

Dear all,

You may have noticed some alterations to the content on the UL webpages. The UL web team have had to make changes to the display of YouTube videos and other embedded elements on websites as they may interfere with the cookie compliance directive. This directive ensures that users must give their explicit consent to the use of cookies by hosting sites. Cookies are employed to track a user's browsing activity, often for targeted advertising purposes.

The current working solution is to ensure that, prior to being able to access embedded content such as YouTube videos, users will have to accept cookies. This may also affect styling on some sites, but for the moment the priority is cookie compliance.

HR Strategy for Researchers

University of Limerick is currently applying to the European Commission for renewal of the HR Excellence in Research accreditation. A survey has issued to all UL researchers to request information on their experience, views and attitudes across a number of topics relating to the research environment at the University.

One of the main objectives of this survey is to provide data to help inform the HR Excellence in Research process in UL where change or further development is required.

The survey is available for completion until Friday the 28 May 2021 and we would kindly request research staff to complete the survey by following this [link](#). If you have any questions, please contact HRResearch@ul.ie

Congratulations

You may be aware that UL had been shortlisted in a number of categories at the [Education Awards 2021](#).

Congratulations to Academic Registry for winning the *Excellence in the Provision of Professional Services* award at the *Education Awards 2021* on Thursday afternoon at the virtual awards ceremony. According to Dr Pat Phelan, Associate Vice President Academic



Services & Deputy Registrar: "It's a real tribute to the full AR team and is recognition of their dedication and hard work, and of the ongoing changes within the division, so as I say, we're really delighted"

And in more good news, this time from Buildings & Estates: Hugh Kelly Architects have just won the category award *Building of the Year - Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality* at the Building & Architect of the Year Awards 2021 for the Climbing Wall at UL.

UL@50 Consultations – Phase 2

Phase 1 of the UL@50 Consultation concluded on 19 March. The aim of this stage of the consultations was to facilitate a sharing of opinions by UL staff and students about the goals and themes in the Strategic Plan and to outline any strengths or activities in UL that the plan did not fully capture.

The Consultation Review Group (CRG) would like to invite you to take part in Phase 2 of the Consultations, the ultimate objective of which is to come to an agreed set of actions that will help enable the *University as a whole* deliver on its strategic mission. To enable this, the CRG have identified six Topic areas and questions for further consideration arising from a synthesis of the Feedback in Phase 1. You can read the synthesis and topics for Phase 2 [here](#).

So much useful feedback has been gathered so far that the CRG encourages you to let your ideas be heard in this final stage of the consultations which will end on 25 June. Even if you did not get a chance to take part in Phase 1, you can still get involved in the conversation. Share your ideas by completing the **UL@50 Phase 2 Individual Consultation Form** available [here](#), and return it to consultation@ul.ie or get involved in a Phase 2 group consultation. Details will be circulated about these over the coming weeks.

If you have any queries or if you are interested in hosting a group consultation please email consultation@ul.ie and have a look at the Phase 2 facilitator guide, presentation and other resources available [here](#).

Digital Accessibility

Last Thursday was Global Accessibility Awareness Day, an event that shines a light on digital access and inclusion for everyone.

The UL Educational Assistive Technology Centre would like to remind you to consider your communications online. Here are [Eight Tips](#) for making your online communications accessible to everyone. For example, when you email the campus community, please ensure that all campus community members can read your message by using the Accessibility Checker button on the right hand side of the Review Tab in Outlook. Some pointers to remember are to use the description facility for images, hyperlinks and tables, and ensure a strong colour contrast between your foreground text and background.

There are also numerous resources available from the [Learning Technology Forum](#) on creating accessible educational/learning materials. UL continues to develop initiatives across campus to improve accessibility standards and access for all staff and students.

If you have any queries about digital accessibility in your area, please contact: Thomas.OShaughnessy@ul.ie

UL in the Media

Published on [RTÉ Brainstorm](#) last Wednesday, an article by Dr Paul Beecher (Senior Research Fellow, Confirm) asks, "Could the manufacturing sector also work from home?". This is another fascinating look at the future of how and where we will work in the post-pandemic world and is well worth a read.

Finally, a reminder that the Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival starts today and runs until next Sunday 30 May. The theme of this year's festival is ***New Futures, New Adventures in Learning*** and there are over 100 FREE events including exhibitions, classes, panel discussions and more.

An organising partner in the Festival, UL is contributing 33 events ranging from *The Future of Medicine* (today at 6pm) to *Public History: Futures of the Past* (Thursday at 12pm). Full details, booking information and a downloadable programme are available from the [LLL website](#).

Have a good week,

Eoin