

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to introduce myself, virtually at least, as the new Director of Human Resources and Communications and look forward to the time when I will actually get to meet some of you in person on campus.

Until then, like the majority of you, I will be continuing to work remotely and with the help of Eoin Brady, our Internal Communications Manager, we will endeavour to keep up communications.

International Women's Day

Today is International Women's Day which is being marked by conferences and events around the world, including one this morning in UL. IWD is really a spotlight on a continuous global movement towards gender equality. The Human Rights, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion office in UL is now part of the Provost's portfolio but here in HR we are committed to continuing to support their work for change wherever it is required.

Annual Leave

The Annual Leave Carry Forward balance on Core Portal now reflects the balance of those unused Annual leave days from 2020. Please remember that this balance must be used by 30th June 2021.

Your Annual Leave entitlement on Core has already been adjusted for University Closure days in December. For example, if you are entitled to 30 days Annual Leave, it will show up as 26 days in your Core account. [Go the Core Portal FAQs on the HR Website for more information.](#)

Communications & Podcasts

With an almost bewildering number of social media platforms out there, there is no doubt that they can be of use in raising your profile. But where do you start? This week's instalment from our communications webinar in February is all about using story telling as a social media strategy. [Watch Tony Sheridan give his five top tips here.](#)

One area of digital communication that is growing exponentially is podcasting. In January, KBS hosted a fascinating talk by Gabriel Makhoul, Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland. He discussed the impact of COVID-19 on the Irish economy, Brexit and key priorities for the Central Bank in 2021. We are developing a UL Podcast channel on a gradual basis but wanted to share this talk with you now while it is still topical. You can listen back to [Gabriel Makhoul's talk on UL Podcasts on this link](#). If you have audio or are developing a series of talks that you think would be of interest to the UL community, get in touch.

Have a good week,

