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Arrangements for 2021/22 Academic Year - General Information

Griffith College, like all higher education institutions, is preparing for a return to campus with on-site activity and in-person teaching in line with the “Discretionary Framework A Safe Return to On-Site Further and Higher Education and Research” from the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DEFHRIS). The Framework’s clear intention is for a ‘predominately on-site learning experience for learners for the year 2021/22’.

The following points apply generally throughout the College. These will be supplemented with faculty and programme-specific information.

Teaching Start Dates

- Teaching begins in the week commencing September 20th for most learners, with first-year undergraduate learners starting in the week commencing October 4th. (The College will forward specific details to each learner.)
- Induction will take place on-campus, the week prior to the start of lectures.

(Details of the specific arrangements for induction will be forwarded to each learner.)

Rooms

- An audit of all rooms has been carried out to ensure adequate ventilation is provided. CO₂ monitors will be deployed in teaching rooms as required, and room capacities will be limited to 80%.
- Specific health and safety protocols are in place to facilitate the delivery of all practical classes, such as photography, film, design, etc. Faculties/programme directors will communicate these arrangements to learners.
- The College will continue to implement an enhanced cleaning regime across all campuses.

Masks

- Learners and staff are required to **wear masks at all times** in indoor shared spaces, including classrooms, common areas, and libraries.
- Learners will be required to wear masks while sitting at desks.
- Masks will be required in outdoor spaces where groups are gathered.
- Lecturers may remove masks while delivering lectures.
- The College is encouraging all learners and staff to avail of the HSE vaccination programme which has proven so successful in protecting us all.

Timetables

- There will be at least a ten-minute break between each class, with classes typically being of fifty minutes duration.
- Timetables will be arranged to facilitate the safe movement of learners between classes.
- Certain lectures may be recorded to facilitate subsequent revision purposes:
 - The specifics of any recordings will be faculty and programme dependent and will be managed within faculties.
 - The recording of lectures is not a substitute for in-class participation and engagement.

Assessment

- Formal examinations will be held as on-campus invigilated examinations unless expressly indicated otherwise by your faculty.

College Facilities

- The library facilities on all campuses will be open. In order to operate the library in a safe way, the library team will operate an on-line library booking.
- The restaurant facilities will be open for in-person dining or take away service. For those choosing to dine in-person, in line with current legislation, they will need to present a copy of their COVID-19 vaccination certificate to the restaurant operator. A take-away service will continue to operate for staff and learners without a requirement to present a COVID-19 vaccination certificate.

- The College Students' Union will be open and active, operating in accordance with prevailing public health guidelines.
- Sports and other clubs and societies will be active, operating in accordance with prevailing public health guidelines.

Graduation

- In-person graduations will take place in November. These will be managed in accordance with prevailing public health guidelines. The schedule of the graduation ceremonies will be communicated to graduates in September.

Additional Commentary

The government is currently researching the use of Rapid Antigen Testing as a helpful tool. The College has also undertaken an initial trial of rapid antigen tests and is awaiting government advice on their usefulness and any role they will have in supporting a return to on-campus teaching.

The College has a strong record in dealing with, and promptly isolating and managing Covid-19 infections whenever they arise, either within the Griffith Halls of Residence or in the general campus. It recognises the continuing risk of infection within the community and the need for continual vigilance and commitment to the safety of learners, lecturers and staff.

The college will communicate and abide by all public health guidelines and asks its learners, lecturers and staff for their full support in their implementation to ensure everyone's safety.

Overall Plans for 2021/22

The college's overall plans for all campuses for the 2021/22 academic year are as follows:

- Classes and tutorials will be delivered on a face-to-face basis, on-campus
- Learners will be expected to attend on-campus classes in person.
- Where appropriate, on-campus teaching will be supplemented and enhanced with certain online educational activities and resources.
- In general, it will not be possible for learners to complete their programmes on an online basis only.

- The College's on-campus resources, such as the library, canteen, students' union, learning support, counselling, will be fully available to support learners.
- Learners who cannot attend in person for health reasons are asked to contact their Programme Director.

Further Information

Prior to programme commencement faculties and programme teams will issue further information to their learners providing detailed information on the delivery and assessment schedule for the programmes' modules.

You can check our academic year **key points sheet** [here](#).

Note

Please note that these plans are entirely dependent on Public Health advice and may change in the light of the prevailing Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science instructions.