

COVID-19 and Changing Policies for Student Assessment

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Kevin McStravock
USI Vice President for Academic Affairs

The story so far in Ireland...

- March 10 - Trinity College Dublin closes lecture theatres and other buildings, and announces that all lectures will be delivered online for the remainder of the semester
- March 12 - Irish Government announces the closure of schools and colleges until, at least March 29. All campuses are closed from 6pm that evening and begin preparation for online delivery of lectures.
- March 24 - Closure extended until at least April 20. A number of colleges announce that they won't reopen for the remainder of the semester.
- April 8 - Minister of State for Higher Education confirms that alternative arrangements for assessment have been finalised in all Higher Education institutions.

Alternative Assessments

- Alternative Assessments - Set in line with the learning needs of the programme
- Institutions, where possible, tried to minimise examinations for those not in an award year. Exams were facilitated through a variety of means including synchronous online examination or open-book, timed or untimed.
- Students' Unions involved in discussions at Academic Councils and COVID-19 committees.
- The 'No Detriment' question - No one size-fits-all approach to address student concerns. Mitigation policies agreed at an institutional level.
- Key Themes: Flexibility around repeats, additional powers for boards of examiners.

Top Tips for SUs

- Speak to the students you represent and find out what their concerns are and how these could be best addressed.
- Flexibility is key - some students will have specific needs that need to be facilitated through assessment, often on a case-by-case basis.
- Professionally Accredited Courses: There may be specific requirements within these programmes
- Student representatives should be in the meetings that these arrangements are being discussed - 'Nothing about us without us'.
- Communication is Key - make it clear, timely, and sensitively worded.