



GEOGRAPHY

Shaping the future



School of Geography

Current Plan for Graduate Programmes in Autumn 2020

This document sets out the School plans and expectations for ensuring the safety, health and wellbeing of all staff, faculty and students during Autumn trimester 2020. The document is in alignment with all public health guidelines and may be subject to change, as the external environment dictates. We will be expected all members of our School community to fully cooperate in order to maximise our ability to engage in safe campus learning experiences.

Classroom policy: A physical distance of 2M should be maintained as much as possible, but UCD's policy on face coverings requires that masks must be worn at all times where 2M social distancing cannot be maintained. This will be necessary during entering/leaving classrooms and you will be asked to enter and exit classrooms in an orderly fashion, using a one-way system as much as feasible. It is the School of Geography's expectation that face coverings will be worn at all times in the classroom. There are students and staff in high risk groups and we must protect their health as well as our own. We will strive to maintain good ventilation in classrooms at all times. If a student or staff member feels unsafe, they should leave the classroom immediately.

While on campus: Social distancing is to be maintained at all times while on campus. This should be 2M other than exceptional circumstances, in which case you must maintain a minimum distance of 1M and wear a face covering. You should never breach the 1M distance between yourself and another student, and maintain a 2M distance with staff members at all times. Many buildings and rooms will be operating one-way systems. Please keep these in mind while waiting to enter a classroom, spending time on campus between activities, and so forth. The way you interact with staff will change. For example, since it will be necessary to clear one class out of the room quickly so that the next group can move in, clean their sitting places, and start on time, we ask you to email your lecturer in the first instance to avoid any congestion in hallways.





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Geography and staff offices: Due to restricted size, it may not be possible to maintain social distancing in office spaces. Therefore, all meetings with staff should be done online in the first instance and enquiries made with respect to possible face-to-face. All staff will have regularly scheduled office hours. Relevant programme leaders or Module Coordinators will have dedicated live online office hours for conversation. The School Office in the Newman Building will remain open for student queries. The office will be clearly marked to demarcate appropriate social distancing.

Before attending the office in person, please check:

- Do I have, or am I showing any symptoms of, Covid-19 (cough, fever, high temperature, sore throat, runny nose, breathlessness or flu like symptoms) now or in the past 14 days)?
- Have I been diagnosed with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection in the last 14 days?
- Am I a close contact of someone who is a confirmed or suspected case of Covid-19 or awaiting a Covid-19 test?
- Have I been travelling in the last 14 days?
- Have I been advised by a doctor to self-isolate?

If the answer to any of the above is 'yes', you should make contact with us by phone or online.

If you have a question, please email schoolmanagerofgeography@ucd.ie.

MSc and MA Programmes

We will endeavour to deliver the majority of lectures for Geography graduate classes face-to-face on campus, with some modules restricted to online delivery due to room capacities. Learning materials will be made available online for students who are unable to attend in person to ensure they have an equivalent, albeit not identical, learning experience. Some flexibility in delivery format is inevitable as we adapt to any changing Government regulations and you will be advised of these as soon as practical.

Assessments

Assessments may be done online and/or in the classroom (with provision made for those who cannot be there in person). Details for individual modules will be provided at the start of term.





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Expectations

UCD's expectation is that unless students have travel related challenges (related to Covid-19) or have documented health/medical concerns and are therefore at-risk, they are expected to attend campus for classes as timetabled. If a student cannot attend class for medical/health reasons, they should self-identify themselves to the School offices at the start of term, or as soon as an issue arises, in order for us to be aware and able to provide appropriate support and resources. The School of Geography aims to provide equivalent high quality, learning opportunities for both students on campus and those online.

