

Dear all,

Over the past ten days, along with our students, you will have received a number of updates about the COVID-19 protocols in place for in-person exams, provisions that have been made to facilitate the taking of online exams on-campus, and other end of semester information. Once again, it is striking the extent to which this time of year is a collaborative effort between so many areas in UL: faculties, departments, Buildings and Estates, Academic Registry, and many others.

Please also note the information below in relation to **id cards** and **access** during exam time:

### **End of Semester Exams – Saturday 4 December to Friday 17 December 2021**

- *Staff ID Cards:* For the duration of the end of semester exams, all teaching staff are required to produce their UL Staff ID card at all exam venues when they arrive for the start of exams and also in the Central Examinations Office when collecting examination booklets.
- *Access to A and C Corridors Level 1:* During the end of semester exams, please ensure to use an alternative route for both the A and C corridors (LEVEL 1) to refrain from disturbing students as there are exams scheduled in rooms along these corridors for the duration of the time.

The Regional Writing Centre (Room C1-065) is operating as normal during the examination period and access for staff/students to this room is permitted.

### **COVID-19 Updates**

Given the concern around the Omicron variant, it is important that everyone continues to abide by [public health advice](#). Any changes to this advice by Government will be assessed for its impact on UL and the third level sector and communicated as soon as possible to you.

### **UL FIFTY**

Thanks to everyone who submitted proposals in the second-round call for ideas to mark fifty years of UL, beginning in May 2022. The UL FIFTY planning team are working on an events calendar, and our signature events are almost in place where we will connect with our staff, students, local communities, and wider relationships. The team are also starting to pencil in projects from across campus as they are identified and agreed. After Christmas detail about the plans for UL FIFTY will be circulated more regularly.

The School of Law and UL Foundation have secured the first **50 for 50 Scholarship** for the Law School from Matheson. Matheson is one of the leading law firms in Ireland and based in Dublin. The scholarship will be worth in excess of €5000 and the details will be finalised over the coming weeks.

### **UL in the Media**

[Listen back](#) to Professor Mel Mercier's radio documentary about his late father, Peadar Mercier, which was first broadcast in 2016. It is featured on the **RTÉ.ie** homepage this week as part of a revival of a selection of programmes from the RTÉ Doc on One back catalogue.

Rosie Coffey, Head of Enterprise Architecture and Security, was on the Brendan O'Connor show last Saturday with some timely advice about how to keep your data safe while shopping online for Christmas. Listen [here](#).

Professor Jan Plamper was interviewed by [Mainichi Shimbun](#), one of Japan's leading three dailies, about his book 'The History of Emotions: An Introduction' (Oxford UP, 2015). The book appeared in

Japanese in autumn 2020 and is now in its fifth printing, having become something of an intellectual bestseller.

Professor Stephen Kinsella joined Rory Hearne's Reboot Republic podcast to discuss the role of the state in delivering affordable housing, a state enterprise to build homes and issues with investor funds. Listen [here](#).

UL was among the Universities highlighted in an [Irish Times](#) article on Monday following Minister Simon Harris' approval of 10 more academic positions under the Senior Academic Leadership Initiative (Sali) initiative to progress gender equality in the third level sector.

Finally, in middle of winter it is lovely to see the UL Community Roof Garden has been tidied up and made ready for early spring planting once more.

Have a good week,

Eoin