

## My Experience At the Rotman International Trading Competition

In February this year I travelled to Toronto with 5 other students to take part in the Rotman International Trading Competition, a 3 day simulated market challenge competing against students from top universities around the world. The Ad Astra Academy continuously encourages and supports its scholars in pursuing endeavours outside of the scope of our courses, and I thought this would be a great event to participate in during my final year in UCD. The Investors and Entrepreneurs' Society held applications for the team in October and I was lucky enough to get a position on the team.



Preparation for the competition began in Semester One, when we met to review the case files from last year's competition. There are 6 unique challenges with each case being sponsored by a top company in the industry such as Citadel, Flow Traders and Bridgewater Associates. We began developing various models in Excel and Python to aid us throughout each case. This was a great experience as you had to consider many factors that would be replicated in trading in real life, such as risk-management, changing market conditions and the behaviour of other competitors!

The three days spent at the event were competitive, exciting and challenging. We met and competed against students from 51 universities around the world. The calibre of the competition was extremely high, but we held our own and were extremely competitive in a number of the cases, such as Citadel's algorithmic trading challenge and the volatility case. We learned an incredible amount throughout the competition and will be able to pass on advice to next year's team to improve and work on the models that we developed.



Taking part in events such as this are often where you gain the most out of university life. You meet people from such a wide array of backgrounds and it pushes you out of your comfort zone, giving you a learning experience that you won't get purely within the realms of your chosen course. One of the best things about being part of the Ad Astra Academy is that you are supported in pursuing these endeavours. I certainly would not have had the same breadth of experiences throughout my



degree if it were not for the support and encouragement of the academy.

