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School of Geography

Current Plan for Undergraduate 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 co-operate 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.

Undergraduate Programmes (DN700 & DN520)

Lectures and tutorials

All lectures for our undergraduate classes delivered during the Autumn trimester will be done using a blended delivery of both face to face and online. Some of these will be done live with a recording available afterwards. Others will be pre-recorded. As different approaches work better for different courses, you should anticipate a mix of these.

Some courses will also have weekly tutorials. We have chosen to focus on certain courses because these contain the foundational material critical to the study of Geography. Further, this gives students at every level the option of on-campus teaching, particularly first year students who are new to UCD. When choosing a tutorial during registration, please note that some will be face to face (F2F) instruction and there will also be online tutorial options – please ensure you select the correct one. You will only be permitted to attend F2F tutorials for which you are registered. There





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is no difference in the content covered in the different options. This choice is intended to allow flexibility for those with health, medical or other personal concerns.

Assessments

All assessments will be submitted and graded online using the Brightspace VLE. The specifics for each module will be provided at the start of term by the module coordinator.

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 personal or familial medical/health reasons, they should self-identify themselves to the School office 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.

