

Dear colleagues,

There is the beginning of a hint that finally warmer weather may be on its way. One of the ways we know this in HR around this time is because we get more enquiries about the Cycle to Work scheme.

Although the recommendation is to work from home unless your work requires you to be on campus, the Cycle to Work scheme is still open to applications and you can find more information on how to apply in the [Quick Links](#) section of the HR website.

Purchase of Printers for Home Use

There have been several enquiries recently regarding the purchase of printers for home use. This was raised at the Space Management Committee (SMC) and it was agreed that this should not be approved for two fundamental reasons:

1. Printing is a considerable cost for UL and the use of home printers will only add to this burden. For economic and sustainability reasons, the goal for the University is to move to a paperless environment as much as possible, along with consolidating our printing requirements to multi-function devices on campus.
2. There are considerable GDPR implications with printing University documents at home, particularly in relation to secure storage, disposal and unauthorised access to potentially sensitive material.

Printers were not included in the Home-Working Equipment scheme for these reasons. It is worth noting also that UL's Finance Policies do not allow for equipment to be purchased via expenses.

Research Updates

A project run from the University of Limerick aiming to encourage greater interest in physics among second level students has seen "increased enthusiasm, especially among girls," says Dr Gráinne Walshe, Director of the UL Science Learning Centre and leader of the SFI-funded SOPHia Project.

The project aims to encourage more students, especially girls, to take up physics as a subject in their Leaving Certificate, and last week, 38 awards were handed out to students as part of the SOPHia Project Science Competition, which took place despite the pandemic. For more on this story, go to the [UL News Centre](#).

A researcher at University of Limerick has developed a low-cost, environmentally friendly sensor that can detect damage in pipelines and could save water as a result. The damage detection sensor uses highly sensitive, eco-friendly crystals that generate an electrical signal in response to a leak. It is the first validation of these biological crystals for real world applications, according to Dr Sarah Guerin, a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Physics and the Bernal Institute in UL, who has been developing amino acid crystal devices since 2017.

An Irish research collaboration between the Bernal Institute at UL and the Dynamical Systems and Risk Laboratory in University College Dublin has validated the crystal-based

sensor and for more detail about this innovative research go to the [Cell Reports Physical Science](#) journal.

Payroll Survey

The Payroll survey will close this Friday. Finance Operations would be grateful if you could take five minutes to complete it [here](#) as it will assist in identifying potential process improvements in delivering the University's payroll.

UL Alumni Week 2021

UL Alumni week finished last Friday and the good news is that all of the videos from the week are now available on the UL Alumni Week 2021 website [here](#). There are stories of more than 40 graduates from 20 countries and it is a really positive snapshot of how well our alumni are doing around the world.

UL in the Media

Students from the Community Wellness, Empowerment, Leadership & Lifeskills (CWELL) programme have pulled out all the stops to promote their community wellness book *The Wellbeing Way*. With the launch taking place online tomorrow at midday, they have already received coverage in the Limerick Post, Limerick Leader and on I Love Limerick, along with coverage on Limerick Community Radio and on 95fm.

Created by second-year CWELL students in response to the challenges faced by communities due to the pandemic, the book compiles original content created by the students as well as contributions by members of communities in Limerick. On Saturday, they will be in the Milk Market and will also be taking part in the Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival next Wednesday 26 May, of which UL is an organising partner.

On [RTÉ Brainstorm](#), Niall Ramsbottom examines how exercise can make you smarter and protect your brain. Niall is a Research Assistant in the Department of Physical Education and Sport Sciences at the University of Limerick and the Lero Esports Science Research Lab, and he concludes that simply making small changes in your everyday life can lead to a wide range of positive benefits.

Finally, looking forward to the June Bank Holiday weekend, at this year's Killaloe Music Festival all events are being streamed online for free. This festival is synonymous with musicians from the Irish Chamber Orchestra, based in UL, and is well worth supporting by booking online [here](#).

Have good week,

Eoin