Open Letter to Incoming First Year Trinity College Nursing & Midwifery Students

7th September 2021

Dear incoming first year student,

Welcome to the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Trinity College Dublin. My name is Damien Brennan, I am the Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning at our School. I am looking forward to welcoming you to our School, which is the highest ranked School of Nursing and Midwifery in Ireland. Congratulations on all the hard work you put into securing a place at Trinity College.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented challenge for us all, the response to this crisis by our clinical partners, our academic and professional staff, and our student body has been one of solidarity, flexibility and professionalism. Our existing students have been innovative, caring and brave in their work across practice placements, and have proven themselves to be an exceptional group of people. I am delighted that you are able to join this student body in 2021.

Trinity College is a wonderful place to learn. Our School is a place where world leading academics are directly involved in undergraduate student education. Our research and teaching are focused on maximising the health of all in Ireland and providing quality care across a range of settings including Children’s Nursing, General Nursing, Intellectual Disability Nursing, Mental Health Nursing, and Midwifery.

There is a collective hope that we are entering an end phase of the COVID-19 emergency, however, there remains a good degree of unpredictability. Each year of your course comprises of a combination of clinical/practice placements, theory/classroom teaching and clinical skills teaching. As a whole, TCD is taking a cautious approach with regard to the phased reopening of face-to-face on campus teaching. **Up to Reading Week (week commencing 25th October) your clinical skills teaching days will be delivered face to face and theory/classroom teaching will be delivered online.** After Reading Week we will increase face to face theory/classroom teaching, should the public health context allow. This approach best places us to continue to secure in person face to face access to all Midwifery and Nursing clinical/practice settings. You will appreciate that maintaining such access to front line services is complex and challenging and needs to be prioritized.

Your PDF group timetables will be available for you to view in your course admin folder in Blackboard as soon as you have registered, at which time you will also be allocated to a designated tutorial group. In addition, as a means of enabling easy direct access to all online classes during your Orientation Week (week commencing 20th September), below is a one-page document with direct links. Should have any queries please contact mnugrad@tcd.ie.

At its core, Trinity College is a community of people. It is my hope that over the coming years you will become part of that community.

I look forward to meeting with you during the 2021-2022 academic year.

Best regards,

Professor Damien Brennan
Director of Undergraduate Teaching & Learning
School of Nursing & Midwifery
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