

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I am continuing to work in Myanmar with our colleagues and partners and would like to assure you once again that we remain committed to connecting people in Myanmar to the best learning and cultural opportunities from the UK and building trust and understanding between our two countries.

I would also like to re-assure you of our continued support during these difficult times.

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Dr Richard Sunderland
Director, Myanmar
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