

End of Year
FFACT – 2020/21

This academic year has not turned out the way many of us originally imagined it would. It has been tough. The period since Christmas has been especially difficult. Our plans were based on some form of a return to campus by now. That has not been possible thus far.

We have adjusted. You can be confident that the learning you have attained this year meets all the required national standards. We in the Faculty, the Registry and others, have in the background, been keeping a close eye on the standards of the teaching and learning. Staff are endeavouring to go the 'extra mile' this year to make the year work as well as it can. Every student who can progress will do so.

For many programmes remote teaching and learning was relatively successful. Programme teams have worked with students to find innovative solutions to the challenges we have faced. There has been positive consultation about changing end of year assessments and changing deadlines across all programmes. For more practical programmes, novel solutions to making physical work have been found in the online learning environment. Students have done their best and some have even won awards for their work. Getting through the year is itself a huge achievement.

All that said, being in college is so much more than what we have experienced this year. We miss being around friends and all that involves. People are doing the best they can in difficult circumstances. For some students it has been really challenging.

We are making special arrangements for award year students. If you are in a vulnerable position and are having difficulties, let us know and we will find ways to help you. If Covid-19 has impacted on you personally, please let us know by contacting your lecturer or year head and we can take this into consideration.

As always, please keep an eye on IADT's response to Covid-19 protocol available [here](#). There is a lot in that document, but the institute also has a FAQ section that answers a lot of the general questions [here](#) and is very useful.

This is a complex and dynamic situation and things will change. It is a very uncertain time. We are working on lots of plans behind the scenes. Often, we start one course of action and then the government advice changes, and we must change our plans.

On campus supports available to you on request

- The library continues to fulfil a click and collect service

- Access to a computer lab can be arranged in certain circumstances
- We can book computer access for you if you need time on a specialist machine
- If you need access to specialist technical equipment that can be arranged through your lecturers
- There are lots of other supports available in IADT if you need them. See [here](#).
- The nurse is on duty on campus and information is available [here](#).

If you need to be on campus to access technical equipment it needs HOD approval, so contact your lecturer as soon as possible.

End of year 2020/2021

Based on our present information and guidance the following will apply

- For most of us, we won't be returning to campus this academic year.
- We will keep this under review but given that the current level 5 is set to run at least until April 5th, it makes it difficult to see how widespread access will be possible
- We are going to make certain accommodations for all award years students and vulnerable students to allow them to complete project work on campus.
- All award years will be given special consideration for supervised access.
- Extensions and other help will be provided where possible and appropriate.
- There won't be a physical exhibition again this year, but we are making significant investment in the online platform and a digital exhibition will go live in June.
- Our plan is to have a celebration on campus on Thursday the 11th of November (assuming public health advice allows it) for the graduating class of 2021 and 2020.

Health & Safety – advanced protocols

The core public health guidance remains, however, given that we are at level 5 it is appropriate to introduce some additional measures to keep everyone safe.

- Managers will limit access numbers to spaces to ensure safe access
- We will keep a detailed log of everyone on campus for contact tracing
- Before coming on campus, you need to fill in this access approval form [here](#)
- You must fill in the health declaration form [here](#) before coming on campus
- You cannot attend on campus, without approval from your Head of Department via your lecturer
- It is very important that you only use the rooms you have booked (public spaces like the canteen are ok but have limits on numbers) and stick to the times to which you have been allocated.
- You can only be on campus in the spaces that you have pre booked
- You must leave at the time that has been agreed in advance
- Make sure you open windows in the spaces you are in and close them when you leave
- We ask everyone not to congregate in public spaces
- Face coverings are required and the one way system is still in operation

Steps to coming on campus

Deadline for applying to come on campus in any week is lunchtime the previous Thursday.

1. Get written approval from your lecturer/HOD via email.
2. Fill in this access approval form [here](#)
3. Fill in the health declaration form [here](#)
4. Get a travel letter as a .pdf from the faculty office (if required) that you can show on your phone
5. You are good to go.

(We will keep this process under review – the priority is for award year students and vulnerable students)

Health & Safety – Key principles

- The key principle is that everyone shares responsibility for ensuring social distancing is being maintained and that everyone follows the health and safety guidelines
- Facial coverings are to be required in all spaces (e.g., all technical spaces, some classroom, all studio and lab spaces) except where there are legitimate reasons for not wearing a mask (see definition in the IADT return to work [protocols](#) and [HSE guidelines](#))
- Wherever possible we must minimise contact – come to campus, attend classes and leave when finished your timetabled activities
- Everyone must maintain correct respiratory coughing and sneezing [etiquette](#)
- Attendance will be recorded to help with contact tracing – we also encourage the use of the HSE [app](#)
- Protective screens will be installed in smaller spaces where people need to be in close proximity or face visors will be worn with a face covering
- A special covid-19 cleaning regime will be in place however we must all clean our own spaces too before we begin and once, we are finished in a space - equipment and surfaces in your immediate area should be fully cleaned when you are finished with them and before you first use them.
- Blue paper roll and appropriate sprays will be provided for each location/station
- All students to complete the return to work safely course - [https://vle.iadt.ie/ultra/courses/ 5709 1/cl/outline](https://vle.iadt.ie/ultra/courses/5709_1/cl/outline)

Useful Resources

IADT web site Covid-19 updates

<https://iadt.ie/news/coronavirus-update/>

IADT Covid-19 Response Protocol

https://iadt.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/IADT_COVID-19-Response-Protocol-V1.6.pdf

IADT Return to campus FAQs

<https://iadt.ie/study/academic-year-2020-21/>

Government advice on how to stop the spread of the pandemic

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/cf9b0d-new-public-health-measures-effective-now-to-prevent-further-spread-o/>

HSE web site

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/returning-to-work-safely.html>

Helpful info videos from HSE

https://www.hsa.ie/eng/topics/covid-19/covid-19_videos/

Face Coverings

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/face-masks-disposable-gloves.html>

HEI – Public Health Implementation guidelines

http://www.thea.ie/contentFiles/components/gdNews/34/Public-Health-Implementation-Guidelines-for-HEIs_05_08_20_Final.pdf