Is there financial support for an online degree?
A: Unfortunately, the University does not offer financial support or loans for online study. Most of our online students who are sponsored are funded by their employer. Please note that students only pay for courses as they register for them and students can control their speed of study.

For the Construction Management and QS programme is there an individual coordinator for the course?
A: Each programme has a Programme Leader and each individual course has a Course Leader. Information about the programme leaders are often found on the programme webpages and also on page of the HW Online Student Handbook.

Is there an entry course / module on the Construction Management and QS programme? Is this entry module mandatory? I need to understand if this is it part of the start of the MSc?
A: After enrolment for some programmes, students must complete two mandatory entry courses. This applies to both MSc in Construction Project Management and MSc in Commercial Management & Quantity Surveying. Details are included on the offer letter for the relevant programmes. They can be completed together or in succession.

For every online programme, there is also a complimentary and optional ‘Introduction to Digital Study and Academic Skills’. This course has been designed to help you develop the digital, study and academic skills you need for your postgraduate studies. It will also provide you with insight into the strengths and weaknesses of your learning and where you can find additional help. It takes approximately eight hours to complete, depending on your level of English.

What percentage of students are from overseas?
A: The percentage of students from overseas from programme to programme can vary. However, overall you are looking at approx. 75% of students who come from overseas (not UK / Europe).

If I wanted to complete the MSc in one year, would that be possible?
Realistically, the minimum study time for the MSc is 2.5 years.

I have applied for an on-campus programme (at Edinburgh) but I am a french student. Am I going to be part of this program because of covid-19?
A: Students who have applied and been offered a place for on-campus study will still enrol as an on-campus student and not an online student. Details about the format of study for on-campus students will be communicated to students in due course. If you have more questions about on-campus study, please contact studywithus@hw.ac.uk

How often are the exams? (asking to know how often we have to travel to take an exam in an exam centre)
For online students, exams are available at the end of every semester (December, April/May and August).

If I joined a course and was accepted in the next few weeks can you start learning immediately or is it necessary to wait for September?
The next starting point is in September. Although you can access the VLE and study materials when you are emailed to enrol and register. That’s normally four weeks before the start of the semester.

Regarding the language entry requirements - the IELTS centres are closed (Covid outbreak), are you reconsidering the requirements for 20/21?
A: We understand some applicants may not be able to complete an English language test, during the ongoing pandemic situation. Applicants should complete the application process and upload any documents they have. The University will communicate directly with any applicant who is currently unable to meet the English language requirement.
For Marine renewable energy MSc - is there any requirement to attend Heriot Watt campus in Orkney?
A: There is no requirement for any online students to visit any campus however, students are welcome to visit a campus by arrangement via the HW Online Student Support Team.

To change my learning preference from "on campus" to distance learning, what path do I need to follow?
A: Please email the HW Online Student Support Team (egis-idl-apps@hw.ac.uk) and we can arrange for your application can be amended.

If I change my learning preference into “online/distance learning”, will I still be obligated to apply for an Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) Certificate?
A: ATAS is only required for on-campus study and is not required for online study.

In one of the FAQs, I read that some lectures may not be recorded to watch online. Are there any such courses in the program, if so, how are we supposed to get into detail in topics except the self-reading?
A: Course Leaders may provide webinars and journals. I would suggest emailing the programme leader (contact details normally on the programme webpage) to ask for more detail on the tools used to deliver the programme.

As an online student, can I benefit from all the advantages of being a student at Heriot-Watt University? Such as gaining internship opportunities from international companies.
A: The University does not arrange internships for online students. However, all students have access to the Careers Advisory Service (https://www.hw.ac.uk/study/why/careers-advisory-service.htm). There are lots of great services there.

Is there an application fee?
A: There is no application fee.

I have studied a few modules elsewhere. Is it possible that these be included as part of my modules for MSC at HW
A: Students can apply for Recognition of Prior Learning at the point of programme application. We are committed to providing study opportunities to applicants who have a wide range of prior experiences through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). For more information on RPL, please contact the Online Admissions Team (egis-idl-apps@hw.ac.uk) ahead of application. We can only consider requests for RPL at the time of application to a course of study.

I am a previous Heriot-Watt graduate, could I get a discount in fees if I studied the MSc in Construction Project Management?
A: The Alumni Scholarship Scheme offers a 25% discount to students studying selected programmes which includes MSc in Construction Project Management. A full list of programmes and further details can be found at https://www.hw.ac.uk/online/fees.htm

Will the MSc in energy be available for distance learning.
A: The MSc in Energy is available by distance learning. For further details, please contact studywithus@hw.ac.uk

Are the online diploma as valuable as the on-site diploma?
A: On-campus and online students study the same courses and complete the same learning outcomes. Degree certificates do not specify the mode of study.

Hi there, do I need to complete English exam if I have completed a course in English, for example in a college in Ireland?
A: If you are able to provide details of another degree completed in English, an English language exam will not be required.

Would reading materials be released earlier to get ahead of reading? Perhaps through the online library?
A: Depending on the point during the year at which a student registers for a course, access to the course material may be available prior to the start of the semester however, reading material is not normally available as a matter of course.

Under the SAAS scheme, does the online MSc Commercial Management and Quantity Surveying meet the funding requirements?
A: Our experience has been that the flexibility offered by HW Online does not meet the SAAS funding requirements.

Is it possible to complete the MSc in International Marine Science in under 2.5 year if we do it full time?
A: Full time study is on-campus (12 months) and not online. Realistically 2.5 years is the fastest that the programme could be completed.

Can I get a copy of the presentation please?
A: Webinars for online learning will be scheduled monthly so you are more than welcome to join us for the next one. You will be able to view any upcoming webinars via the HW Online landing page - https://www.hw.ac.uk/online/index.htm.

For some useful links and contact emails:
- Programme specific or general questions: egis-idl-apps@hw.ac.uk
- Meet our students: hw.ac.uk/online/meet-our-students.htm
- Look at the research - hw.ac.uk/research.htm
- HW Online Student Handbook - hw.ac.uk/online/apply.htm
- FAQ’s - https://www.hw.ac.uk/online/why/faqs.htm