

Communication to STUDENTS from UL Academic Planning Group in relation to assessment for all Taught Programmes

Dear Student,

An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar has announced that the new closure date for all schools and higher education institutes is now 19th April, however we continue to believe that students will not be physically back on campus before the end of this academic year.

UL's Academic Planning Group and lecturers and tutors throughout our community have been working to ensure our students can complete this academic year in a timely manner via remote delivery and remote assessments in a fair and equitable way. We will maintain academic integrity and provide assessments for you, our students, to enable timely completion of your final awards. We will offer the flexibility that is required during this COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that all of you will either progress to your next academic year, or graduate as appropriate.

Please be assured that no student will be penalised for a COVID-19 related issue and that, at the same time, academic standards and quality will be maintained by the measures outlined.

Assessments and Exams

- All end of semester on campus assessments and exams scheduled between 5th May and 18th May will no longer go ahead and will be replaced with an alternative assessment you can complete remotely.
- All existing continuous assessments which you can complete remotely will go ahead as originally planned. All continuous assessment already completed will be assessed and contribute to the final grade for the module.
- All UG final year projects and Masters dissertations/projects due for completion and submission between now and the end of the academic year will be offered remotely. The format of the project or dissertation may need to change where the original plan of work cannot be carried out due to the restrictions related to COVID-19.
- All alternative assessments will offer equivalent validity, reflect high standards, and address the learning outcomes as any award-related assessment ordinarily conducted on campus.

Dates

- To ensure we maximise the opportunity for you to complete all your assessments, all remaining assessments (including any replacement for an end of semester exam) will be made available on Sulis (or Moodle for some) and/or distributed to you via e-mail from your Module Leader, by Monday 6th April.
- The final deadline for the submission of any alternative assessments will be Friday 15th May – the final date of this current semester. This provides you with a six-week window (6/4 to 15/5) in which to complete all required assessments.
- Module Leaders will create a recommended work plan including any interim deadlines for submission of an assessment to guide your effort and endeavour over the next weeks. That means, your Module Leader may set interim deadlines for submission for individual

assessments before 15th May. However, where your ability to meet this deadline has been affected by COVID-19, we will allow submission up to May 15th without penalty. To avail of an extension to interim deadlines please contact your Module Leader in advance of that given interim deadline.

Exam results

- There will be a delay in releasing your semester two results and overall award classifications; we will work to minimise this delay as much as possible. At this stage, the predicted delay is 2 weeks, 6th July 2020.
- The dates for the recheck process, script viewing days, student status committees, repeat registration will also be affected. These revised dates will follow.

I-Grades

- We will continue to operate the I Grade process as outlined in section 4.2.3 of the University of Limerick Handbook of Academic Regulations and Procedures. Please note a change to this process in that in the case of illness, you will be able to provide self-certification where third-party certification is not possible. We are acutely aware that we cannot add any extra burden to the health services within Ireland at this time.
- In the case of a COVID-19 related impact that is not covered within our current regulations for i-Grades, a category for circumstantial issues will be facilitated. Our objective is to ensure that no student will be penalised for a COVID-19 related issue and at the same time maintain academic standards and quality.
- For example, this category may cover students with a change in any home care arrangement, an inability to engage in remote assessment due to a change in personal circumstances, inability to access LENS related learning supports remotely, students who lack access to a digital infrastructure with no alternative assessment mode – this list is indicative only.

Repeats

- The University will offer repeat assessments / exams in August. As we are preparing for all eventualities, academic staff have been requested to consider alternative modes of assessment for the annual repeats.
- You may have questions regarding specific arrangements for assessments, their formats etc. However, we urge you to await confirmation of the alternative assessment which you will receive from your Module Leader by 6th April 2020. That information will provide clarity and direction on what the next step is in terms of your specific assessment(s). If you have any further questions, please contact your Module Leader in the first instance.

UL Critical Operations Team and Executive Committee