

Covid-19 Information Notice – Update

21 October 2020

Dear members of the ACD community

Following the government's announcement on Monday that Ireland will move to level 5 of the covid-19 five-level alert system, the College is implementing in full Scenario D of its covid plan, with remote teaching through Zoom and Moodle for all classes, including those performing arts and musical theatre classes which up until last week had limited physical instruction under level 3 of the alert system. These arrangements will in effect take us through to the scheduled end of this semester's classes on Friday, 4 December (the level-5 restrictions are currently expected to remain in place until Wednesday evening, 1 December). Our plans are as follows:

- The College will close its physical facilities from today, Wednesday, 21 October, until Wednesday, 1 December 2020; all College physical facilities will remain closed to students, staff and teachers unless specifically authorised during this time; teaching and all other activities will take place remotely during this period. Teachers will contact their students regarding ongoing arrangements for particular classes by Zoom and Moodle over the coming days. Classes are expected to take place at the day and time indicated on the timetable, with any changes to be advised to the relevant class.
- Graduation will be postponed until next autumn, during which a graduation ceremony for the combined classes of 2020 and 2021 is planned to take place, the public health situation allowing. A procedural graduation is planned to take place remotely on Thursday, 12 November 2020, providing for the formal conferral of degrees to graduands and arrangements for issuing their parchments and final transcripts shortly thereafter. The procedural graduation is intended only as a means of allowing the graduating classes to receive their qualifications within the normal timeframe and not as a replacement for the usual ceremony, which will be provided with the customary panoply next autumn, public health conditions permitting. Further details on the procedural graduation will be shared with the graduating class in the course of this week.
- Final examinations and assessments for this semester presently appear likely to take place on a remote, open-book basis, rather as they did in the spring semester in May; further information on these matters will be provided by Registrar David Webb in the coming weeks.

We greatly regret the necessity to implement these arrangements and we hope very much to return to a measure of physical class delivery and college interaction as soon as possible.

We are conscious that some students may feel isolated or lonely during these times. We will be putting in place measures to stay in touch and to offer virtual events. If you have any ideas for this or if you just want to talk, please contact Scotty at ssarafian@iamu.edu

As ever, we thank you all for your patience and forbearance. We hope that it will not be long before we are able to begin returning to our accustomed ways of teaching, learning and interacting with each other at American College Dublin.