

Subject: Protecting each other

Dear students,

As you will be aware, the Government has requested all universities in Ireland to introduce enhanced public health protection measures. For many of you this will involve going online, depriving you of the Campus experience that is such an important part of university life.

The reality is that our society is grappling with a deadly pandemic. How we all act in the next days and weeks will have a direct impact on those we love and those most vulnerable in our communities. UCC has a proud tradition as a university of the community and now, more than ever, we all need to live up to our values of good citizenship and respect for those more vulnerable. As students of UCC, you have a vital role to play in our community's response to this disease.

To suppress the increasing spread of COVID-19, the Government has limited the number of visitors to households under current public health measures (see [here](#)). We all have a responsibility to comply with those measures. We fully understand that you have been looking forward to returning to Campus, but over the next few weeks it is absolutely essential that you limit your social contacts.

Many of you will have been looking forward to the Virtual Freshers Week organised by the Student Union. Even though many of these events are online, our deep concern is that they will lead to gatherings at a time when our country needs us to minimise our contacts. We have appealed to your Student Union to cancel or defer Virtual Freshers Week; the University cannot support its operation.

It is a measure of the seriousness of the threat posed by COVID-19 that UCC is committed to treating breaches of government guidelines in relation to COVID-19 very seriously. In particular, students found to be organising, hosting or attending gatherings which are in breach of guidelines will be subject to sanction up to and including expulsion from the University where warranted. Please do not take actions now that could impact your future.

We have worked together in this unprecedented time and will continue to support you.

Thank you for giving these issues your serious consideration and for your support at this very difficult time.

Yours sincerely

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