

**From:** [President TU Dublin](#)  
**To:** [TU Dublin All Staff](#)  
**Subject:** Update from the President  
**Date:** 14 August 2020 13:42:10

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Dear Colleagues,

As our preparations intensify for the resumption of on-campus activity for the new academic year, it is very important that everyone is fully informed about what will become a new way of working for all of us. The overriding objective must be to ensure the safety of all staff and students.

Last week, TU Dublin joined with Universities represented by the IUA, and with Institutes of Technology represented by THEA, to welcome the publication of [Implementation Guidelines for Public Health Measures in HEIs](#). Drawn up by senior public health experts within the sector, these guidelines have been endorsed by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre while consultation with staff representative unions took place under the aegis of ICTU.

- **Towards a new way of working in TU Dublin**

In line with the national guidelines, each University and Institute has now moved to prepare their own customised return to campus plans. In TU Dublin, we have reviewed our plans in consultation with our social partners, and now our '[Moving towards a new way of working](#)' document has been finalised. This detailed document outlines the necessary measures TU Dublin will take to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and it spells out our individual responsibilities in this regard. It is now available on the intranet for all members of staff to view [at this link](#) or by going to <https://www.tudublin.ie/intranet/return-to-campus/>. To access the intranet you will be asked for your TU Dublin log-in credentials.

Given the safety requirements outlined in the document, it is clear that on-campus class timetables will be impacted. We have asked those colleagues who have the difficult job of drawing up timetables for the coming Semester, to work on the basis of classes of appropriate duration that allow for a sufficient break before the next class begins. For example, classes structured around 2 hour blocks of time, may include academic activity of up to 1.5 hours duration, allowing for a 30 minute break before the next class.

- **Return to campus – online training module**

Before returning to campus, every member of staff will be required to complete an online training module that has been developed to help familiarise all of us with the new safety measures that will be in place. The module will take no more than 40 minutes to complete but please take time to work through it diligently as it provides us all with additional reassurance about our new way of working and helps us all to keep our community safe. It is also intended that new and returning students will undertake a similar online course to help them develop their understanding and approach to addressing the health and safety requirements within TU Dublin.

Please also take time to read through the '[Moving towards a new way of working](#)' document which has been prepared with your safety and that of your families and our students in mind.

- **Looking forward to the new academic year**

As the start of the new academic year draws closer, I look forward to welcoming our new students into TU Dublin and know that we will all be working to ensure that they are fully supported in the transition to University life, despite the additional challenges and different experiences they will face. I am also confident that the collective and collegiate support demonstrated within TU Dublin over the past six months will enable us to meet the coming year with confidence. To borrow the now well-known phrase, "we are all in this together", it is through that approach that we will continue to build TU Dublin into the university we all envisage.

In the meantime, stay safe and take what time you can to enjoy the rest of the summer.

Best regards,

David.



**Professor David FitzPatrick**

President

Technological University Dublin

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