

Dear Student,

I hope you are keeping well. It is great that the public health restrictions have been eased sooner than we had anticipated and that it is now easier to mix with fellow-students and friends. Although we had not anticipated reviewing the face-to-face/online balance until Reading Week, we have been overtaken by Government and Public Health decisions in this regard. However, the pandemic and its legacy will likely have an impact on our lives for some time yet. I am writing to you with some information about the Institute's response to the easing of restrictions.

EXAM RESULTS

1. One impact of the pandemic is that, for various reasons, there is a delay in publishing your semester 1 results. We now hope to publish your results on MAESTRO at 17:00 on Thursday, 10 February.

RETURN TO FACE-TO-FACE TEACHING

2. Full face-to-face teaching will resume on campus from Monday, 7 February. In order to accommodate this pivot, some room changes and some minor time changes to classes will be necessary. See the attached timetable that will be in effect from Monday 7 February. The existing timetable will apply throughout the week beginning 31 January 2022.
3. Classes for students on part-time and weekend courses (i.e. MES and PDE-FE) will remain online until the Reading Week (week of 21 February) as previously advised.

ANTIGEN TESTING

4. The request to take an antigen test every day you are on campus has now changed to a request to take an antigen test at least one day per week – preferably the first day of the week when you are on campus.
5. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, please do not attend campus, and take an antigen test. Only return to campus when you have had no symptoms for 48 hours.
6. You may continue to take up to two antigen test kits per week from a table in the main reception area as you need them.

OTHER MEASURES

7. Wearing face masks continues to be required at all times when indoors (except when eating or drinking). This position on mask wearing may be reviewed in light of further public health advice. FFP2 standard face masks are on sale at the MIE reception at cost price. Students who are living with people who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 may wish to wear such masks.
8. HEPA filters have already been installed in several classrooms and more will be installed as soon as they arrive.
9. Please respect fellow-students and staff who are feeling anxious or vulnerable about contracting COVID-19 and about returning fully to campus.

We hope that the return to full campus life will be smooth for everyone. Some things need to be taken from us before we fully appreciate them.

Take care,

Seán

Date: 28.01.22 @ 18:35