COVID-19 Measures to University Teaching Spaces



University of Southampton



Planning and implementation of social distancing measures, in response to COVID-19, to c.350 teaching rooms across the entire University estate. Operating in three teams this involved physically surveying and assessing safe teaching capacities in each room and making the required alterations, including removal of surplus furniture and physical installation of supplementary items to promote a safe teaching environment for staff/ students.

This reactive project had to be designed, procured and delivered within a challenging two-month period to ensure the teaching spaces were available to accommodate teaching at the start of the new academic year.





Key challenges/features

- / Assisted the Client in developing of an agreed set of social distancing guidelines/measures specific to teaching spaces, and various work packages/measures in response to Covid-19 such as signage, stickers, cleaning stations and protective screens.
- / Delivery of the above measures to approximately 350 teaching rooms, ranging from small lecture rooms to large lecture theatres and specialist teaching laboratories, spread across 6 different campus' in Southampton and Winchester, including Southampton General Hospital.
- Responsible for assessing the safe teaching capacity of each room, based on the agreed social distancing guidelines, re-configuring teaching spaces to achieve the reduced capacity as well as installation of Covid-19 measures.
- / Required regular 'live' reporting of revised capacities to aid the development of the Client's timetabling schedule, and production of updated room layouts.
- / Logistics of identifying storage for a large volume of furniture items and managing/coordinating the removal/transportation of these items into storage.
- / Complex strategy and logistics planning required to implement the measures, on a phased basis in line with availability/delivery of materials, across a large number of rooms within a short timescale.
- / Fast track procurement and delivery programme in response to Covid-19 and the requirement to put in place robust social distancing measures across the University Estate before the start of the new academic year.
- / Involving extensive Client stakeholder liaison with Central Timetabling as well as identifying and engaging with local Faculty contacts to understand the use of practical teaching spaces.
- / Working safely in accordance with Covid-19 limitations

Rekan scope

- / **Project Management** / Overall project coordination/management including consultant scopes/appointments, Client/User briefing, design management/coordination, programme/logistics/risk management, Client reporting, stakeholder management/liaison.
- / Cost Management / Overall financial management including consultant appointments, cost planning, cost reporting, value engineering, contractor procurement/commercial management.
- / Construction Management / FF&E briefing/procurement, management of equipment migration from existing facilities, removals contractor procurement/management.
- / Relocation Management / Development of Pre-Construction Information, H&S audits/reviews, design review/risk assessment, general H&S coordination/management in lead designer capacity, H&S file assembly.