Shuttle Bus Service between Main and East Campus

Q&A

Q. Why is the service being stopped?

A. Earlier this year the University was asked to look at ways to reduce spending to safeguard our financial position. On average the bus service is used by around 35 people a day, which equates to £4 for each user.

Q. I have mobility issues, what arrangements will be put in place for me to travel between Main and East Campuses?

A. Without the shuttle bus, we suggest the use of your own vehicle to travel between campuses. Lync conferencing is available and should be considered for meetings. If you do not drive you should talk to your line manager and agree how you will cover any aspect of your role that currently requires you to travel from one side of the campus to the other.

Q. Where is the disabled parking on main and East Campus?

A. A map is available on the Estates intranet page at the link below indicating where disabled parking is located on both campuses.


Q. I have temporary mobility issues but do not hold a blue badge. Can I use the disabled parking spaces?

A. You can apply for a temporary permit to allow use of the disabled parking spaces on site via the Estates Liaison Line (Ext. 51000).

Q. Will there be designated car parking at Walton Hall for East Campus users?

A. Allocated parking for regular ‘commuters’ will be considered before the service is stopped.

Q. Will I have to go to the Joe Clinch building for Examination and Assessment Board (EAB) activities including script selection and the collection and handover of EAB documents?

A. The Examinations and Assessments office is considering the impact of this decision on its operation and will issue guidance to CAU staff on how it plans to carry out these activities when the bus service has stopped.
Q. I am concerned about walking between the campuses during dark evenings.

A. Security is able to provide an escort to cars for journeys where people feel unsafe. It is advised you give advanced notice to avoid waiting for this service. Please contact 01908 653666 to request this service.

Q. Where is the underpass route between the campuses?

A. The campus map at the link below and on the Estates intranet page indicates the location of the East Walkway. http://intranet.open.ac.uk/estates/intranet/campusmap.cfm

Q. I have concerns about using the underpass.

A. The underpass is covered by CCTV cameras and monitored by The Open University Security team.

Q. It will take too long to walk from one campus to another.

A. The time taken to walk from East Campus to Berrill Building via the underpass is less than two minutes more than from Michael Young to Berrill Building.

Q. I am concerned about the distance to walk between campuses, it is too far to walk.

A. If the walking distance is too far, colleagues may use their own transport between campuses. To reduce travel, Lync conferencing is available and should be considered for meetings.

Q. I currently use the shuttle bus to transport small items of equipment.

A. The Estates Liaison Line can be contacted (Ext. 51000) to arrange transportation of goods/equipment.

Q. The University has invested in vehicles to provide this service, stopping the shuttle bus will be a waste of resource/investment.

A. The University leases its vehicles and the terms of the lease agreement mean that we can return the minibus without incurring additional costs.

Q. What arrangements are in place to cater for adverse weather/icy conditions?

A. Where weather prevents journeys between campuses, Lync could be used for online meetings. If necessary, meetings could be rearranged.
Q. Will a crossing be provided on the V10?
A. Planning permission for this was previously declined by Milton Keynes Council. The East Walkway offers a safe route for walking between campuses using the underpass.

Q. I am concerned about the extra time taken to use the underpass.
A. The underpass provides a safe route via the designated pathway. Crossing the main V10 will only save around three minutes compared with using the underpass. This minimal time saving is not worth the risk to personal safety.

Q. How will this affect our carbon footprint?
A. Not running the shuttle bus will reduce our CO₂ output by 8,454 kg per annum.

Q. What will the financial impact be?
A. There will be a cost saving to the University.

Q. Will there be any effect on roles due to this change?
A. There will be a potential impact on one role.

Q. What is the timescale for the service to cease?
A. Further information regarding timescale will follow in due course.

Estates
20 August 2015