

## **Student Queries from Live Event**

### **Will the Pandemic affect accredited programmes, and if so, what is being done to address this?**

Covid-19 has not directly affected any accredited courses at TU Dublin. Some students studying courses where completing a number of work placement hours is mandatory in order to graduate may have been affected by the Covid-19 restrictions. Alternative arrangements have already been made for some students, and TU Dublin is in talks with placement providers that will reopen in September to accommodate the small number remaining.

### **Will canteens still be open/ available to students?**

When the University reopens in September, there will be capacity restrictions on campus, in line with public health guidelines, and we will not be able to accommodate large numbers in our cafes and canteens. However, we are developing protocols to ensure that all students can safely access the cafeteria when they are on campus.

### **How will classes in lectures, labs, workshops, kitchens or studios work when we return next year?**

All students will likely continue to attend some lectures virtually. However, face-to-face, practice-based learning is integral to enjoying a full University experience, so we will be making every effort to ensure that this essential experience continues while ensuring your safety on campus. This means that all students will have the opportunity to attend some class sessions in person, visit the library and avail of other facilities on campus while undertaking other lectures online.

### **I study in a lab/studio/rehearsal space/workshop, how many people can fit in a room at one time?**

There won't be a one size fits all solution, and our various buildings, lecture halls, studios, labs and workshops will all require a different approach to ensure each space is safe to use. We are currently mapping each space across all of our locations to confirm how many people can safely be in each room at a time. We will use this information to create timetables for all of our programmes, and each student will receive the information for your course in due course.

### **Will campuses be open to students in general, or is it on a lab/tutorial only basis?**

We want students to enjoy our facilities whenever they wish, however, social distancing protocols will limit the number of people we can have in a building at a time. Our plans will ensure that every student has equal access to our amenities while keeping everyone safe.

### **Will face coverings and gloves be compulsory?**

In classes where students may need to work in close contact with each other, the use of a face-covering may be required, depending on public health advice and, in areas where previously standard protection was needed, face masks must be used. In the majority of cases, however, adhering to a social distancing protocol of 2 metres will greatly reduce the likelihood of transmitting Covid-19.

**Are there any plans for staggered lab times or socially distant labs for courses that require labs?**

All spaces, including labs, will be reconfigured to ensure social distancing regulations are adhered to and timetables will be adjusted to ensure access for all students.

**Will there be another live broadcast update in August?**

College life may look different when we all return to campus next September, and there will be new protocols in place to keep each other safe. Over the summer, TU Dublin will be in touch via your mytudublin.ie email, on social media and by post. If possible, we will host another virtual live event to answer any questions you might have about returning to campus.

**When will students return back to college? When will we be notified?**

Teaching, whether in-person or virtual, will resume on **Monday, 21 September** and timetables will be published in advance of this date - subject to the usual changes. We will also contact you via your mytudublin.ie address with information about how college might look when you return in September.

**How will repeat exams take place this summer?**

Repeat exams will take place virtually in August, similar to the end of semester assessments.

**Will exam results be delayed this year?**

Exam results will be published as usual in June. Keep an eye out for a notification to your student email account outlining the dates and times for the release of exam results.

**Will there be an official transcript of exam results issued, or will it be an online transcript?**

Yes, an official transcript of exam results will be issued.

**If most of our classes are online, will there be a reduction in fees next year?**

Unfortunately, the cost of delivering programmes in the new circumstances will, in fact, be higher but there will be no change in fees. The most important aspect is to maintain the quality of the academic qualification, and the recognition of a degree gets in any sector, both nationally and globally. Although the delivery for some modules will change, the learning outcomes will remain the same. Every effort will be taken to ensure that each student

experiences both face-to-face teaching, tutorials and practicals in addition to virtual lectures to fully satisfy the learning objectives for their programme.

**Will we get to graduate in person this year?**

Our conferring ceremonies are the highlight of the year with up to 6,000 graduates receiving their parchments over several days each autumn. We fully understand that for you it is the culmination of many years of hard work and a time for celebration with your family and friends. Implementing Covid-19 social distancing protocols correctly means that the numbers that typically graduate per session will be too large to safely accommodate.

We are investigating all options to see if we can offer a ceremony that is a mix of online and in-person, but this will depend heavily on public health advice on how many people can be in a venue at a time. We know this is very disappointing, but we will make every effort to ensure that the class of 2020 have a memorable day.

**I was supposed to be moving to Grangegorman in September, what is happening now?**

As with all construction activity building in Grangegorman stopped in March for 8 weeks, which means there is a delay to completion. The good news is that the site reopened on Monday, 18 May and activity is ramping up, and over the next month, we will have a better idea about completion dates. If you were due to move to Grangegorman, you will likely start the new academic year in your previous building - Rathmines, Kevin Street, Aungier Street or Cathal Brugha Street. – but not for long! We will be in touch over the summer to let you know what the new dates are for the big move, so please take a look at your mytudublin.ie email inbox over the summer.

**What should Irish or International students do about booking accommodation as leases are usually for the entire academic year?**

We hope to have more clarity in the coming weeks about how many days you will be based on-campus. We are currently investigating options for shorter leases. In the meantime, you can send any questions you have about accommodation to [studentaccommodation@tudublin.ie](mailto:studentaccommodation@tudublin.ie).

**As part of student induction, is there any plans to incorporate Covid-19 policies and instruction to students?**

Yes. All students, both new and returning, will receive information explaining the University's Covid-19 protocols.

**As part of my course, I am developing a lit review, and have identified a number of books held in the various libraries which would be useful to review. How can I get access to these books?**

If you need a book to finish an essay or project, please email your local library for assistance.

<b>Aungier Street Library</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:library.ast@TUDublin.ie">library.ast@TUDublin.ie</a>
<b>Blanchardstown Library</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:libraryinfo.blanchardstown@tudublin.ie">libraryinfo.blanchardstown@tudublin.ie</a>
<b>Bolton Street Library</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:library.bst@tudublin.ie">library.bst@tudublin.ie</a>
<b>Cathal Brugha Street Library</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:library.cbs@tudublin.ie">library.cbs@tudublin.ie</a>
<b>Grangegorman Library</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:library.gg@tudublin.ie">library.gg@tudublin.ie</a>
<b>Kevin Street Library</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:library.kst@tudublin.ie">library.kst@tudublin.ie</a>
<b>Rathmines Library</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:library.rmh@tudublin.ie">library.rmh@tudublin.ie</a>
<b>Tallaght Library</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:Library.Tallaght@TUDublin.ie">Library.Tallaght@TUDublin.ie</a>

### What will happen to library access given social distancing?

Our libraries are currently physically closed, but you can still contact staff using the emails below. When our campuses reopen in September, social distancing measures will be in place, but we will introduce a mechanism to ensure that all students can access the library.

<b>Aungier Street Library</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:library.ast@TUDublin.ie">library.ast@TUDublin.ie</a>
<b>Blanchardstown Library</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:libraryinfo.blanchardstown@tudublin.ie">libraryinfo.blanchardstown@tudublin.ie</a>
<b>Bolton Street Library</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:library.bst@tudublin.ie">library.bst@tudublin.ie</a>
<b>Cathal Brugha Street Library</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:library.cbs@tudublin.ie">library.cbs@tudublin.ie</a>
<b>Grangegorman Library</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:library.gg@tudublin.ie">library.gg@tudublin.ie</a>
<b>Kevin Street Library</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:library.kst@tudublin.ie">library.kst@tudublin.ie</a>

<b>Rathmines Library</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:library.rmh@tudublin.ie">library.rmh@tudublin.ie</a>
<b>Tallaght Library</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:Library.Tallaght@TUDublin.ie">Library.Tallaght@TUDublin.ie</a>

**Will there be a possibility that some modules would have to be an online class due to maybe a big number of students attending that module?**

It will be difficult to accommodate larger classes while adhering to social distancing measures. However, attending classes on campus and getting to know your student colleagues and lecturers is an integral part of the university experience so we will be making every effort to retain this essential experience while following public health guidelines.

**If online classes are to be the norm next semester, will there be any help for students that don't have laptops or adequate broadband service?**

TU Dublin has launched a hardship fund to help students purchase ICT equipment required to attend lectures and complete assessments online. Established by TU Dublin Foundation, the Covid-19 Student Hardship Fund aims to raise €25,000 which the University will match to double fund's impact. In addition to purchasing ICT equipment, emergency support will be provided to students that have lost employment or for those with families that are experiencing financial difficulties due to the Pandemic.

**Some lecturers had technical issues using Brightspace, what assurances can we get that all of these issues will be resolved by September?**

The Learning, Teaching and Technology Centre (LTTC) and ICT Support can assist teaching staff with any reported issues or queries they have about virtual lectures and tutorials. LTTC also provide training to lecturers regularly so they can brush up on their Brightspace skills. We also recommend that students visit the LTTC YouTube channel for a [Bite size Guide to Brightspace](#).

**In terms of the part-time students attending night courses, is it anticipated that there will be a reduction in capacity, how will this be managed?**

As with full-time programmes, we do anticipate that we will need to make some changes to how part-time students learn with us. Although more classes will be online, we will work to ensure that every student, full-time or part-time, will receive enough face-to-face interaction to fully satisfy the learning objectives for their programme.

**Can a smoking ban be implemented on Grangegorman considering the air quality issues posed and the correlation between poor air quality and worse health outcomes when infected with Covid 19?**

Smoking, including the use of an electronic cigarette or vaping pen, has been prohibited in all TU Dublin buildings and within the curtilage of all these buildings since 2011. While we are working to ensure that our new campus at Grangegorman is smoke-free, the grounds are open to the public, so it is not always possible to enforce the policy strictly.

### **Will there be fewer events for societies and sports clubs?**

Social Distancing measures will remain in place when we return to the campus next September, but we still want students to meet outside of their studies. Our many societies and clubs might not be able to accommodate as many students per event as in previous years. Still, they will continue to provide many opportunities to socialise or play sports in 2020/2021.

### **I was due to study abroad next year? Will this go ahead?**

The opportunity to study abroad is an essential factor in why so many students choose TU Dublin, and we are working with our international colleagues to see how students can participate in programmes such as Erasmus next year. Our final decision will be based on whether it is safe for a student to travel to a particular country, including how a specific region is handling the Covid-19 situation and if the host University can keep students as safe as possible. The other aspect to consider is will students get a chance to explore their host country or learn about their culture or could many of their classes be online. We will provide further detail on the decision on this in the coming weeks.

### **What are the plans in place for new international students who might not be able to obtain the Visa required to travel to Ireland on time for the start of the new session?**

If students do not receive their Visa on time, they will be able to start their course online.

In addition, the Department of Justice and Equality and the Department of Education and Skills recently held discussions about the Third Level Graduate Permission Scheme (TLGPS). They have agreed that International students that were due to start their studies in TU Dublin in September, but because of Covid 19 will have to complete the first semester online, can apply for the Third Level Graduate Permission Scheme visa programme as long as they intend to complete their studies in Ireland. This means if you can't come to Ireland in September, you can start your studies online and then travel to Ireland with your Visa at a later date.

### **I am studying Social Care but was unable to complete my work placement. What can I do?**

Social Care students must complete a certain amount of work placement hours, which are set by law with compliance monitored by CORU, the statutory body responsible for regulating Health and Social Care Professionals in Ireland. Many Social Care students at TU Dublin were completing their work placements as Covid-19 restrictions were introduced, and some of these placements were cancelled. To ensure final-year students have the opportunity to graduate this autumn, TU Dublin arranged alternative placements with the HSE to satisfy the clinical placement requirements set by CORU.

Of those students who have yet to make up their hours, we are liaising with the HSE to accommodate them and with other placement providers who closed in March but will reopen in September to accommodate the small number remaining. For students progressing to their third or final year, many have completed the requisite number of hours, but if there is a deficit, we will work with them to ensure that the full complement of hours is completed before they graduate.

**I was due to start a Work Placement next year, will this go ahead?**

The opportunity to undertake work experience with employers in Ireland and abroad is an important part of your studies at TU Dublin. The University is eager to ensure that students can still complete a Work Placement, but it is difficult to assess with certainty how the COVID-19 Pandemic will evolve in the coming months – in Ireland and overseas.

**As part of finishing work placements, students in my course are required to present our work to staff and companies from industry, usually in September, are events like these (a major part of module grades) still possible to go ahead?**

Yes, many students have already completed presentations like these online, and in September, we hope that you will be able to present to a smaller audience face-to-face and/or a larger audience joining online.

**TU Dublin Students' Union Queries**

**What are the plans for the SU next year?**

The major plan for the Students' Union next year is to undertake a Constitutional Review so that the Union can reflect on bringing the three former Students' Unions together and reach out to the student body to help shape their Union in TU Dublin. The newly-elected team will start working on this during the summer and work it into whatever process is suitable as we still have COVID restrictions. Students will be invited to engage in many ways, and I ask that you support your Union in this major project that will benefit all students.

**What does the SU President see has the biggest need for students next year in this uncertain year?**

The Students' Union President believes one of the biggest needs for students in the coming year as we continue to deal with COVID will be to ensure access to all the necessary support within the University. These supports have been made available online during the past few months while the college has been closed, but there will be a greater need for those and other supports in the new Academic Year, including financial, counselling and academic support. The Students' Union will continue to work with the University to provide the supports needed to all students.

**How is the Student Union working without being in the offices?**

The Students' Union had to learn to adapt to working remotely quickly once the closure of college was announced in March. The transition from not working in offices and to online was seamless as we all learnt and found good solutions such as Zoom to help keep in contact, run meetings and events and use our social media more to reach out to students.

**Is the college respecting the student union as a voice for 28000 stakeholders? E.g. with decisions that affect students like the use of space in Grangegorman and graduation?**

The relationship with the University has been challenging at times this year, and we're working to improve that relationship and engagement with the two organisations by developing a Partnership Agreement while we are negotiating funding for the Students' Union. The Students' Union looks forward to working with the University for the betterment of our mutual stakeholders; the students in the coming months and years with a structure of engagement in place.