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Providing a High Quality Student Experience

UCD believes that every student should experience world-class teaching and learning in the context of an overall university experience that enriches the individual and realises his or her full potential.

The goal at UCD is to provide an outstanding infrastructure of modern, well-equipped buildings and facilities. In such a physical setting, students can blend the academic element of their studies with an enjoyment of the social, sporting and cultural aspects that form an integral part of a rounded student life.

UCD aims to be a socially inclusive institution. In developing a series of proactive recruitment programmes, UCD recognises that it must also reach out to potential students who, while requiring assistance, guidance or preparation to enter higher education will benefit greatly and contribute significantly to the learning community and to society.

The university has also put sophisticated support mechanisms in place to ensure that at all times students have the backup and advisory services they need.

UCD faces greater competition than ever for the best students in a global marketplace. School leavers are ambitious and the choices available to students preparing to enter third and fourth level are widening. To meet this challenge, UCD is constantly enhancing the range of services it offers to its students so that their talents are realised and they become highly competent individuals, well placed to excel in their chosen careers and their lives.



Facility Development: Capital Projects

Library

IT Services

Careers and Employment

Widening Participation

Financial Assistance for Students

Student Support, Chaplaincy and Student Advisers

Sport

Music

Student Societies

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT: CAPITAL PROJECTS

A modern, world-class infrastructure is essential to support the ambitious goals of the university. Outstanding facilities are required for students in a research-intensive university where students are taught and learn in an atmosphere of advanced scholarship. UCD's aim is to provide a campus setting that is quantitatively and qualitatively the best in the Irish university sector and comparable to the best internationally.

The Belfield campus is one of UCD's most valuable resources. To ensure its sustainable development, UCD has prepared a Campus Development Plan which will chart out the buildings and amenities for the university over the coming decade. The plan sets out the development of a sustainable and living campus, with the provision of commercial, educational and cultural facilities in locations that invite in the wider community.

CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Four key themes drive the overall plan:

- Academic building projects;
- Student and community life;
- Knowledge economy and innovation park;
- Engagement with the wider community through the Gateway Project.

UCD is committed to providing a pedestrian-friendly campus where students, staff, neighbours, friends and visitors will have a pleasant and memorable encounter with a top-quality modern university campus in a

flourishing city and county. This commitment includes a vision for world-class architecture and a more than ten-fold increase in the boundary woodland and network of pedestrian walkways.

UCD's vision of the future does not cloud its commitment to the existing campus or its local neighbours. UCD recognises the significance of the existing campus buildings, many of which feature award winning architecture. In an effort to enhance these buildings a refurbishment scheme is currently being progressed.

All new development will be mindful of its location, intended users and will be designed for maximum efficiency and sustainability. There is ample room to accommodate the required new building spaces and continue to develop the "green campus" feel. Provision for increased access capacity to the university along the N11 is included as an objective in this plan to support the proposed development within the Campus Gateway.



*Campus
Development Plan
brochure*

Over time, parking will be accommodated in multi-storey car park structures located near the campus entrances, thereby providing a pedestrian zone in the core of the campus. UCD is currently preparing an integrated parking management plan to better serve and manage car parking on campus which will further support and encourage the use of public transport by all campus users.

The draft UCD Campus Development Plan 2005 - 2010 - 2015 was put on public display in June 2006 and local residents, business owners and members of the university community offered their views on the plan. These views will be incorporated in its implementation.

An audiovisual presentation of the plan is available at: www.ucd.ie/news/jun06/062006_campus_dev.htm

PROJECTS COMPLETED AND CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS

Health Sciences

Phase 2 of Health Sciences is well advanced with occupation expected by Christmas 2006. This will enable the relocation of all of the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science activities currently supported in Earlsfort Terrace to the Belfield campus. The budget for this phase is €41m. The Health Science library is being delivered as part of this phase and will become a focal point for all students in Health Sciences.

Funding from the Department of Transport has been authorised to construct a 2200 m² facility to which the Medical Bureau of Road Safety will be transferred from its current location at Earlsfort Terrace in late 2007. The new four-storey building will provide offices, diagnostic and research laboratories, seminar rooms and associated support accommodation.

UCD Research

The construction of an extension to the Tierney Building will be complete by late 2006, providing office and meeting room accommodation for research administration. This copper clad building will generate a high profile centre to reflect the university's drive for research excellence.

Global Irish Institute

The first phase of UCD's Global Irish Institute was completed in 2006 with the conversion of the former

University Industry Centre. The new facility contains the William Jefferson Clinton Auditorium, a component of UCD's William Jefferson Clinton Centre for American Studies. The remaining academic and reception facilities of the William Jefferson Clinton Centre will be located at Belfield House which is currently being extensively refurbished. Construction is proceeding to programme and the building is scheduled for completion in late 2006.

Richview

Construction works are in progress to develop laboratory, office and teaching facilities designed to accommodate the transfer of Civil Engineering activities from Earlsfort Terrace to the Belfield Campus at a projected cost of €10m.

Other developments at this location include accommodation for:

- Landscape Architecture (relocating from UCD Agriculture and Food Science Centre);
- Institute of Sport Offices;
- Sports High Performance Units;
- Library Storage.



Blackrock Library

A generous private donation has enabled the conversion and extensive restoration of the former main church (Victorian chapel) to provide approximately 800m² of new library facilities at the UCD Michael Smurfit School of Business.

Glenomena Residence Phase 3

Completion of Phase 3 of the Glenomena Residence at a total cost of €12.9m in late summer 2006 provided an additional 168 student places which are now in full occupation. The Glenomena Residence now has accommodation for almost 760 students including two apartments fitted out with enabled access features.

The Victorian chapel under restoration and conversion to a library at the UCD Michael Smurfit School of Business



Roebuck Residence Phase 1

Commissioning of the first phase of Roebuck Residence has resulted in the introduction of 50 new apartments (300 beds) for September 2006, at a cost of €24.5m. This brings the university student accommodation to 2,800 beds.

UCD Science Centre Restaurant

The redevelopment of the UCD Science Centre Restaurant was completed in late summer 2006 for a budget of €1.6m. This new facility introduces a late night food option to the Belfield campus. Operated by the Kylemore Foods Group, the new facility will encourage student interaction and provide support for the development of a 24/7 campus.

Belfield Main Restaurant

Refurbishment of the main Restaurant building was completed in late summer 2006 at a cost of €0.6m as part of ongoing phased work to upgrade the building. It now incorporates retail units occupied by a post office, a computer accessories and recycling unit, and a student travel outlet.

Arts and Human Sciences Programme Office

Refurbishment of the accommodation within the Newman building enabled the establishment of the new Arts and Human Sciences Programme Office.

Belfield Bowl

Planning permission has been received for the redevelopment of the Belfield Bowl. Proposed improvement works include the provision of additional seating, floodlighting and other facilities necessary to meet licencing and safety requirements. This will facilitate the relocation of UCD Soccer to the Belfield Bowl.

UCD Complex Adaptive Systems Laboratory (CASL)

The university has leased office accommodation at Belfield Office Park to provide facilities for research activity associated with informatics, mathematics, engineering, systems biology, and future research groups. Enabling works include communication and pedestrian access links to the Belfield Campus while refurbishment of the new space will be complete by late October 2006.

PROJECTS AT DESIGN OR CONCEPT STAGE

Gateway Project

The UCD Gateway Project aims to fulfil two fundamental objectives - to provide a signature entrance to UCD from the N11, and to create an opening or bridgehead to the community and to our alumni. Set in the context of the new Campus Development Plan the Gateway also has the aspiration of assisting in the development of the 24/7 campus. The facilities of the Gateway will be available to students, staff and the community alike.

Current plans for the Gateway envisage an exhibition centre, an arthouse cinema with associated facilities for film studies, a pedestrian and public transport friendly entrance, retail and dining outlets, a medical centre, a hotel linked to O'Reilly Hall to support UCD conferencing and a mall linking the entrance to the central spine of the campus at the Newman Building. Office buildings, targeted at knowledge intensive businesses, with a desire to interact with the university, will also be included.

An international architectural competition to develop an overall design for the Gateway will be launched at the end of October 2006 and it is hoped to announce the winner in April 2007.



New student accommodation on campus

All new student accommodation is wireless enabled

High quality student accommodation



UCD Science District

The development of the UCD Science District will provide a transformative resource for Irish science. At its core will be a redeveloped UCD Science Centre which will act as a highly visible, high quality and inspiring showpiece and resource at a university, national and international level. The centre will provide facilities which will attract the highest quality students, graduates and staff in the fields of science and engineering.

The National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation envisages major investment in science infrastructure and human resources with a view to securing continued economic growth in Ireland. The success of this strategy will be marked by increased participation in the sciences, increased numbers of people with advanced qualifications, enhanced contribution by research to economic and social development, transformational change in the quality and quantity of research and increased trans-national research activity. It will also lead to an enhanced international profile for Ireland and greater coherence and exploitation of synergies nationally and internationally. The development of UCD Science District with UCD Science Centre at its hub will enable Ireland's largest and most diverse science community to make a major contribution to this strategy.

The preparation of a building brief for the UCD Science Centre is currently underway in consultation with the stakeholders. The Project Director is Professor Michael Monaghan who is supported by a project team and an academic steering committee. It is envisaged that the development will include major expansion and extensive refurbishment of the current 32,000 m² of science building accommodation.

Student Centre 2 and Swimming Pool

Following the successful student referendum and levy approval to fund an extension to the Student Centre, preparation of a building brief is ongoing. The complex will provide additional leisure, recreational and support facilities including a debating chamber, theatre, media centre, swimming pool and fitness centre.

Graduate Centre

Development of a building brief for a new Graduate Centre has begun. This state-of-the-art building will provide facilities designed to meet the unique needs of the graduate and postdoctoral community at UCD.



Belfield Innovation Park

The Campus Development Plan sets out the proposed development of the Belfield Innovation Park at the N11/ Fosters Avenue corner of the campus. This will leverage the establishment of the NovaUCD innovation centre at Merville House and will encourage the future development of industry links with the university.

The National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT) will form the next phase of development in this sector. NIBRT will be based at the Belfield Innovation Park and will offer world-class training and research programmes in a purpose-built building. It is funded by IDA Ireland and it is intended that the building will be operational by 2008.

Crèche and Staff Accommodation

Planning permission has been sought for much needed additional crèche facilities and staff accommodation to be located adjacent to University Lodge.

UCD Quinn School of Business

LIBRARY

Student Services

The strategy of UCD Library is to support the advancement of UCD's status as a leading research-intensive university by providing services and facilities that deliver a high-quality student experience. To achieve this, the Library will increase both print and online collections substantially, will enhance the physical learning environment, will provide an extended portfolio of virtual library services on a 24/7 basis, and will integrate library services with e-learning developments in the university.

PROGRESS TO DATE

The new automated access system enabled opening hours during term time to be increased to 96.5 hours per week, the longest opening hours of any university library in Ireland.

A further 2,000 online journals and databases were added to the Library's holdings through the IReL initiative to support scientific research. The second phase of this initiative, to improve online library resources in the humanities and social sciences, has commenced.

The study and learning environment in the UCD James Joyce Library was upgraded with a refurbished reception area, a new reference desk and several new group study rooms on level 2, a new-look general reference area, and the activation of wireless connections for laptop users. Several quiet areas were expressly designated for those who wish to study free from the distraction of laptops and other electronic devices.

Improved physical accommodation is also progressing. The new library in the UCD Health Sciences Centre is nearing completion, and work is also well progressed on the conversion of a former church into a new library for the Blackrock campus. Both libraries are expected to open in 2007.

Improvements to the physical library were complemented by a number of innovative enhancements to the online library service. These included the introduction of a pilot online reference and enquiry service using Windows/MSN chat facilities; the provision of RSS feeds to enable users to keep up to date with frequently used web sites; and a pilot direct delivery document supply service in which items requested on interlibrary loan are delivered direct to the requester's desktop, instead of having to be collected in print form from the library.

The ongoing integration of library services into the campus portal, UCD Connect, enables students to access their library accounts along with email and course information.

A new initiative to promote online library services was undertaken through the organisation of a library "roadshow" in the UCD Student Centre in March, at which library staff were on hand to demonstrate online services and facilities, and to answer questions.

A new online reading list facility was provided; operated in conjunction with academic staff, this offers students a direct link from an online reading list to a variety of learning resources.

The modularisation of academic programmes enabled the Library to engage more fully in the learning process by delivering several information skills modules on behalf of Schools.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

Research resources will be further enhanced with a substantial increase in the number of online journals in the humanities and social sciences.

A new signage system is planned to make the library easier to use.

Online library developments will continue. A new podcast guide to the library is being planned; a range of subject channels, providing information and links to online resources, will be provided in *UCD Connect*; and an online repository for the university's research output will be established.

New initiatives in information skills training will include new web pages, an online tutorial, and the preparation and delivery of a comprehensive information skills module as part of the structured PhD programme.

IT SERVICES

Student Services

Developing a digital campus with 24/7 access for staff and students is the core objective for UCD IT Services. In August 2006 a unified central IT Service was created which will deliver academic and administrative systems, research IT, teaching and learning technologies and UCD web services. The focus is moving to a laptop environment where IT is an integral part of student learning. Wireless and flexible access facilities are provided throughout the campus for quick and easy use of IT. The UCD Connect Portal and Blackboard eLearning environment provide worldwide access to IT services and academic materials.



PROGRESS TO DATE

All incoming UCD undergraduates receive a 256 MB disk-key, free IT induction course and a detailed information guide on using IT services. The Daedalus IT Centre is the support hub for students and staff - typical activity levels at start of term show:

- 3,000 wireless laptops in use daily on campus;
- 3,700 incoming students attended IT induction courses;
- 6,000 daily users of eLearning services;
- 100,000+ emails delivered per day;
- 20,000 weekly users of UCD Connect portal service.

Dedicated access facilities for rapid internet and email services are provided in social spaces to allow students to use IT routinely throughout their course.

Research IT Data Centre

In support of the research mission of the university, a Research Data Centre was developed in 2006 that provides the capacity to host high performance computing equipment essential to major research groups. The development of the Research IT Service at UCD is the result of dedicated input from Academic and IT Services staff and with substantial funding from UCD, HEA and SFI. This landmark data centre facility allows us to provide dedicated services for the research community and to create the technology environment which will support computer intensive projects across all disciplines.

Wireless Access

The Belfield Campus now has 400 wireless access points which provide seamless internet access in all the main social spaces - campus cafes, Student Centre, Arts and Science buildings. Fully wireless buildings such as the Quinn School, Health Science and the UCD Conway Institute allow flexible working for staff and students. All new residences have been fitted with wireless access and older residences are being retro-fitted to provide access.

IT for Teaching and Learning

To promote the use of laptops in teaching, a laptop cart system was introduced in September 2005 and has proved very popular with staff and students. New IT Centres have been opened in the Newman and Health Science buildings, which provide drop-in "help and advice" services at convenient locations. The centres have laptop access areas and dedicated IT support staff. This initiative has been followed with a laptop loan scheme for students, which operates from the IT Centres.

Integrating IT into campus life is achieved through the development of convenient access facilities. The provision of 40 internet access points in the Newman building in the open plan area has generated a high level of activity and increased profile for IT Services.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

UCD IT Services is committed to developing IT as an integral part of the education environment for staff and students. The focus for 2007 is to:

- Develop convenient and flexible access facilities utilising wireless and social spaces;
- Develop teaching and learning technology, building on the existing eLearning capability;
- Expand the research IT services to support the growing demand from customers;
- Enhance access to information and services through web-based applications.

CAREERS AND EMPLOYMENT

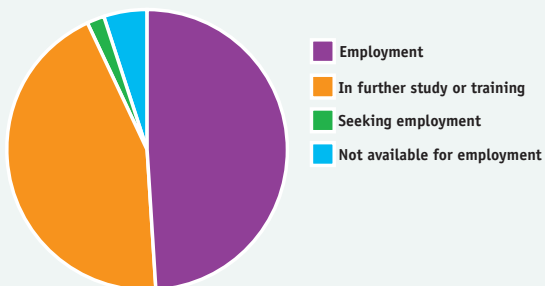
Student Services

UCD educates, encourages and assists its students to find a future that enables them to contribute most effectively to the social, cultural and economic life of Ireland and the wider global community.

PROGRESS TO DATE

UCD graduates continued to fare well in 2005, as can be seen from the chart and table below.

All disciplines (Primary Degrees)



First destination of graduates 2005

	% primary degree	% higher degree	% postgraduate diploma
In employment - Ireland	44.5	70.3	66.2
In employment - Overseas	4.3	12.2	5.6
In further study or training - Ireland	41.0	7.9	23.7
In further study or training - Overseas	3.5	1.3	0.8
Seeking employment	1.7	3.8	2.5
Not available for employment or study	5.0	4.5	1.2

The 'seeking employment' rate of primary degree graduates continues at a low of 1.7% (2.7% in 2004), with substantial numbers in employment or in postgraduate study and training. As the job market changes, students have been encouraged to make prepared and targeted approaches earlier in the academic year when much recruitment occurs. There is strong competition for top graduate positions both at home and abroad.

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of primary degree graduates undertaking

postgraduate study and training. This figure reached 44.5% in 2005, now approaching the numbers going directly into employment of 48.8%.

This increase has been encouraged by the wide range of attractive postgraduate coursework available, within the university, nationally and internationally. The quality of jobs secured by higher degree graduates was noticeably higher than that of primary degree holders. Those undertaking postgraduate diploma courses have also performed very well in the job market. There is now a real choice facing graduating students about whether to enter employment or pursue further studies.



UCD Careers Fair



To assist students in earlier approaches, UCD Careers and Appointments again held a Careers Fair in Belfield focussing on Irish employers. Major international organisations also visited the university for recruitment purposes.

UCD Careers and Appointments works with students through personal counselling and a 'duty system' which enables students to be seen without appointment. Advisory meetings, group work, careers education programmes, careers talks and seminars are also very well attended. The Careers Service is located in purpose-built careers libraries and offices in the Library Building at Belfield and at UCD Smurfit School on the Blackrock campus.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

UCD Careers and Appointments staff will continue to be involved in the development of graduate careers literature and other cooperative ventures undertaken by the Association of Graduate Careers Services in Ireland (AGCSI) and the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS) in Britain and Ireland. A website, *gradireland* (www.gradireland.com), which is updated daily and contains graduate vacancies notified to Careers Services in Ireland, and a careers directory - *Gradireland* - have been developed cooperatively through AGCSI and careers publishers GTI and are available to students and graduates.

WIDENING PARTICIPATION

Student Services

UCD aims to be a socially inclusive university where students from diverse backgrounds are empowered to participate fully and equally in all facets of university life. The university pro-actively targets under-represented groups in higher education including students with a disability, mature learners and students from lower socio-economic groups.

Dedicated teams within the Office of the Director of Access and UCD Adult Education Centre work to realise this goal in co-operation with academic and administrative colleagues across the university. In addition to its role in widening participation, the UCD Adult Education Centre facilitates lifelong learning by offering a myriad of academic learning opportunities to all adults. Over 1,000 students took courses for credit, while a further 3,000 students have taken courses for interest with the UCD Adult Education Centre. For many students this would have been their first experience of higher education.

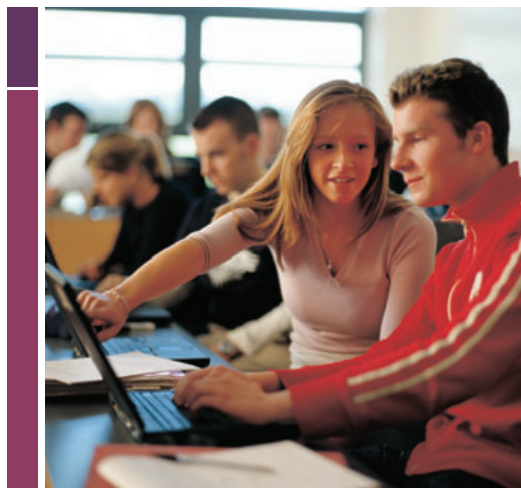
PROGRESS TO DATE

UCD supports its widening participation agenda through a number of initiatives:

- Links with schools, community groups and voluntary organisations, providing information and advice on higher education options, taster activities and summer schools, and education opportunities in outreach centres;
- Delivery of Access Courses (formerly known as Return to Learning) in Arts and Human Science, Science and Engineering, and Commerce for adults who wish to access higher education;
- Flexible entry pathways to study at UCD, including special entry routes on the grounds of mature years, disability, socio-economic groupings and FETAC qualification;
- Provision of appropriate supports so all students can participate fully in university life. These include orientation programmes, academic skills workshops, academic writing academy, needs-based accommodation for students with a disability, accessible materials and technologies, mentoring, advice, guidance and financial bursaries.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Disability Support Service (DSS) has evolved over the past number of years to reflect the growing demand from people with a disability for equal access



and participation in higher education. Operating from an inclusive social model of disability, UCD supports students with visual, hearing, physical/mobility disabilities; Specific Learning Difficulties (SLD); mental health difficulties; Aspergers Syndrome; chronic illness and long-term medical conditions. Support programmes for all students are individualised and based upon a detailed needs assessment process.

A total of 86 students registered with DSS graduated from UCD in summer 2006.

- The New ERA Programme for disadvantaged schools and communities chartered new waters in 2005/06 with the establishment of the 'Stepping Stones Project' which offers 4th and 5th class pupils at primary school and their parents a first experience of university through innovative workshops and fun activities on campus. New ERA also collaborated with the UCD School of Mathematical Science in the *Discovering Maths* project. Transition Year pupils in link schools investigated and made presentations in UCD on some of the world's unsolved maths problems. Up to 3,000 pupils in primary and second level schools participated in New ERA's Outreach activities.
- UCD New ERA was delighted to receive scholarship funding for students from two new donors in 2005/06, namely Boylan Brothers Ltd and Phyllis Purcell (donated in memory of her parents James and Maria Purcell). Without the generous support of all its

Pupils from New ERA linked schools St John's College and Caritas College, Ballyfermot attending a science workshop at CSCB



donors (private and public), New ERA could not deliver on its equality of access objective. There were 82 New ERA graduates from all programmes in summer 2006.

- Two thirds of those completing the Access Courses (for adult learners) were subsequently offered places in higher education institutions, making this a highly successful university access programme.
- The number of mature students entering UCD annually is rising steadily. The supports offered by the Mature Student Support Service and the Adult Education Centre has been critical to attracting and informing potential learners of various higher education options; supporting students to make application to the university and preparing and up-skilling learners who have been out of the formal education system for a period of time to effectively manage the academic demands of third-level study.
- The Mature Student Orientation programme attracted over 150 students in early September. The demand from mature students for academic skills workshops, as well as one-on-one advice has doubled over the past year.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

- A central objective of the *UCD Horizons* initiative is to exploit the flexibility of a modular curriculum to make the core educational programmes of the university accessible to a more diverse group of learners. Over the coming year UCD aims to develop progression routes from accredited learning paths in further and higher education, in order to facilitate part-time and other non-traditional students to access *UCD Horizons*.

- Rigorously evaluate the impact of existing and new widening participation initiatives through a collaborative research project with UCD Geary Institute.
- Enhance research capacity in this uniquely under-researched area in Ireland.
- Begin to address the higher education access, equity and support needs of new communities to Ireland, as well as indigenous ethnic groups such as members of the travelling community.

Statistical Overview 2005/06

	New entrants	Total
Students with a Disability	111	376
New ERA students	111	375
Mature Students	356	1348
Access Course participants	130	130

In 2005/06 students from under-represented groups made up 14% of incoming undergraduate entrants.

UCD 150 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the university, UCD established the UCD 150 Scholarship Programme for talented and highly motivated students who might otherwise be prevented from pursuing their studies at UCD for economic reasons. Following an extensive advertising and information campaign aimed at prospective students to UCD, seventeen outstanding individuals were selected from diverse backgrounds with differing life experiences. They all shared a determination to overcome significant barriers in order to fulfil their ambitions in third level education. The scholars will take up places in a wide range of undergraduate programmes in September 2006. Each UCD 150 Scholarship is valued at €9,000, which will be paid over three years. The scholarship is a further expression of the university's commitment to widening participation to under-represented groups in higher education.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS

Student Services

UCD operates three distinct schemes for assisting students who find themselves in financial difficulty: the Student Welfare Fund, offering financial assistance to students who encounter unexpected difficulties during their time of study in UCD; the Student Assistance Scheme, designed to help those disadvantaged students in most need; and the Childcare Subsidy Scheme to assist those student parents most in need of financial assistance. These schemes are funded largely by European Social Funds through the National Development Plan with additional funding coming from student fines and donations.



Olga Murdoch is a third year computer science student from Ballinteer in County Dublin. With the assistance of the Childcare Subsidy Scheme, Olga's four year old son Jack attends the UCD crèche. The Scheme provides support to Olga's childcare costs and allows her to pursue her studies at UCD

UCD CRÈCHE

In February 2006 a new, not-for-profit company, Oakmount Crèche Ltd, was established to run the Rosemount crèche and the new crèche which is planned. Members of the company include staff and student parents and UCD staff. The Rosemount Crèche has also been refurbished and re-equipped.

STUDENT SUPPORT, CHAPLAINCY AND STUDENT ADVISERS

Student Services

Students need a strong and accessible support framework to help them achieve their academic and personal goals. UCD is committed to providing this framework through extensive formal support services and specific programme-based support teams. The Student Advisers and Chaplains act as student advocates and provide advice and information to students in relation to social, personal and practical issues. They also serve as a resource for students and staff regarding student support services and promote student-focused initiatives throughout the university.

*UCD Volunteers on
ALONE house
painting project for
the elderly*

PROGRESS TO DATE

Orientation September 2005

Orientation 2005 delivered a varied programme of events, both academic and social, to students new to the UCD campus. A key component of the Orientation Programme is the recruitment of continuing students who act as Orientation Guides. Student Advisers recruit and train these guides who facilitate the introduction of new students to campus life.

During 2005/06, Student Advisers were proactive in Programme Days, Cultural Diversity Week and UCD Volunteers Overseas. They played an active role in key UCD committees, such as the First Year Committee, the Student Welfare Executive and the Childcare Subsidy Committee.

*UCD Volunteers
with local children
in Haiti*

**UCD Volunteers Overseas projects**

The UCD chaplaincy launched the 'UCD Volunteers Overseas' (UCDVO) project in 2003. The project seeks to reach out to others who suffer and live in situations of poverty. It has developed greatly since its initial beginnings.

This year a group of 29 UCD students worked in Delhi, teaching street children, working in an orphanage, building an extension to a school already constructed by UCDVO and giving physiotherapy to disabled children in the Mother Theresa Orphanage. Thirty students worked on building walls to curb the effects of mudslides in Gros Morne, an isolated area of Haiti, as well as running a Sports Club for over 200 disadvantaged children, providing all resources and food for the children. Ten



students also travelled to Niger, one of the world's poorest nations, where they taught local children and worked in a Concern clinic for malnourished children in Tahoua.

This year the project was presented with a cheque for €25,000 by Tour de Force, a group of Gardaí who did a 900km charity cycle in France. The money will help to build a bridge in Gros Morne, Haiti, a vitally needed resource for an isolated people.

Alone project

A new development is a project in partnership with Alone - a voluntary organisation helping elderly people in need. UCD students worked on two projects in Dublin providing volunteers and resources.

Lectures and seminars

Business Ethics seminars were provided by one of the chaplaincy team at the UCD Michael Smurfit School of Business. This was in the area of Corporate Governance and Ethics in Financial Services. One of the team was also invited to give an academic paper at Boston College and invitations have been received from other international universities. Other courses have been given as part of a Masters in Clinical Psychology programme.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

It is planned to build on the success of Orientation and to increase the number of Orientation Guides. A pilot peer-mentoring project is about to be implemented during the 2006/07 academic year.

The success of the Student Advisory Team initiative has led to plans for recruitment of more Student Advisers in 2006.

SPORT

Student Life

UCD Sport operates in partnership with the principal activities of the university to ensure a rounded and holistic education for all students. It also offers an opportunity for alumni to maintain their connection with the university. UCD Sport's overall strategy is to advance the university's reputation of hosting the best sports facilities in the country while also providing the opportunities for all at UCD to develop healthy life skills.

This will be achieved through specific and ambitious programmes, covering:

- Delivery of new state-of-the-art facilities including a swimming pool;
- Development and delivery of the UCD Institute of Sport and Health;
- Expansion of the UCD High Performance Centre;
- Implementation and expansion of sports education programmes;
- Development of the Sport Zone to create a concentration of sports facilities on the Belfield campus.

PROGRESS TO DATE

- The *Get in Gear* pilot project aimed at inactive students produced important results in early 2006. A joint initiative between UCD Sport and the UCD School of Physiotherapy and Performance Science, *Get in Gear* is a health promotion initiative aimed at encouraging students to get in shape following a timetable of fun and varied activities that suit their academic timetables. The programme aims to help participants develop a balanced lifestyle, reaping the benefits of exercise while studying in UCD.
- UCD Sport secured a €1.25 million grant to upgrade Belfield Bowl under the Government's Sports Capital Programme 2006. The project, which is part of the university's Campus Development Plan, will see UCD Soccer Club transfer from its current home, Belfield Park, to the Belfield Bowl, the home ground of the UCD Rugby Club.
- The establishment of a Golfing Centre of Excellence thanks to support from the R&A Foundation Bursary Scheme. UCD is the only third level institution in the Republic of Ireland to be a member of the scheme. The progress of all golf scholarship recipients in terms of both golf and academic performance is constantly monitored by UCD Sport. A tailored strength and conditioning programme is devised for each student

and supervised by Lisa Regan, UCD's Director of High Performance. Coaching is provided by the individual's own coach as well as John McHenry in the K Club and Neil Manchip in Carton House, who supervises the development of all UCD scholarship golfers. The golfers also have access to renowned sports psychologist Dr Aidan Moran. As well as having access to the practice ground and course at Elm Park, the scholarship students also have membership of both Royal Dublin and Portmarnock Golf Clubs.

- Professor Colin Boreham was appointed in April 2006 to the post of Director of the newly established UCD Institute of Sport and Health. The Institute will conduct research into the impact of sport on health, performance and lifestyle. It will serve as a resource for national sporting organisations in their efforts to raise participation, increase performance and promote sport and physical activity to the general population.
- The Irish Rugby Football Union relocated its High Performance Unit to the Belfield Campus. The unit is currently located on the Newstead (formerly Philips) site adjacent to the Institute of Sport and Health.
- Opening of the new Café Sport, provision of an aerobics studio and the Colours meeting room.



*Leinster Senior Cup
Final double goal
scorer Roisin Flinn
(left)*

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Ladies' Hockey Club had a fantastic year retaining the Chilean Cup and also securing the Jacqui Porter Leinster Senior Cup for the first time in over fifty years. Player Lisa Jacob was also capped for the Irish senior team.
- The Men's Soccer Club secured victories in the Harding Cup, the Dr Tony O'Neill Under-21 League and the Leinster Senior League.
- The UCD hurlers won the Dublin Senior Hurling Championship for the second year in a row and went on to reach the Leinster Club Championship final where they were unfortunately defeated by James Stephens.
- UCD scholarship golfers enjoyed success on the national and international stage. Dara Lernihan won the Leinster Youths Amateur Open Championship. Niall O'Connor won the Boyd Quaich International Students' Golf Championship at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, St. Andrews (R&A). Niall is the first Irish winner since renowned golfer and UCD graduate Dr David Sheehan.
- 2005/06 was a fine athletics season for current and former sports scholarship recipients. Joanne Cuddihy, Derval O'Rourke and Deirdre Ryan all delivered career best performances at the European Athletics Championships in Gothenburg in August. Joanne, a fourth year medical student finished in eighth place in the final of the 400m after running a personal best of 51.09 seconds in her semi final. This was Joanne's first major senior competition and the first time since 1962 that an Irish female athlete has reached the European Championships final at 400m. Former scholarship students and UCD Smurfit School graduates Derval O'Rourke and Deirdre Ryan also had exceptional performances. Derval reaffirmed her position as one of the world's best sprint hurdlers when she took a joint silver medal in the 100m. She also set a new Irish record, finishing in 12.72 seconds. Deirdre qualified for the final of the high jump competition by equalling her Irish record of 1.92 m. She finished in 13th place in the final with a height of 1.84 metres.

*European Athletics Championships
400m finalist Joanne Cuddihy*

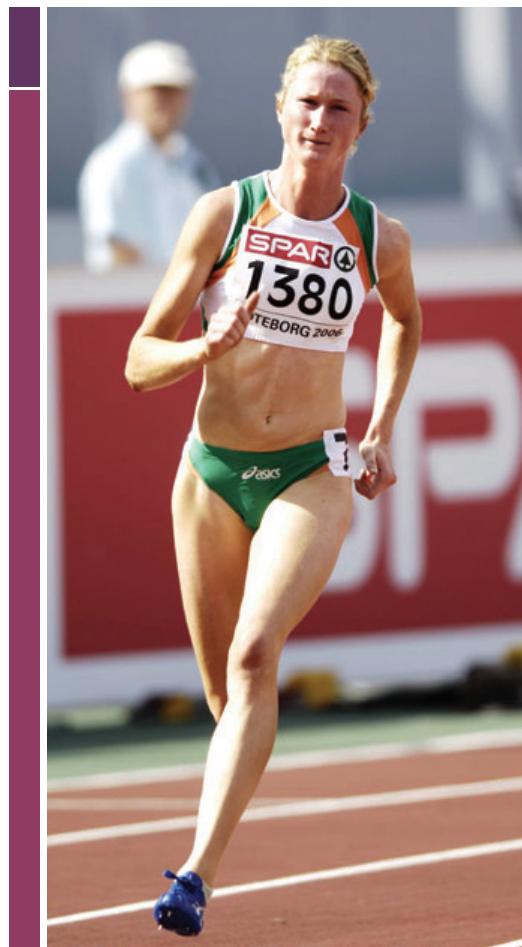
FUTURE OBJECTIVES

The strategy for further development of sport at UCD is twofold. Firstly, to develop top quality facilities on the campus which complement existing facilities. Secondly, to realise the concept of a focused 'healthy campus' environment in developing healthy life skills and aptitudes in the student and staff populations as a core value central to the mission of UCD Sport.

During 2005/06 the students have committed resources to fund the Student Centre extension, which includes a swimming pool and gym. Plans are already under way to construct this building in the precinct of the Student Centre and Sport Centre.

At the Institute of Sport and Health a number of initiatives have begun in association with the IRFU High Performance Unit and the UCD School of Physiotherapy and Performance Science.

Following the success of the pilot *Get in Gear* project a larger programme has been prepared. It is hoped to run this for students and staff, three times during the academic year.



MUSIC

Student Life

UCD maintains a wide range of performing ensembles, offering students a chance to get in touch with music of different ages and styles. The choirs and orchestras are open to anyone who has an interest in music and wants to commit some time to this passion.

The UCD Sinfonia, the UCD Choral Scholars, the UCD College Choir, the UCD Chamber Choir and Baroque Orchestra all act as UCD's cultural ambassadors on and off campus, providing evidence that its students not only have good academic credentials but are skilled practitioners too.

PROGRESS TO DATE

In 2005/06, the UCD Sinfonia presented two successful concerts, the first on campus in the Astra Hall and - reaching out to the wider community - the second in the National Concert Hall. The Orchestra continued its tradition of unearthing less well-known gems of the repertoire by presenting Richard Strauss's *Horn Concerto No. 1* (Soloist: Fergus O'Carroll). Redmond O'Toole was the soloist at the concert in February, playing Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* on his Brahms guitar. Other highlights of the programmes were Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*, Milhaud's ballet suite *La création du monde*, and Mendelssohn's *Hebrides overture*.

During the Sinfonia's February concert, UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady, presented the first Bank of Ireland Scholarships to members of the orchestra. The Bank has committed to support the Sinfonia by funding six annual Scholarships over the next three years. The Scholarships will be awarded based on performance at auditions early in the academic year.

The UCD Choral Scholars had a busy year, too. Their opening concert of the year in the Astra Hall featured Brahms' *Liebeslieder Walzer*, followed in April by a highly



UCD Sinfonia rehearsal

praised performance of Fauré's *Requiem* off campus in St Ann's Church. The Scholars also performed at student events around campus, at services for the UCD community throughout the academic year and at prestigious events like the UCD Foundation Day Dinner. Since many former Scholars have expressed an interest in continuing their relationship with the ensemble, future plans involve establishing an Alumni network and thus creating a new basis for keeping in touch with former members.

The UCD College Choir presented two successful concerts. The first consisted of two lunchtime recitals at the end of the first semester in the Student Centre, where Joanna Campbell-Griffin conducted a pre-Christmas programme entitled *Hamba Lulu*, featuring seasonal music from different countries and continents. This was followed by a concert in the Campus Church in March 2006 as part of UCD's celebration of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's 250th birthday. This concert featured the College Choir (with many of its members also acting as soloists) and music for organ and string quartet.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

In 2006/07, students will be able for the first time to sing or play in UCD's choirs and orchestras for credit. The UCD Sinfonia, the UCD Choral Scholars, and the UCD Chamber Choir and Baroque Orchestra will be offered as elective modules within the *UCD Horizons* programme. If they pass the initial audition, students will be able to make their hobby part of their studies and learn from the skilled musicians they work with. Grades will be awarded based on the quality of the student's contribution and attendance record. It is hoped that this new opportunity will act as an additional incentive to join UCD's performing ensembles as they continue to prosper and link cultural life on campus to the wider community.

UCD Choral Scholars



STUDENT SOCIETIES

Student Life

The UCD Strategic Plan underlines the importance of student societies and their activities in the development of quality-driven extra-curricular educational, cultural and social activities for students. Societies offer significant opportunity for personal development, particularly with regard to life skills including organisational understanding, and people and time management.

Mary Dobbs was one of the organisers of the World Universities Debating Championships but has particularly shown her talents and her dedication in the UCD School of Law. She has been a stalwart member of the Law Society and an active member of the Free Legal Aid Centre. Mary graduated in Law and French Law in 2006 and is now a PhD student

PROGRESS TO DATE

There are now over 100 registered student societies in UCD with a cumulative membership of 35,000 students. The numbers participating in societies continue to rise and the largest societies in the university (the Commerce and Economics Society and the Law Society) now have in excess of 4,000 members.

The number of high profile and high capacity society events taking place on campus continues to rise. This year saw the establishment of the Erasmus Society which is affiliated to the international Erasmus Student Network, and also the Chinese Students' Society. 2006 will also see the first steps towards a new 'Campus Television Network' which has been set up as a society.

In addition, student societies plan an increasingly important role in other activities of the university, with societies now taking an active part in the UCD Open Days to promote the diversity and range of student events to prospective students.

Student societies continue to offer a unique opportunity for students to meet and hear major figures of international importance as well as many figures of popular culture. Guests to the campus included diplomat Hans Blix, academic Noam Chomsky, actors Nancy Cartwright, Dirk Benedict and John C McGinley and sports figures David O'Leary and Eddie O'Sullivan.



Highlights

In December 2005/January 2006 the Literary and Historical Society (L&H) organised the largest annual non-sporting student event in the world, the World Universities Debating Championships. Over 300 teams representing 40 countries and over 70 institutions debated topics of national and international importance. The Chair of the World Debating Council acclaimed the event as the best organised and most efficiently run event ever.

Societies also took the lead in organising and running the 'Yes' campaign in favour of raising the student levy to pay for a new Student Centre. This new building will become the heart of student activity and will incorporate state of the art facilities for debating, theatre, cinema, dance and sport.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

2006 saw the launch of a new website: www.ucdevents.com. With the increase in the volume of student activities on campus it has become increasingly difficult to ensure adequate communication of information to campus users. The new website will become a resource to address this challenge with a dynamic events calendar, links to student pages and a password protected auditors section.

New regulations governing posterage and promotion on campus will be implemented to allow better advertising of events.

UCD Student Centre

