



**Gaeltacht UCD**

*UCD Global Centre for Irish Language & Culture*

[www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/](http://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/)

# Special Provision for the Support of the Irish Language



**Report on Activities**

September 2024 to August 2025

*Multi-instrumentalist Éanna Ó Casaide, from the Irish band  
Burnchurch, who played at Féile na Fuaime 2025, in UCD*





Students from Princeton University, USA who participated in the Gaeltacht UCD 2025 Summer School.

<b>Project 1: Learning for Life</b>	2
Irish Language Courses for UCD Students and Employees Language Learning outside the Classroom: Language Workshops, Social & Cultural Events	
<b>Project 2: UCD Student Experience</b>	4
UCD’s Irish Language Residential Scholarship Scheme, ‘Teach na Gaeilge’	
<b>Project 3: Promoting the Irish Language throughout the University</b>	14
Supporting Compliance with Irish Language Legislation	
<b>Project 4: Building Engagement across the Island of Ireland</b>	20
Local Engagement National Engagement Promotional Activities	
<b>Project 5: International Engagement; Irish Roots, Global Reach</b>	28
Gaeltacht UCD International Irish Language Summer School Gaeltacht UCD/Una Europa UCD China Joint Colleges Collaboration	
<b>University Support</b>	34
<b>Conclusion</b>	36

## Overview

Gaeltacht UCD, UCD Global Centre for Irish Language and Culture, actively promotes the use of the Irish language and its associated culture. Although Irish is one of Ireland’s two official languages, it remains a minority language, and its preservation is vital to ensuring cultural and linguistic sustainability at the national level. Situated in UCD, the largest University in Ireland, Gaeltacht UCD plays an important role in language maintenance, bridging the gap between the language of the home, school and sports field to the language in the professions and society at large. The Irish language is a unique differentiator for UCD; its associated culture has become increasingly popular worldwide and Gaeltacht UCD’s initiatives enhance the university’s global impact in this regard, ‘bringing the best of the world to Ireland, and bringing the best of Ireland

including its distinct cultures to the world’, (UCD Global Engagement Strategy 2021-’24). Significant achievements in 2024–25 included empowering UCD students and employees, through the provision of Irish language training, fostering student engagement, innovation and creativity; developing supports related to Irish language rights and obligations; and strengthening relationships through the delivery of cultural programs with UCD’s partners both nationally and internationally. The Centre was satisfied with the increased level of engagement in its activities and the positive feedback it received. In completing the 2024-’25 initiatives, Gaeltacht UCD enjoyed working with many UCD colleagues, and partners in the wider Irish language community, each of which contributed to their success.



# Learning for Life

## Irish Language Courses for UCD Students and Employees

### Irish Language Courses

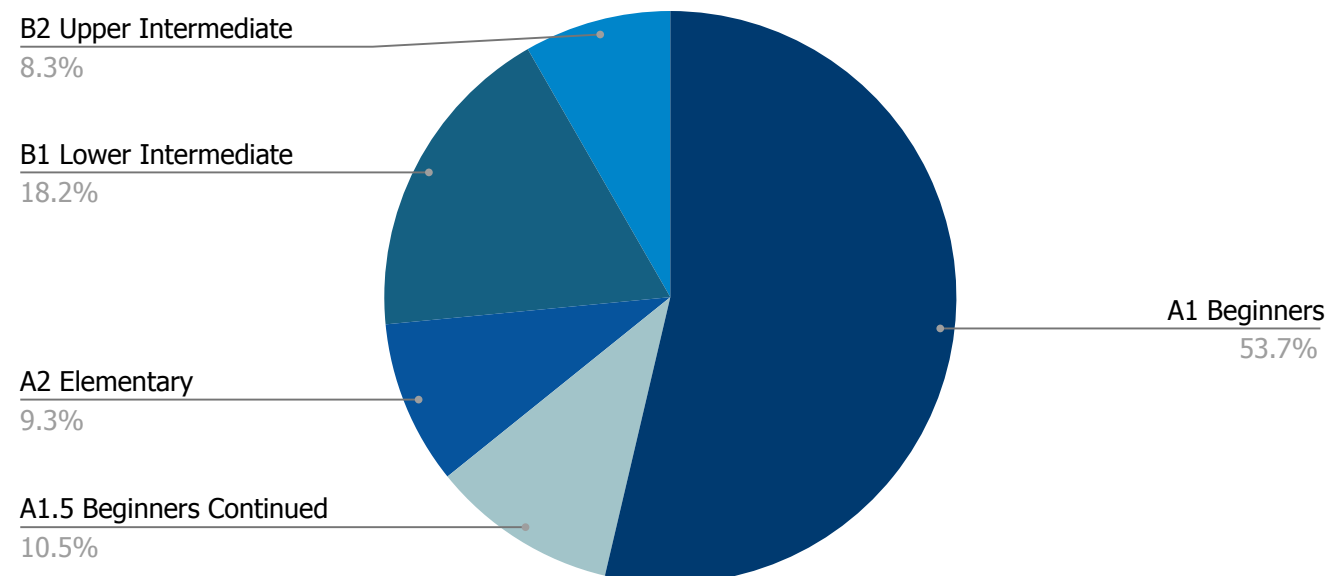
UCD students and employees, both academic and professional staff took part in the Gaeltacht UCD Irish language courses 2024-2025. The unit delivered Irish language courses at 5 levels in accordance with the Common European Framework for Languages (CEFL), levels A1 to B2. A 10-week course was offered in trimester 1 and an 8-week course in trimester 2. Classes were held two evenings per week. In 2025 the Centre's offerings expanded when two additional classes were held at levels A1 and B1 in association with UCD Registry.

Gaeltacht UCD's on-line placement test ensured its 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 language-speaking community, facilitated the integration of visiting and exchange students, and encouraged engagement between students, faculty, and professional staff. The feedback from the courses was positive with many employees already registered for the 2025-2026 offerings.

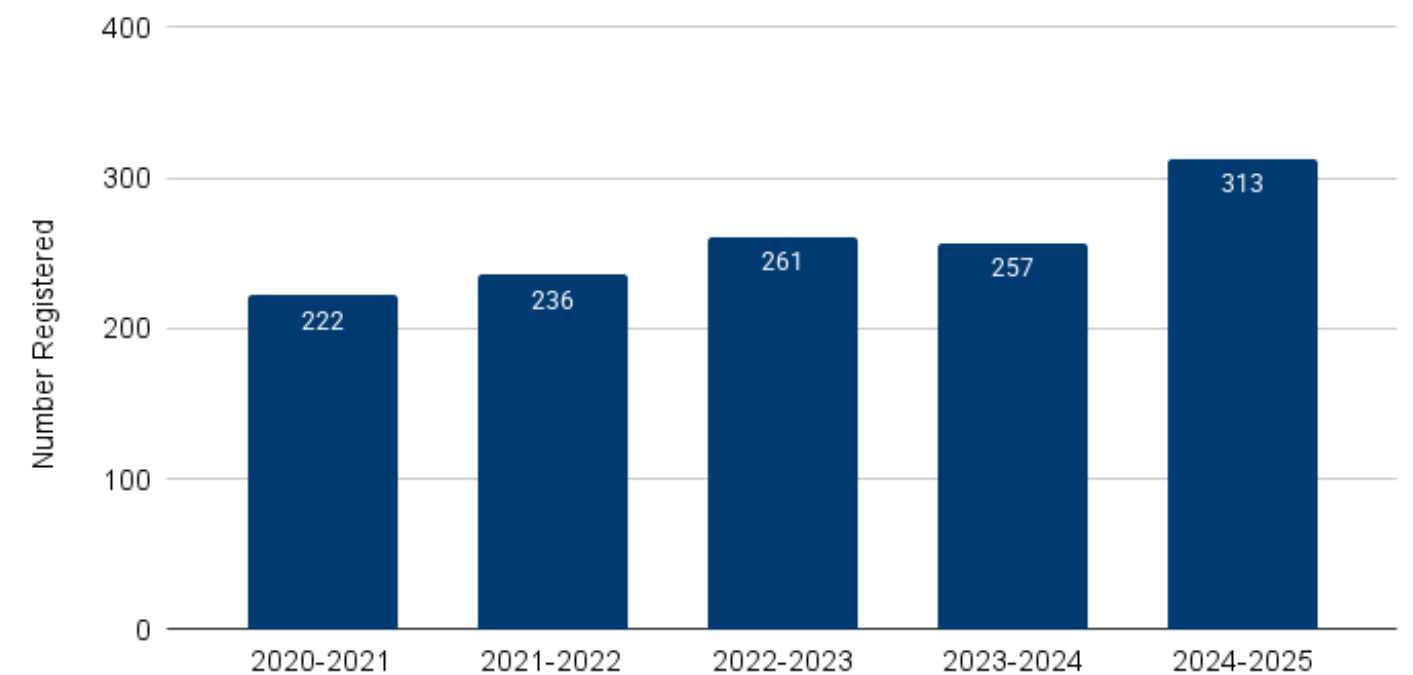
From September 2024 to June 2025, over 397 Irish language learners registered with Gaeltacht UCD on Belfield campus; 289 students and employees registered for evening courses, 24 with Registry, and 84 attended the 1- week Irish language summer school. An additional 123 registered for Irish language and bilingual cultural workshops throughout the year. In addition to the 397 students registered on Belfield campus, over 250 students partook in Irish language and cultural workshops in UCD's China Joint College, Beijing Dublin International College. This particular course (funded outside the HEA targeted funding initiative) provided the opportunity for registered UCD students in one of UCD's joint colleagues to experience internationalisation at home.

The Gaeltacht UCD evening courses at level A1 were particularly popular with international students and staff comprising over 53.7% of those registered. The 2025 International Irish Language Summer School, attracted a high percentage of intermediate/advanced learners; 59% of participants were in the highest two class levels. A total of 14 qualified tutors were employed by Gaeltacht UCD on a part-time basis throughout the year; 8 to facilitate delivery of the Centre's evening courses and a further 6 for its summer school, as well as a number of substitute tutors.

### Irish Language Courses 2024-25



### Irish Language Learners Registered 2020-2025



The recruitment of Irish-language tutors remained 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 and a diverse range of professional units were represented among the 2024-2025 participants, they included undergraduate and postgraduate students, academic and professional staff. A sizable number of learners comprised those who did not have the opportunity 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. Many learners cited the classes as an opportunity to gain an additional insight into Ireland's culture as well as an opportunity to meet with both Irish and international students and employees socially.



## European Certification in Irish

Gaeltacht UCD language courses are offered at levels A1, A2, B1, and B2, levels which align with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). The centre updates its learning resources on a continuous basis, with priority given to the courses with the highest registrations, subject to the availability of funding. Further to the legal obligations placed on the public sector under the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021; and the necessity to increase competency in Irish among employees, an increase in demand for certification of Irish language skills was expected. In 2021, in anticipation of this demand, the Centre designed a preparatory course for the Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge B1 examination (European Certificate in Irish, B1). These

resources included digital recordings, video content, and interactive exercises in each of the 3 major dialects. Further to the roll out of the new B1 course, feedback from learners revealed the necessity for more intensive preparation at level A2 and new course materials at this level were designed and piloted 2024-2025. Further to the publication of the National Plan for Irish Language Public Services, October 2024, and the ensuing guidelines to be published by December '25, UCD employees aspire to provide an increased level of service through the medium of Irish. This will require a level of fluency equivalent to level B2 in a number of areas within the University. In 2024-'25 research began on the design of a new 20 unit course at level B2. The development of a new B2 course designed specifically for UCD employees will commence 2025-'26 supported by the University's 2030 strategic fund.



Aislinn Cox, Gaeltacht UCD Irish Language Project Coordinator



"...the format really worked for me. We delved into the richness of the language, and Ciara [the tutor] encouraged students to suggest topics for exploration. I learned so much - every week felt like opening a treasure trove of forgotten words. I've grown to love the language, its sound, and its origins."

Catherine Bodey, UCD College of Engineering and Architecture

## Language Learning outside the Classroom- Language Workshops, Social and Cultural Events.

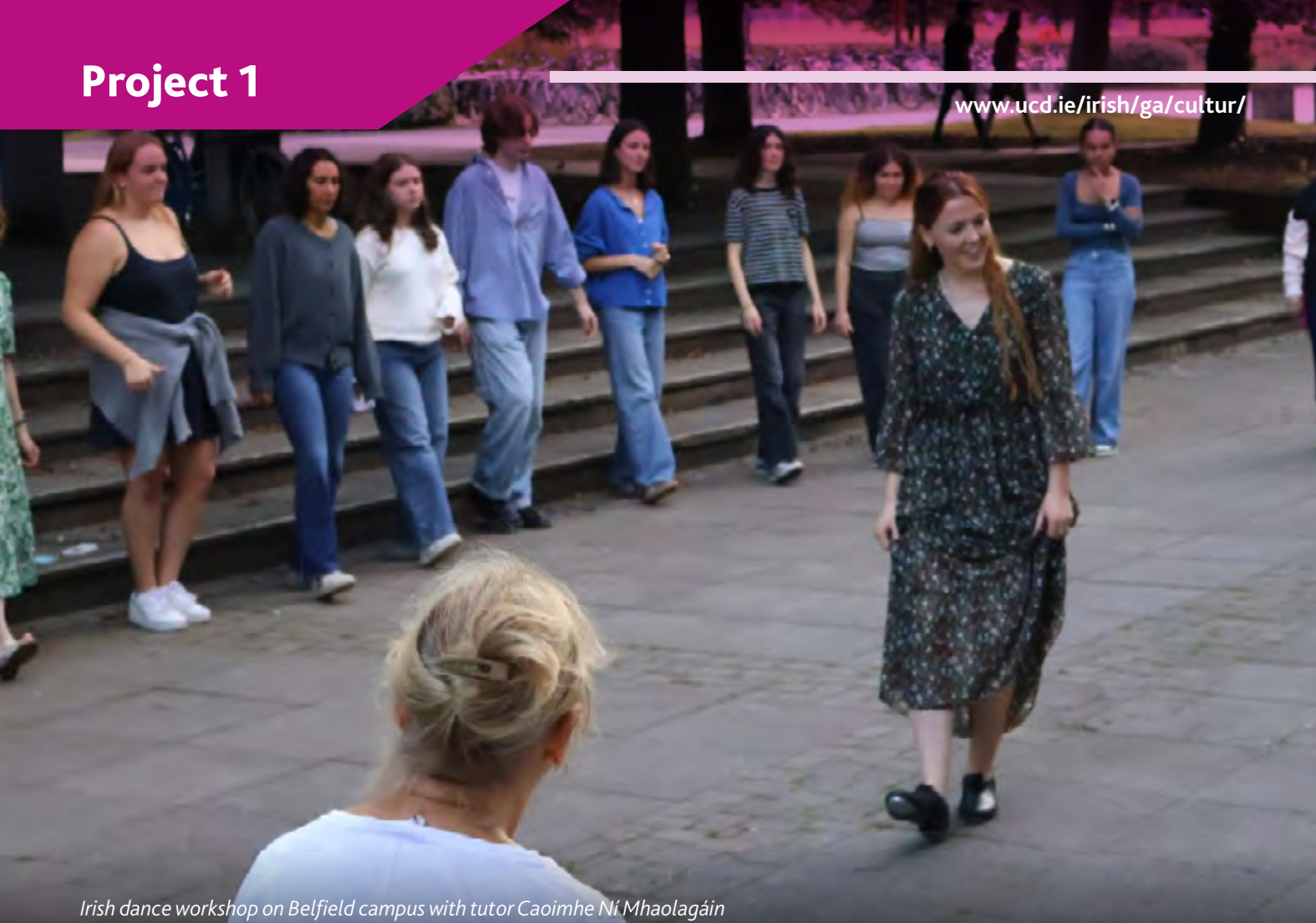
<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/cultur/>

In addition to its structured language courses, Gaeltacht UCD provides its learners with opportunities to learn about and/or use the language beyond the classroom setting. The 2024-'25 activities included presentations, and workshops in language, music, song and traditional crafts. Activities were facilitated bilingually or through the medium of Irish. From September to April 2024-2025 students and employees had the opportunity to attend presentations on the Irish language, tin-whistle workshops, a St. Bridget's Day cross weaving workshop, as well as workshops in sean-nós dance, céilí dance, Irish language and traditional song. Seachtain Domhanda na Gaeilge (Global Irish Language Week), which took place in March 2025, was a particular focus for co-curricular events organized by both UCD Students' Union, Cumann Gaelach UCD and Gaeltacht UCD. Examples of some of these activities are outlined in this report under Projects 2 and 3. These cultural events were advertised extensively within UCD at the beginning of each trimester, via UCD's electronic newsletters, e-screens, via the student media, the UCD Workvivo platform, and in-person, through rotating pop-up stands throughout campus.

## Presentations and Workshops on Irish Language and its Associated Culture

Of the 34,325 students registered on UCD campus in Ireland over 11,000 are international. Similarly, 1,625 of UCD's current 4,321 employees are international. Many of the students based on the Belfield campus 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 on 25 September 2024 and again on 15 January 2025. This provided a 'taster' for students, some of whom were motivated to register for Gaeltacht UCD's evening courses. In addition to these sessions, the centre was requested to facilitate several bespoke workshops such as that for a visiting group from University of Fribourg, Switzerland, 2 September 2024 for which Gaeltacht UCD organised a short cultural program for 15 history students together with accompanying researcher Thomas Lau and Professor Vitus Huber. The program included introductions to the Irish language, Irish folklore and Irish song. Other workshops delivered included, 2 during UCD Global Week in Irish language and Irish song, 24 and 25 September. The unit also had the pleasure for presenting on the language to international students in the following schools/units:





Irish dance workshop on Belfield campus with tutor Caoimhe Ní Mhaolagáin

Confucius Institute, 13 Sept '24, UCD Global, 5 January '25, UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business, 5 February '25 and UCD Smurfit School, 31 March '25. Gaeltacht UCD presented at all 5 Orientation Programmes offered by Staff Development, UCD Human Resources, and partook in coffee mornings for new staff in the same program. The Centre's Irish Language Planning Officer offered specific information sessions on Irish language legislative requirements, September '24 to May '25, details under Project 3.

In addition to international students registered on UCD campuses in Ireland, a further 5,000 students are registered on overseas campuses. Since 2019 Gaeltacht UCD has provided opportunities for some of these students to engage with Irish language and culture. In 2025 it designed and delivered a bespoke 1 - week cultural course in Irish language, sport, dance and music, in association with UCD China Joint Colleges. The course was delivered in Beijing Dublin International College (BDIC), 21-25 April '25, details under Project 5 in this report.

## St Bridget's Festival Workshop for UCD Students and Employees

The feast of one of Ireland's national saints, Saint Bridget is celebrated as a national holiday in Ireland and provides the opportunity to share aspects of Irish folklore and tradition globally. State recognition of St. Bridget's cross weaving as part of Ireland's intangible cultural heritage was announced in 2024 and since that time this traditional craft has become increasingly popular. On 30 January 2025, Gaeltacht UCD students and staff facilitated a St. Bridget's cross workshop in UCD's Global Lounge. Teach na Gaeilge UCD students (Gaeltacht UCD's residential scheme scholars), who are natives of various Gaeltachtaí, acted as facilitators and shared the customs associated with this festival, the Irish language terminology used, and the style of Bridget's crosses made in their specific regions. Gaeltacht UCD worked with its scholars who collected rushes from the countryside in advance, presented on the folklore associated with the feast day and demonstrated how the crosses were made. This event attracted a very diverse cohort; undergraduate and postgraduate students, mature students and employees. Visiting and exchange students included those from Europe, Canada, the USA, India, Australia and China. Due to the particular interest in and success of this activity it is intended to expand on this topic and include it in Gaeltacht UCD's 2025-'26 cultural program, Cultúr le Chéile.

## Café na Nollag agus Lón Sheachtain na Gaeilge/Christmas Coffee & Irish Language Lunch for UCD Employees

UCD employees are central to the delivery of services in the Irish language and Gaeltacht UCD encourages the use of Irish outside its formal language courses. In trimester 1. Café na Nollag, an Irish language coffee morning was provided, 12 December '24 and in trimester 2. 12 February, Lón le Gaeilge, an informal Irish language lunch. Lón le Gaeilge was organized in association with UCD Registry and UCD TradSoc. Further to the event, UCD Registry continued to organize an informal Lón le Gaeilge on a monthly basis in the Tierney Building. In light of the increased obligations placed on UCD under the most recent legislation which requires employees to engage with the language, Gaeltacht UCD looks forward to initiating and/or collaborating on similar initiatives to facilitate language use in a relaxed, informal environment in the year ahead.

## The Traditional Arts - Cultural Workshops

It is often through the traditional arts that learners discover and come to appreciate the Irish language. Gaeltacht UCD is committed to preserving and practicing those aspects of Irish culture associated with the language. In 2024-'25, the centre offered bilingual dance workshops together with UCD Global during students' orientation in September '24 and January '25 and again during Seachtain na Gaeilge/Global Irish Language week, March '25. Tin-whistle workshops, workshops in sean-nós, dance and traditional song were offered in both trimester 1 and 2. Some of these were provided as part of the Gaeltacht UCD language course schedule, while others were requested by visiting groups or academic schools. Workshops were delivered by Gaeltacht UCD tutors and/or external artists from the wider Irish language community.



Gaeltacht UCD scholars facilitate a St. Bridget Cross Making Workshop





Orientation Course, Part 3, 2025: Gaeltacht UCD scholars, alumni and Gaeltacht UCD team



Gaeltacht UCD scholars: Sorcha Stockman, UCD Trad Soc Auditor, Cáit Ní Leathlobhar, UCDSU Irish Language Officer and Méin Ní Craith, UCD Cumann Gaelach Auditor

## UCD Student Experience

### UCD's Irish Language Residential Scholarship Scheme, Teach na Gaeilge 2024-2025

Teach na Gaeilge UCD, the University's Irish language student residence scheme has played an important role in Irish language transmission over the past 25 years and is a model on which student residential schemes in other Irish universities were based. It is also the model on which Tigh na Gàidhlig, the Scottish Gaelic student residential scheme in University of Glasgow, was founded. Teach na Gaeilge UCD alumni continue to play a pivotal role in language promotion nationally. Many of these alumni from both native and non-native speaking backgrounds, have maintained the friendships initially formed within UCD's Irish language community; some work within the Irish language sector while others play an active role in language promotion, on a voluntary basis. Gaeltacht UCD therefore positions these scholars at the core of all its activity. In 2024-'25 students from this scheme continued to promote the use of the language among their peers and represent the University in the wider Irish language community.

### Residential Scholarship Scheme Activity and 2024-'25 Competition

The 24 Teach na Gaeilge UCD scholarships for the year 2024-2025 were advertised in March 2024 in second level schools nationwide (32 counties). The scholarships were also advertised in the Irish-language media in the publication Tuairisc.ie, on social media; Instagram, X, Facebook, Mastodon, LinkedIn and Bluesky, via the UCD Scholarships website <https://www.ucd.ie/students/scholarships/prospectiveundergraduatestudents/> and the Gaeltacht UCD website <https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/ansceimchonaith/scolaireachtaí/>. Gaeltacht UCD also provided information to prospective students at various internal and external events, at UCD GradsConnect, 24 September '24, National Ploughing Championships,

19 Sept '24, Higher Options, 25-27 September '24, UCD Open Day, 9 November '24 and UCD Guidance Counsellors Seminar, 14 January '25.

The 2024-2025 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 Gaeltacht 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 initiated a broad range of language projects which involved the promotion of the language within the wider University community. The Gaeltacht UCD residence scheme scholarship is documented on each student's academic transcript. The centre continuously reviews this student experience; feedback from 2024-2025 scholars was positive and demand continued for the 2025-2026 competition.

### 2024-'25 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. This Orientation Course, which involves alumni and representatives from external organisations, enhances communication between the individual scholarship students and between the students and the Gaeltacht UCD team. It provides students with an understanding of their potential to impact language use both within the University and in the wider community. Scholars are provided with information on the opportunities available to them, the supports available and their obligations under the Gaeltacht UCD Residential Scheme Contract. Gaeltacht UCD considers this project the most salient in its language promotional work and the most impactful of its projects at a national level.

The 2024-2025 orientation program included 2-weekend courses: the first taking place 6-8 September and the second on 14 September 2024. The 3rd course took place prior to the commencement of trimester 2, 18-19 January 2025. The 2024-2025 orientation included workshops with the following external guests; Áine Ní Bhreisleáin, journalist and broadcaster, Daithí de Buítléar, Irish language promoter, Dublin City Council, Aisling Ní



Dhonncháin of Raidió Rírá and Ciarán Mac Fhearghusa, Óga Yoga. Members of Scéim Mheantóireachta Theach na Gaeilge, the Gaeltacht UCD mentoring scheme also supported this orientation and alumnus Peadar Ó Lamhna, Department of Foreign Affairs, presented and facilitated a workshop on 'Leading Activities'. Team-building activities included a hike in County Wicklow and a drama workshop both facilitated by Gaeltacht UCD team members as well as a student cookery competition. Throughout the academic year, 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 communication with Teach na Gaeilge alumni and mentors outside the University motivated new participants and provided guidance and support in the execution of the 2024-2025 projects. Students organised over 50 activities throughout the year, at which their peers could use Irish socially.

Teach na Gaeilge students worked closely with An Cumann Gaelach and UCD TRadSoc in organising 'Lón le Gaeilge', regular Irish language lunch meetups in UCD's Seomra Chaidrimh, Newman Building and attended regular traditional music sessions hosted by Club Chonradh na Gaeilge. The majority attended the national Irish language and cultural festival, Oireachtas na Gaeilge, Killarney, Co Kerry, Nov 2024. Student leadership is supported within the residence scheme and language promotional activities are primarily student-led. In 2024-2025, both the Auditor of An Cumann Gaelach, Méin Nic Craith and UCDSU Irish Language Officer, Kate Lawlor were both scholars of Teach na Gaeilge.



Trad Soc UCD musicians  
at an intervarsity music session in Club Chonradh na Gaeilge

## Scéim Meantóireachta Theach na Gaeilge, Alumni Mentoring Scheme

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

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, when a language can be used in a profession or recreational activity also. 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 9th year. James Knoblauch, a UCD Lochlann School of Business alumnus is the current mentor coordinator (previously held by alumnus Dónal Ó Catháin, UCD School of Psychology alumnus and Peadar Ó Lamhna, UCD School of Law alumnus). Aodhán Ó Dea, UCD School of Law alumnus and former UCD Student Union President provided particular support 2024-'25 with the delivery of the student initiative 'An Ghaeilge sa Ghnáthsaoil', details under Project 4.

## 2025 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 the National Irish-language radio station, Raidió na Gaeltachta. It is accredited by the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, and Irish Folklore. The module is offered annually, most recently in January 2025, 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. Rossa Ó Sioradáin from Raidió na Life, was this year's guest broadcaster. Podcasts of the programs produced by students are uploaded regularly to: <https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/ansceimchonaithe/scileannacumarsaide/>



As residence scheme scholars frequently hold leadership roles in student societies, they are often invited for interviews by Raidió na Gaeltachta, Raidió na Life and Raidió Fáilte. Our aim is to equip students to communicate with the media in their future careers, and/or produce podcasts through the medium of Irish in their specific area of expertise.

## 2025-'26 Competition

On 1 March 2025, the 2025-2026 Teach na Gaeilge scholarships were advertised. A total of 105 applied for scholarships of which 57 were prospective students. Interviews for 48 continuing students (2nd and 3rd-year students) were held on 1 and 2 May and interviews were held for the 57 prospective students on 28 and 30 May '25. The highest-scoring 24 students were selected for scholarships and a waiting list was compiled. Scholarships for incoming students are subject to CAO offers, 27 August '25.

## 'Teach na Gaeilge' Projects

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

Teach na Gaeilge students (UCD residence scheme scholars) play an important role as language ambassadors throughout the year. As students pursue various degree courses in a variety of UCD Colleges, they are particularly well placed to bring the language to a broad student base. They 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. It is a priority for Gaeltacht UCD to support continued language use among native and fluent speakers, so activities such as debating, moot court competitions, broadcasting, journalism or creative writing are particularly encouraged. The Centre supports all student Irish language activities on the Belfield campus and encourages collaboration with a broad range of student societies and University initiatives.



## Gradaim Ghaeltacht UCD 2025, Student Awards

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/ansceimchonaith/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 2025 was held on 9 April '25. Among the awards presented was that of 2025 Teach na Gaeilge Student Ambassador awarded to student Leon Ó Broin, UCD Lochlann School of Business. 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 2025 and previous years events can be viewed at the link above and on social media, Instagram, Twitter (X), LinkedIn, Bluesky and Facebook.

## Student Language Promotional Activities

The year 2024-2025 saw a diverse array of events organized by students both on and off campus. These included sport competitions, concerts, careers fairs, projects focused on sustainability, table quizzes, language exchanges, poetry workshops, craft workshops and charity events such as 'Relay for Life' and 'Darkness into Light' as Gaeilge. This year saw the students organise two major projects in which members of the public partook and/or attended, a careers fair An Ghaeilge san Ghnáthshaol and an Irish concert Féile na Fuaime, both detailed under Project 4. Other events included the following: Rith agus Rant, BÁCÁIL le BÉALOIDEAS, Oíche Cluichí Boird, Cluiche Cúigear an Taobh, Clabaireacht, Maidin Tae le AgSoc, Díospóireacht Ollscoile, Bál na Gaeilge, Tráth na gCeist, Tae agus Plé.



Professor Iarfhlaith Watson, Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD Chair at the 2025 Awards together with Gaeltacht UCD team members and Teach na Gaeilge 2024-'25 scholars.

## Student Engagement within the wider Irish Language Community

UCD Irish speaking students, members of An Cumann Gaelach and Teach na Gaeilge scholars are actively involved in the activities of the Irish language organizations Conradh na Gaeilge, Gael Linn and Oireachtas na Gaeilge. In 2024-'25 Conradh na Gaeilge events included a training session for society auditors and a training session for Irish language promoters Gníomhaí Gaeilge, both of which were held in the Conradh na Gaeilge head office, 4-6 October '24. A number of students also participated in Ard Fheis Chonradh na Gaeilge 21-23 February 2025, in Wexford town. The Irish language and cultural festival Oireachtas na Samhna, organized by the organization Oireachtas na Gaeilge, draws a large number of UCD students each year; over 58 UCD students participated in this year's festival which took place in Killarney, Co Kerry, November 2024. During An tOireachtas, UCD students represented UCD in the Gael-Linn National Intervarsity Debating Competition. A number of students also partook in Oireachtas music and traditional storytelling competitions.



Professor Iarfhlaith Watson presents student Leon Ó Broin with the Ambasadóir an Tí 2025 award.



# Promoting the Irish Language throughout the University

## Supporting Compliance with Irish Language Legislation

### Support for Irish Language Legislation

Further to the Official Languages (Amended) Act 2021 the University founded Coiste Acht na dTeangacha UCD (the Official Languages Act Committee). An Coiste is a University Management Team advisory committee which supports the implementation of regulations by bringing together the significant stakeholders within the University. It also advises Gaeltacht UCD on facilitating compliance. In September 2023 the Vice President for Global Engagement appointed UCD Professor of Irish and College Principal of Arts and Humanities Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin as Cathaoirleach and in 2024 the University established 2 new posts within Gaeltacht UCD to facilitate language planning and compliance: Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga (Irish Language Planning Officer) and Riarthóir le Gaeilge (Irish Language Administrator John Prendergast and Fiachra Ó

Coileáin were appointed to those respective roles. The establishment of An Coiste and the two associated posts has been pivotal to the implementation of regulations during the past year. An Coiste met 4 times in 2024-'25: 29 October '24, 3 December '24, 29 January '25 and 6 May '25. Membership of the committee is outlined in the table below.

Compliance with article 10A of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 was the focus for An Coiste 2024-2025. In March 2025 An Coimisinéir Teanga (Office of the Irish Language Regulator) invited UCD to prepare and submit University-wide advertising data pursuant to this Article. Gaeltacht UCD's Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga facilitated the University in collating and processing pertinent information in this regard and submitted it to An Coimisinéir Teanga 14 April 2025. The regulators portal saw an increase in Irish language advertising output from UCD to 26.2%, fulfilling the 1 in 5 Irish-language advertising provision required by legislation.



Fiachra Ó Coileáin, Irish Language Administrator with Irish language learner Tony Haberlin

### Members of Coiste Acht na dTeangacha UCD 2024-'25

Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin	Chairperson	College Principal, College of Arts & Humanities
Clár Ní Bhuachalla	Director	Gaeltacht UCD, UCD Global Centre for Irish Language & Culture
Ciarán Bennett	Estates Operations Manager	UCD Estate Services
Hazel Flynn	University Solicitor	UCD Legal
Fiachra Ó Coileáin	Irish Language Administrator	Gaeltacht UCD, UCD Global Centre for Irish Language & Culture
Hanna Laitinen	Strategic Projects Officer	University Secretariat
Madeleine Ó Floinn	Legal and Intellectual Property Officer	UCD Legal
Steven Kelly	Resourcing Support Manager	UCD Human Resources
Janet Collins	Senior Project Manager	UCD IT Services - Enterprise Applications Group
Professor Dolores O'Riordan	Vice-President for Global Engagement	UCD Global Engagement
Éamonn Ó Mealóid	Student Desk Support	UCD Registry - Customer & Curriculum Ops
Niamh Boyle	Marketing Manager - Brand & Reputation	UCD University Relations
John Prendergast	Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga	Gaeltacht UCD, UCD Global Centre for Irish Language & Culture



John Prendergast, Irish Language Planning Officer representing Gaeltacht UCD at the 2024 National Ploughing Championships, Ratheniska, County Laois



Both the Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga and the Riarthóir Gaeilge supported the Coiste throughout the year, this included preparing documentation for submission to University Management Team meetings, researching an Irish Language Strategy Implementation Plan and compiling resources for UCD units (database for Irish language media outlets, commonly used phrases etc.)

From September 24 to April 2025, Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga John Prendergast led a communications campaign to increasing awareness among internal stakeholders of the University's obligations under the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 and to highlight the new supports available to UCD employees. The campaign included a series of information seminars open to all employees (attended by 69 employees in total) and 1:1 meetings with employees whose work was directly impacted by the legislation. An important element of the post of Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga during this period was attendance at external meetings and associated events, both as attendee and/or board member. A number of organizations interested in the positive developments in language planning instigated by UCD, invited the Oifigeach to make a presentation during the year, see table below.



Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin,  
Chair of Coiste Acht na dTeangacha UCD



Séamas Ó Concheanainn, Coimisinéir Teanga

Meetings & Communications		No. of events	Dates
UCD Employees (general)	Information Sessions with UCD employees on the Official Languages (Amendment) Act, 2021	3	31st July '24, 28th August '24 10th September '24
UCD College Executives	Arts & Humanities; Engineering & Architecture; Health and Agricultural Sciences; Social Sciences & Law; Science; Business.	6	September '24 – February '25
UCD Marketing Managers	Meetings with Marketing Managers from the above Colleges	6	July – September '24
Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga/Office of Irish Language Regulator	Information Sessions, calls and clarifications regarding the Act	5	August'24 – April '25
Advisory Committee for Irish Language Public Services	State Committee responsible for advising on the provision of Irish language services in the public sector	6	October '24 – June '25
Internal Outreach	Library, Estates, IT, Registry, University Relations, Human Resources, UCD Research, Aontas na Mac Léinn (UCDSU), National Folklore Collection,	-	Throughout the year
Conferences and invited talks	'BÁC le Gaeilge', 'Ceanga'l, ICUF, Central Statistics Office, Comhairle Aontas na Mac Léinn	-	Throughout the year

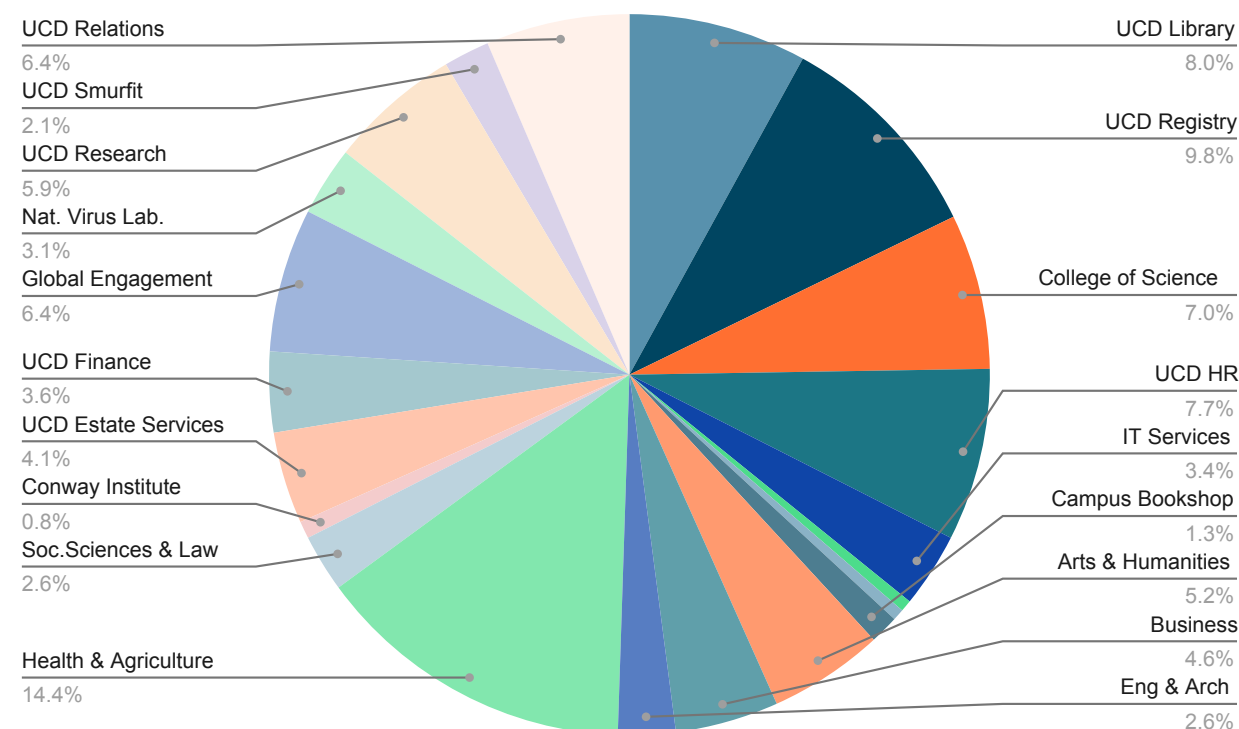


Cáit Ní Leathlobhar UCDSU Irish Language Officer with Gaeltacht UCD mentor Peadar Ó Lamhna



## Translation and Advisory service

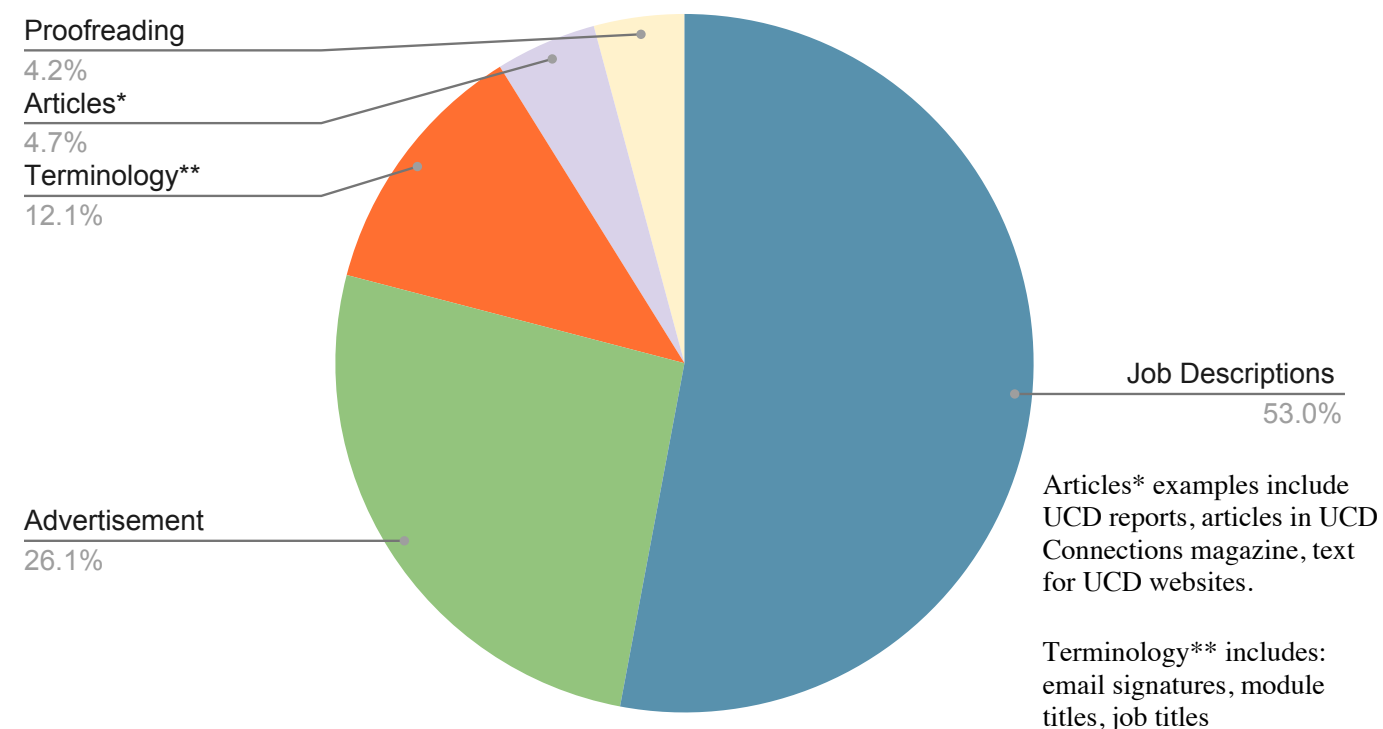
Further to the afore-mentioned awareness campaign regarding the implementation of Article 10A of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021, demand for the Centre's translation service increased. In 2024-2025, a total of 417 unique requests for translation were received for processing and proofing. Requests included job descriptions, event announcements, temporary and permanent signage, social media posts, leaflets & brochures.



On 9 October 2024 the Government published Plean Náisiúnta um Sheirbhísí Poiblí Gaeilge (National Plan for Public Services). This national plan will be followed by 2 action plans due to be published by year end in which guidance will be provided on the implementation of further regulations under the Act. Gaeltacht UCD welcomes this development and looks forward to further expanding the provision of Irish language services throughout the university.



## Translations Completed







UCD Professor David Gibbons, Chair of Acadamh na Lianna  
with UCD School of Medicine 2025 debating team and Clár Ní Bhuachalla Director of Gaeltacht UCD

## Building Engagement across the Island of Ireland

### Local Engagement

Throughout 2024-2025, Gaeltacht UCD was actively engaged within various other academic schools and professional units within the University both formally and informally; it contributed to the activities of UCD in the Community, UCD Culture and Engagement, UCD Global, and UCD Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. The Centre published articles on Irish language activity in the 'UCD in the Community' annual report and in each edition of UCD Relations publication 'UCD Today'. It was also represented on the following committees and groups: UCD Student Services, UCD Languages Strategy and Implementation Committee and UCD's Multicultural Employee Network. The Centre partook in the UCD Co-curricular Community of Practice, and its students presented it at the first Co-curricular Showcase Event, hosted by UCD Careers Network, 22 May '25. Beyond Belfield campus the Centre was represented at Higher Options at the invitation of UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Irish Folklore



Representatives from UCD, UG, TCD, ATU and DCU together in UCD



Jarleth Burnes, Uachtarán GAA with Cormac Ó Dubháine at 'Aonadh na Gaeilge 2025'

and at the National Ploughing Championships, at the invitation of UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, September '24.

### National Engagement

Gaeltacht UCD is in regular contact with the national Irish-language community. In 2024-2025 it maintained contact with and contributed to boards and committees associated 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. Throughout the year members of the Gaeltacht UCD team contributed to the Irish language media; participating in Raidió na Gaeltachta, TG4 and Raidió na Life interviews and broadcasts. The Centre also provided news articles to the Irish language publications Tuairisc.ie, Seachtain (Irish Independent), Scéal (Irish Times) and An Paipéar. Gaeltacht UCD supported meetings and events in Saol na Gaeilge including Oireachtas na Gaeilge and Seachtain na Gaeilge which was launched in January '25 and organised nationwide in March 2025. Both the Centre's Director and its Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga were actively involved with the 6 lead organizations. Its Director supported Gael

Linn (associate board member) and Conradh na Gaeilge, (member of the Coiste Oideachais/committee on the Irish language in education). The Centre's Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga was a member of Coiste Comhairleach um Sheirbhísí Gaeilge, the government advisory committee on the implementation of Irish language legislative requirements and was voted Táiniste Chonradh na Gaeilge in 2025. He also attended the 2024 Language Planning Conference held by Foras na Gaeilge, 30 September '24.

### Aonach na Gaeilge 2025 (Irish Language and Careers Fair- 'Irish in Everyday Life')

On 17 February 2025, UCD Teach na Gaeilge scholar Cormac Ó Dubháine and his fellow Teach na Gaeilge scholars organized a 'An Ghaeilge sa Ghnáthshaoil', (Irish in everyday life), an Irish language Fair for UCD students with employers from the external Irish language community. This was the second year of the fair which was first initiated by Cormac in 2024. Teach na Gaeilge scholars supported by UCDSU, An Cumann Gaelach, Gaeltacht UCD and UCD Careers Network invited over 40 Irish language companies and institutions from 32 counties in



Ireland as well as the EU Parliament in Luxembourg to host a stand in UCD Astra Hall. UCD representatives included UCD's Career Network, Gaeltacht UCD, UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Irish Folklore and UCD School of Education. In attendance also were schools from various other Irish universities, public bodies, private companies, media organizations, translation companies and Irish language sports clubs., see list below. Representatives at the stands, many of whom were UCD alumni, had the opportunity to get to know prospective employees and/or prospective members. In addition to the stands, this year's event included a discussion panel on 'Careers with Irish' with guest speakers UCD Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin, Foras na Gaeilge Chair and Jarleth Burnes, GAA Uachtarán. Aonach na Gaeilge 2025 proved a great success; it was followed by several enquiries from Irish language organizations regarding participation at future fairs. The students who led this project were exceptionally well supported by staff in UCD Astra Hall and this positive experience has encouraged them and others to continue to build on this initiative in the future. The following organisations and bodies took part in the 2025 fair: Nemeton TV, Glór na nGael, Coimisiún na Meán, Macalla Teo, Court of Justice of the European Union, Ógras, GaelGoer, Cumann na bhFiann, Raidió na Life, Gaillimh le Gaeilge, An Garda Síochána, Coláiste Uisce, BÁC le Gaeilge, Conradh na Gaeilge, TG4, Bloc TG4, Raidió RíRá, STAR Translations, Foras na Gaeilge, Gaelchultúr, OPW, Raidió na Gaeltachta, Gael-Linn, Kina, An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna, Ostaí na Rí, Tithe an Oireachtais, Club an Chonradh, Wikipedia, Raidió na Gaeltachta.

## Féile na Fuaime – a celebration of Irish language song

On 20 February '25, Gaeltacht UCD Residence Scheme scholar Leon Ó Brion, 2nd year student in UCD Lochlann School of Business, initiated the project Féile na Fuaime a celebration of the best of Irish language music open to music enthusiasts on and off campus. Leon together with his fellow scholars and with the support of UCD Societies and Gaeltacht UCD, organized a concert that welcomed a number of high profile artists in Irish music to the Belfield campus. The concert included performances from An Chéad Ghlúin Eile, Sibéal Ní Chasaide, Burnchurch, UCD Dance Society and UCD Trad Society, the event provided an opportunity for over 300 attendees; students, and members of the public, to come together and celebrate



Singers Étáin and Máire Ní Churraoin of An Chéad Glúin Eile at Féile na Fuaime 2025.



Burnchurch members play at Féile na Fuaime 2025



Síofra and Sibéal Ní Chasaide, musicians and singers at Féile na Fuaime 2025



UCD Dance Soc

Irish language and culture. In organizing the event, Leon and his fellow scholars engaged with numerous UCD units and gained the support of media outlets such as Molscéal, BLOC TG4, Raidió na Life and Raidió Rí-Rá,. He also obtained sponsorship from the following: Electric Picnic, National Ploughing Championships, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Dunnes Stores, Talbot Collection Stillorgan, Helios Sauna, Féile na Gealaí, McEvoy's Pub Athy, Tig Bhric & West Kerry Brewery, Conradh na Gaeilge, X-LITE Social and Breedon Group plc. Féile na Fuaime had a strong presence on social media and brought the Irish language and culture in UCD to a broad audience.





Cumann na nOifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge/Association of Irish Language Development Officers in UCD, 2025

### Cumann na Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge/Association of Irish Language Development Officers. [cofg.ie](http://cofg.ie)

Gaeltacht UCD has been actively involved in the organization Cumann na nOifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge (COFG), the National Association of Irish Language Development Officers since its establishment. In 2024-'25 it attended online meetings throughout the year and in-person meetings at Oireachtas na Gaeilge, November 2024 and its annual seminar, May 2025. The May seminar entitled 'Is fearr cara sa chúirt ná punt sa sparán', was hosted by Gaeltacht UCD in the UCD School of Health Sciences Building. Gaeltacht UCD's Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga John Prendergast worked closely with COFG's committee members in organizing this event and hosted a workshop for the subgroup 'University Irish Language Officers', which he leads. Gaeltacht UCD Director Clár Ní Bhuachalla chaired the discussion panel in which the following speakers participated: Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin, UCD Head of Arts and Humanities, and chair of Foras na Gaeilge, John Ó Liodáin, Department of Foreign Affairs and Ciarán Mac Giolla Bhéin, Uachtarán Chonradh na Gaeilge.

In 2024-'25 all 4 Gaeltacht UCD members attended online seminars organized by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, by the company Meas Media, by Foras na Gaeilge and by An Coimisinéir Teanga (the Irish language regulator), related to developments in Irish language legislation, see Project 3 in this report.



John Ó Liodáin, Clár Ní Bhuachalla and Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin on the discussion panel at the Association of Irish Language Development Officers in UCD, 2025

### Acadamh na Lianna / The Association of Irish Speaking Medical Doctors

Acadamh na Lianna is an association of Irish speaking medical doctors. The current Chair UCD Professor David Gibbons succeeded Professor Seamas Bernard Breathnach, TCD in 2024. UCD Professor Risteard Ó Laoide is also an active member of the association. In an effort to attract undergraduate students to join this group, an Acadamh initiated an intervarsity debating competition in 2022 hosted by Gaeltacht UCD in the UCD Fitzgerald Chamber. Both UCD and TCD students participated in this first debate and the competition has gone from strength to strength since then. The 2025 competition took place in the Royal College of Surgeons on 26 February '25; UCD were awarded 2nd place with first prize awarded to RCSI.

### TG4 Documentary, 'Burkitt'

UCD academic staff are frequently sought to share their expertise via the Irish language media. In 2024 UCD Professor Jonathan Bond who previously attended the Gaeltacht UCD advanced Irish language courses for employees was requested to partake in the TG4 documentary 'Burkitt', a film based on the life of Irish surgeon Denis Burkitt who discovered 'Burkitt's lymphoma'. The film was directed by Éanna MacCanna. Professor Bond, a full Professor of Paediatric Molecular Haemato-Oncology at UCD School of Medicine, Systems Biology Ireland, leads a paediatric leukaemia research program between Systems Biology Ireland at UCD and the National Children's Cancer Service at Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin, where he also holds an Honorary Consultant Haematologist position. The documentary "Burkitt" premiered at Docs Ireland (International Documentary Film Festival) in June 2024 and was screened across the UK and Ireland in Feb 2025 as part of a tour of cinemas, universities and Irish language centers. The film had its US Premiere at the Capital Irish Film Festival in Washington D.C. "Burkitt" won 'Best Debut Film' at the 60th Academia Film Olomouc, Europe's leading Science festival and was broadcast on TG4, 21 May 2025. Gaeltacht UCD Director was privileged to assist Professor Bond in preparation for this broadcast.



Aonach na Gaeilge UCD 2025



Professor Jonathan Bond, Systems Biology Ireland



## 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 Events Calendar on UCD's social platform Workvivo. The Centre's activities featured in Irish-language digital media, in the Irish language publications, Peig.ie and Tuairisc.ie. and in the printed program for Oireachtas na Samhna 2024. Advertisements for language courses and the University's residential scholarship scheme were published in UCD student media, UCD Observer, and UCD College Tribune and it's summer school was advertised on Scéal, a new weekly supplement in the Irish Times. Gaeltacht UCD continued to design various promotional materials, brochures for its summer school, flyers on its scholarship scheme and promotional materials for its language courses on campus. All were displayed on the Gaeltacht UCD website, on electronic screens and shared via Gaeltacht UCD social media, X, Mastodon, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

### Greasán Gaeilge na hEarnála Poiblí: [greasangaeilge.ie](http://greasangaeilge.ie)

Further to the establishment of Greasán na Gaeilge in July 2024, The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, in association with Foras na Gaeilge and Oireachtas na Gaeilge launched Greasán Gaeilge na hEarnála Poiblí, the 1st Irish language network for the public service. In 2024-'25 the network organised a number of social events for Irish speakers nationally at which Gaeltacht UCD was represented. A number of Gaeltacht UCD alumni provided entertainment at these same events.

### 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



Gaeltacht UCD scholars at UCD Open Day 2024



UCD President Professor Orla Feely with Gaeltacht UCD scholars Leon Ó Broin and Cormac Ó Dubhláine, who were guests at an event hosted by the President to celebrate UCD students contribution to the University, April '25

and without the UCD community. It is a bilingual site which 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 2025 summer school participants. The Centre continues to update its sections on legislative requirements, and add to the supports available to the University community.

### Social Media

Gaeltacht UCD has an active presence on University's own digital platform Workvivo, and promotes its activities on various social media including Instagram #ucdgaeltacht (2,716 followers), X @ucdgaeltacht (3,542 followers), Facebook @ucdgaeltacht (2,100 followers), Mastodon @gaeltachtucd (98 followers), LinkedIn.com/company/gaeltacht (756 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, highlighting events through Instagram reels created by the Irish language student community on campus.

### Sponsorship

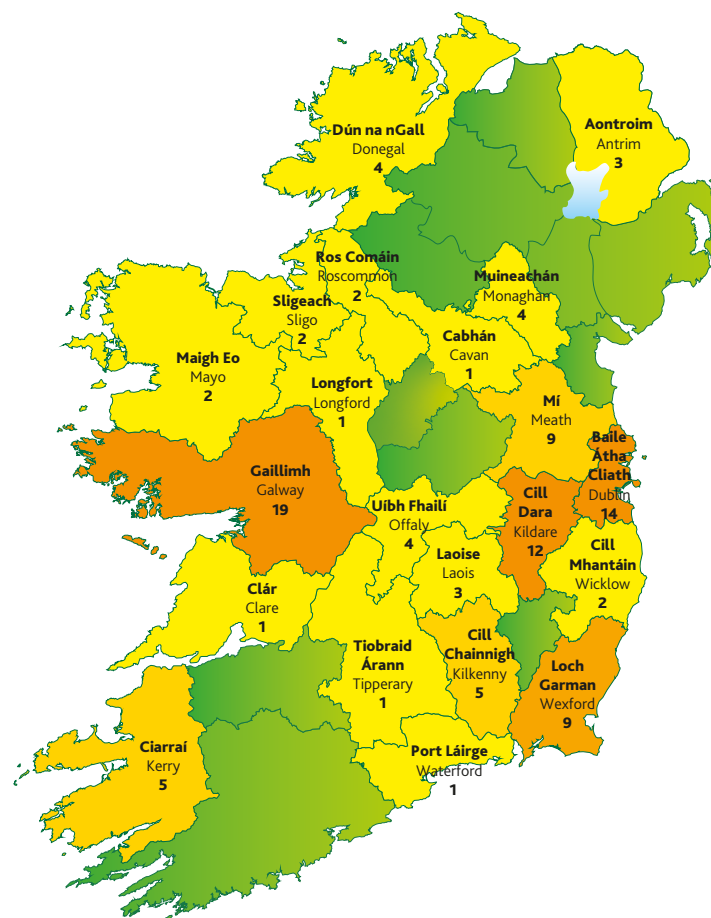
Gaeltacht UCD continued to support the use of the language by UCD schools, centers, units, student societies, and clubs. The Centre supported student involvement in literature and journalism through its sponsorship of Duaiseanna Liteartha an Oireachtais (the national under-19 award for journalism section) including the most recent awards in November 2024. It also provided translation and proofing support to UCD Irish-language student journalists, bloggers, and vloggers.

### Irish Language Media

Gaeltacht UCD featured in publications both in Ireland and the UK (The Irish Post) and via digital media globally. The centre's employees spoke with the Irish language media: Raidió na Gaeltachta, Raidió Fáilte and Raidió na Life

throughout the year. The Centre's students and its summer school participants were also interviewed. Programs included Painéal an Luain and An Saol ó Dheas on Raidió na Gaeltachta, Fios Feasa and Fad is Fairsing on Raidió na Life. Interviews and participation in discussion groups provided the opportunity to highlight the Centre's work as well as other relevant University initiatives to the wider Irish language community nationally and internationally.

### UCD Residence Scheme Applicants 2024-'25 Counties of origin





## International Engagement, Irish Roots, Global Reach

Gaeltacht UCD activities are popular with visiting students, exchange students and international employees. Over half of all registrations for the Centre's 2023-'24 language courses and cultural workshops came from participants who identified with a country or region outside the island of Ireland. In 2024-'25 the Gaeltacht UCD team continued to provide bespoke courses for visiting groups, they supported international events within the University and were represented on the UCD Multicultural Staff Network committee (MENU). The Centre drew Irish speakers from across the globe to its International Summer School and worked with partners in UCDs European and global networks. The relationship between Gaeltacht UCD and speakers of other Celtic languages, most notably Scottish Gaelic and Welsh has traditionally been of great significance to the Centre. In 2025 its Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga further strengthened this relationship, and represented the Centre at the Irish-Welsh celebration "St. Patrick & St. David's Dialogue", in Museum of Literature Ireland at the invitation of UCD College of Arts and Humanities (January '25) and the Irish- Scottish Gaelic discussion 'Ceangal/Connect' in University of Aberdeen at the invitation of Údaras na Gaeltachta, June '25.



Clár Ní Bhuachalla,  
Director at the Gaeltacht UCD 2025 Cultural Program in BDIC, China



Aislinn Kennedy, Catherine MacMahon and Sinéad Ní Uallacháin at the Gaeltacht UCD 2025 Summer School launch



UCD Summer School participants 2025

### Gaeltacht UCD Summer School / Scoil Samhraidh Ghaeltacht UCD 2025

Gaeltacht UCD's annual International Irish Language Summer School 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 6th and 7th year in succession.

Gaeltacht UCD welcomed a total of 84 participants to the 2025 school (16-20 June '25), which comprised speakers and learners from UCD (students and staff), as well as from counties throughout Ireland, from Europe, North America, USA, and New Zealand. The 2025 school saw a development in connections with the Irish diaspora in England, both first generation and second generation Irish, most notably members of Irish language groups in London and Birmingham; 20 UK based learners who attended in 2024 returned in 2025. Gaeltacht UCD was especially happy to welcome students from Princeton University, USA for the first time, as well as UCD Alumni and many of its neighbors, participants from UCD's immediate vicinity in South County Dublin.

The 2025 school offered Irish language classes at 5 levels with the majority of learners at level B1, B2 and advanced level. Classes were held each morning and organised in

association with the organization Gaelchultúr. Lectures were offered each afternoon and guest lecturers included UCD faculty; UCD Associate Professor Riona Nic Congáil, UCD Professor Paul Rouse, Associate Professor Sorcha de Brún, University of Limerick, John Prendergast, Gaeltacht UCD, Liam Ó Maolaotha, Oireachtas na Gaeilge and Caoimhe Ní Mhaolagáin, TG4. Among the guest artists who delivered cultural workshops was singer and storyteller Ray Mac Mánaís, and musicians Mícheál Fitzgibbon and Séamus Ong from Na Píobairí Uilleann (Uilleann Pipers Club). Participants enjoyed both Irish and English guided tours of Dublin city's walls, they partook in a historical walk from Dublin's Richmond Barracks to Kilmainham Goal and a number partook in a guided tour of the National Library. Gaeltacht UCD organized an Irish language table quiz in the city centre after which participants had the opportunity to meet with other Irish speakers from the wider Irish language community at a Pop-up Gaeltacht. Feedback from the 2025 surveys distributed was exceptionally positive.

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 Lochlann Quinn School of Business, UCD Sutherland School of Law, UCD Village, 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 2025 program.



# 2025 International Irish Language Summer School

## What our participants say:

*I was very nervous coming to the summer school as a beginner from another country, but I was immediately put at ease by the warm welcome I received. Not only is the program amazing for language learning, but also for getting to have an amazing time with lovely people from all over the world. I can't recommend this program enough.*

**Kailee Owen, Canada**

*An excellent and professional Gaeltacht course with friendly welcoming staff/teachers and a substantive and sophisticated variety of lectures and workshops on a beautiful campus. A wonderful week!*

**Patrick O'Donnell, USA**

*Arriving at UCD, I quickly discovered how warm and welcoming everyone was. From the clear communication beforehand to the friendly and inspiring teachers, who were not only knowledgeable but truly passionate about the Irish language and Irish culture – everything was organized with such care. Each day offered language classes in the morning, fascinating lectures in the afternoon and cultural workshops at night, creating a rich and well-rounded experience of Irish language and culture.*

**Anne-Pauline von der A , The Netherlands**

*Níl a leithéad ar fáil ar fud na cruinne/It's equivalent can't be found anywhere in the world!*

**Mairéad Ní Fhinn, Ireland**

*Being in an academic environment was a great opportunity for me as a beginner. As someone learning the language in the community in Ireland, the international connection in the University was important; I understood that I come to the language from a different context.*

**Gilmar Barbaosa Souza, Brazil**

*The Gaeltacht in UCD is excellent, it is very well organised, those running it are very friendly and inclusive. The people on the course are from various countries and backgrounds, all very interesting. I did the elementary level as I had forgotten my Irish from school, I felt very included in the Gaeltacht, it was great fun.*

**Ruth McAdams, Ireland**

*I thoroughly enjoyed this experience, the warmth of the welcome was lovely and indeed the lovely bright atmosphere that pervades throughout the environment that made learning so much a pleasure. The classes were exceptional.*

**Marian Dwyer, UK**

*I felt I was immediately among friends; there was a positive and encouraging atmosphere. I would highly recommend this course to anyone learning Irish. It's a terrific opportunity to perfect your Irish.*

**Lorna Johnson, New Zealand**

*I found the afternoon lectures very good and our guide on the city centre historical walking tour was excellent. The musical/cultural activities were also very good.*

**Bridget Delaney, Ireland**

*I had a very positive experience at my first chance to attend the summer school, great teacher, great classes.*

**William Gaylord, USA**

*I had a wonderful week at the language summer school. The course for beginners was brilliant, it moved at a good pace, so I felt I really took it in, I wasn't left behind. I was also provided with helpful resources throughout. The lectures covered a good range of topics, and the evening activities were good; I really liked the atmosphere. I would highly recommend this course for anyone starting out who doesn't know where to go.*

**Nox McCarthy, UK**

*It was one of the best weeks I've had. The campus is lovely; it is easy to get transport to anywhere in Dublin. Great teaching and staff are very helpful. I will come again.*

**Lesley Vavoulas, UK**

*I really enjoyed my first visit to UCD. I have been to the Gaeltacht in Uladh, Corca Dhuibhne, and An Rinn, Port Láirge. I found this course excellent and intensive. I would love to come back.*

**Laurance Dowd, UK**





Professor Orla Feely UCD President and Professor Dolores O'Riordan, UCD Vice President for Global Engagement & UNA Europa Chair with UCD representatives at the UNA Europa Autumn General Assembly in Bologna, Italy, 2024



UCD Professor Dolores O'Riordan, UNA Europa Chair at the UNA Europa Assembly, Zurich, Summer 2024

## Gaeltacht UCD/UNA Europa

[www.ucd.ie/irish/en/global/gaeltachtucdunaeuropa/](http://www.ucd.ie/irish/en/global/gaeltachtucdunaeuropa/)

In 2024 Gaeltacht UCD became an active member of UNA Europa, an alliance of 11 leading European Research Universities of which UCD is a member. UCD Global hosted the UNA Europa Autumn Assembly in 2023 and in 2024 the alliance was chaired by UCD Vice President for Global Engagement Professor Dolores O'Riordan. UNA Europa is home to 10 European languages with many more spoken by its 500,000 students and staff.

In 2024-2025 Gaeltacht UCD was represented on the UNA Europa Directors of Language Centres Working Group alongside UCDs Centre for English and Global Languages. Gaeltacht UCD's Director met with European colleagues online throughout the year and in September 2024 the Centre offered its alliance colleagues a number of Irish language taster sessions in celebration of European Day of Languages. In November '24 the Centre was represented in-

person at the Autumn 2024 Assembly: 'The Transformative Power of International Relations' hosted by Alma Mater Studiorum-Università di Bologna, Italy. Gaeltacht UCD values the opportunity to build relationships with its European counterparts who face similar challenges in language teaching and learning in an increasingly globalized environment.

In July 2025, The Una Europa Language Directors Working Group launched the UNA Europa Online Tandem Tool for Language Learners, an initiative, led by UNA Europa partner KU Leuven. The new tool offers students and employees the opportunity to learn and/or upskill in some of the numerous languages spoken throughout the alliance. This is an exciting development for Gaeltacht UCD as it allows speakers of Irish to share their language with and learn from European colleagues/fellow students. The Centre looks forward to once again offering workshops for European Languages Day 2025 and to further collaborating with its European colleagues in the future.

## Gaeltacht UCD/UCD China Joint Colleges Collaboration 2025

Gaeltacht UCD had the pleasure of sharing the Irish language and its associated culture with UCD's 3 China Joint Colleges: Chang'an Dublin International College of Transportation (CDIC) in 2019, Guangzhou Dublin International College of Life Sciences & Technology (GDIC) in 2024 and most recently in the Beijing Dublin International College (BDIC) in April 2025. The purpose of each 1- week course was to provide an opportunity for UCD registered students in China to interact with various aspects of Irish culture, in line with the UCD Global Engagement Strategy, which aims to bring 'the best of Ireland including its distinct cultures to the world'. The 2025 course was designed specifically for UCD students based in BDIC and involved 4 tutors from the Gaeltacht UCD cultural team. It covered Irish hurling, Gaelic football, Irish tin-whistle, Irish language, and Irish dance. It included presentations, recitals, demonstrations and interactive workshops. With the support of its BDIC colleagues, Gaeltacht UCD offered 12 workshops during the 2025 course in which over 300 students actively participated. While this project was funded outside the HEA initiative, the experience gained by Gaeltacht UCD in the delivery of similar HEA funded projects enabled its development. Gaeltacht UCD would like to thank Professor Paul Fanning, Provost, UCD Joint Colleges in China, and his team for facilitating the delivery of this course over the past number of years.



Gaeltacht UCD Cultural Team, Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Jamie Ó Flanúra, Caoimhe Ní Mhaolagáin and Siobhán Ní Mhaolagáin with BDIC students and staff, China 2025.



Sports Workshop



Tin-Whistle Workshop



Dance Workshop



## UCD Global Engagement

Gaeltacht UCD sits within the UCD Global Engagement portfolio under the direction of Professor Dolores O'Riordan, UCD Vice-President for Global Engagement. Global Engagement comprises of: UCD Centre for English and Global Languages, UCD Confucius Institute, Gaeltacht UCD, UCD Global Centre for Irish Language and Culture, UCD Global, UCD China Joint Colleges and The Irish Institute for Chinese Studies. In June '25 the Centre celebrated the publication of UCD's 'Global Engagement Strategy 2021-'24, Significant Achievements'. Gaeltacht UCD was happy to have contributed to these achievements supported by the Vice- President and its colleagues from the Global Engagement team.

## Gaeltacht UCD Team; Administrators, Tutors, Facilitators and Partners

[www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/fuinn/](http://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/fuinn/)

Gaeltacht UCD comprises of 4 full time staff members, Director, Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Comhordaitheoir Tionscadal (Irish Language Project Coordinator) Aislinn Cox, Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga (Irish Language Planning Officer) John Prendergast and Riarthóir Gaeilge (Irish Language Administrator) Fiachra Ó Coileáin. The post of Comhordaitheoir Tionscadal which has been funded by the HEA Special Targeted Initiative since its establishment, is crucial to the execution of all initiatives and has ensured a high standard of delivery and continuity. The post of Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga and Riarthóir Gaeilge were established by the University in 2024 to facilitate UCD in compliance with legislation, Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú) 2021. These additional posts and the work of the associated committee, Coiste Acht na dTeangacha (Official Languages Act Committee, see project 3.) also contributed to the success of Gaeltacht UCD's 2024-'25 initiatives. In addition to its 4 full time staff, Gaeltacht UCD projects were delivered by 14 part-time Irish language tutors, numerous guest facilitators and talented artists, some of whom were members of its international cultural team. The Centre's projects, in particular its summer school, residence scheme and language courses were also supported greatly by organizations and colleagues in the external Irish language community.



## Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD

[www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/fuinn/bordtacaiochtagaeilge/](http://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/fuinn/bordtacaiochtagaeilge/)

Gaeltacht UCD reports to Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD, UCD's Irish Language Board. The purpose of the Board is to advise UCD Governing Authority on the use of the Irish language within the University. Members of the 2024-'25 board included representatives from all UCD Colleges as well as the Director of Gaeltacht UCD, UCD Students' Union, UCD's Cumann Gaelach, Gaeltacht UCD's alumni as well as a representative from the wider Irish language community. Current membership can be viewed at the link above. The board was chaired by Professor Iarfhlaith Watson from UCD College of Social Sciences and meetings were held on 5 February and 7 May 2025 at which Gaeltacht UCD Director reported on the Centre's activity. Throughout the year a number of Board members contributed directly to Gaeltacht UCD's language promotional projects, through volunteering on student scholarship boards and/or attending events. Gaeltacht UCD is particularly grateful to outgoing board member Professor Máire Ní Chiosáin, recently retired from UCD, for her immense contribution to its Irish Language Student Residence Scheme project over a long number of years.



UCD Vice President for Global Engagement Professor Dolores O'Riordan with Assoc Prof Dr. Sathaporn, VP Sriracha Campus, Kasetsart University, Thailand, 2025



UCD President Professor Orla Feely and Taoiseach Micheál Martin with Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Professor David Madiga, Northeastern University, USA, 2025



## UCD Governing Authority

Gaeltacht UCD appreciates the support of UCD President, Professor Orla Feely and the University's Governing Authority (GA), to which it submits a report on its projects annually. On 24 October 2024 Gaeltacht UCD Director and Chair of Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD were invited to present the Gaeltacht UCD 2023-2024 annual report to Governing Authority in the offices of National University of Ireland. UCDs Management Team (UMT) and its Governing Authority have taken the lead in insuring that the University is compliant with Irish language legislative requirements while continuing to support the promotion of the language via the HEA initiatives outlined in this report. Gaeltacht UCD looks forward to supporting the President and the University Management Team in delivering the UCD 2030 Strategy.

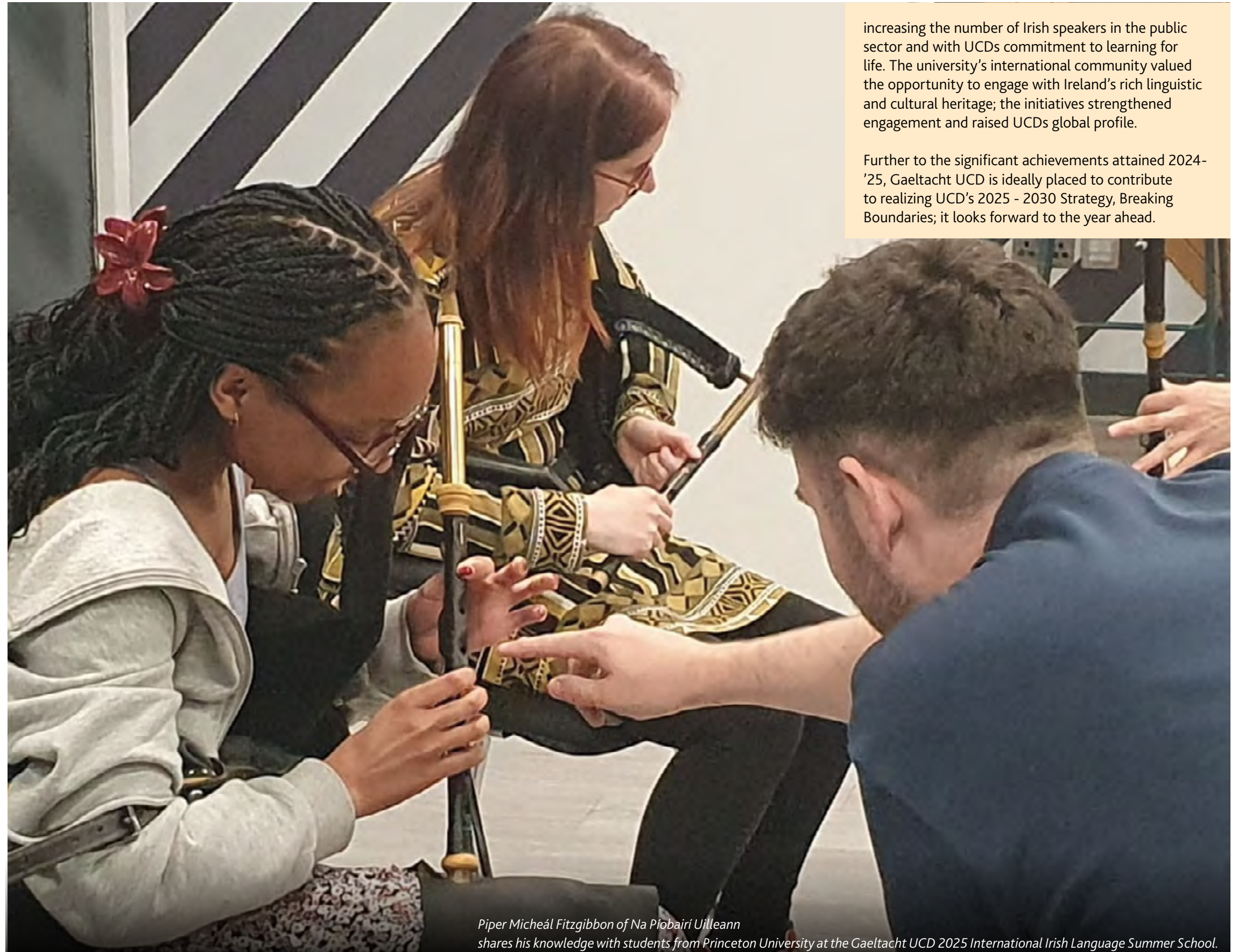
## Mar Fhocal Scoir / In Conclusion

The year 2024-'25 was marked by connection, community and creativity. Gaeltacht UCD shared the Irish language and its associated culture through the delivery of a wide range of activities that both built on past achievements and addressed evolving priorities. With the support of the HEA Targeted Initiatives Fund, the Centre provided high quality services to Irish language speakers and learners on campus, it proactively engaged with the Irish language community nationally and embraced opportunities to extend its global reach.

Gaeltacht UCD's Irish Language Student Residence Scheme fostered a sense of belonging and created an environment in which student innovation was nurtured. Its 2025 International Irish Language Summer School drew a diverse cohort of participants who continue to build a lasting relationship with UCD, returning year on year. UCD's investment in the Centre's resources in 2024 enabled it to broaden its services and demonstrated the University's commitment to the Irish language community nationally. The development of the Centre's translation and advisory service and its collaboration with internal and external stakeholders increased the level of language awareness and ensured that UCD was compliant with regulations under Article 10A of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021. The continued development of Gaeltacht UCD Irish language courses for students and employees, aligned with the Government's goals of

increasing the number of Irish speakers in the public sector and with UCDs commitment to learning for life. The university's international community valued the opportunity to engage with Ireland's rich linguistic and cultural heritage; the initiatives strengthened engagement and raised UCDs global profile.

Further to the significant achievements attained 2024-'25, Gaeltacht UCD is ideally placed to contribute to realizing UCD's 2025 - 2030 Strategy, Breaking Boundaries; it looks forward to the year ahead.



Piper Micheál Fitzgibbon of Na Píobairí Uilleann shares his knowledge with students from Princeton University at the Gaeltacht UCD 2025 International Irish Language Summer School.



