UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN (UCD) is a leading European research-intensive university where third-level undergraduate education, fourth-level postgraduate masters and PhD training, research, innovation and community engagement form a continuum of activity. UCD strives to advance knowledge through high quality research and scholarship, to communicate knowledge through excellence in teaching and to use new knowledge to develop the businesses, products, policies and services of tomorrow.

UCD was established in 1854 by John Henry Newman whose classic work The Idea of a University is one of the most enduring texts on the value of higher education to the individual and society. For over 150 years UCD and its graduates have played an unparalleled role in the shaping of modern Ireland.

Today UCD is Ireland’s largest university and leads as the university of first choice for Irish school-leavers. Undergraduate students embark on a journey of academic and personal discovery through UCD Horizons, a modular, credit-based curriculum.

UCD is Ireland’s leader in graduate education with almost 7,000 postgraduate students, representing 28% of the UCD student population (total of approximately 24,000) and almost 2000 PhD students. Over 50% of UCD undergraduates progress to postgraduate studies.

The role of UCD within Irish higher education is underscored by the fact that UCD alone accounts for over 30% of international students, over 25% of all postgraduate students and almost 28% of all doctoral enrolments across the seven Irish universities.

UCD is the national leader in research funding, attracting quality investment that has helped the university to establish a reputation as a destination of choice for leading researchers. The university has established four major interdisciplinary research themes that match Ireland’s needs and current global challenges.

UCD keeps an external focus, seeking to lead and shape agendas through alliances and partnerships with its peers, nationally and internationally.

The international standing of UCD has increased rapidly in recent years and the University is currently ranked within the top 100 in the Times Higher Education rankings.

UCD is located on a beautiful leafy 132-hectare campus less than 4km from the centre of Dublin, which provides a mix of academic facilities, research institutes, libraries and archival collections, enterprise space, student villages, and sports and recreational facilities.

History
Originally known as the Catholic University of Ireland and subsequently as the Royal University, the University became UCD in 1908 and a constituent college of the National University of Ireland (NUI). In 1997, UCD became an autonomous university within the loose federal structure of the NUI.

UCD has been a major contributor to the making of modern Ireland. Many UCD students and staff participated in the struggle for Irish independence and the University has produced numerous Irish Presidents and Taoisigh (Prime Ministers) in addition to generations of Irish business, professional, cultural and sporting leaders. Perhaps the best known of all its graduates is the writer James Joyce, who completed his Bachelor of Arts at the university in 1902.

UCD today still draws inspiration from the educational philosophy of its founder, John Henry Newman. UCD undergraduates are expected not just to become expert in their major subjects but also to explore a broader knowledge base and disciplinary mix through the elective system. In addition, students are actively encouraged to become involved in the
many clubs, societies, sports and volunteering activities which have always been such a special part of UCD campus life.

**Teaching and Learning**

UCD offers a wide range of undergraduate programmes. In addition to degrees in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, UCD offers programmes in most professional disciplines including architecture, business, education, engineering, law, and medicine and allied health profession. UCD is the only university on the island of Ireland to offer programmes in both agriculture and veterinary medicine.

The high quality learning and student experience at UCD is made visible through the attributes of the UCD graduate. Achieving these attributes drives UCD’s education objectives and institutional priorities. The UCD graduate is academically excellent, intellectually flexible and culturally literate, and globally engaged.

The modularisation of UCD’s extensive portfolio of taught graduate programmes and the development of the UCD Structured PhD and Graduate Schools has established the University as a national leader in graduate education. UCD also offers a menu of continuing professional development, executive education and adult learning opportunities.

UCD also plays a lead role in the Dublin Region Higher Education Alliance, a regional alliance dedicated to collaboration in enhancing teaching, postgraduate education and widening participation.

**Research and Innovation**

UCD has prioritised four major research themes which build on the university’s established or emerging research strengths, dovetail with national research policy objectives and contribute to the preservation and exploration of Ireland’s cultural heritage and the development of solutions for current global challenges.

The priority areas are:
- Earth Sciences, Energy and the Environment
- Health and Healthcare Delivery
- Information, Computation and Communication
- Global Ireland

UCD is home to a number of primary Research Institutes which have been established to provide world-class facilities for a critical mass of academics who are conducting research into a broad spectrum of areas. These include:
- UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research
- UCD Geary Institute
- UCD Complex and Adaptive Systems Laboratory
- UCD Institute for Food and Health
- UCD Humanities Institute
- UCD Urban Institute

UCD also leads or partners in several major state funded Centres for Science, Engineering and Technology, Strategic Research Clusters, Inter-Institutional Collaborative Programmes and Research Centres.

The university has won over €460m in externally funded research contracts in the last five years.

The UCD-TCD Innovation Alliance is a recently established partnership between University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin (TCD), Ireland’s leading research universities. Its over-arching objective is to leverage the combined resources of both institutions in concert with the State and its agencies, and business and venture capital communities to develop a world-class ecosystem for innovation that will drive enterprise development in Ireland.
Internationalising the Student Experience

UCD is home to over 4,500 international students from 122 countries (2009-10). The university has the largest outgoing cohort of Erasmus exchange programme of any English-speaking university in Europe and an increasingly international faculty. UCD runs overseas programmes in partnership with leading international universities and private higher education providers in China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Spain, and Sri Lanka.

UCD students have access to a variety of study abroad opportunities through the Erasmus programme and through UCD’s membership of the Universitas 21 network of global research universities. UCD is an active participant in Universitas 21 (U21) student mobility initiatives, including the Undergraduate Research Conference, Summer School and traditional exchange programmes. UCD is a signatory to the U21 Shanghai Declaration and the U21 Delhi Accord.

Profile of Student Body*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2009/10</th>
<th>Full-time</th>
<th>Part-time</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>Irish</th>
<th>Non-Irish</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>% International</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>14,163</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>14,621</td>
<td>13,044</td>
<td>1,577</td>
<td>14,621</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate/Diploma</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>1,143</td>
<td>1,304</td>
<td>1,157</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>1,304</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occasional</td>
<td>621</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>811</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>586</td>
<td>811</td>
<td>72.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Undergraduate</td>
<td>15,538</td>
<td>1,792</td>
<td>17,330</td>
<td>14,426</td>
<td>2,904</td>
<td>17,330</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
<td>1,608</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>1,828</td>
<td>1,123</td>
<td>705</td>
<td>1,828</td>
<td>38.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Research</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Taught</td>
<td>1,987</td>
<td>1,089</td>
<td>3,076</td>
<td>2,339</td>
<td>737</td>
<td>3,076</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate/Diploma</td>
<td>583</td>
<td>1,133</td>
<td>1,716</td>
<td>1,494</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>1,716</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Graduate</td>
<td>4,388</td>
<td>2,507</td>
<td>6,895</td>
<td>5,154</td>
<td>1,741</td>
<td>6,895</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCD Total</td>
<td>19,926</td>
<td>4,299</td>
<td>24,225</td>
<td>19,580</td>
<td>4,645</td>
<td>24,225</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* See Report of the President for further information