

Message from President of TU Dublin, Professor David FitzPatrick – Friday 08 May (by email)

Dear Student,

I hope that you are progressing well with the revised end of semester assessments. If you have any concerns, please do make contact with your lecturers or with any of our student support services who are all available to you.

Given the current difficult circumstances, I wanted to provide you with some certainty around next academic year to enable you to make plans. Having reflected on the various challenges we all need to contend with, including physical distancing, TU Dublin has made the following decisions:

- The 2020/2021 Academic Year will commence as usual on 01 September, with academic programmes resuming on Monday 21st September for all returning undergraduate and postgraduate students, and for new postgraduate students.
- Semester 1 will comprise 12 weeks of teaching up to 18th December, with Reading Week occurring in the week commencing 26th October.
- Research students will be allowed to commence their studies, as appropriate for their research environment, at any point from the 1st September.
- We hope to welcome back our international students as soon as international travel restrictions permit.
- For students based in Kevin Street, Rathmines, and Cathal Brugha Street (and Media students in Aungier Street), the move to our Grangegorman campus will take place during next academic year as planned. However, due to suspension of construction over the last six weeks, we anticipate a delay to the move of facilities which was planned to take place during the summer. Following the resumption of construction activity in the week commencing 18th May, we will be able to assess the length of the delay. Details of any impact on Semester 1 location will be finalised over the coming weeks.
- For students undertaking supplemental assessments later this summer, these will follow the same format as the current assessments.
- For final year students, I can confirm that graduation ceremonies will take place as planned in November and we are considering options in terms of format and location.

As I'm sure you expect, based on current public health advice, there will be changes to how we organise activities on campus from September. We are anticipating that a maximum of 30% occupancy in lecture theatres, laboratories, and other learning and social spaces will be permitted. This will have a significant impact on timetabling and the mode of delivery, and also on how you experience university life in Semester 1. We will be working on new solutions throughout the summer to make this work positively for all and we will keep you informed of arrangements as they are confirmed.

Meanwhile, please accept my best wishes to you and your family and I wish you every success in completing your assessments.

Kind regards,

Professor David FitzPatrick
President – TU Dublin