The following Planning Assumptions (Learning and Teaching) for Academic Year 2021/22 have been agreed by the Learning and Teaching Academic Year Group, which is responsible for the University’s ongoing response to COVID-19 in terms of learning, teaching and assessment. Additionally, the Planning Assumptions have been approved by the University Executive and by the Senate Committee for Interim Business and Effectiveness (SCIBE) with regard to those relating to examinations.

Core Objectives Academic Year 2021/22

- To enable students to proceed with their studies alongside their peers, whatever pandemic-related restrictions are lifted or imposed in specific contexts.

- To progressively enhance the quantity and range of on-campus / in person educational and student life opportunities available to our student communities.

Delivery of core objectives to be undertaken within context of relevant governmental and regulatory guidelines.

Planning Assumptions Academic Year 2021/22

1. The University to follow the published academic calendar for academic year 2021/22

2. The delivery model to remain Responsive Blended Learning (RBL).

3. There will be a Consolidation Week in Week 6 of Semester 1 and Semester 2, and also where teaching takes place in the April/May – August/September period.

4. The Semester 1 Examination Diet to be conducted in the take-home format only.

5. The Semester 2 and summer resit Examination Diets to include (by exception) an option to conduct through in-person/on-campus delivery within the following parameters:
   a) In person/on campus examinations to be offered in two cases only
      i) where required by relevant PSRBs
      ii) where deemed by the academic Schools to be educationally essential
   b) in person examinations to be offered at the five campus locations only

6. The maximum class size for in-person / on-campus delivery at all campus locations to be set at 50 for the entire academic year 2021/22.

7. Staff workloads to be managed proactively by Schools and Professional Services within standard University HR guidelines.

8. The student experience to be progressively enriched during the year through a managed approach to increased in-person/on campus educational and student life engagement opportunities.

9. A University-wide plan for prioritising particular student groups to access on-campus educational and student life opportunities to be developed in consultation with Schools and Professional Services.