



Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath Trinity College Dublin

Ollscoil Átha Cliath | The University of Dublin

16th June 2021

Dear Students,

Welcome to the School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin as new members of our School and College community.

Academic Year 20/21 was an unusual and challenging year for all concerned. In order to ensure a safe environment for both faculty and students, in person teaching events were limited in duration and restricted to specific teaching accommodation. Despite these challenges, the School delivered a significant portion of in person teaching for Year 1 and 2 students and the clinical years continued with hospital placements. We are very proud of our students and would like to commend them for their resilience and professionalism under the circumstances. Students in Year 3 were great ambassadors for the School and set a wonderful example by volunteering during the year to assist with the vaccination programmes and in the ICUs in our partner hospitals.

The good news is that the public health measures including the rollout of the vaccination programme in Ireland have resulted in a clear suppression of the virus, with the number of new cases being consistently low and many of our main hospitals have reported no Covid cases for the first time since the start of the pandemic. While this is all very promising, there is no doubt that we will be living with the virus for some time to come, and it will continue to have an influence on the coming academic year. We are planning a blended teaching model, similar to last year, with some components delivered online and others in person. As a professional course, students require face to face experiences, with teachers, fellow students, and of course, with patients.

We are keen to provide you with as much information as we can, with respect to the next academic year and outlined below are the latest plans, bearing in mind that some of these plans are dependent on the progress in containing Covid-19 in Ireland and throughout the world.

- Orientation week will commence on **Monday 20th September**, a little later this year due to a delay in the release of our local Leaving Certificate Examination results. We expect that it may be a combination of online and in person events.
- Teaching will commence on **Monday 27th September** and we will likely adopt a pod system which worked well last year. Students will be placed in pods of 10/12 for small group teaching events and will link with other designated pods for larger teaching events.
- There will be a reading week towards the end of October to facilitate Freshers Week events and Year 1 students will have the opportunity at that stage to meet senior students and join clubs and societies.
- Semester 1 examinations will take place week of **Monday 10th January**. Whether these will take place online or in person has yet to be determined.

We will post the Overview of Year 1 online in the coming weeks and the detailed timetable with groupings will be available in mid-September.

It's really important in the meantime that you link with our Global Office for pre-departure advice and to review the most up to date information at the time of booking your flights to Dublin. We recommend you book a flexible option should circumstances change prior to your travel date. The following links may be of use and are updated regularly to reflect Government guidelines on travel, quarantine etc.:

Student Arrivals <https://www.tcd.ie/students/your-arrival-sept-2021/>

Covid-19 <https://www.tcd.ie/about/coronavirus>

We look forward to meeting you in September and we hope that you all stay safe and enjoy the summer break.

With best wishes to you all and to your families.

Prof. Joe Harbison

Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning

Prof. Michael Gill

Head of School

Ms. Aine Wade

Programme Manager