

**April 08, 2020, IADT Exams Office**

Dear student

The Academic and Management teams in IADT have been working with the Technological Higher Education Authority (THEA) regarding the principles which guide us in setting alternative assessments. Be assured that all THEA institutions are working cohesively, and in conjunction with the national agency, Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), to maintain support for our learners and we are committed to assessing our students in a manner that upholds the academic integrity of our awards.

You will have seen that the exam/assessment schedule for Summer 2020 has been published online. You will also have been contacted by your academic team to provide further details about assessment deadlines and details for submission.

We recognise that it is a stressful time for everyone with significant changes to daily life and to your study schedule. The changes to the modes and types of assessments may be unfamiliar however please be assured that the Institute and the Students' Union along with our Academic Council continue to work together to ensure the best for all students in their studies. It is IADT's strongest desire and intent, in all of the provisions that are being made for alternative assessment methodologies, that no student is disadvantaged by the necessary changes necessitated by the Covid-19 outbreak. To that end the Faculty staff, Exams office, and Student Experience teams including the Disability Officer and Learning Development staff are available to assist and provide advice and guidance to any student experiencing difficulty in engaging with the changed assessment environment.

***The following changes have been approved:***

Firstly, it has been decided that the Covid-19 pandemic may be cited as mitigating circumstances for deferral of some or all of the summer assessments should any student wish to defer to the August exam period. Secondly it has been decided that fees for any August repeat assessment for all candidates affected by Covid-19 will be waived.

We understand and acknowledge that these changes to the mode of assessment will be new, and perhaps unfamiliar to all students, and may present difficulties to some students. Once the assessments have been notified to students by their Faculties any student who feels unable to complete the assessment in the form indicated should contact their Head of Department. IADT will make best efforts to accommodate their concern, however if a student is unable to complete by reason of ill health, access to technology, family responsibilities or any other reasonable concern, they will be entitled to a deferral as described above without any academic or financial penalty.

In the interest of fairness and consistency, regardless of any relaxation of the COVID-19 restrictions which may occur the August repeat assessments will in all cases be carried out in the same online format as those of the summer assessments.

IADT remains committed to assisting all our students to complete their programme of study and to that end we encourage you to engage positively and proactively with the new arrangements and to establish a routine suitable for the new study and assessment mode.

We appreciate that this may appear a big ask at this juncture and it may be difficult for some to achieve, however we believe it will be worth it in the long term to ensure your career progression is optimised. Please remember that the purpose of alternative assessments is to protect your future career development and to protect the quality of the awards you receive.

Please refer to the amended **Regulations for Candidates in Examinations** include in this section.