



The Mid-West region has worked together as a community to suppress the spread of Covid-19. However, as we have seen in other countries, infection clusters can re-emerge very quickly – and the postponement of Phase 4 of the Government’s Roadmap for Reopening Business and Society is an indication of the care that must be taken.

UL’s Academic Planning Group (APG) in conjunction with UL Student Life and UL Postgraduate Students’ Union explored a number of options with a view to holding physical conferring ceremonies by providing increased social distancing capacity. However, the fundamental difficulty with all options considered is that they do not conform to current public health guidelines in relation to social distancing and reducing individual contact numbers in order to keep the rate of infection as low as possible and minimise the risks of transmission. Our priority at all times must be safety of staff, students and the wider community.

It is hoped that we would be able to hold a physical conferring ceremony for our 2020 graduates in 2021 – when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, Graduands due to be conferred at the Autumn Conferring Ceremonies will be formally conferred in absentia on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Access to your digital parchment will be facilitated on Digitary before the end of August 2020. (Information on Digitary available [here](#)). Subject to public health guidelines and potential restrictions, we are expecting that hardcopy parchments will be posted to graduates also by the end of August 2020. We will keep you up to date on this process closer to the date. If you wish to update your postal address, you can do so on the student portal (further information [here](#)).

Yours Sincerely,

**Prof Kerstin Mey**

An Leas-Uachtarán do Ghnóthaí Acadúla & Rannpháirtíocht na Mac Léinn/  
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