

# FIGHTING BACK AGAINST COVID-19

## SUMMER AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN *COVID-19 PROTOCOLS*

### **Introduction**

After a forced hiatus in our Summer At UCD Study Abroad Program in the summer of 2020, we have worked hard over recent months to introduce a wide range of protocols that will allow us return to a new form of normal in 2021.

It's taken as read that we are keen to resume the provision of an experience that is something of a rite of passage for so many young college students, but we are absolutely aware of our obligations to do so in a manner that is as safe and supportive as is humanly possible.

It is our strong belief that we can re-engineer our Study Abroad programs without any loss in enjoyment or educational content, and that we can continue to deliver the social and cultural experience that is so central to international study.

We look forward immensely to welcoming back overseas students in summer of 2021, and the following pages will give you a detailed briefing on how we propose to do so in a safe and controlled environment.

Looking forward to seeing you all again very soon.

Suzanne Shorten.  
Program Director,  
Summer At UCD.



IRELAND'S NO. 1 DESTINATION FOR STUDY TOURS

Version 1.0 14/8/2020

# WHAT WILL CHANGE – AND WHAT WILL STAY THE SAME?

Here at Summer At UCD, our focus has always been on delivering an exceptional academic program, augmented by social and cultural activities that are an equal part of the experience – and one that will stay with students for many years to come.

In similar fashion to how we have re-engineered the experience that UCD offers our fulltime students, we have looked to ensure that our wide range of extra-curricular activities is retained – albeit in slightly amended formats. For example, we encourage our students to take part in outdoor tourism and cultural activities where possible.

On the educational front, all lectures will take place in our larger theatres and lecture halls, while smaller tutorial groups will also be accommodated in rooms that are more than capable of facilitating social distancing.

We will also be imposing very stringent measures on campus to ensure that both students and staff alike adopt all of the anti-Covid-19 measures recommended by our National Public Health Emergency Team, who have played a hugely important role in minimising the spread of the virus in Ireland.

The vast majority of these measures are the simple application of common sense, and should not in any way detract from what we believe will be an extra-special summer here in Dublin, as we welcome back all those visitors who we missed very badly this summer.



# A DYNAMIC SITUATION

The requirements and details within the following pages are accurate and relevant at the time of publication, but this is a very dynamic public health environment, so we would ask you to check back in on a regular basis to see any changes in our protocols.

You'll find them at [www.ucd.ie/summeratucd/covidprotocols](http://www.ucd.ie/summeratucd/covidprotocols)

Changes to our protocols are liable to be made in response to:

- New advice from the government and public health authorities of Ireland or the U.S.
- Significant increases in cases of Covid-19 directly linked to international travel.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Until such time as effective treatments or vaccines are available, it is impossible to guarantee against contracting Covid-19.

That said, student health and wellbeing will be central to our Summer At UCD offering, and we will do everything in our power to minimise the risks associated with overseas travel and study.



# BEFORE STUDENTS LEAVE HOME

Forward thinking is essential in minimising the risk of Covid-19 – not just for the student, but also for faculty, support staff and anyone they may come in contact with on their overseas journey.

We are asking all students and accompanying staff, if relevant, to adhere to the following procedures:

- Monitor their health for the 14 days before they depart, actively looking for any symptoms of Covid-19.
- Have themselves tested for Covid-19 in the week prior to departure, making sure to allow enough time to receive your results from the testing laboratory or institution.
- Pack a thermometer and use it on a daily basis to check temperature, both while travelling and while in Ireland.
- Pack sanitising gel for use in situations where none is provided.
- Pack a combination of disposable face masks and washable masks. These are mandatory on public transport in Ireland, and in many retail stores and tourist sites.
- Carry a mobile phone with an international data plan. This can be used for emergencies, and can also be used to download the Covid-19 tracking app which has been adopted by a huge percentage of our population in Ireland.
- Check with your airline to see if they will allow you to change your flight dates should quarantining be required in Ireland.



# SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS AROUND QUARANTINING

It is impossible to predict in advance if quarantining may be required when students arrive in Ireland during the summer of 2021. However, should this be the case, we will put the following provisions in place.

- During the quarantine period, the Summer at UCD team will carry out a daily check-in with students, who will be monitored for warning signs of Covid-19.
- Should any such warning symptoms be noted, we will immediately arrange for Covid-19 testing.
- We will also assist in contact tracing, making sure that any other students are safeguarded in a similar fashion.



# UPON ARRIVAL IN UCD

Our mutual health and safety are dependent upon the cooperation of all our students and staff. As part of the registration process, all students (and accompanying adults, if relevant) will be asked to sign a formal "Covid-19 Code of Conduct".

Failure to abide by the terms of this Code may result, in exceptional circumstances, in students being asked to leave our campus.

## INITIAL HEALTH SCREENING

The registration process will also include an initial health screening via a temperature check and a questionnaire on symptoms.

## FACE COVERINGS

All students must arrive on our campus with face masks and be prepared to use them in accordance with current or emerging on-the-ground regulations. Face coverings should be worn in all cases where social distancing is difficult or impossible, e.g. in communal dining areas or in retail settings.

## HAND WASHING

Hand washing on a regular basis is key to avoiding the spread of Covid-19. All staff and students should wash their hands frequently. It is recommended to wash with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, or where this is not possible, to use hand sanitiser. Hand sanitiser will be readily available throughout our campus.

## HEALTH MONITORING

Students must bring their own thermometer and use it to check their temperatures on a daily basis. This is particularly important during their first 14 days on campus. Any temperature spikes must be reported to UCD as quickly as possible.

## FRESH AIR

Students are encouraged to leave windows open while they are present in their accommodation, to ensure healthy ventilation levels that can minimise the spread of Covid-19. If you need to meet with fellow students for course work, we recommend that you do so in an outdoor environment, and practice social distancing.

## SYMPTOMS

If students are experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19, they should immediately notify UCD, who will make arrangements for any medical attention required.

## QUARANTINING WHILE SYMPTOMATIC

Separate quarantine accommodation is available for any students who have contracted Covid-19, and full arrangements will be made to ensure that they have regular supplies of food, medicine and other essentials delivered to them on a daily basis.

## TESTING

If students believe they may have symptoms of Covid-19, they should report this information to their faculty leader immediately, as well as to UCD, in order to arrange for prompt testing.

## CONTACT TRACING

All students and staff are required to participate fully in local contact tracing efforts, including signing in to all lectures, use of relevant apps, and signing in to any venues outside of our campus, e.g. restaurants or cafes.

## IMMUNOCOMPROMISED STUDENTS

In cases where a student may be immunocompromised, we recommend that they seek professional medical advice before deciding to travel overseas.



# LIFE ON CAMPUS

## PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

Wherever students go on campus, they will notice a range of preventative measures which have been put in place for their protection. These include:

- yellow floor mats setting out the social distancing requirements on the floors of buildings.
- sanitisation stations at all building entrances.
- separate entrance and exit points for buildings with one-way systems in operation, where possible, and a 'keep left' approach otherwise.
- single occupancy in lifts.
- reduced occupancy in all classrooms and lecture halls.
- regular and extensive deep cleaning of all residences.
- protective screens will be in place at all building reception or information desks.
- queueing systems will apply in all cafes and dining halls.

## HOUSING

Single, private rooms are provided for all students.

## SPLITTING OF GROUPS

For the first 14 days after arrival, students will be split into smaller groups for academic and social purposes.

## GUESTS WITHIN STUDENT HOUSING

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and in order to protect the safety and welfare of UCD, its staff, its summer visitors and all other persons, students shall not, at any time, invite, bring or allow any guests or other people to enter student housing.

## IMPLICATIONS ON OUR SOCIAL PROGRAMS

One of the most enjoyable aspects of a summer stay at UCD is our diverse range of social activities – both indoor and outdoor.

We will continue to offer such activities, but these will be re-examined in the light of Covid-19, and either re-engineered or changed to a substitute activity that will be safer and more secure.

We will place a higher emphasis on outdoor activities, where the risk of cross-infection is very significantly reduced.



# NEED TO HEAR MORE? I'M HERE TO HELP!

If you have any questions relating to the information in this Covid-19 Protocols Guide please feel free to contact me at any stage via the channels listed below.

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