

Dear all,

There has been a real buzz on campus this week as students and staff returned for face-to-face teaching. A huge amount of work has been done by Buildings and Estates, and Health and Safety to get us to this point. Most importantly, the Space Management Committee (SMC) appreciates the contribution from all colleagues to our return to teaching and research on campus.

It has been a particularly busy time for everyone and after such a limited amount of activity on campus over the past seventeen months, there are still some kinks in the planning and implementation that need to be addressed. To those who have given feedback on our planning and communications, thank you.

Please see below for contact details to report specific IT or building related issues.

Contact Details

- For UL buildings and rooms maintenance issues please email buildingsmaintenance@ul.ie
- See [Lecture Theatres - UL | SSP \(topdesk.net\)](#) for a list of ITD Managed Lecture Theatres & instructions on how to use the equipment in these spaces.
- There are three options for reporting IT issues with lecture rooms:
 - a. TopDesk - [Report a Lecture Theatre Issue - UL | SSP \(topdesk.net\)](#),
 - b. Email address - service.deskitd@ul.ie
 - c. Phone - 061 574211

Food, Shops & Retail on Campus

Please follow this [link](#) for up-to-date information about restaurant and retail availability and opening times on campus.

New Academic Year Guide for Staff Updates

There was considerable feedback from our academic and teaching staff about difficulties caused by the requirement to wear face-coverings while teaching. These were reported to the SMC and taking these concerns into account and the sectoral approach to the wearing of face-coverings in Ireland, our guidelines have been modified.

^{NEW} 6.16 What safety guidelines should I follow before each lecture / class on campus?

- a) Ensure you are wearing a face covering when entering the lecture theatre /classroom,
- b) Confirm that the windows are open if windows are provided in the area,
- c) Advise students on the sanitisation products available for use,
- d) Conduct sanitation of the lectern area as required,
- e) Remain at 2m distance during the lecture.

^{AMENDED} 6.17 Can I remove my face covering when I am teaching?

A lecturer may remove their face covering in a teaching and learning environment where all of the following apply:

- a) They are actively delivering a teaching session,
- b) They are >2m from students and can maintain this distance throughout,
- c) They are comfortable to do so, and
- d) Delivering the session without a face covering would mean an enhanced pedagogical experience.

If you are in a teaching or lab space that does not allow for the 2m distance from students, you should continue to wear a face covering.

Any student who may have an impairment that could hinder their participation in face-to-face classes where a lecturer needs to wear a face covering because these criteria cannot be met, should notify their course director and a solution will be found. This may involve the provision of existing lecture material, the replacement of the lecturer's face-covering with a face-shield, the use of amplification or another solution. Face-shields are also used by staff where necessary on specific courses e.g., Speech and Language Therapy.

AMENDED 6.15 How do I determine when it is appropriate to provide additional learning resources to vulnerable students?

A student must self-declare in writing (email) to their Module Co-ordinator that they are at a **Very high risk (extremely vulnerable)** from COVID-19 in line with Public Health guidelines detailed [here](#).

As usual, please go to the COVID-19 SharePoint site for the most up to date version of the [New Academic Year Guide for Staff](#).

Worker Representatives

With many more staff on campus, there has been a requirement for more [Worker Representatives](#) (WR) on site. Many departments and divisions have met this need by nominating increased numbers of staff for training in this role. There may also be locations where areas in close proximity that have prepared separate Business Response Plans can collaborate in scheduling their WR staff, to ensure that at least one WR is on site at all times.

New to UL?

Join our online Staff Induction on Thursday 16th September from 09.00 to 13.45. Meet some new colleagues virtually and find out what supports are available for you to make the most of your new start in UL. For more information on what your first 6 months might look like, take a look at the [New to UL](#) webpage.

Contact hrbookings@ul.ie to book a place and for more information about this and other courses available in the Learning and Development schedule, please go to: [Training Programmes and Schedule](#).

UL Foundation 50forFifty Scholarship Initiative

Plans for UL FIFTY are in train and thanks to everyone who has submitted ideas to the planning group so far. I expect to be sharing many more details with you over the coming months. For the moment, follow this [link to watch](#) Sarah Hartnett, the UL Foundation's Director of Development introduce plans to celebrate UL's fiftieth anniversary with 50 additional scholarships for UL students. Please talk to Sarah if you have any suggestions about groups who might support the initiative.

News Centre

Congratulations to the team at the Bernal Institute led by Professor Damien Thompson who have discovered a new molecule which could further increase ultra-fast decision making in computers. Their research paper *Decision Trees within a Molecular Memristor* is Damien's third paper in *Nature*, the world's leading peer-reviewed multidisciplinary science journal.

To read more about their work and other UL stories, go to the [News Centre](#) and follow @ul on Twitter.

Kind regards,

Eoin