

Dear all,

The gradual and phased reopening of Irish society announced by the Government last Thursday begins today. Follow this [link to a quick guide to the changes](#). In relation to the University of Limerick, the recommendation is that you should continue to protect yourself and others by following public health advice. Everyone should continue to work from home unless your work requires you to be on campus in person.

The *Restricted Building Access Procedure* remains in place for UL and you can access this and other related documents on the [UL COVID-19 SharePoint site](#). At the Space Management Committee meeting also on Thursday last, it was agreed that extra study spaces will be made available to students requiring reliable internet access for online exams. These will be in buildings already open under the *Return to Work Safely* protocol. All library seats permissible within physical distancing restrictions will also be available. For current information about access, please go the **Library** section under [Revised Course Delivery on the UL COVID-19 webpages](#).

On Friday, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD said he will publish a plan in June for an enhanced campus experience for third level students for the next academic year, starting in September. More information [here](#).

### **UL@50 Consultation**

Thanks to everyone who participated in Phase 1 of the UL@50 consultations. The Consultation Review Group (CRG) very much valued your input. If you would like to see where a particular group fed into the overall analysis, follow this [link](#) to view the original aggregation of opinions on the UL@50 Consultation SharePoint site.

Given the scale of the feedback, please note that you may not see the full detail of everything that was said. Notwithstanding, the CRG have worked hard to ensure that all opinions are reflected in the synthesis of all feedback received. Following this, the CRG have identified 10 topics that need further exploration and you can read the detail by following this [link to UL@50 Phase 1 Consultation Feedback Synthesis and Topics for Phase 2](#). Follow this [link](#) to view the summaries of the feedback concerning each of these individual topics in the Phase 1 Feedback folder.

Using a similar approach to the first round, the CRG will be looking to consult with staff on the topics highlighted for Phase 2. If you would like to get involved or lead a consultation meeting, they are keen for you to participate and will send more details about how you can take part shortly.

As before, individual consultation feedback forms will also be available.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please email [consultation@ul.ie](mailto:consultation@ul.ie)

### **Payroll Survey**

A reminder that Finance Operations has, in conjunction with the Higher Education Payroll Shared Services (HEPSS) project team, developed a survey to assess customer satisfaction levels with the current payroll system in UL. This will assist in identifying potential process improvements in delivering the University's payroll. In addition, it will provide a baseline to help evaluate the HEPSS model that is due to be introduced across all Higher Education Institutions subject to successful completion of Proof of Concept.

Please take five minutes to follow this link to complete the [UL Payroll Customer Satisfaction Survey](#).

### **HR News**

Learning and Development will be issuing a survey today to identify the training needs of staff at the University of Limerick. The information gathered will be used to inform the training priorities for University staff going forward. All employees are asked to complete the survey with their current role and/or future career aspirations in mind.

### **UL in the Media**

Twitter was alive last Friday with UL staff tweeting about the student-led Teaching Hero Awards 2021. To see all UL nominated teachers and watch a video of the presentations, [follow this link](#).

A new podcast in The Family of Things series from Athena Media features the Irish World Academy's Dr Kathleen Turner who talks about the power of music and song to shape and make positive change. She references the Clore Fellowship as a decisive turning point in her life along with finding her home in Limerick, the kindness of people in the city and the openness of the staff at UL. Listen to the podcast [here](#).

If you are on Instagram or are thinking of joining the photo and video sharing social networking service, you should certainly follow [@healthy\\_ul](#). From last Thursday, they have been running their UL Dirty Dozen initiative, posting a silhouette every morning of a UL staff member doing their physical activity. Followers are invited to guess the identity of the mystery guest who is revealed later in the day. Those who post their own videos of how they use physical activity to reduce stress are in with a chance of winning an Elverys voucher.