



University College Dublin
An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath

School of Economics
Current Plan for Postgraduate Programmes
In Autumn 2020

This version: 13 August 2020

This document provides the current plan for the School of Economics at UCD for the Autumn 2020 trimester. Note that these plans are subject to change as national health requirements, university plans, and other factors shift. While the evolving COVID-19 situation is difficult to predict and plan for, it is our hope that, by providing as much information as we can and keeping students informed, they can plan for the upcoming academic year as best they can.

The School of Economics' plan is based on three key goals: **safety, quality, and agility**. First and foremost, we aim to protect student and staff health as much as we are able given the current situation. Second, we are aiming to provide a high-quality learning experience despite the limitations in place. Third, we have designed our plan so that, if need be, we can shift to being entirely online with minimal disruption. While each of these requires some degree of tradeoff against the others, by developing a plan that includes on-campus instruction as well as high quality online delivery, we aim to provide a framework that enables students to construct an approach that works best for themselves as they aim to balance the various considerations in this unprecedented time.

Finally, please be aware that this document only applies to the courses delivered by the School of Economics. If you have questions on other courses, you should contact the relevant schools.

If you have further questions, please email economics@ucd.ie and we will do our best to answer your questions.

Professor Ron Davies

Head of School

Classroom policy: UCD's policy on masks follows that coming from the Department of Higher Education which is that masks must be worn at all times where 2m social distancing cannot be maintained. Among other times, this will likely be necessary during entering/leaving classrooms. It is the School of Economics expectation that masks will also be worn at all times in the classroom. There are students and staff in high risk groups and wearing your mask in the classroom helps protect their health as well as your own. We hope that people will be considerate of that and wear masks in classrooms even when social distancing is possible. If a student or staff member feels unsafe, they should leave the classroom immediately.

UCD's approach is that students and staff are personally responsible for cleaning whatever classroom spaces they use themselves. As such, in addition to bringing your mask to campus, you should plan on bringing cleaning materials to wipe down your desk space before the start of class.

If you feel unwell at all you should not come to campus. As detailed below, you can avail of any on campus teaching online, therefore you should stay at home and follow national guidelines.

While on campus: Social distancing is to be maintained whenever feasible while on campus. When this is not feasible, masks are to be worn. In addition, many buildings and rooms will be operating one-way systems. Please keep these in mind while waiting to enter a classroom, spending time on campus between activities, and so forth. In particular, certain ways in which you interact with staff will need to be changed. For example, since it will be necessary to clear one class out of the room quickly so that the next group can move in, clean their sitting places, and start on time, we ask you to wait until outside of the classroom to ask the lecturer questions (and don't forget to keep the 2m social distancing even then). Given the potential for congestion, this may mean that it might be best to simply ask questions via email (when an online meeting can be easily set up).

Economics and staff offices: Due to the small spaces, it is impossible to maintain social distancing in our office spaces. Therefore all meetings with staff should be done online. In addition to setting up appointments, all staff will have regularly scheduled online office hours. Further, particularly as our normal school office is under construction this autumn, the School office is not open to students. If you have a question, email economics@ucd.ie and we will answer the question by email or, if you prefer, by phone/video chat. We will also be establishing regular online chat times closer to the start of term.

MSc Programmes

Math and Stats Bootcamp

The mathematics and statistics bootcamp will be done online, running 7 September through 18 September. Lectures will be pre-recorded and made available for download. Please note that to access the lectures, you will need to be registered. Therefore you should register as soon as registration opens (currently 7 September). There will be three assessments: 11 September, 18 September, and then during the first week of classes (which start 21 September).

Lectures and tutorials

All lectures for our MSc classes will be done on campus. They will also be recorded and made available online for students who are unable to attend in person. Any tutorials will be done online. Note that there are currently no plans for online delivery in spring term. Further, while students are permitted to take electives outside of Economics, we cannot guarantee anything regarding the ability to take those courses online. Thus, in order to take the full course load online, this may restrict the options you choose.

Assessments

Assessments may be done online and/or in the classroom (with provision made for those who cannot be there in person). Details for individual modules will be provided at the start of term.

Expectations

UCD's expectation is that students will take advantage of as much of the on campus experience as possible. That said, the School of Economics recognizes that this is a very challenging time with different students facing different challenges including meeting the financial cost of living in Dublin, the need to care for others, and challenges in being away from family (especially if they are overseas). Thus, our approach allows those students for whom being on campus is a particular challenge to still take part in the high-quality education we aim to provide with no disadvantage.

Calendar (subject to changes)

Week of Term	Lectures/Tutorials
-2 (7 September)	Bootcamp
-1 (14 September)	Bootcamp
1 (21 September)	All classes
2	All classes
3	All classes
4	All classes
5	All classes
6 (26 October)	All classes
7	All classes

8	All classes
9	All classes
10	All classes
11	All classes
12 (7 December)	Lecture at instructor's discretion. This will be announced at start of term.
Exam Period:	14 -23 December

PhD Programme

Lectures

All lectures will be done on campus. They will also be recorded and available online for students who are unable to attend in person.

Assessments

Assessments may be done online and/or in the classroom (with provision made for those who cannot be there in person). Details for individual modules will be provided at the start of term.

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