



## Gaeltacht UCD

UCD Global Centre for Irish Language & Culture

# Gaeltacht UCD Report 2022 - 2023

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**Special Provision for the Support of the Irish Language 2023**  
**Gaeltacht UCD, UCD Global Centre for Irish Language and Culture,**  
**University College Dublin**

**Report on Activities, September 2022 to August 2023**

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/>

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## Overview

Gaeltacht UCD, UCD's Global Centre for Irish Language and Culture enjoyed an excellent academic year 2022-2023. The Centre played a significant role in promoting Ireland's distinct language and culture within the University and shared it with UCD's local, national, and global communities. The initiatives described in this report, increased competency in the Irish language, engaged students and employees, and contributed to the holistic education prized by UCD. Throughout the year, the Centre further developed its learning resources; it managed an efficient translation service and led a community of interdisciplinary scholars central to the vibrancy of the University's Irish language community.

Gaeltacht UCD had an active presence on campus and within the wider Irish-language community 2022-2023; its residence scheme scholars represented the University in intervarsity competitions, attended national events, and engaged their peers in over 30 language promotional activities. The Center welcomed many guests to the UCD Belfield campus; it hosted RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta, Acadamh na Lianna, and Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga. Gaeltacht UCD staff continued to collaborate with colleagues in other institutions, Irish-language organizations, the Irish-language media, and the traditional Gaeltachtaí. As international travel resumed, it attracted Irish language learners from across the globe to its annual summer school, many returning to UCD for a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> year in succession.

Further to the strengthening of Irish-language legislation under the *Official Languages (Amended) Act 2021*, Gaeltacht UCD met the increased demand for its services. It continued to develop these services and works towards meeting the requirements of Irish-language speakers in the years ahead.

## **Project 1: Irish Language Courses for UCD Students, Faculty, and Staff**

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/teanga/cursaiteanga/>

### *Irish Language Interest Courses*

*Gaeltacht UCD* continued to develop and deliver Irish-language courses at 5 language levels throughout 2022-2023. Courses were designed for and available to all current students and employees of the University. The 2022-23 program was advertised extensively within UCD at the beginning of each trimester, via UCD's electronic newsletters, via the student media, and in-person through rotating pop-up stands throughout campus. An online placement test was provided to all learners before the commencement of courses ensuring learners were placed at a level appropriate to their requirements. Language learners comprised both employees and students with a high level of engagement from the University's global community. The positive interaction between learners strengthened UCD's Irish-speaking community, facilitated the integration of visiting and exchange students, and encouraged engagement between students, faculty, and professional staff. The engagement of the University's employees had a positive impact on attitudes toward Irish-language initiatives on campus and the implementation of new Irish-language regulations under the *Official Languages (Amended) Act 2021*.

Over 500 participants registered for *Gaeltacht UCD* courses and workshops between September 2022 to June 2023. A total of 339 students and employees registered for tuition, and a further 167 for Irish-language and bilingual cultural workshops. The *Gaeltacht UCD* evening courses at level A1 were particularly popular with international students and staff, accounting for 56% of registrations. The 2023 International Irish language Summer School attracted a high percentage of advanced learners - 54% of participants. A total of 14 qualified tutors were employed on a part-time basis throughout the year; 8 tutors to facilitate delivery of the Centre's evening courses and a further 5 for its summer school, as well as a number of substitute tutors. The recruitment of Irish-language tutors is currently a challenge at a national level and the Centre was happy to maintain and recruit an excellent team of qualified tutors with experience in adult education. All UCD Colleges were represented among the 2022-2023 participants, they included undergraduate and postgraduate students, academic and professional staff. Questionnaires were distributed to

all learners at the end of each course and the Centre was satisfied with the positive feedback received. The following were some of the motivations cited in registering for a course: to enhance understanding of Ireland's heritage and culture, to support children learning Irish in school, to prepare for an interview or presentation in Irish, and to increase employment chances. A large number of participants had not had the opportunity previously to learn Irish due to residence in another jurisdiction such as Northern Ireland or exemption from Irish during their school attendance in the Republic of Ireland. Many international learners were bilingual or multilingual, and it is notable that of those who were monolingual (English-speaking students from the USA, for example) many had knowledge of a heritage language.

### *European Certification in Irish*

Gaeltacht UCD language courses are offered at levels A1, A1 continued, A2, B1, and B2, and align with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Further to the legal requirements placed on the public sector under the Official Languages (Amended) Act 2021; and in particular the necessity to increase competency in Irish among employees, an increase in demand for certification of Irish language skills is expected.

In anticipation of this demand, a preparatory course for the *Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge B1* examination (European Certificate in Irish, B1) was first developed in 2021 and these new resources which include digital recordings, video content, and interactive exercises in each of the 3 major dialects, attracted additional learners in September 2022. In January 2023, to further support learners in this regard, Gaeltacht UCD commenced the update and further development of its A2 course, which will provide learners with a comprehensive basis for the B1 preparatory course and thus increase the number of learners completing examinations for certification. The A2 course will be piloted in September 2023. Gaeltacht UCD has been updating its course materials on a phased basis since 2019, with priority given to the courses with the highest registrations, subject to the availability of funding. The development of A2 resources is the third phase; level A1 was developed in 2019 and level B1 in 2021. Continued investment in and expansion of Gaeltacht UCD resources will be required to respond to the needs of the University community in the future.

# Irish Language Courses & Bilingual Workshops

## Registered Participants, September 2022 to June 2023

Evening Courses	Autumn	Spring	Total
A1 Beginner Level	100	46	146
A1 Continued (Trimester 2 only)		29	29
A2 Elementary Level	16	11	27
B1 Lower Intermediate Level	8	14	22
B2 Upper Intermediate Level	12	6	18
European Certificate in Irish Preparatory Course for Level B1	10	9	19
University of Arizona Visiting Students			15
Gaeltacht UCD Irish Language Summer School			63
<b>Total</b>			<b>339</b>

## Global Workshops September 2022 - March 2023 Registered Participants

### Gaeltacht UCD Global Workshops

Introduction to Irish 1	40
Introduction to Irish 2	30
Introduction to Irish Dance 1	44
Introduction to Irish Dance 2	20
My First Gaeilge	11
Bilingual Uileann Pipe Workshop	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>Total registered participants</b>	<b>506</b>



# Irish Language Courses & Bilingual Workshops



## *Language Learning Outside the Classroom*

In addition to its structured language courses, Gaeltacht UCD provides its learners with opportunities to use the language outside the classroom setting. This year all activities were held face to face on campus with a number of events centered around Seachtain Domhanda na Gaeilge (Global Irish Language Week), March 2023. Examples of some of these activities are outlined in this report in the sections 'Gaeltacht UCD Cultural Program' and 'Gaeltacht UCD Student Activities'.

## **Project 2**

### ***Teach na Gaeilge 2022-2023, Residential Scholarship Scheme***

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/ansceimchonaithe/>

#### *Residential Scholarship Scheme Activity and 2023-'24 Competition*

Background: '*Teach na Gaeilge UCD*', the University's Irish-Language Student Residential Scholarship Scheme, was founded in 2000 with 4 scholars, this was increased to 16 in 2001 and to 24 in 2010. *Teach na Gaeilge* continues to attract high-achieving students with many awarded Entrance Scholarships to the University. In 2016 the project was awarded the European Language Label for excellence in language promotion and looks forward to celebrating 25 years in existence in 2025.

The 24 *Teach na Gaeilge UCD* scholarships for the year 2022-2023 were advertised in March 2022 in second-level schools nationwide (32 counties). The scholarships were also advertised in the Irish-language media, on social media, via the UCD Scholarships website <https://www.ucd.ie/students/scholarships/prospectiveundergraduatestudents/> and the *Gaeltacht UCD*'s website <https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/ansceimchonaithe/scolaireachtai/>. The 2022-2023 scholars chosen by application and interview included traditional native speakers (from Gaeltacht areas), native speakers located outside the Gaeltachtaí, Nua-chainteoirí (non-native fluent speakers from *Galltacht* areas), fluent speakers from Irish-language medium education, and fluent speakers from English-language medium education. This year scholars represented the University in the Irish-language community nationally and internationally and succeeded in maintaining a balance between language maintenance and language promotion. Throughout the year they initiated a broad range of language



projects which involved the wider University community. The *Gaeltacht UCD* scholarship is documented on each student's academic transcript.

*Gaeltacht UCD* continuously reviews its residential scheme to ensure that it provides the support most conducive to language maintenance and student engagement. The feedback from 2022-2023 scholars was positive and demand continued for the 2023-2024 competition. On 1 March 2023, the 2023-2024 *Teach na Gaeilge* scholarships were advertised. A total of 118 applied for scholarships of which 75 were prospective students. Interviews for 43 continuing students (2nd and 3rd-year students) were held on 4 and 5 May; 65 prospective students were selected for interviews on 30 and 31 May. The highest-scoring 24 students were selected for scholarships and a waiting list was compiled. Scholarships are subject to CAO offers in August.

#### *Orientation and Training*

*Gaeltacht UCD* organizes specific orientation and training programs for its scholars through the medium of Irish. These are organized prior to the commencement of each trimester thus ensuring that Irish is the language of the initial communication between participating scholars, in accordance with best practices in language preservation and maintenance. Orientation enhances communication between the individual scholarship students, between the students and the wider University community, and between the students and the broader Irish-language community. Scholars are provided with information on the opportunities available to them, the support available and their obligations under the *Gaeltacht UCD* Residential Scheme Contract.

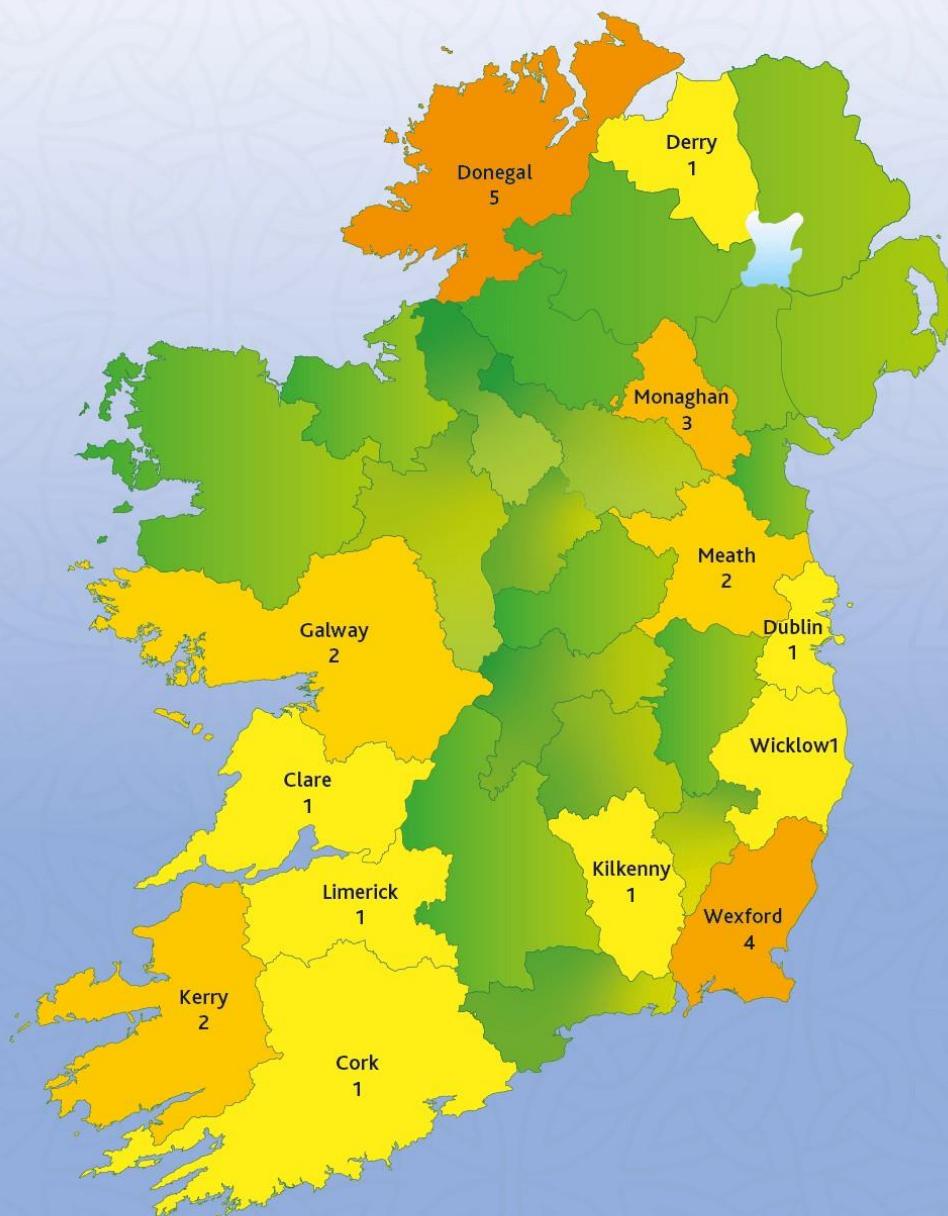
The 2022-2023 orientation program included 3-weekend courses: the first taking place 9-10 September (continuing students) and the second on 23-25 September 2022 (for continuing and incoming students). The 3rd course took place prior to the commencement of trimester 2, 21-22 January 2023. The 2022-2023 orientation included several guest speakers including representation from 'Baile Átha Cliath le Gaeilge' (the newly founded Irish-language network for business in Dublin city), Raidió na Life, a community radio station, and the Irish language organization Conradh na Gaeilge. Team-building activities included a drama workshop, a cookery competition, a boat trip on Dublin Bay, as well as a visit to 'Above the Trees' in Avondale, Co Wicklow. In trimesters 1 and 2, *Gaeltacht UCD* organized regular

breakfast meetings with the 24 students with the purpose of planning language promotional activities for their peers. The scheme's alumni are central to the success of this project and planning sessions with *Teach na Gaeilge* alumni and mentors motivated new participants and provided guidance and support in the execution of the 2022-2023 projects.

# Residential Scholarship



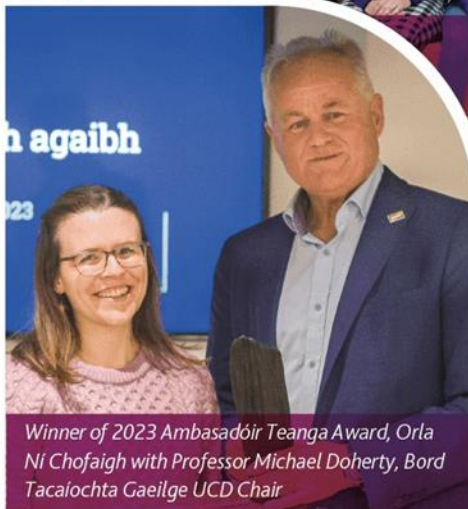
**2022 - 2023 Residence Scholars came from:**



# Residential Scholarship Scheme



Residence scheme scholars on day 1  
(Orientation, part 1)



Winner of 2023 Ambasadóir Teanga Award, Orla  
Ní Chofaigh with Professor Michael Doherty, BORD  
Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD Chair



Emma Mehan, Theresa Benny & Isabella Ní Chonaill



Gaeltacht UCD scholars at 'Above the Trees',  
Avondale, Co Wicklow



Pádraig Mac Fhionnlaigh, Ailbhe Ní Ghallchóir,  
Thomas Ó Baoill & Alannah Ní Bhoill



### *Scéim Mheantóireachta Theach na Gaeilge, Alumni Mentoring Scheme*

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/ansceimchonaithe/meantoiritheachnaagaeilge/>

The purpose of the UCD Irish-language student residence scheme is to maintain continuity of language use from second to third level, from the language of the home, school or community to adulthood. Forming friendships in the language, and meeting with a wide range of alumni from professions beyond the University is key to ensuring the active use of the language among the future leaders of society. It is with this purpose that Gaeltacht UCD initiated 'Scéim Mheantóireachta Theach na Gaeilge', now in its 7th year. Dónal Ó Catháin, an alumnus from the UCD School of Computer Science and former Ad Astra Scholar was the first alumnus to take on the role of Comhordneoir na Meantóirí (mentor coordinator). Dónal who works abroad was later joined by Peadar Ó Lamhna, a UCD Sutherland School of Law alumnus based in Ireland who provided a number of in-person events on campus. In September 2023 James Knoblauch, UCD Lochlann School of Business alumnus, took on the role and coordinated the 2022-2023 mentors and mentees.

The 2022-'23 mentors organized an information session and workshop during orientation, as well as a social event in the city centre during the year. They met with individual students both in person and virtually. They took part in the jury for *Gradaim Ghaeltacht UCD 2023*, the annual Gaeltacht UCD awards, and joined in the celebration of the 2022-'23 student initiatives and awards on 19 April '23 in UCD Village.

### *2023 Accredited Module in Radio Broadcasting Skills*

The Horizons Module *Scileanna Cumarsáide* (Communication Skills) was specifically designed for *Teach na Gaeilge* scholarship students in recognition of their innovation and time commitment to language promotional activities. The module is a collaboration between Gaeltacht UCD, *Gaelchultúr Teoranta*, and *Radio na Gaeltachta* and is accredited by the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, and Irish Folklore. It is offered annually, most recently in January 2023, and comprises advanced Irish language skills as well as hands-on broadcasting skills. Students can gain credits while further developing their communication and leadership skills. This year's guest broadcaster was Maitiú Ó Coimín of Raidió na Gaeltachta. Podcasts of the programs produced by students to date can be heard at:

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/ansceimchonaithe/scileannacumarsaide/>



Residence scheme scholars frequently hold leadership roles in student societies or in the UCD Students' Union and are therefore frequently invited for interview by *Raidió na Gaeltachta*, *Raidió na Life* and *Radio Fáilte*, the 2023 module supports them in this.

#### *'Teach na Gaeilge' Projects*

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/ansceimchonnaithe/tionscnaimhnamacleinn/>

A condition of participation in the UCD residence scheme is that students work as language ambassadors and organize projects or events which provide their peers with the opportunity to use the language. Irish-language projects can include a diverse range of activities based on individual scholars' talents and interests. The freedom to work on a project of their choosing and the support provided by *Gaeltacht UCD* to facilitate this has led to many successful projects, some of which are now held annually, and which involve contact with the wider community. Although students have the freedom to organize events of their choosing, *Gaeltacht UCD* is mindful of its responsibility towards language maintenance, in relation to native and fluent speakers; activities such as debating, moot court competitions, broadcasting, journalism, or creative writing are particularly encouraged as they provide students with the opportunity to maintain a high level of fluency.

In 2022-2023 a total of 30 events were organized, a selection of which are summarized below. Activities were advertised online, via various student societies and the UCD student media.

#### *Bréagchúirt Uí Dhálaigh Ghael-linn 2022/National Moot Court Competition*

UCD is regularly represented by Teach na Gaeilge scholars in this Irish language moot court competition. The competition is organized by Gael Linn in association with a number of Irish-speaking judges and lawyers. In November 2023 former Teach na Gaeilge scholar and current UCDSU Irish Officer Shane Mac Amhlaoibh together with UCD Law student Sadhbh Ní Ghráda represented UCD in this competition and came second place. First place was awarded to Kings Inns student Caoimhín Ó Ceallaigh also a former Teach na Gaeilge scholar. The 2022 competition was judged by Ms Justice Butler, Her Honour Judge Ní Chúlacháin and Cormac Ó Dualacháin SC.

*‘Acadamh na Lianna’ the Association of Irish-Speaking Medical Doctors UCD/TCD Debate*

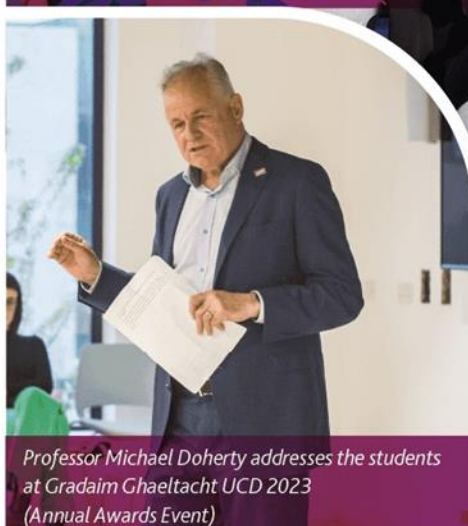
In March 2023 Acadamh na Lianna, Chaired by Professor Séamas Bernard Breathnach held its first Irish-language intervarsity debate in UCD Belfield. The competition was organized in association with Gaeltacht UCD, Oifig na Gaeilge TCD, and representatives from UCD and TCD student medical societies. A lively debate was held, attended by UCD and TCD medical students, Cumann Gaelach UCD, Cumann Gaelach TCD, and members of Acadamh na Lianna from both general practice and hospitals in Ireland. The competition was adjudicated by Acadamh members and former CEO of An Chomhairle um Oideachais Ghaeltachta agus Gaeilge, Muireann Ní Mhóráin. Gaeltacht UCD worked with UCD Medicine in communicating the event internally, it sponsored digital adverts in advance of the competition as well as refreshments at the event.

The first prize was awarded to the TCD team; Emilie Ní Dhubhghaill, Eoghan Ó Ceallacháin, Eoin MacCárthaigh, Seán Mac Eoin, and Sophie Ní Bhanáin with the best speaker prize awarded to UCD medical student and former Teach na Gaeilge scholar Micheál Ó Cathasaigh. Micheál is a native of the Donegal Gaeltacht who has been on placement within Irish-speaking communities. His fellow UCD teammates were Meabh Killalea, William Kinsella, and Gareth O’Brien. The event was a great success and Acadamh na Lianna intends to open future competitions to students from each of the health sciences and to all Universities in Ireland. Articles on the event were published in the *Irish Medical Times* and in *UCD Today*, Spring Edition.

# Residential Scholarship Scheme



Boat trip for students in Dublin Bay, Orientation part 1



Professor Michael Doherty addresses the students at Gradaim Ghaeltacht UCD 2023 (Annual Awards Event)



Winners at 'Gradaim Ghaeltacht UCD' 2023



Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Gaeltacht UCD Director with students Colm Rooney (UCD School of Computer Science) and Theresa Benny (UCD School of Veterinary Medicine)



# Engagement: Local, National & International



Professor Séamas Bearnard Breathnach, Acadamh na Lianna, chairs the first UCD/TCD medical students debate in UCD



Emilie Ni Dhubhghaill, TCD



Micheál Ó Cathasaigh UCD



Members of Coiste Acadamh na Lianna



Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
Trinity College Dublin  
Oifig na Gaeilge | The University of Dublin

## Comórtas Díospóireachta UCD / TCD 2023

Más mac léinn leighis thú le spéis sa chaint poiblí,  
bí ag díospóireacht le Acadamh na Lianna.



Acadamh na Lianna  
Cúrsa Bliain 1968-2023

**Seachtain**  
na Gaeilge  
le **enérjia**



**Cláraigh anois!**

Dé Céadaoin, 1 Márta '23, 7.00pm  
Ionad Díospóireachta Mhic Gearailt, UCD

### *Belfield FM: 'Tae & Plé'*

The student media has proved to be an effective means of language promotion among students in the University. In September 2022 Teach na Gaeilge students Leah Ní Ghairbhith and Padraig Mac Fhionnlaoich hosted a weekly Irish-language program, 'Tae agus Plé'. The program included interviews with fellow Irish-speaking students, news on students' issues, social events, and entertainment. The program continued to be broadcast in trimester 2. Podcasts can be heard via the Belfield FM website: <https://www.belfieldfm.com/>

### *Language Exchange*

In March 2023 scholars organized an event for visiting and exchange students in celebration of *Seachtain na Gaeilge*, which resulted in a successful *Malartán Teanga*, or language exchange activity. The event was facilitated by residence scheme scholars in the *Seomra Chaidrimh* (Irish-speaking social room) in the Newman Building. Monolingual, bilingual, and trilingual students from various linguistic backgrounds exchanged their languages with Irish-speaking students and vice versa.

### *Music and Sport through Irish*

*Teach na Gaeilge* scholars work closely with Trad Soc, UCD students' traditional music society. They organized weekly Irish music sessions in the city centre with fellow musicians from TCD, NUIM, and TU Dublin. These sessions were held in the Irish-speaking venue, Club *Chonradh na Gaeilge*. Musicians played at several Gaeltacht UCD Irish-speaking events. In November 2022 the event 'Sing a Song in Irish' was organized by students with the purpose of teaching international students some popular songs in Irish. Sporting events were organized throughout the year and included basketball, soccer, and Gaelic football through Irish.

### *Engagement with Second-Level Students*

In recent years Residence Scheme Scholars have been invited to visit private, voluntary and DEIS schools, to assist pupils with the spoken language. In 2023 requests came from Mount Anville Secondary School located adjacent to UCD as well as from Mount Seskin Community College, Clondalkin via *UCD All* and the Clondalkin Access Network. Six scholars prepared



materials and assisted students in preparing for their oral Irish examinations, some workshops were held in person and others online.

In addition to the above, other student activities held through the medium of Irish 2022-'23 included: Tabhair do Lámh, (a swim for charity), Seó Drag (drag show in Irish), Scóráil sciobtha (speed dating), Comórtas Grianghrafadóireachta (photography competition with proverbs), Ceardlann Gaeilge (Irish workshop with IVSA in Slovenia), Oíche Scannánaíochta (Film night), Club BÁCáil( baking night), X-Factor as Gaeilge (talent competition), Comórtas le Maths Soc (Crack the Code), Sean nós dance workshop, Damhsa Jive (Jive & line dance workshop) and Tóraíocht Tasce (Treasure Hunt).

#### *UCD Students' Union and Student Societies*

Residence scheme scholars frequently take on leadership roles in student societies in the UCD Students' Union or the Union of Students in Ireland. In 2022-2023 former scholar Shane Mac Amhlaoibh was voted UCDSU Oifigeach na Gaeilge (Irish Language Officer). Former scholar Míde Ní Fhionnlaoich was voted UCDSU Welfare Officer. The union worked closely with the Auditor of An Cumann Gaelach, Chantelle Caldwell, during Seachtain na Gaeilge. A number of 2022-'23 residence scheme scholars held the role of class reps both within the Cumann and the Union.

#### *Gradaim Ghaeltacht UCD 2023, Student Awards*

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/ansceimchonaithe/gradaimghaeltachtucd/>

Gaeltacht UCD identified the need to recognize the work and commitment of students, clubs, and societies in the promotion of the language, hence the establishment of *Gradaim Ghaeltacht UCD* (Gaeltacht UCD Awards). *Gradaim Ghaeltacht UCD 2023* was held on 19 April '23. Among the awards presented was that of the 2023 *Teach na Gaeilge Student Ambassador* with the title awarded to student Orla Coffee. Award recipients are chosen by student ballot in advance of the event. The event was attended by current scholars and friends, representatives of *Scéim Mheantóireachta Theach na Gaeilge* (mentoring scheme), and the Chair of *Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD*. Certificates and photos of 2023 and previous year's events can be viewed at the link below and on social media, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.: <https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/ansceimchonaithe/gradaimghaeltachtucd/>

# Student Activities



*Gaeltacht UCD students organise a baking competition*



*Student photography and proverb competition*



*'Visit from 'BÁC le Gaeilge'*



*'Peil le Gaeilge'*



*'Crack the code' as Gaeilge with UCD Maths Soc*

### Project 3

#### Irish Language Cultural Program

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/cultur/>

##### *Café Sheachtain na Gaeilge/Irish-Language Coffee Morning*

On 1 March, in celebration of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2023-National Irish Language Week, Gaeltacht UCD organized an Irish-language coffee morning with live music. This event was organized specifically for UCD employees. The event was held in the UCD University Club and was attended by Irish-language speakers and learners from the Belfield and Smurfit campuses. The event served the purpose of bringing together Irish-speaking employees and of raising awareness of the Gaeltacht UCD 2023 service. Among the attendees were a number of employees who had lived abroad for a period of time and who wished to re-engage with the language. The Centre looks forward to hosting similar events in the future to facilitate language use in a relaxed, informal environment.

##### *Arabic for Irish Speakers; ‘Ó Shlán go Salaam’*

Despite its status as the first official language in Ireland, the number of people who use Irish daily constitutes a minority. The Irish-language community has, therefore, much in common with minority language groups throughout the globe. Similarly, Irish speakers identify with communities in Ireland whose mother tongues, although spoken by a majority of the population in their home countries, are spoken by a minority in Ireland. Linguistic connections between Irish and various other languages are a source of study, such as in the case of Irish and Arabic for example. Gaeltacht UCD was delighted, therefore, to host the workshop ‘An introduction to Arabic for Irish speakers’ on 3 March ‘23 during Seachtain na Gaeilge 2023 (Irish Language Week). The workshop was attended by employees, undergraduate and postgraduate students and concentrated on basic greetings and similarities between the two languages, Irish and Arabic around syntax. The workshop was facilitated by UCD Postgraduate student and USA native Tomás Mac Seáin, a linguist and fluent speaker of Arabic.

##### *Try the Pipes/Bilingual Uilleann Pipe Workshop with Cumann na bPíobairí*

Gaeltacht UCD works with several organizations that promote and preserve those aspects of



# Cultural Programme



*Piping with Cumann na bPiobairí Uilleann for students and staff*



*Kate Ní Leathlobhair and Aoife Ní Bhuachalla play for guests at the 'Café le Gaeilge'*



*Bilingual Irish dance workshop facilitated by student Éabha Melvin*

culture unique to Ireland. The uilleann pipes, one of the 5 traditional Irish musical instruments, is one such example. The uilleann pipes are recognized across the world as the unique sound of Ireland and have been inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity since 2017. In 2022-'23 Gaeltacht UCD was fortunate to have some exceptional pipers who were fluent Irish-language speakers among its Irish-language scholarship students and incorporated the learning of Irish into a practical music workshop. On 9 March '23 in association with Cumann na bPíobairí, the Association of Uilleann Pipers in Ireland, and UCD TradSoc, the Centre organized a bilingual uilleann pipe workshop with hands-on practice for participants. The workshop was a great success, attracting interest from both Irish and international language learners, students, and employees. Gaeltacht UCD continued its collaboration with Irish speakers from Cumann na bPíobairí Uilleann at its 2023 summer school in June.

#### *St Brigid's Festival Workshop*

The Feast of Saint Brigid, 1 February, a national holiday in Ireland since 2023, is celebrated globally and provides the opportunity to share aspects of Irish folklore and tradition. On 3 February, Gaeltacht UCD students facilitated a St. Brigid's cross workshop in UCD's Global Lounge. The Gaeltacht UCD scholarship students, some of whom are natives of a number of different Gaeltachtaí, often have an in-depth knowledge of the customs associated with this festival, the particular Irish-language terminology used, and the style of Brigid's crosses made in their specific regions. Students collected rushes from the countryside in advance and demonstrated how the crosses were made. Among those who participated in the workshop were students from Europe, Canada, the USA, Australia, China, and India.

#### *Irish Dance through Irish*

Céilí dancing is particularly popular with Irish language learners as well as with visiting and exchange students. In 2022-2023 Gaeltacht UCD offered bilingual dance workshops together with UCD Global in September and January. Workshops were delivered by former and/or current Gaeltacht UCD students and also served as an introduction to the language.






### *Introduction to the Irish Language*

Over 31% of UCD students and 36% of UCD employees are classified as international. Over 10,000 of these students are based on the Belfield campus, many are in Ireland for the first time and have no prior exposure to the Irish language. Gaeltacht UCD in association with UCD Global, offers this cohort a number of introductory workshops in Irish, 'My First Gaeilge'. This year workshops were offered prior to trimester 1 in September 2022 and again in January 2023. This provided a 'taster' for students, some of whom were motivated to register for the Centre's evening courses. In addition to these sessions, the Centre was requested to facilitate a bespoke workshop for trimester 1 visiting US students in October'2022. In May 2023 the Centre provided a half-day workshop in the language at the request of the Northern Arizona University (NAU), USA, Department of Psychological Sciences. This was the 4th consecutive year that Gaeltacht UCD worked with NAU students.

# Cultural Programme



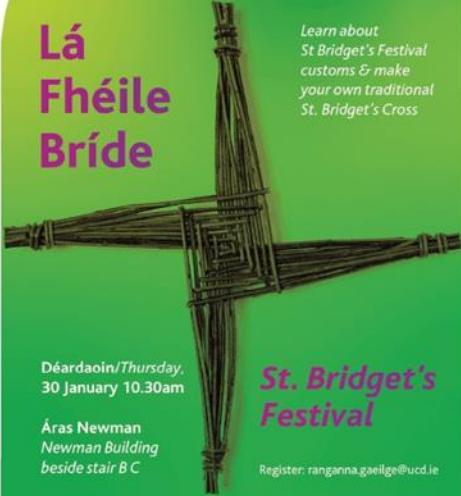
Residence Scheme scholars Cathán Bonner, Aibidh Ní Mháille & Ruth Darcy celebrate St. Brigid's Festival by hosting a practical workshop for fellow students.

**Gaeltacht UCD**  
 UCD Global Centre for Irish Language & Culture  
 In partnership with  
**The National Folklore Collection**

## Lá Fhéile Bríde

Learn about St. Brigid's Festival customs & make your own traditional St. Brigid's Cross



**St. Brigid's Festival**

Déardaoin/Thursday,  
 30 January 10.30am

Áras Newman  
 Newman Building  
 beside stair B C

Register: [ranganina.gaelige@ucd.ie](mailto:ranganina.gaelige@ucd.ie)

# Cultural Programme





## Project 4

### Gaeltacht UCD Engagement

#### *Local Engagement*

Throughout 2022-2023, *Gaeltacht UCD* was actively engaged within the University both formally and informally; with UCD Culture and Engagement, UCD Global, UCD Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and UCD Agile. The Centre published articles in the 'UCD in the Community' annual report and in the UCD Relations publication 'UCD Today'. It was represented at 'UCD Student Services' meetings and on UCD's Multicultural Employee Network, a network through which employees share their distinctive languages and cultures. In November 2022 Gaeltacht UCD had a stand at *UCD Open Day* and in January 2023 at the *UCD Careers Guidance Counselors Event*.

#### *National Engagement*

*Gaeltacht UCD* is in regular contact with the national Irish-language community. In 2022-2023 it maintained contact with the 6 lead organizations within *Foras na Gaeilge*, the All-island Partnership Forum: *Glór na nGael*, *Gael Linn*, *Conradh na Gaeilge*, *Cumann na bhFiann*, *Gaeloideachas*, and *Oireachtas na Gaeilge*,

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/tacaiochtai/gaeilgesaphobal/> Throughout the year Gaeltacht UCD Director contributed to the Irish-language media; she participated in Raidió na Gaeltachta and Raidió na Life broadcasts and provided news articles to the Irish-language publications *Tuairisc.ie*, *Seachtain (Irish Independent)*, and *ExtraG.ie*. Gaeltacht UCD supported meetings and events in *Saol na Gaeilge* including Oireachtas na Gaeilge, held in Killarney, Co Kerry, November 2022 and Seachtain na Gaeilge organised nationwide, March 2023. Students from UCD's Cumann Gaelach and Gaeltacht UCD scholars attend Oireachtas na Gaeilge and participate in the Gael Linn intervarsity debating competition. The Centre's Director was actively involved with the lead organization Gael Linn, as an associate board member as well as with the Irish literary festival, *Imram*; both organizations organize competitions and events for third-level students.

Gaeltacht UCD students participated in *Traenáil na Reachtairí*, (auditor training) facilitated by *Conradh na Gaeilge* in Dublin, in November '22 and a number of Cumann Gaelach members attended *Comhdháil Chonradh na Gaeilge*, held in Galway, March '23. Both

members of staff in the Gaeltacht UCD office, the Director and Administrator are active members of the





# Engagement: Local, National & International



'Arabic for Irish speakers' with Tomás Mac Seáin



Participants for the USA, France & Australia enjoy the 2023 Summer School launch



UCD Director Clár Ní Bhuachalla meets with 'Cumann na nOifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge' at Oireachtas na Gaeilge 2022

**Gaeltacht UCD**  
UCD Global Centre for Irish Language & Culture

**Seachtain  
na Gaeilge**

**Le enérgia**

**Sceideal 2023**

1 Márta, 10:30am, Club na hOllscoile

1 Márta, 7pm, Seomra Diospóireachta Mhic Gearailt

2 Márta, 2pm, Tolglann Domhanda

3 Márta, 1pm, Tolglann Domhanda

9 Márta, 12:30pm, Tolglann Domhanda

Is mian le Rannpháirtíocht Dhomhanda UCD Seachtain na Gaeilge 2023 a cheiliúradh. Bigi linn do Chafé le Gaeilge

Acadamh na Lianna - Diospóireacht do mhic léinn leighis UCD/TCD

My First Gaeilge - rang Gaeilge do mhic léinn idirnáisiúnta agus damhsa ar an sean nós

Ó Shlán go Salaam - Araibís do Ghaeilgeoirí

Ceardlann phiobaireachta le mac léinn scoláireachta Gaeltacht UCD, Éamonn Ó Meachair

professional organization *Cumann na nOifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge* (COFG), <https://cofg.ie/>, the National Association of Irish Language Officers and Directors. The office was represented at several meetings organized by the association in 2022-2023, including the annual meeting at *Oireachtas na Gaeilge*, in November 2022. Its members also attended seminars organized by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media related to developments in Irish-language legislation. Gaeltacht UCD hosted face-to-face meetings on UCD's Belfield campus with officers from TCD, DCU, TU Dublin and NUIM in September 2022 and March 2023. Additional meetings were held virtually.

#### *Raidió na Gaeltachta Broadcast from UCD*

In 2022 the national Irish language radio station, Raidió na Gaeltachta celebrated 50 years since its foundation. In November 2022 Gaeltacht UCD welcomed it on campus, where it hosted a live broadcast from the UCD Student Centre. Raidió na Gaeltacht presenter Áine Ní Bhreisleán, a UCD alumna, presented her program 'Bladhaire' from the Fitzgerald Chamber; she interviewed students and employees including Gaeltacht UCD staff, members of Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD, UCD Cumann Gaelach and UCD Students' Union. Áine spoke with native speaking PhD students from UCD Science and UCD Arts and Humanities, representatives from UCD Education, UCD Sociology, UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Irish Folklore, UCD Law and the National Folklore Collection. UCD TradSoc musicians entertained listeners. The program provided an insight into the Irish-language community in the University, the opportunities it affords Irish speakers, and the welcoming environment which prevails. Gaeltacht UCD is grateful to Áine Ní Bhreisleán and the Raidió na Gaeltachta team for organizing this broadcast from Belfield. A podcast of the program can be heard at: <https://www.rte.ie/radio/podcasts/series/30507-bladhaire/>



# Engagement: Local, National & International



### *International Engagement*

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/arfudnacruinne/>

Gaeltacht UCD activities are popular with visiting students, exchange students and international employees. Over 50% of registrations for the Centre's 2022-'23 language courses and cultural workshops came from participants who identified with a country or region outside the island of Ireland. In addition to its core activities, the Centre provided bespoke courses to visiting groups, on request.

### *Gaeltacht UCD Summer School/Tionól Gaeilge UCD 2023*

Gaeltacht UCD's annual International Summer School, Tionól Gaeilge UCD provides the national and global Irish-language community with a unique opportunity to engage with the University. This 1- week school, first founded in 2017 has attracted a diverse group of learners, a number of which have returned for a 5th and 6th year in succession.

UCD President, Professor Orla Feely, welcomed a total of 63 participants to the 2023 school (26-30 June), which comprised speakers and learners from Ireland, Australia, the USA, the UK, France, and Germany. The 2023 school saw a development in connections with the Irish diaspora in England, both first-generation and second-generation Irish. The USA was represented by students from Champlain College Vermont and adult learners from Pennsylvania and Baltimore. Participants also came via cultural organizations within the EU, *Centre Culturel Irlandais*, Paris, for example. Undergraduate students included a representative from the Una Europa Student Board, <https://www.una-europa.eu/>, (an alliance of 11 European universities of which UCD is a member). Gaeltacht UCD was especially happy to welcome back learners from Northern Ireland as well as UCD neighbors; participants from the University's immediate vicinity in South County Dublin.



# Engagement: Local, National & International



# Gaeltacht UCD Irish Language Summer School 2023

 **Gaeltacht UCD**  
Centre mondial pour la langue et la culture irlandaises d'UCD

## Apprenez l'irlandais à UCD Dublin

École d'été internationale de langue irlandaise

En collaboration avec 



[www.ucd.ie/irish/ga](http://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga) University College Dublin, Irlande

 **Gaeltacht UCD**  
UCD Globales Zentrum für irische Sprache und Kultur

## Irisch lernen am UCD Dublin

Internationale Sommerschule für irische Sprache

In Zusammenarbeit mit 



[www.ucd.ie/irish/ga](http://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga) University College Dublin, Irland

 **Gaeltacht UCD**  
都柏林大学爱尔兰语和文化全球中心

## 在都柏林大学学习爱尔兰语

爱尔兰语暑期国际夏令营

与Gaeilchultúr合作 



[www.ucd.ie/irish/ga](http://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga) 爱尔兰都柏林大学

 **Gaeltacht UCD**  
UCD Globalne Centrum Nauki Języka i Kultury Irlandzkiej

## Ucz się Irlandzkiego w UCD Dublin

Międzynarodowa Szkoła Letnia Języka Irlandzkiego

Współpraca z 



[www.ucd.ie/irish/ga](http://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga) Uniwersytet College Dublin w Irlandii

The 2023 school offered Irish-language classes at 5 levels with the majority of learners at levels B1, B2, and advanced level. Classes were held each morning and organized in association with the organization Gaelchultúr. Lectures were offered each afternoon and guest lecturers included UCD faculty; Professor Kelly Fitzgerald, UCD School of Irish Celtic Studies and Irish Folklore, Professor Michael Doherty, Dean and Head of UCD School of Veterinary Science, Professor Iarfhlaith Watson, UCD School of Sociology and UCD Poet in Residence Ciar Nic É. The school also welcomed Páidí Ó Lionáird, Communications Manager, Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga, RTÉ broadcaster Sinéad Ní Uallacháin and Irish language author Réaltán Ní Leannáin. The school's cultural program welcomed harpist and traditional singer Éibhlis Ní Riordán, Dancer Bridie O'Flaherty, piper Éamonn Ó Meachair and community performance group 'The Fingal Mummers' directed by Seán Mac Philibin. Participants enjoyed a guided tour of the National Gallery of Ireland delivered through the medium of Irish, they partook in a table quiz in Club Chonradh na Gaeilge and experienced a Pop-up Gaeltacht in the pub 'Pipers Corner' in Dublin's city centre. Gaeltacht UCD appreciates the cooperation of its colleagues in UCD Global, UCD Alumni, and the Irish language media in advertising this event, as well as colleagues in UCD Quinn School of Business, UCD Sutherland School of Law, UCD Village, UCD Student Centre, UCD Estates, UCD University Club and Summer at UCD all of which facilitated operations, hospitality, and accommodation, services which contributed to the success of the 2023 program.



## Project 5

### Supports for UCD Employees

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/tacaiochtaí/>

#### *Irish Language Legislation-Translation and Advisory Service*

Background: Since the founding of Bord na Gaeilge UCD, now Gaeltacht UCD, the Centre has been mindful of the significance of the Irish language under the 1997 Universities Act. The University's Irish-language board, founded in the same year as the Act, initiated a bilingual policy for stationery and signage and the Centre provided a translation service, facilitating all Irish/English and English /Irish translations. Further to the Official Languages Act 2003, the Centre adopted an advisory role for schools and units on the regulations under the Act. Translations included publications, website material, and prerecorded oral announcements. Gaeltacht UCD worked with UCD Procurement and *Rannóg an Aistriúcháin* in procuring translation providers and it maintained a proofing service in-house to ensure accuracy and consistency. The Centre's Irish Language Officer represented the University at meetings of Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga and the then Department of the Gaeltacht.

Since the Official Languages (Amended) Act was signed into law in December 2021, the Gaeltacht UCD office has catered to an increased demand for its translation and advisory service; in 2022-23 the greatest demand came from UCD HR, UCD Estates, and UCD Relations including requests for voice mails, job descriptions, publications for distribution to 2nd level schools in Ireland, social media campaigns, temporary and permanent signage. A number of academic schools sought translations for projects associated with EU funding which stipulated the use of a second (minority) language. Gaeltacht UCD staff also assisted a number of academic colleagues in preparing for interviews in Irish language media or input in Irish language documentaries), most recently in UCD School of Medicine.

The Centre continued to facilitate the translations of publications, including the University's 2021-2024 Global Engagement Strategy, and UCD's 2023-2028 Africa Strategy, launched in May 2023. These can be viewed on the Gaeltacht UCD website:

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/tacaiochtaí/foilseachain/>



### *Irish Language Legislation-Information and Resources*

In response to the Amended Act, the Centre further developed its resources to facilitate the University's compliance. A section for 'Supports' was included on its website, containing video recordings and guidelines

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/tacaiochtai/reachtaiochtteanga/>. In 2023 a new FAQ section was added. The Centre continued to update its database of translations, UCD building names as well as school and college titles. <https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/tacaiochtai/>. It also continued to compile a listing of current UCD staff competent in the language:

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/tacaiochtai/baillfoirnelegaeilge/> These resources aim to make UCD Irish-language terminology, i.e. the Irish language version of college and school titles, more accessible to internal employees. The database of Irish-speaking faculty is a useful resource for incoming students as well as for the Irish-language media.

### *Continuity, Development, and Expansion*

The HEA targeted initiative funding remains ring-fenced for the delivery of Gaeltacht UCD's core Irish-language initiatives. In addition to these core initiatives, Gaeltacht UCD provides the aforementioned supports to facilitate the University's compliance with legislation. In view of the increased obligations placed on the University under the amended Act, the University has budgeted to further resource Gaeltacht UCD so that efficient services in both language promotion and the facilitation of legal compliance can continue.

# Supports for UCD Employees



*Páidí Ó Lionaird, Communications Manager at Oifig an Choimisinéir Teanga, addresses Irish Universities Association HR Conference in UCD*

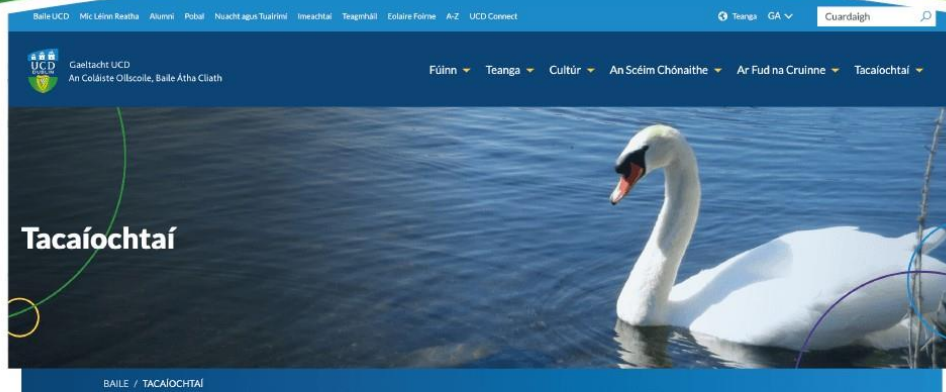


*Svetlana Malceva, UCD Lochlann School of Business*

*B'fuair an deasc seo  
cúpla go dtí 2 i.n.*



# Supports for UCD Employees



**Eolas & treorlínte faoi reachtaíocht teanga**



**Bunachar d'ainmneacha na bhfoirgneamh**



**Bunachar d'ainmneacha na scoileanna**



Tabhair faoi deara go n-athraíonn líriú na bhfocail ag brath ar an gcomhthéacs. Má tá ceist ar bith agat, bí cinnte teagmháil a dhéanamh le hOifig Ghaeltacht UCD: [ranganna.gaelge@ucd.ie](mailto:ranganna.gaelge@ucd.ie)

**Bunachar d'ainmneacha na gcoláistí**



**Téarmaíocht bhreise (2020-2022)**



**Foilseacháin**



## Project 6

### Irish-Language Promotional Activities

#### *Publications*

Articles on *Gaeltacht UCD* events were published regularly in UCD internal publications; in *UCD Today* <http://www.ucd.ie/ucdtoday/> and UCD Alumni E-zines <https://alumni.ucd.ie/magazine-archive/>. Notices were placed regularly in UCD's Staff and Student e-zines available via UCD's intranet as well as on *UCD Connect*, the UCD Alumni electronic newsletter. The Center's activities are featured in Irish-language media; in the Irish Independent supplement *Seachtain* and in the Irish-language publications, *Tuairisc.ie* and *ExtraG.ie*. Advertisements for language courses and the University's residential scholarship scheme were published in UCD student media, UCD Observer, and UCD College Tribune.

Gaeltacht UCD continued to design various promotional materials throughout the year. It published bilingual brochures for its summer school in Irish/German, Irish/Polish, Irish/French, and Irish/Chinese. It distributed bilingual flyers to all second-level schools in Ireland as well as posters and promotional materials for on-campus and electronic distribution. All were displayed on the Gaeltacht UCD website and/or shared via Gaeltacht UCD social media, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

*Gaeltacht UCD Website:* [www.ucd.ie/irish](http://www.ucd.ie/irish)

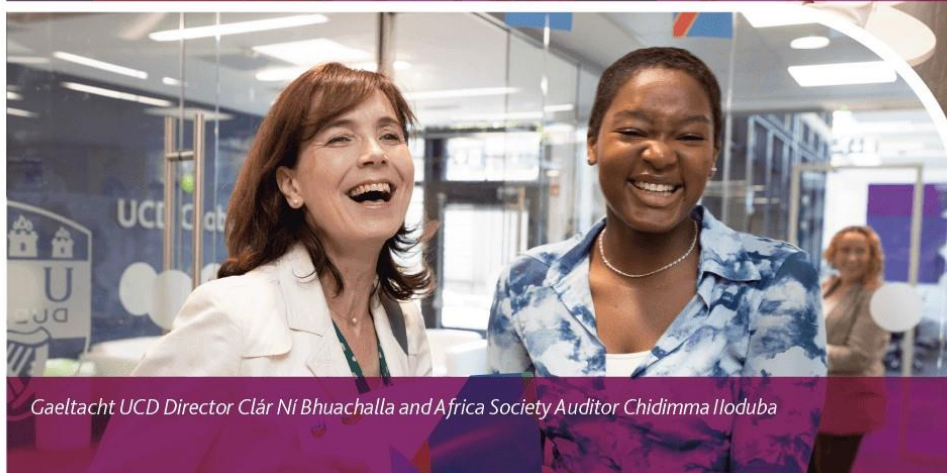
The Gaeltacht UCD website highlights the Centre's projects and makes information accessible to those within and without the UCD community. It is a bilingual site that enables users to move seamlessly from Irish to English and English to Irish on each page. Registration for language courses, cultural activities, and scholarships are all hosted on the website via UCD Infohub, systems, and the ease of access has been commented on in feedback from the Centre's 2023 summer school participants. Further to the development of a new site in 2021, Gaeltacht UCD continued to upload new material on a regular basis in 2023, brochures, schedules, photos, podcasts, and seminar recordings. In 2023 the Centre commenced the movement of the site to the new UCD interface 'Design Library', this is expected to further enhance the site's accessibility on mobile devices.



# Publications in Irish



*UCD President, Professor Orla Feely, Dr. Samuel Ogwu, Mr Alan Gibbons and UCD Vice President for Global Engagement Professor Dolores O'Riordan*



*Gaeltacht UCD Director Clár Ní Bhuachalla and Africa Society Auditor Chidimma Iloduba*

### *Social Media*

Gaeltacht UCD has an active presence on social media including *Twitter* @ucdgaeltacht (3,608 followers), *Facebook* @ucdgaeltacht (2,100 followers), *Mastodon* @gaeltachtucd (80 followers), *LinkedIn.com/company/gaeltacht* (364 followers) and *Instagram* #ucdgaeltacht (2,216 followers). This engagement contributes to the visibility of the language, promotes the University's Irish-language initiatives, and connects it with the national and global Irish-language community. It has also proved to be particularly effective in creating awareness among prospective students.

### *Irish Language Media*

During 2022-2023, Gaeltacht UCD Director spoke regularly with the Irish-language media: Raidió na Gaeltachta, Raidió Fáilte and Raidió na Life. Programs included *Fada is Fairsing* with Lisa Nic an Bhreithimh, *Comhrá an Tráthnóna* with Pádraig Ó Sé and *Painéal an Luain* with Fachtá Ó Drisceoil. Interviews and participation in discussion groups provided the opportunity to highlight the Centre's work as well as other relevant University initiatives. The Centre's projects were featured in the Irish Independents' supplement 'Seachtain', *Tuairisc.ie* and *ExtraG.ie*

### *Sponsorship*

In 2022-2023, *Gaeltacht UCD* supported the use of the language by UCD schools, centers, units, student societies, and clubs. The Centre supported student involvement in literature and journalism through its sponsorship of *Duaiseanna Liteartha an Oireachtais* (the national under-19 award for journalism section) including the most recent award in November 2022. The Centre also provided translation and proofing support to Irish-language student journalists, bloggers, and vloggers.

## **University Support**

### *Structure, Management, and Administration*

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/fuinn/>

Gaeltacht UCD forms part of the UCD Global Engagement portfolio, and its activity has thrived in this global environment. The Centre joined UCD Global Engagement under the direction of Professor Dolores O'Riordan, UCD's Vice-President for Global Engagement, in

June 2019 and this was its fourth academic year within the new structure. The restructuring of the Centre was the result of a comprehensive review of the unit (previously known as *Bord na Gaeilge*) conducted in 2018-2019. The change in structure has been successful in strengthening the profile of the language. Gaeltacht UCD has succeeded in maintaining all that is unique to the Irish language and its speakers in Ireland while bringing the language and its associated culture to a broader global community.

#### *Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD*

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/fuinn/bordtacaiochtagaeilge/>

Background: UCD first established an Irish-Language Board in 1996-'97. The Board's members represented UCD students and staff across a range of faculties. The Board was charged with advising the Irish-language unit *Bord na Gaeilge* and making recommendations to UCD's Governing Authority regarding the use of the Irish language. In 2020, further to the restructuring of the Irish-language unit and the establishment of *Gaeltacht UCD, UCD Global Centre for Irish Language and Culture*, UCD Governing Authority approved new terms of reference for *Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD*, an Irish-language advisory board. Gaeltacht UCD staff are members of the board; terms of reference and membership of the board can be viewed at the link above.

In July 2023 the term of the current Cathaoirleach, Professor Michael Doherty, came to an end. Professor Doherty was a founding member of the original Board, *Bord na Gaeilge UCD*, established in 1997. He served as a board member under the Chair of Professor Séamas Ó Catháin and again under the Chair of Professor Enda Hession who he later succeeded. For over 25 years Professor Doherty made a very significant contribution to the maintenance and promotion of the Irish language on campus; his consistent support of the Centre, its projects, and its staff as well as his genuine interest in and engagement with the student community, will be greatly missed. Further to his resignation, the Office of Vice-President for Global Engagement invited expressions of interest from UCD employees across the University. The process is now completed, and Professor Iarfhlaith Watson has since been appointed Chair of *Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD*.

### *UCD Governing Authority*

Gaeltacht UCD appreciates the support of the University's Governing Authority and submits a report on its projects annually. In September 2022 the Centre presented its 2021-2022 annual report to the Authority. In May 2023 Gaeltacht UCD Director was invited to address the board on developments and resources required to continue its work.

### *Gaeltacht UCD, Administrators, Tutors, and Facilitators*

One full-time Senior Administrator and one full-time Senior Executive Assistant managed the Gaeltacht UCD office and each of its projects. The 2022-2023 initiatives and the post of Senior Executive Assistant were funded by the special targeted initiative funding. The SEA post has ensured continuity, a high standard of delivery, and a broad range of initiatives. The Centre's Irish language tutors, translators, artists, musicians, and facilitators have been key to the success of the 2022-'23 activity. The Centre appreciates the support it receives from UCD colleagues in various other units as well as that of individuals and organizations in the external Irish-language community.

### **Mar Fhocal Scoir/In Conclusion**

The University supports Gaeltacht UCD staff and each of the projects detailed in this report. In the context of the Official Languages (Amended) Act 2021, and the necessity for public bodies to increase the level of Irish-language services offered, Gaeltacht UCD initiatives will play an increasingly important role in the University in the years ahead. The Centre's language courses align with one of the Act's primary objectives; to increase the number of recruits competent in Irish in the public sector. Its translation services facilitate compliance with the advertising provision (Section 10A) which came into effect in October 2022. It is also envisaged that some of the Centre's current student initiatives, whose success can be attributed to the HEA's special funding, will likely be included in the language standards due to replace the system of language schemes. As the public sector awaits the publishing of the first National Plan for Irish Language Services in 2025, UCD is confident that the current Irish-language initiatives administered by Gaeltacht UCD, not only facilitate compliance but contribute to the spirit of the legislation.

The HEA special provision for the support of the Irish language has enabled Gaeltacht UCD to support a vibrant Irish-language community on campus. The current projects reflect the



University's commitment to inclusion; they foster diversity and support linguistic sustainability. They have enabled the University to increase the visibility of the language, develop opportunities to learn the language, encourage engagement and empower Irish-language speakers.