

Monday, 14th September, 2020 (14/09/20)



Trinity College Dublin Students' Union
House 6,
Trinity College Dublin,
Dublin 2.

In preparation for the start of term at the end of September, Trinity College Dublin Students' Union has been working hard to secure new student spaces and prepare guidelines for the maintenance of existing spaces.

We've worked closely with the College thus far and we are delighted to announce that a variety of new student spaces will be made available for student recreation this coming term. As we've learned in the past few months, many rooms on campus are not compatible with social distancing guidelines, however these extra spaces announced today will hopefully offset those losses.

These spaces will function from 9am to 6pm with the purpose of providing students on campus a place for respite, and to eat in between face-to-face lectures. These spaces can also be used for students to attend online lectures in between face-to-face lectures.

These spaces will be bookable and operate in 45 minute slots with a 15 minute gap to clean and prepare for the next booking. Each student space will also be professionally cleaned every morning by college staff.

We're working hard to ensure that these spaces are compliant with government guidelines and capacities will be in line with those recommendations. We expect to be able to accommodate 430-480 students per hour across all student spaces when term begins.

These spaces will also be available to societies so that they can host limited attendance, socially distant society events.

As confirmed by the Provost on twitter, each student space will have €1 coffees, hot water and micro-waves available to use. We ask that students take care of these facilities and ensure that their cleanliness is maintained to ensure student safety.

We have received a commitment from Trinity Catering to make the Dining Hall available as a student space during their opening hours. The Zón Mac Leinn in the Buttery Vaults will be available after the Buttery and Dining Hall close.

As you may have seen already, the College is in the process of erecting marquees in both New Square and Botany Bay. These structures will serve as recreational and student space throughout the year.

The Union has also secured use of the former Bank of Ireland branch attached to the Hamilton Building. We're working with the College at the moment to develop this into a welcoming and accessible student space.

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The Goldsmith Lobby and Junior Common Room, the TBSI knowledge exchange, the Bullnose outside the tercentenary hall and the Old Stone Building in St James' Hospital will remain open as student spaces this year.

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, a number of smaller student spaces such as the Students' Union Kitchen will not be available at the start of term. This is a disappointing side effect of government guidelines but the decision has been made with the safety of the college community in mind.

Alongside these spaces, there will be job openings made available to students to supervise student spaces. These stewards will be tasked with managing bookings, maintaining the spaces and ensuring guidelines are adhered to. These stewards will be trained by Catering staff and will be provided with PPE by the College. We're hoping to advertise these jobs in the coming weeks and are looking forward to providing work for students in such uncertain times.

The Union would like to thank the GSU, Estates and Facilities, I.T. Services, Trinity Catering, The Provost, The Dean of Students, The Disability Service, the College safety officer and The Director of Student Services for their patience and support throughout this process. We would also like to thank all those who voiced their concerns about the lack of space available for students in the coming year.

Kind Regards,

Trinity College Dublin Students' Union

Eoin Hand,
Megan O'Connor,
Leah Keogh,
Philly Holmes,
Hugh McInerney