

Dear all,

Last week a new staff onboarding site went live on the HR website, replacing the previous resource for new staff. Accessed from the top menu, the site includes new staff checklists, information about probation, PDRs and onboarding guides for managers and departmental administrators. This may be a helpful resource for all those who have regular contact with new hires.

Use this [link](#) to view and share the New to UL – Staff Roadmap pages and if you have any feedback, please email hrnotice@ul.ie.

COVID-19 Update

On the 14 May, the fourth iteration of the *Work Safely Protocol* was published which you can read on the UL COVID-19 SharePoint site [here](#). The document reiterates the requirements set out in previous versions including remote working, the importance of workers practicing physical distancing, adopting proper hand hygiene and following respiratory etiquette. There is an increased emphasis placed on ventilation.

Last Friday, the Government outlined in [Resilience and Recovery: The Path Ahead](#) a series of timetabled steps towards reopening the economy. It begins with the opening of accommodation services on Wednesday, and outdoor services for restaurants and bars and other changes from Monday 7 June.

However, guidance for third-level education has not yet been provided. Higher and further education is deemed essential insofar as on-site presence is required and such activities cannot be held remotely. As such, if your line managers deems that you need to be on campus to do your work or research, you can do so in line with your department or area's COVID-19 Business Response Plan. The guidance for all other UL staff who do not have an essential business or research need to be on campus, is to continue to work remotely.

We are expecting sectoral guidance from Minister Simon Harris within weeks and UL has contributed to a HEA discussion paper that reaffirms the need to plan nationally for significant, safe and sustainable increases in on-site teaching and research activities.

Congratulations

Last week it was [announced](#) that Lero's Chief Professor Bashar Nuseibeh has been elected to the Royal Irish Academy for his exceptional contribution to the sciences. Professor of Software Engineering at UL, Professor Nuseibeh is among 27 new members recognised for their contributions to research and to public service.

Following his election, Professor Nuseibeh, said: "As an academic, there is no higher honour than being elected to one's national academy. I'd like to thank the Royal Irish Academy for honouring me and thank my nominators for the trust. I'd also like to acknowledge the supportive environment that the University of Limerick has provided me personally for over a decade, and the Lero and Confirm Centres in which my colleagues and I work."

The RIA has been honouring Ireland's leading contributors to the world of learning since its establishment in 1785 and past Members include Maria Edgeworth, a pioneer of the modern novel and Nobel laureates: WB Yeats, Ernest Walton, Erwin Schrödinger and Seamus Heaney.

UL Foundation

Many of you heard directly from President Mey and Harvey Duthie during our townhall on philanthropy, but you may wish to watch this [Thank You](#) that was shared with UL supporters last week. It includes news about several new gifts, secured in recent weeks.

Online Events

Last Thursday, in association with the British Council of Ireland, the Faculty of Science and Engineering ran the Limerick Virtual Regional Heat for Fame Lab, the world's largest STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) communication competition.

Armed only with their wits and a few props – and banned from using PowerPoint - the competition was hosted by Professor Ita Richardson (Department of Computer Science and Information Systems). Fame Lab Limerick was won by Marian Silva, a Marie -Curie PhD student at UL and her presentation about the use of long-acting injectables for treating mental illness can be watched by going to the 39 minute mark in the online [Fame Lab recording](#).

Earlier this month, the Regional Learning and Teaching Conference themed *Celebrating Innovation, Opportunities and Inspirations in Learning and Teaching* took place online. A partnership between UL, MIC and LIT, there was a wide range of events and recorded talks ranging from Conor Ryan's "Creating Engaging Online Recordings or: How I learned to stop worrying about appearing in online videos by embracing my inner Jedward," to "Using Digital Technology in a Visual Art context in the post primary curriculum; A European + Investigation," from Maria O' Donovan. The good news is that these and all of the other talks are available for listen back [here](#).

UL In the Media

On Thursday, *The Limerick Leader* announced that UL has won the [Enactus Ireland](#) National Competition thanks to its projects which tackled period poverty, education inequality and aimed to help small farmers in Africa. UL's winning team in the annual social enterprise competition was supported by the President's Volunteer Award and they will go on to compete in the Enactus World Cup in October.

Finally, an [article](#) in *The Independent* today has highlighted that students want recorded lectures to continue when campuses reopen. This feedback emerged from a survey on the student experience involving the Higher Education Authority, the Irish Universities Association, the Technological Higher Education Association and the Union of Students in Ireland. On a positive note, students overall felt that their universities had done a good job in the switch to online and blended learning, and felt supported with regular and effective communication.