



Gaeltacht UCD

UCD Global Centre for Irish Language & Culture

Gaeltacht UCD Report

September 2021 - August 2022



www.ucd.ie/bnag

Special Provision for the Support of the Irish Language 2022
Gaeltacht UCD, UCD Global Centre for Irish Language and Culture,
University College Dublin

Report on Activities, September 2021 to August 2022

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

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Overview

Gaeltacht UCD, UCD's Global Centre for Irish Language and Culture maintains and promotes the Irish language in University College Dublin. The Centre aims to increase knowledge of the language, create opportunities for its use and foster positive attitudes towards the use of Irish within the University community, objectives that align closely with the Government's 20 Year Strategy for the Irish language 2010-2030. Gaeltacht UCD takes pride in preserving and promoting the language and celebrates the recent positive developments in legislation at both national and EU levels. The Centre is also mindful of the vulnerability of Irish as a community language and the significance of its role in supporting active Irish language speakers in their transition from second to third-level education and the various professions beyond. Safeguarding the language and its community bolsters University College Dublin's commitment to fostering an environment where multilingualism and cultural diversity are valued and thrive.

As Ireland's Global University, University College Dublin aspires to the development of global skills and competencies within its communities; language awareness and language learning are essential elements of UCD's Strategic Plan and its Global Engagement Strategy 2021-2024. The University recognizes that an appreciation of and competence in languages beyond one's mother tongue(s) strengthens global competency. It, therefore, aims to widen access to language learning and actively promote its benefits across campus. The Irish language is included in UCD 'Languages for Life' initiative, an integral part of UCD's Strategy. The Gaeltacht UCD initiatives funded by the special provision for the support of the Irish language align with the objectives of this strategy. Throughout 2021-2022, the Centre actively supported Irish speakers, welcomed new learners, and promoted Irish use through a diverse range of activities. The initiatives described in this report enabled students, faculty, and staff to gain a deeper understanding of their own cultural identity and a curiosity to explore that of others.

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

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

Courses

The academic year 2021-2022 saw an enthusiasm among learners to return to face-to-face tuition, after previous health restrictions. Gaeltacht UCD continued to develop and deliver Irish language courses at 5 language levels. 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 staff. In addition, staff engagement with the courses positively impacted the implementation of many other Irish language initiatives on campus. An online placement test was provided to all learners before the commencement of courses ensuring their placement at a level appropriate to their requirements.

From September 2021 to July 2022, there was a total of 593 registrations for Gaeltacht UCD courses, 300 registrations for tuition, and a further 293 for bilingual workshops.

This included evening courses, podcast discussion groups, training workshops, bilingual cultural workshops, and a 1- week summer school. The Centre employed a total of 14 qualified tutors on a part-time basis; 8 to facilitate delivery of its evening courses and a further 5 for its summer school. Questionnaires were distributed to all learners at the end of each course and the Center was satisfied with the feedback received.

New Course, September 2021

Gaeltacht UCD developed a new preparatory course for the *Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge B1* examination (Certificate in Irish, level B1) which it delivered for the first time in September 2021. This course was offered in addition to language levels previously offered: A1, A1 continued, B1, and B2, of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). The preparatory course was designed to facilitate learners who wish to take some or all the B1 examination components, written, oral or aural. The new resources include digital recordings, video content, and interactive exercises in each of the 3 major dialects. Given changes to Irish language legislation, The Official Languages (Amended) Act, December 2021, and the resulting obligation on public bodies to increase the percentage of employees

competent in Irish, it is hoped that this investment in teaching and learning resources, designed specifically for UCD learners, will further support, and encourage students and staff to obtain a qualification in Irish.

Gaeltacht UCD continuously works towards enhancing learner outcomes. It aims to encourage a higher percentage of learners to gain a qualification in Irish such as the aforementioned *Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge* B1. It is satisfied that its newly developed course materials at level A1 (introduced in 2019) and level B1 (introduced in 2021) are of the highest standard. However, to ensure all its offerings align with current best practices in language learning an additional investment will be required to complete the updating of its resources at levels A2 and B2. Gaeltacht UCD is mindful of the change in learner requirements due to the global pandemic and of the University's aspiration to transform through digital technology, it would, therefore, also aspire to develop its resources digitally in the future.

Language Learning Outside the Classroom

In addition to its structured language courses, Gaeltacht UCD has responded to the demand from students and staff for opportunities to use the language outside the classroom setting.

'Podphlé', a Podcast Discussion Group

Background: In September 2020, Gaeltacht UCD initiated a new project *Podphlé*, a podcast discussion group. This project is designed for those competent in the language, at upper intermediate or advanced levels, who no longer wish to follow a course but welcome the opportunity to increase their fluency and expand their vocabulary. Not unlike a book club, *Podphlé* participants choose an Irish language podcast to listen to and discuss weekly. This initiative proved successful and was continued in the Autumn Trimester of 2021.

The 2021 *Podphlé* project was facilitated by RTÉ journalist and broadcaster Sinéad Ní Uallacháin, a native speaker from the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht. This activity, which was held each Tuesday evening, enabled participants to discuss current topics of interest with greater fluency. *Podphlé* differs from the traditional 'ciorcal comhrá' or conversational group in so far as it focuses on specific podcast themes and had an additional aural element that highlighted variation in dialects of Irish. Each session brought both employees and

postgraduate students together from across the colleges of Humanities, Science and Business. The following is a list of the podcasts discussed, chosen from various online platforms. The 2021 *Podphlé* continued online to facilitate the diverse range of participants and their various working arrangements.

Autumn Trimester 2021- Irish Language Podcasts

Scéalta agus Béilte le Doireann Ní Ghlacáin	https://soundcloud.com/rnl/scealta-agus-beilte-doireann-ni-ghlacain
Na Seansálaithe	Na Seansálaithe on Apple Podcasts
Dráma Raidió	Stream episode Heileo Houston (Dráma Raidió) by Raidió na Life podcast Listen online for free on SoundCloud
Drámaí	Drama On One - An Duairceán le Aodh Ó Domhnaill (rte.ie) Drama On One - Leaba an Bháis le Darach Mac Con Iomaire (rte.ie)
Agallaimh	'Faigheann sé beagán exciteáilte': Athair Mhartin Mc Donagh (rte.ie) 'D'oscail an domhan ar fad os mo chomhair' (rte.ie)
Comhrá le hÓigie	Comhrá le Alex Hijmans - Comhrá le hÓigie Acast

New Workshop for Faculty and Staff, 'Scileanna Raidió'

Background: Gaeltacht UCD initiated the development of a module on communication skills, 'Scileanna Cumarsáide' for its residence scheme scholars. This module has been delivered since 2007. Various broadcasters and journalists from the Irish language media contribute to this module annually which provides students with the appropriate linguistic and technical skills to contribute to the media in Irish. It came to the attention of the Centre that some of these skills could be of value to UCD employees also. The expertise of UCD faculty in particular, is frequently required by the Irish language media, however many subject experts who are fluent in the language, may hesitate to accept invitations issued by Raidió na Gaeltachta, BBC Radio Ulster and/or similar media due to a lack of practice in broadcasting through the medium of Irish. In February 2022, the Centre offered a pilot workshop in Irish language media skills facilitated by RTÉ journalist Sinéad Ní Uallacháin. The workshop was designed for those with a high level of competency in the language and took a practical approach to prepare for an Irish language interview. Feedback was excellent from those in attendance, academics from the areas of education, engineering, and business and it is hoped to build on this new initiative.



Irish Language Courses

Irish Language Courses, Registered Participants

Autumn and Sprint Trimesters

September 2021- April 2022	Autumn Trimester	Spring Trimester	Total
A1-Beginner Level	85	46	131
A1 Continues (Trimester 2 only)		22	22
A2 Elementary Level	15	8	23
B1 Lower Intermediate Level	13	8	21
European Certificate in Irish Preparatory Course for level B1	10	3	13
B2 Upper Intermediate Level	11	12	23
Podcast discussion group (Autumn Trimester only)	6	-	6
Irish Language Radio Skills Workshop (Spring Trimester 2 only)	-	6	6
	140	96	245

Summer Trimester-Intensive Courses 2022

June 2022-July 2022		Total
Visiting Students, University of Northern Arizona	22	22
Gaeltacht UCD Irish Language Summer School	33	33
		55

Total no. of registered participants 2021-2022	300
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Irish Language Courses



Visiting students from Northern Arizona University, accompanied by Professor Eyllin Marie Palarmo-Munsell, attending a Gaeltacht UCD Irish language class, July 2022



Some of the UCD faculty and staff who partook in the online radio broadcasting workshop facilitated by RTE Broadcaster Sinéad Ní Uallacháin

Project 2

Irish Language Cultural Program

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

Cultúr na Céadaoin/Cultural Workshops, October 2021- February '22

In 2021-'22 the series *Cultúr na Céadaoine* (Wednesday's Culture) first initiated in 2020 continued. This series offered online workshops related to various aspects of the Irish language and culture and comprised a presentation followed by a discussion in Irish, in English, or bilingually. Each year learners registered on *Gaeltacht UCD* language courses are offered a program of bilingual cultural activities. *Cultúr na Céadaoine*, an online activity, enabled these activities to continue during government restrictions 2020-'21. It was decided to continue to deliver this project online in Autumn 2021 thus facilitating participation from UCD alumni and members of various UCD local, national and global communities. A total of 293 participants registered for the 5 workshops provided, October 21- February'22. This year's presenters included sociolinguist Dr. Colin Flynn, traditional singer Irial Ó Ceallaigh, County Councilor/social entrepreneur Peter Kavanagh, biologist Éanna Ní Lamhna and stone mason Ken Curran. The series was well attended by UCD postgraduate students in Belfield, and UCD registered students abroad.

Irish Sport, September- November 2021

Gaelic games play a significant role in Irish culture and many Gaelic sports associations have a close association with the language. Many Gaeltacht UCD students are accomplished players and represent UCD and/or their native counties on the field of play. Gaeltacht UCD believes that Irish language extra-curricular activity for students is most effective when student led. The Centre supports this activity via its residence scheme, *Cumann Gaelach UCD* (students' Irish language society), and UCD Students' Union. Through its various orientation and training programs, it concentrates its efforts on team building and leadership development to facilitate innovation and engagement among Irish-speaking students; it also assists via sponsorship. In September 2021, however, the Centre was aware that many students had been learning alone for long periods and saw the necessity to lead an outdoor activity that would encourage engagement. With the support of 'Rounders

Ireland' and UCD Sports Facilities, a weekly game of rounders, conducted bilingually was facilitated by Gaeltacht UCD tutor Siobh ain N i Dhuifigh. Rounders was chosen as a traditional GAA sport, which required no prior experience of or skill in Gaelic games, hence accessible to a broad range of students including visiting students from abroad. The initiative was advertised to students via UCD student ezines and social media and players came together once a week for 6 weeks during the Autumn Trimester 2021.

UCD China Joint Colleges, Bespoke Cultural Program, January 2022

Gaeltacht UCD students and staff provide a bespoke cultural program to UCD registered students from UCD's 3 joint Colleges in China: Beijing-Dublin International College (BDIC), in Beijing The Chang'an-Dublin International College (CDIC) in Xi'an, and The Guangzhou-Dublin International College (GDIC) in Guangzhou. Gaeltacht UCD activity together with the scholars, tutors, and facilitators it attracts has ensured that UCD has a strong community on campus ready and able to share the most unique aspects of the Irish language and its associated culture globally. In January 2022 at the request of the UCD Office of China Joint Colleges, Gaeltacht UCD students, tutors, and alumni presented a cultural program to their peers in China. The program consisted of presentations from students on their native counties and a workshop delivered by renowned Irish harpist and UCD alumnus Ois n Morrisson. This bespoke cultural program was delivered live online. It is significant to note that any expenditure incurred by this program is met via the UCD China Joint Colleges Office; the HEA special support of the Irish language is reserved solely for Irish language projects.

Café Sheachtain na Gaeilge/Irish Language Coffee Morning, March 2022

In celebration of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2022-National Irish Language Week, Gaeltacht UCD organized an Irish language coffee morning with live music specifically for UCD faculty and staff. The event was held in the Contemplative Space, in the UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business, and was attended by Irish language speakers and learners from the Belfield and Smurfit campuses. It served the purpose of reuniting Irish-speaking staff some of whom had been working remotely and/or limiting social contact during the previous year's health restrictions. It raised awareness of the Gaeltacht UCD 2022 services and attracted several staff new to UCD who could engage with the language on campus. The Centre looks forward to hosting similar on-campus events in the year ahead, events to facilitate language use in a relaxed, informal environment.

Café Sheachtain na Gaeilge 2022





Cultural Workshops

Cultural Workshops (virtual) Autumn Trimester 2021

Workshop Title	Presenter	Participants
The Dry Stone Walls of Ireland	Ken Curran, Dry Stone waller/Sculptor, Director Dry Stone Wall Association of Ireland	104
Irish Traditional Song	Irial Ó Ceallaigh, Traditional Singer	96
Usáid na Gaeilge -The use of the Irish Language	Cllr. Peadar Caomhánach, Mayor of South Dublin County Council and co-founder of the 'Pop Up Gaeltacht'	16
Woodlands and Wildlife	Éanna Ni Lamhna, Biologist & Environmental Consultant	77
Adult learners of Irish and their (perceived) role in language revitalization'	Dr. Colin Flynn, Sociolinguist	12
Total		293



Project 3

Teach na Gaeilge 2021-2022, Residential Scholarship Scheme

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

2020-2021 Residential Scholarship Scheme Activity and 2021-2022 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 celebrated its 21st year in 2021.

The 24 *Teach na Gaeilge UCD* scholarships for the year 2021-2022 were advertised in March 2021 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 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 scholars was positive and demand continued for the 2022-2023 competition. On 1 March 2022, 2022-2023 *Teach na Gaeilge* scholarships were advertised. There was a total of 89 applicants for the 24 scholarships. A total of 80 applicants for the

2022-2023 scheme were interviewed on 26 April, 28 April 31 May, and 2 June from which 24 candidates were offered a place, 12 of which are incoming students.

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 2020-2021 orientation program included 3-weekend courses: the first taking place 17-18 September, the second 24-25 September 2021, and the 3rd at the commencement of the second trimester 14-15 January 2022. Further to the lifting of government health restrictions, the emphasis in 2021-'22 orientation was on engagement via physical activity, with hikes in County Wicklow, a zip-wiring activity in the Dublin mountains, and cycling in Dublin's Phoenix Park. Representatives from UCD Students' Union, *Cumann Gaelach UCD*, and UCD Trad Soc participated in aspects of the 2021-2022 orientation sessions. 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 2021-2022 projects.

Scéim Mheantóireachta Theach na Gaeilge, Alumni Mentoring Scheme

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

Background: Residence scheme alumni continue to have a positive influence on the use and promotion of the Irish language by residence scheme students. The relationship between current and past students ensures that students continue to use the language after graduation, socially, in business networks such as *Borradh.ie*, or in professional association such as *Cumann na nInnealtóirí* (Association of Engineers with Irish) or *Acadamh na Lianna* (Association of Medical Doctors with Irish).

The Gaeltacht UCD mentoring program was initiated in 2016. Mentors are encouraged to organize workshops during orientation and meet with individual students throughout the year. In 2021-2022, eight mentors coordinated by former Ad Astra Scholar Dónal Ó Catháin, worked with residence scheme students, supporting them in delivering their projects and strengthening the links between speakers on campus and those in the wider Irish-language community. Examples of mentor input in 2021-'22 included a workshop facilitated by alumnus Peadar Ó Lamhna currently working for the Department of Foreign Affairs. Peadar facilitated a hybrid workshop for students on 27 October 2021 which included input from alumni from various counties in Ireland and abroad. Alumnae Edel Ní Churraoin and Edel Ní Bhraoinán of *Raidó Fáilte* and *Aniar TV*, facilitated a workshop for students in video recording. They also featured some of the residence's students in an upcoming Irish language tv program due to be aired in October 2022. Mentors are part of the jury for *Gradaim Ghaeltacht UCD*, the annual Gaeltacht UCD awards and a number of mentors joined in the annual end-of-year awards ceremony, held in UCD Village, Belfield campus, 12 April.

Teach na Gaeilge UCD Alumni

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

In addition to its mentors, Gaeltacht UCD believes that the language has much to gain from the nurturing of connections between students and alumni as these relationships facilitate the continued use of the language post-graduation. Further to the engagement generated by the Irish Language Student Residence Scheme's 20th-anniversary celebration in January 2020, the Centre continues to build on this engagement and involve alumni in activities where appropriate. In recent years several alumni have formed networks and lead Irish-language events in their legal or financial firms. Others have contributed to family groups such as *Comhluadar Luimnigh*. In 2022 scholars who graduated in the early 2000s and who have since had children founded an Irish-speaking parent network in Dublin, thus actively contributing to language transmission. Gaeltacht UCD looks forward to welcoming alumni from a variety of professions including the 2nd generation of Irish speakers to the Residence Scheme's 25th-anniversary celebration in 2025.

2022 Accredited Module in Radio Broadcasting Skills

During their time in *Teach na Gaeilge*, students have the opportunity to develop interpersonal and leadership skills. In addition to informal training and the Scéim

Mheantóireachta they are offered the opportunity to obtain academic credits for their activity through a specific Horizons Module *Scileanna Cumarsáide* (Communication Skills). *Scileanna Cumarsáide*, the academic module which was specifically designed for *Teach na Gaeilge* scholarship students, was offered for a 15th year in succession in January 2022. The module offered within *UCD Horizons* by Gaeltacht UCD in association with *Gaelchultúr Teoranta*, *Radio na Gaeltachta*, and UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore. Gaeltacht UCD supplied the teaching materials via *Gaelchultúr*, students gained practical experience from the *Radó na Gaeltachta* broadcaster Póilín Ní Géidigh, and the module was accredited by the academic school. This module provided the students with the necessary skills to prepare, edit and present a radio broadcast. Podcasts of the programs produced in previous modules can be heard on:

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

Residence scheme scholars are frequently interviewed by *Radio na Gaeltachta*, *Radio na Life* and *Radio Fáilte* on their language promotional activities, and this module equipped them with the necessary skills.

'Teach na Gaeilge' Projects

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/ansceimchonaithe/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. In 2020-2021, Following the periods of government health restrictions in which student activity was restricted to virtual and outdoor events, the year 2021-2022, and in particular, Spring Trimester 2022 saw a resumption of in-person indoor activity. These activities were advertised online, via various student societies and students regularly managed Gaeltacht UCD and the UCD Residences Instagram accounts. A total of 21 events were organized, a selection of which are summarized below.

Sharing the Language- Irish for visiting and exchange students

'Dúshlán Gaeilge 2022' - a global project for Irish language week

Seachtain na Gaeilge UCD (Irish language week) is an annual event organized by UCD Students' Union, Cumann Gaelach UCD and *Teach na Gaeilge* with the support of *Gaeltacht UCD*. *Seachtain na Gaeilge UCD 2021* was primarily online and *Teach na Gaeilge* scholars organized a unique project *Dúshlán Gaeilge*, a project which promoted the language among students in Ireland and abroad. The project set participants a series of challenges, each associated with the language and culture of Ireland. The 2021 project attracted a high level of participation and was repeated in March 2022. Generous sponsorship was secured from external Irish language organizations.

Language Exchange

Teach na Gaeilge scholars organize Irish language workshops in association with UCD Global each year. These workshops, *'My First Gaeilge'* are organized at the beginning of each Trimester and were held in September 2021 and January 2022. In March 2022 scholars organized an event involving visiting and exchange students in celebration of *Seachtain na Gaeilge*, the National Irish Language Week, which resulted in the very successful *Malartán Teanga event*, a 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*. In Autumn 2021 they organized an outdoor lakeside session on the UCD Belfield campus. Musicians played at a number of *Gaeltacht UCD* Irish-speaking events and at the UCD Honorary Doctorates to Irish Musicians 2022. In Spring Trimester 2022 a bilingual céilí for international students was organized in UCD Sports Centre.

Sporting events were organized regularly through the medium of Irish including basketball, Gaelic football, and soccer competitions. A fundraising event for homeless charities 'Rás Piggyback' proved particularly popular and well attended by students from various disciplines.

Mental Health Awareness with TG4 BLOC

<https://bloc.tg4.ie/ceacht/vzjYtL06mE>

A *Teach na Gaeilge* scholar made a promotional video in association with BLOC TG4 to highlight mental health in young men. BLOC is a shared social media hub that showcases Irish language content made by young people for young people.

The Irish Language in Professional Life

Scholars are encouraged to liaise with the various Irish language professional organizations. This year three of the residence scheme scholars who study at UCD School of Medicine invited Dr Colm Ó Sé of *Acadamh na Lianna* to address Irish-speaking medical students. This event was organized by the scholars in association with UCD Med Soc. The event was very well attended by students of medicine, physiotherapy, radiography, nursing, and midwifery, a high percentage of which had attended primary or secondary education through the medium of Irish.

UCD All and the Clondalkin Access Network

In March 2021 at the request of UCD All, several Residence Scheme Scholars provided live workshops for schools selected for DEIS status (Delivering Equality and Opportunity Schools) located in Clondalkin, Co. Dublin. They assisted in preparing students for the oral Irish Leaving Certificate Examinations. The feedback from the second-level students and their teachers was positive and the project continued in 2022. *Teach na Gaeilge* scholars provided 3 online workshops.

Visits to Primary and Second Level Students

Two of the 2021-2022 Residence Scheme Scholars visited primary and second-level schools outside the DEIS program. Activities included a workshop on Irish folktales for primary school children and visits to transition years pupils in Belvedere College and Castleknock College in Dublin, highlighting opportunities to use the language in UCD.

UCD Students' Union and the Irish Language

Residence scheme scholars frequently take on leadership roles in student societies in UCD Students' Union or the Union of Students in Ireland. In 2021-2022 former scholar Louise Mac Mathúna was voted UCDSU Oifigeach na Gaeilge (Irish Language Officer). Louise coordinated the first Irish language translation of the UCDSU constitution. The translation was completed by Rob Ó Beacháin a fellow student of Irish and Law and the launch was held in March during *Seachtain na Gaeilge* 2022. The event was supported by Gaeltacht UCD, Conradh na Gaeilge and a representative from Kings Inns.

Gradaim Ghaeltacht UCD 2022, 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) in 2009. The year 2021-2022 was the 13th year of this successful initiative. *Gradaim Ghaeltacht UCD 2022* was held on 12 April, the event was held in-person for the 1st time since March 2019. Among the awards presented was that of *Teach na Gaeilge Student Ambassador* and recognition was given to societies outside of the Irish-speaking societies/clubs, which best promoted the language. Award recipients are chosen by student ballot in advance of the event. Contributions to the online event were made by student auditors, the SU Irish Language Officer, representatives of *Scéim Mheantóireachta Theach na Gaeilge* (mentoring scheme), and the Chair of *Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD*. Certificates and photos of previous awards events can be viewed at: <https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/ansceimchonaithe/gradaimghaeltachtucd> and on social media.



Irish Language Activities





Irish Language Activities





Gradaim Ghaeltacht UCD 2022/ Gaeltacht UCD Awards 2022



*Professor Michael Doherty,
Dean & Head of UCD School of Veterinary Medicine
and Chair of Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD
addressing scholars at the event*



*James Knoblauch, winner of the
Ambasáidíir Theach na Gaeilge 2022' award
and Seán Mac Amhlaibh recipient of
the 'Gradam Cinnreachta 2022' award.*



*Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Gaeltacht UCD Director,
Theresa Benny, Teach na Gaeilge Scholar
and Professor Michael Doherty,
Chair of Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD*



*Seán Mac Amhlaibh and Gearóid Dardis,
Teach na Gaeilge Scholars with Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin
member of Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD*



Gradaim Ghaeltacht UCD 2022/ Gaeltacht UCD Awards 2022



*Gaeltacht UCD scholars,
Theresa Benny, Aimee Ní Bhraonáin, Emily Ní Bhraonáin
and Laoighse Ní Eochagáin*



Clíodhna De Brún, Teach na Gaeilge Scholar



Aaron Gaffney, Teach na Gaeilge Scholar



Leah Ní Ghairbhigh & Mary Nic Dhonncha, Teach na Gaeilge Scholars

Project 4

Gaeltacht UCD Engagement

Local Engagement

Throughout 2021-2022, *Gaeltacht UCD* continued to be actively engaged within the University, in activities associated with UCD Culture and Engagement, UCD Global, UCD Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and UCD Agile. The Centre was represented on the 'UCD in the Community', 'UCD Student Services' and 'UCD Culture and Engagement' committees as well as UCD's Multicultural Group (a UCD Equality Diversity and Inclusion Committee). Gaeltacht UCD Director continues to be an active committee member of the 'Multicultural Employee Network in UCD' a network through which employees share their distinctive languages and cultures. In November 2021 Gaeltacht UCD had a virtual stand at *UCD Open Day* and in March 2022 at the *UCD Graduate Fair*. In June 2022, the Centre had a stand at *UCD Festival* with information on *Tionól Gaeilge UCD 2022*, its International Irish language Summer School, open to members of the public.

National Engagement

Gaeltacht UCD is in regular contact with the national Irish-language community. In 2021-2022 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/tacaiochtaí/gaeilgesaphobal/> Throughout the year Gaeltacht UCD Director contributed to the Irish language media; she participated in Raidió na Gaeltachta broadcasts and provided news articles to the Irish language publication *Tuairisc.ie*. In addition to supporting various meetings and events in *Saol na Gaeilge* the Centre's Director is a voluntary board member of 2 Irish-language organizations: *Gael-Linn* and *Imram* both of which organize various competitions specifically for third-level students. Teach na Gaeilge scholar James Knoblauch and his fellow student You Lai Kavanagh from the UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business represented UCD in the final of the *Oireachtas na Gaeilge's* National Debating Competition, October 2021. *Teach na Gaeilge* Scholars Seán Mac Amhlaidh and Annie Sheehan, both students of UCD School of Law competed in the final of the Gael-Linn National Moot Court Competition, November 2021. Gaeltacht UCD

students also represented the University at Irish language events such *Traenáil na Reachtairí*, (auditor training) facilitated by *Conradh na Gaeilge* in Dublin, November '21 and *Comhdháil Chonradh na Gaeilge*, held in Galway, March '22. Both members of staff in the Gaeltacht UCD office, Director and Administrator are active members of the 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 all meetings organized by the association in 2021 in anticipation of changes to Irish language legislation and again in June 2022 after the Official Languages (Amended) Act coming into force. These meetings were facilitated by *Foras na Gaeilge*.

International Engagement

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

Gaeltacht UCD activities are popular with visiting students, exchange students and international employees. Approximately 50% of registrations for the Centre's 2021-'22 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. In 2017 the Centre founded *Tionól Gaeilge UCD*, an International Irish language Summer School. After a hiatus in 2021, due to health restrictions the school resumed with face-to-face tuition in 2022. On 27 June 2022, Professor Dolores O'Riordan, UCD Vice President for Global Engagement welcomed 133 participants which comprised speakers and learners from Ireland as well as third level students and members of the diaspora from the US, Canada, Australia, The UK, The Czech Republic, and Germany. The theme of the 2022 school was 'The Irish Language in a Sustainable Global Society' and guest lecturers included, Dr Ríona Nic Chongail, Dr Finbar Bradley, Réamonn Ó Ciaráin, Siún Ní Dhuinn, Seosamh Ó Murchú and Dr Criostóir Mac Cárthaigh. In addition to language tuition and lectures, the school offered an evening cultural program focused on the traditional. Guests included poet Dubhán Ó Longáin, piper Nollaig Mac Cárthaigh, traditional singer Muireann Ní Cheannbháin and dancer Sibéal Davitt. Participants enjoyed a guided tour of MOLI Museum of Literature Ireland, delivered through the medium of Irish and they got to meet with Irish speakers outside UCD at an *oíche siamsaíochta*, (entertainment with live music) in Club Chonradh na Gaeilge.



Local, National and International Engagement



At the launch of UCD Students' Union Constitution (Irish language version) were:
 Eoin McEvoy, Educational Technologist,
 UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Irish Folklore,
 Daithí Mac Cárthaigh BL, Legal Expert and Author,
 Louise Mac Mathúna, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, UCD Students' Union,
 Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Director, Gaeltacht UCD and Ruairí Power, President UCDSU



Teach na Gaeilge scholars hosted a visit from students of Roskilde University Denmark who were researching the use of Irish in Ireland: Joos Hansen, Ilinca Muresan, Martin Martin Markenborg and Lucijs Gruber.



Dr. Colm Ó Sé of Acadamh na Lianna (association of Irish speaking medical doctors), addressing medical students in UCD, an event organized by Teach na Gaeilge students of Medicine, Justin Hagan, Emily Ní Bhraonáin and Aimee Ní Bhraonáin



Students You Lai Kavanagh and James Knoblauch representing UCD at the final of Oireachtas na Gaeilge 2021 Gael-Linn, Irish Times National Debating Competition



International Summer School



*Professor Dolores O'Riordan,
UCD Vice President for Global Engagement
welcomes the 2022 Irish language
summer school participants*



*Summer School participants together with the Professor
Dolores O'Riordan Vice President for Global Engagement
and Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Director of Gaeltacht UCD*



*Professor Dolores O'Riordan
welcomes students Fenja Schulz, Klará Hutková and Carmen Schacht
to the 2022 International Summer School*



*William Ó hÍomhair,
Musician and Gaeltacht UCD Administrator
plays the mandolin at the launch
of the 2022 summer school*



Cultural Engagement

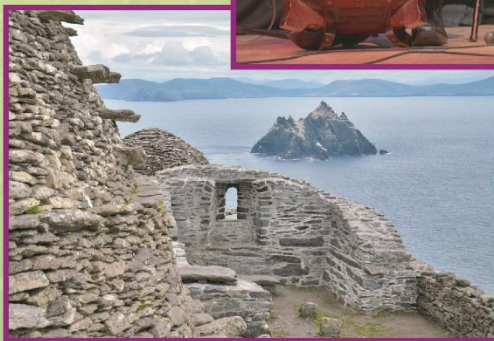
UCD China Joint Colleges



Dublin City



UCD Alumnus Oisín Morrisson, harper, flute player and composer, spoke about the Irish harp at a virtual presentation to students of China Joint Colleges 2022.



Seelieg Mhichil, Co Kerry



Trim Castle, Co Meath

Project 5

Supports for UCD Staff

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

Translation and Advisory Service

Background: *Gaeltacht UCD*, in cooperation with TCD and DIT (now TU Dublin), initiated an intervarsity project the aim of which was to source a common translation service catering specifically for the 3 institutes. *Rannóg an Aistriúcháin* (The Translation Section of the Houses of the Oireachtas) advised the 3 institutes on the implementation of this project. This common translation service has been in place since September 2010. The service has ensured expertise in the translation of University documentation and has minimized the cost to each of the 3 institutes. In 2020, the Centre published a new tender, and a 12-month contract was signed for translation services between UCD and TU Dublin. This contract was extended for a further year in 2022.

During 2020-2021 demand for the Centre's translation, in-house proofing services and advice on legislative requirements, increased. The increase in demand was due to a renewed awareness among employees of the University's legal obligations, further to the drafting of UCD's 3- year language scheme and to requests from several units who wished to be informed of the new legislative changes. Translations and in-house proofing were required to facilitate the work of a broad range of colleges, schools, and units. The greatest demand came from UCD Estates with requests received for voice mails, site hoardings, car parking arrangements, and safety notices. In 2022, UCD Library hosted a bilingual exhibition and UCD HR commenced the translation of a broad range of standard forms and letters. UCD Communications and UCD Alumni Relations availed of the translation service for the translation of annual reports and strategic plans. In addition, a number of academic schools sought translation of funding applications for specific projects which stipulated the use of a second (minority) language. Translations of the UCD Office of UCD Global Engagement 2021-2024 Global Strategy, and various other University Irish language publications can be viewed at: *Gaeltacht UCD/Foilseacháin*.

Resources

Gaeltacht UCD continuously updated its database of translation for school and building names <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/> This resource aims to make the Irish language version of college and school titles more accessible to internal professional staff and faculty. The database of Irish-speaking faculty is a useful resource for incoming students as well as for the Irish-language media.

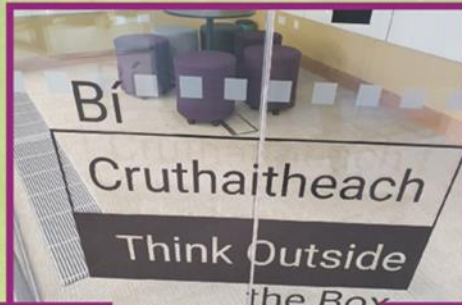
Facilitation of UCD's Compliance with Legislation

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

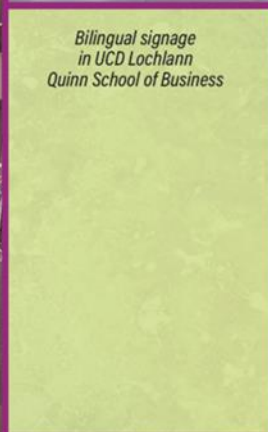
Background: In May 2021 Gaeltacht UCD took business ownership of UCD's 2021-2024 Irish Language scheme, under the Official Languages Act 2003. It liaised with stakeholders, hosted meetings and focus groups, and organized information sessions for the University's *Coiste Acht na dTeangacha* (Official Languages Act Committee). In September 2021 UCD's draft Irish Language Scheme, 2021-2024 was completed in collaboration with UCD heads of units and forwarded to the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media. The scheme will remain valid until guidelines for the Official Languages (Amended) Act 2021 are published by *Coiste Comhairleach um Sheirbhisí Gaeilge*, the recently established government advisory committee. The additional resources required for the drafting of the UCD 2021-2024 Irish Language Scheme were supported directly by the University, in accordance with the Act.



Translation and Advisory Service



UCD Equality, Diversity and Inclusion ran an anti-racism campaign, bilingually 2021



Bilingual signage in UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business



UCD Alumni office ran a bilingual advertising campaign for UCD Festival 2022



UCD School of Veterinary Medicine welcomed students back on campus bilingually in September 2021



Translation and Advisory Service

The UCD offices, schools and units below are among those which availed for the Gaeltacht UCD translation and advisory service 2021-'22

1	UCD University Governance- University Secretariat
2	UCD President's Office
3	UCD Office of the Registrar
4	UCD Registry-Assessment
5	UCD Registry- UCD Student Recruitment and Admissions
6	UCD Finance
7	UCD Global Engagement
8	UCD Human Resources- Resourcing
9	UCD Culture and Engagement
10	UCD Dignity and Respect
11	UCD Access & Lifelong Learning
12	UCD Estates- Traffic and Commuting
13	UCD Estate-Residences
14	UCD School of Veterinary Medicine
15	UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science
16	UCD School of Mathematics & Statistics
17	UCD College of Arts and Humanities
18	UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice
19	UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy
20	UCD IT Services
21	UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science
22	UCD Centre for Experimental Archaeology and Material Culture
23	UCD Michael Smurfit School of Business
24	UCD Careers Network
25	UCD Alumni
26	School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy
27	UCD School of Politics and International Relations
28	UCD Alumni Relations
29	UCD University Relations
30	UCD Library
31	UCD School of Medicine
32	UCD Rosemount -Environmental Research Station
33	UCD Graduate Studies



Translation and Advisory Service

**Tuarascáil
Ghaeltacht UCD,
Meán Fómhair 2020 -
Lúnasa 2021**



**Straitéis um
Rannpháirtíocht
Dhomhanda 2021-
2024**



*Irish Language University Publications,
left to right, Gaeltacht UCD Annual Report
UCD Global Engagement Strategy 2021-2024
UCD Strategic Plan 2020-2024*

Available at:
<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/tacaiochtai/foilseachain/>

**RÉIDH
DON
TODHCHAÍ**
Straitéis UCD 2020-2024
**Plean Straitéiseach
UCD 2020-2024**



*The Official Languages (Amendment Act)
was signed into law by the President of Ireland, December 2021*

Project 6

Irish Language Promotional Activities

Publications

Articles on *Gaeltacht UCD* events were published regularly in UCD internal publications such as *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 the *UCD Connect* electronic *Irish Times* online and in *Tuairisc.ie*. The Center's activities also feature in Irish-language media; in *Tuarascáil*, in the *Irish Times* online and in the Irish language publication, *Tuairisc.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. All 2021-2022 materials, except for posters displayed on campus and information flyers posted to second-level schools, were designed for electronic distribution; they were displayed on the Gaeltacht UCD website and shared via social media, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

Gaeltacht UCD Website: www.ucd.ie/irish

In 2021 Gaeltacht UCD designed a new website. The website highlights the Centre's projects and makes information more accessible to those within and without the UCD community. Registration for language courses, cultural activities and scholarships are all hosted on the website via UCD Infohub, systems that are now more accessible to the user. Gaeltacht UCD's website has always been a bilingual site; the new website similarly enables users to move seamlessly from Irish to English and English to Irish on each page. In 2021-2022 the Centre continued to upload its most recent content, schedules, photos, and recordings. The new sections 'Staff Supports' and 'Irish in the Community' were further developed.

Social Media

Gaeltacht UCD has a regular presence on social media including *Twitter* @ucdgaeltacht (3,471 followers), *Facebook* @ucdgaeltacht (2,118 followers), and *Instagram* #ucdgaeltacht (1,968 followers). This engagement contributes to the visibility of the language, promotes the University's Irish-language initiatives, and connects it with the global Irish-language community.

Irish Language Media

During 2020-2021, 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 by journalist Éanna Ó Caolaí in the *Irish Times* as well as in Tuairisc.ie.

Sponsorship

In 2021-2022, *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 awards in October 2021. The Centre also provided translation and proofing support to a number of Irish-language student journalists, bloggers, and vloggers.

University Support

Structure, Management, and Administration

Structure, <https://www.ucd.ie/irish/qa/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 third 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/bordtacaiochtaqaeilge/>

Background: UCD first established an Irish-Language Board in 1996. 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. The current *Cathaoirleach* is Professor Michael Doherty; all members of the board and terms of reference can be viewed at the link above. Gaeltacht UCD reported to UCD Governing Authority in October 2021 and to Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge in January 2022.

Management and Administration

One full-time Director and one full-time Senior Executive Assistant manage the Gaeltacht UCD office and each of its projects. The 2021-2022 initiatives and the post of Senior Executive Assistant were funded by the special targeted initiative funding. The funding of the SEA post has ensured the continuity, high standard of delivery, and range of initiatives offered to the University community. The University continues to support each of the projects detailed in this report.

Mar Fhocal Scoir/In Conclusion

The 2021-2022 Gaeltacht UCD initiatives were based on the understanding that the actual use of Irish depends on the ability to speak it, the opportunity to use it, and the cultivation of a positive attitude towards its use, an understanding shared by *Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge*, the Government's 20-year strategy for Irish. The work of Gaeltacht UCD is based on the belief that the Irish language is a valuable, renewable resource that requires nurturing, a task that aligns with UCD's Strategy of creating a global sustainable society. UCD's promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity contributed to the success of the 2021-2022 Irish language initiatives. The University's positive relationship with its alumni and the wider community also played a role in the success of those activities. The year's projects

were enhanced by cooperation with alumni and with many Irish language and cultural organizations across the island of Ireland. The year 2021-'22 saw the lifting of the final government health restrictions resulting in a renewed interest in in-person Irish language services. The Centre responded to the demand; accordingly, it accommodated over 500 participants in language tuition and e-workshops, further developed its course materials and created new opportunities to use the language outside the classroom. It facilitated the return of in-person meetings and orientation courses and lead the Centre's highly regarded residential scholarship scheme in a return to in-person campus activity. It communicated with the wider Irish language community through its Irish language summer school offering and through its engagement in off-campus meetings and events. Through each of these initiatives, Gaeltacht UCD supported the University in its compliance with Irish- language legislation thus ensuring respect and inclusion for speakers of the language.

The special provision for the support of the Irish language enabled Gaeltacht UCD to implement a vibrant program of activity from September 2021- August '22. Through its student activity, staff activity, and involvement in the wider community it engaged over 1,000 participants, thereby contributing to the University's holistic educational experience and its impact globally.

