As Chancellor of the Acsenda School of Management it is my great pleasure to congratulate those who are graduating and to thank the whole Acsenda community: students, faculty and staff, for all that they have done to make this possible.

This year's graduates are a unique cohort. In the coming years we at Acsenda will think of you as the 'COVID-19 students' and the next generations will regard your experience with awe. You have demonstrated admirable flexibility and adaptability in switching to remote learning in a matter of days, switching back to the classroom and then going online again. Even more remarkably, your performance and your engagement with your studies increased steadily through these upheavals. I congratulate you on your tenacity.

We believe that the courses and programmes that you have studied at Acsenda will be a great foundation for your future careers. But this cohort of graduates will take away much more than an academic qualification. However good your education at Acsenda was, we all know that in these fast-changing times you will all need to be lifelong learners. You will need to continue building your skills and knowledge throughout your lives.

Juggling your jobs, your families, your social life and your future studies requires good habits of personal organisation and time management. These are the just the sorts of skills that you have developed this year through the upheavals of COVID-19 and the changes of teaching and learning formats that Acsenda has thrown at you.

What's more, you have also acquired the skills to study online and to learn independently. The most appropriate opportunities for your professional development in the future will usually come in the form of online and distance courses from a variety of providers. There are huge and diverse opportunities for lifelong learning out there and you are equipped to take full advantage of them, wherever your lives and career take you.

Acsenda is very proud of you. We hope that you will look back on your time here with affection. Who knows, when you look back in future years you may think that you were actually fortunate to be our COVID-19 graduates.

Either way, I express to you the good wishes of everyone at Acsenda. May you lead fulfilling lives and careers wherever fortune takes you.

Thank you for studying with us!