

# Tyndall Access Updates for PG Students

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## Important info from UCC & CIT during lockdown:

- Collated information: <https://www.tyndall.ie/student-updates-and-resources-during-COVID-19>
- UCC FAQ: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/emt/covid19/student-faq/>. UCC Graduate Studies Office (GSO) will also be sending students emails to students' email account, so please check them frequently too!
- CIT has also many updates (<https://covid19.cit.ie/>)
- UCC IEO: info for all international and non-EU students: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/studyatucc/international/websitepdfs/studentadvisorymarch2020.pdf>

# Wellbeing

- Your safety and wellbeing is paramount.
- Tyndall HR regularly communicates wellbeing resources via bboard, including mindfulness and pilates tips, amongst others. Worth checking them out!
- Also check: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/students/wellbeing/> as examples.
- Access back to Tyndall focus on safety to ensure public guidelines are strictly followed.

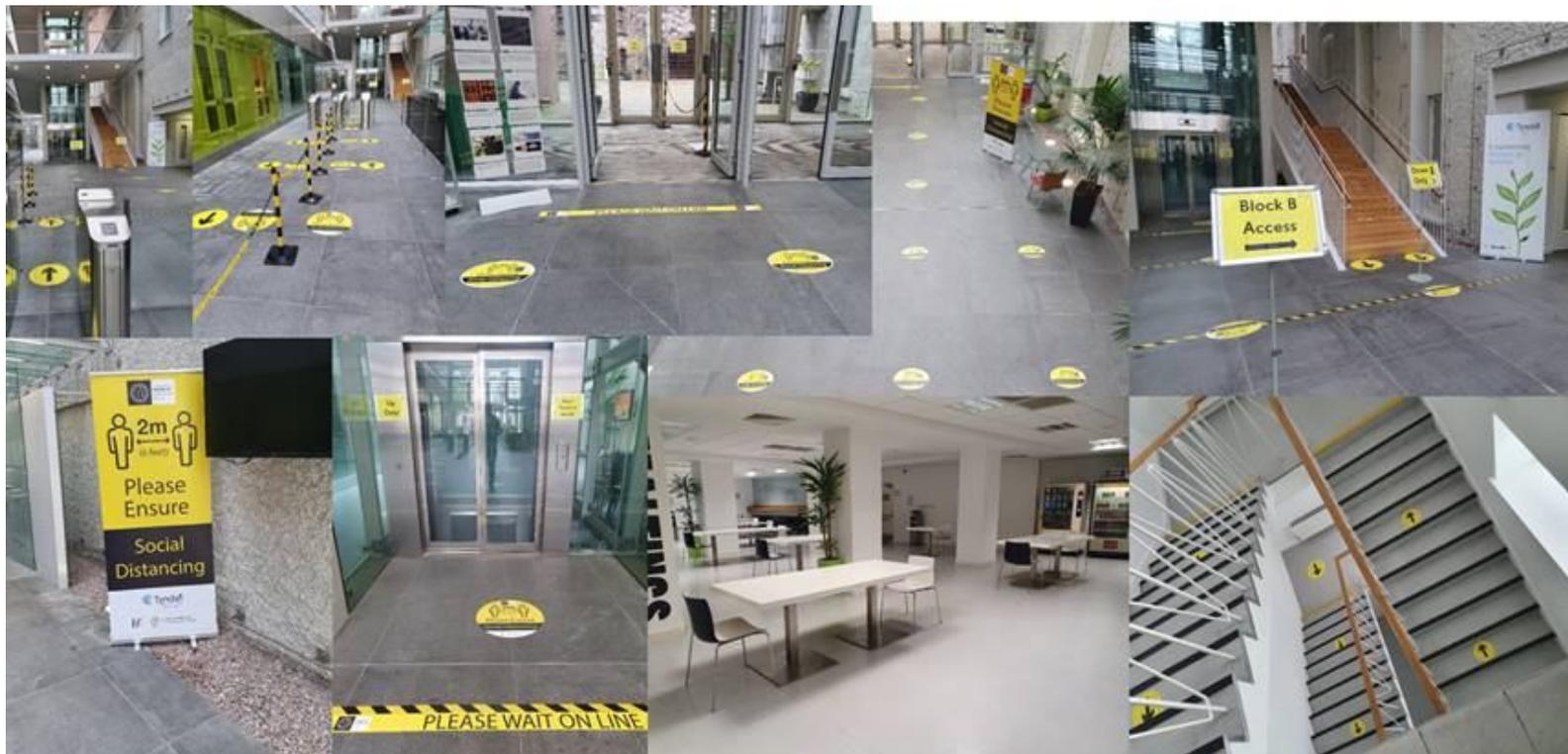
# When are we back to normal?

- Determined by Government guidelines - **recommended read** (*click on bold underlined text for link*)
  - [Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business](#) (announced 1st May 2020)
  - [Return to Work Safely Protocol](#) (announced 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020)
- But even then return “back to normal” will be different than before COVID-19.
- **All work should continue to be remote as far as possible**, as per Government guidelines.
- Student access to labs:
  - Slow and gradual, based on a set of criteria and protocols (and risk assessments!)
  - Critical planned experiment (in particular final year students) will be allowed from June 1<sup>st</sup> (albeit fulfilling trail of criteria), and for a defined time window.
  - Maintaining safe distancing.
  - No office work foreseeable for a while.

## Is Tyndall enabling access?

- Tyndall is part of UCC's Emergency Response Team & Research Business Continuity Group, and contributing in drafting consistent guidelines across campus.
- Only three centres started to open under strict guidelines: Tyndall, BSI, ERI.
- Tyndall Covid-19 Response Team has been working to enable access to staff and students:
  - Tyndall Response Plan (available on QT9 - TYN-SW-PLN-9)
  - Response addresses all 12-points under Government guidelines
  - Access request managed by Heads of Centre (HoC) with Heads of Group (HoG)

# How is Tyndall looking like now? Managing social distancing



## Who are the Heads of Centre?

- Heads of Centre are:
  - Paul Townsend (Photonics)
  - Cian O'Mathuna (MNS, and EIRC for the moment)
  - Donnacha O'Riordan (MCCI)
  - Graeme Maxwell (SP&S)

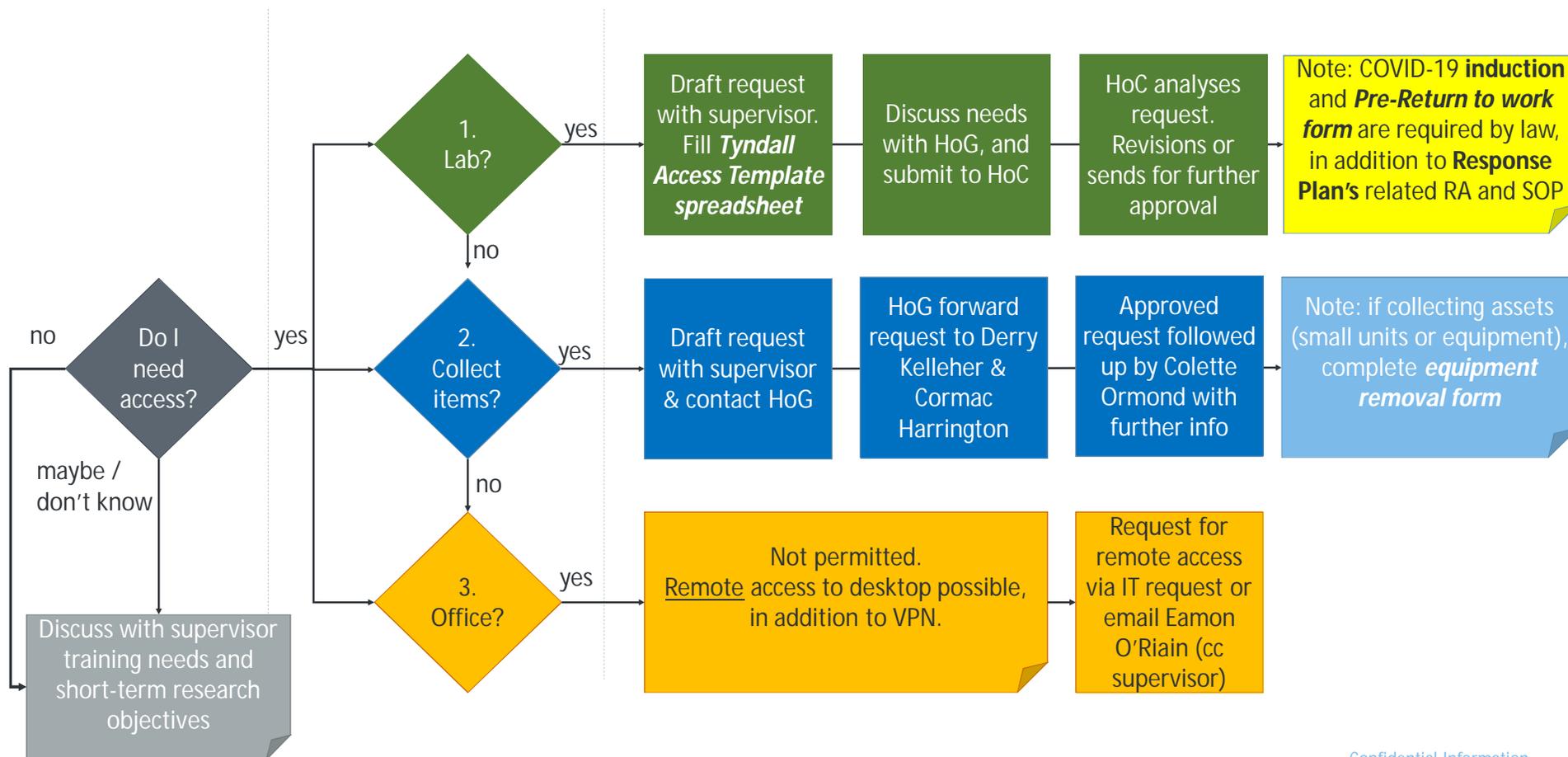
# I need access, what do I do?

- Discuss with your supervisor
- Use the **workflow in the next slide** to figure out which process to follow:
  1. Return to labs: task-specific and time-limited
  2. Access to collect small items: short internal process
  3. Office work: not permitted
- All Heads of Group and Heads of Centre have full information on access protocol, and are the points of contact once decision with supervisor is agreed.
- Worth reading before any process:
  - **Return to Work Safely Protocol** (*click on the bold/underlined text for link*)
  - Tyndall Response Plan on QT9 (TYN-SW-PLN-9, Rev1)

# Workflow for request for access

**QT9 documentation:**

PRWF form: TYN-SW-REQ-9, Rev1  
 Response Plan: TYN-SW-PLN-9, Rev1  
 Tyndall Access Schedule Template: TYN-SW-TPL-47, Rev0



# Brief Prioritisation Framework for Access PG research students perspective

- Priority 1: Projects which have critical and significant milestones:
  - Includes later stage PhD/MSc projects where final or follow up fabrication, characterisation or experimental work is critical and essential to complete study and there is no option to re-frame the project.
- Priority 2: Projects with consortium dependencies or other multiplier effects
  - Some PhD project activity may be considered where the results will be critical to determining the future path of study, i.e., the impact of short-term access is significant (a multiplier of impact), and there are no other alternatives available for this specific programme.
- Priority 3: All other Research work:
  - All other research access is of equal priority, including funded work (SFI, EI, EU or any other source) and unfunded or internally funded work. This includes all student projects where the exceptions mentioned above do not apply.

## Q & A

*Q: Will these restrictions & priorities last forever?*

- All access processes are subjective to change depending on Governmental guidelines and approvals by UCC Emergency Response Team, UCC Research Business Continuity Group, and Tyndall Covid-19 Response Team. It is likely that social distancing guidelines will remain for a while.

*Q: My colleagues in other places in campus and CIT were granted access with less processes, why can't you just follow them?*

- Our processes are based on the guidelines from the government and the three bodies above dealing with this crisis. Tyndall labs follow strict safety guidelines normally and is ISO credited that allows us to have industrial customers too. We need to ensure that students, staff, industry partners and contractors are all working safely under the same roof. Different institutes have different challenges.

*Q: My colleagues in Europe are already working in full speed, why can't we do the same?*

- Each research institute in each country are following their own governmental guidelines, so we have to follow ours too. There are some differences, but social distancing is the norm across the world, with <30% occupancy at any given time, hence a priority list & tracking number of people in campus is required.

*Q: Are there any modules running in the summer?*

- We will keep you posted about it. So far, we don't foresee any.

*Q: I am fed up in lockdown, I don't have a suitable place to work and it has really affected my ability to work, what should I do?*

- It is a tough time, and we acknowledge that many don't have appropriate facilities, a desk, and live in shared accommodation. It is important to talk to your supervisor about these issues, and how can we mitigate. Check our own website for guidance. Changing objectives, learning something new like coding, for example, can boost your creativity and morale, in addition to look after your health. If you are feeling low, please reach out to The Student Counselling & Development telesupport service and/or the crisis helpline: UCC' to 086 1800 280 to chat anonymously with a trained volunteer 24/7. More information on our website too!

# Modules

- Notification of all modules running via email to postgrads mailing list

## **PG6030 Reproducible Research Practices using R**

- Details emailed June 11<sup>th</sup> 2020
- Commencing Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June
- Contact Brendan Palmer to reserve place. Register online once place confirmed

## **Postgraduate Modules in Teaching and Learning**

- Details emailed June 9<sup>th</sup> 2020
- **PG6003**: Teaching and Learning Module for Graduate Studies
- **PG6027** Going Public: Publishing Research in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education
- **PG6012** Scholarly Approaches to Teaching and Learning in Higher Education
- Contact Claire Devaney, CIRTL, to reserve a place and register

# Modules

How do I see my module results?

Login: [www.mystudentadmin.ucc.ie](http://www.mystudentadmin.ucc.ie)

My module results aren't included

**Did you register for the modules?** <https://www.tyndall.ie/module-information>

Yes, contact the lecturers to return the results to SREO

No, register for the modules and then contact the lecturers to return the results to SREO

PhD Eng Sc Modules (SE)

PhD Eng Sc exam board held in Autumn (end August/September)

## Final remarks – final year students

- UCC details: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/emt/covid19/student-faq/>, for example:
  - Registration

I am due to submit on 3rd April 2020 but I need more time due to the University closure, can this be facilitated?

Yes, a no-cost extension to the July 3rd 2020 deadline, will be facilitated for all research students planning to submit on April 3rd 2020, and whose registration or 3-month grace-period will expire on 31 March 2020. This extension may be revised if the current situation changes.

My research has been affected by the COVID-19 university closure. Can I avail of a no-cost extension for this time?

Yes, to avail of the no-cost extension you should complete the [COVID-19 Extension Request form](#) and return it to

EU Students: [presearch@ucc.ie](mailto:presearch@ucc.ie) Non-EU Student: [annemarie.scarry@ucc.ie](mailto:annemarie.scarry@ucc.ie)

- Viva-voice remotely

My viva voce is due to take place during the University closure i.e. before 29 March 2020. How will this be managed?

The UCC procedure for viva voce examinations during the closure is available [here](#).

Any concerns, please reach out!

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