

Dear all,

The Government announced on Tuesday that the reopening of economic and social activity in Ireland will continue from 22 October **only** with the full range of protective measures in place and the wide and robust implementation of the EU Digital COVID Certificate (COVID-19 pass).

Therefore, the range of public health protective measures currently in place in UL will remain, including the use of face-coverings in all University buildings, social distancing, ventilation, hygiene, and other mitigation measures.

COVID-19 Business Response Plans and the COVID-19 International Travel Request form remain in place.

There is significant demand for spaces in the **library** and to facilitate capacity will increase to 1600 over the next three weeks. Face coverings will still be required. Click [here](#) for more information about opening hours.

Scheduled online meetings should continue for the remainder of the semester. Where in person meetings are held it should be in compliance with regulations

Members of the Space Management Committee (SMC) are seeking clarification either sectorally or from Public Health about the detail relating to events and the use of the COVID-19 Certificate in certain circumstances. As soon as the guidance is pinned down, I will let you know.

Worker Representative

Appointed COVID-19 Worker Representatives are not required to be physically present in the workplace at all times. While in the workplace, Worker Representatives act as the Response Team Manager to ensure suspected COVID-19 cases on the University campus are acted upon in accordance with the University procedure. All staff are advised to review the Management of a Suspect Case Standard Operating Procedure and confirm the location of isolation rooms. These documents are available in the [Managing a Suspected Case of COVID-19 on Campus](#) folder on the COVID-19 SharePoint site.

Antigen Testing / Self-Isolating

Along with other third level institutions in Ireland, UL is taking part in the HSE led Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Test pilot with a view to determining the feasibility of rolling out antigen testing in education settings to help identify COVID-positive cases and the need to self-isolate. In the meantime, it is worth remembering that if you are displaying any COVID-19 symptoms you should talk to your GP and not come on campus until you are given the all-clear. In the event of a positive diagnosis, please email COVID19report@ul.ie with the date of diagnosis and the last date you were on campus.

Returning to Work on Campus

While the general guidance from the Department of the Taoiseach is that the return to workplaces ‘...will continue on a phased and cautious basis,’ under the Government’s plan to reopen society, third level education and research are defined as essential activities. In June, Minister Simon Harris identified the need for students to receive as full and engaging an on campus learning experience as possible throughout the academic year, both for educational reasons and for their health and well-being.

UL is committed to this approach and in order for it to be achieved, it is important for business continuity and a vibrant campus environment for staff and students to have a mix of academic and professional support, administrative and service staff onsite as required throughout the academic year. The University is also committed to the safety and well-being of its staff, fully implementing the Work Safely Protocol and enacting current Public Health advice.

The decision as to when you are required to come on campus is made by your line-manager and is reflected in your area's COVID-19 Business Response Plan. This enables Buildings and Estates and Health and Safety to ensure a risk assessment for your area has been completed and that the mitigation measures identified are put in place

To allow for the management of the blend of campus and remote working, UL's [Remote \(Blended\) Working Procedure](#) was approved by the Executive Committee earlier this year. For a Q&A about the return to campus and this procedure, please go to Sections 2 and 3 of the [New Academic Year Guide for Staff](#).

2021 Enactus World Cup

Students from the University of Limerick (UL) are representing Ireland on the global stage this week at the Enactus World Cup. This social entrepreneurship competition brings together students from across 32 countries who are creating inspiring projects to make a real impact in the world.

The UL Enactus team will present their high-profile project Anytime of the Month, which has been making huge ground here in Ireland to achieve period justice and Moyo Nua, a project that developed agricultural seeding planters for smallholder farmers in Africa.

These projects reflect UL's role in enabling our students to become engaged citizens contributing to a sustainable future for all. Click [here](#) for more details about the event and best of luck to the UL Enactus team and their KBS advisors Dr Briga Hynes and Brian Shee.

UL in the Media

Congratulations to Gerard Carty, Lecturer in the School of Architecture & School of Design, and practise director at Grafton Architects who have won the 2021 Riba Stirling Prize for Kingston University's Town House. At a time when we have all been retrenching within our homes, their winning building is a celebration of human interaction and the joy of serendipitous encounters. Read more about the award in [The Irish Times](#).

[The Limerick Leader](#) featured an article this week about Dell Technologies' new partnership with UL in support of the Immersive Software Engineering (ISE) programme.

On [RTÉ Brainstorm](#), Professor Eoin Devereux explores David Bowie's Irish links, from his ancestral roots in Co. Tipperary to his collaboration with playwright Enda Walsh shortly before he died.

Finally, as we approach the bank holiday weekend, I'm sure many of you like me have a book we're looking forward to diving into for a few hours. It was great to learn from [limerickvoice.com](#) that novelist and Lecturer in Creative Writing here in UL, Professor Sarah Moore has been appointed a Champion of Reading at Scoil Chroí Íosa, a primary school in Galway as part of a campaign to encourage children to read more and to explore their creativity.

Best wishes,

Eoin

