



**RISING
TO THE
FUTURE**
UCD Strategy 2020-2024

**UCD AFRICA
ENGAGEMENT
STRATEGY**
2023-2028



Introduction

As Ireland's Global University, UCD is committed to realising its vision of 'Bringing the best of the world to Ireland and bringing the best of Ireland including its distinct cultures to the world.'

Africa is a priority region for UCD's global engagement activities, and I am delighted to present UCD's strategy for Africa. Our ambition is to develop meaningful, equitable partnerships with African scholars that will facilitate the development of shared solutions to tackle the great global challenges we face.

The strategy will provide the roadmap to both deepen and develop strong connections between UCD and African academics. It will inspire staff to work towards shared goals, provide the appropriate supports to co-create successful outcomes and ensure that UCD values are the heart of our engagement in Africa.

As a university we strive to support our students to become leaders, empowered to create lasting positive impact. We will endeavour to increase the presence of African students on our Dublin campus and provide opportunities for UCD students to travel to Africa enabling the development of cross-cultural skills which are essential for global leadership.

Our UCD alumni are well connected throughout the continent of Africa and will provide a unique avenue to build our connections with African nations. We will engage with our alumni and leverage their support to enhance UCD's reputation in Africa.

UCD's desire to deepen ties with Africa is consistent with the Irish Government's commitment in 'Global Ireland: Ireland's Strategy for Africa to 2025'. Engagement with government entities and enterprise in Ireland and Africa will be an important tenet of our strategy.

I am grateful to all my UCD colleagues and stakeholders who engaged enthusiastically in the consultation process that has shaped this Strategy. I look forward to working with you all to realise the ambition for UCD's engagement with Africa.

Professor Dolores O'Riordan
Vice President for Global Engagement

Foreword

UCD's decision to develop its African Engagement Strategy is to be greatly welcomed. The Strategy acknowledges Ireland's long relationship with Africa, through the work of its missionaries, educators, health and development workers, humanitarian responders, and peacekeepers. That work has, for the most part, left a positive legacy and associated goodwill towards Ireland and its people.

The Strategy recognises Africa's increasing influence globally, and supports the Irish government and the EU's efforts in the region. Africa is the world region with the fastest population growth: over the 2020 to 2050 period, its population is projected to double to reach 2.5 billion. The educational and development needs of this growing population are immense.

In recent years, Ireland has engaged in reflection on its own transition over the past 100 years. The milestones along its development journey include the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922, the declaration of the Irish Republic in 1949, and Ireland's entry to the EEC in 1973. A number of key factors underpin Ireland's progress over this period: stability in its political and democratic system; the resolution of a 30 year conflict on the island, through the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement in 1998; and the operation of long-term consistent policies in education and human resource development, foreign investment, and taxation policies.

The key lessons Ireland can draw from its development are relevant to Africa's future. As I write this on 2nd May 2023, a conflict in Sudan risks that country's and the wider region's future. Reducing conflict and the creation of conditions for political stability are essential preconditions if Africa's potential for development is to be realized.

UCD's Africa's Strategy should be seen as part of a decades-long commitment to partnering with key African institutions which are themselves committed to similar long-term thinking. My own experience over the past 40 years of working closely with Africans leave me in no doubt of their potential to transform their societies and economies over the coming decades. But to do so, they will need the partnerships that UCD and other visionary and innovative institutions can offer. Let the journey begin.

Tom Arnold
Chief Executive,
Concern Worldwide, 2001-2013.



The Watcher telescope under the Milky Way. UCD researchers Dr Antonio Martin-Carrillo and Professor Lorraine Hanlon, both UCD School of Physics, have built and operated the Watcher robotic telescope at Boyden Observatory in South Africa since 2006, in collaboration with the University of the Free State (UFS) in Bloemfontein.

Aligned with its strategic plan, Rising to the Future, UCD commits to deepening its engagement on the continent of Africa.

At the foundation of this engagement are a broad range of meaningful and mutually-beneficial partnerships that promote the University's core mission of advancing knowledge, pursuing truth, and fostering learning. UCD's commitment recognizes the increasing influence of Africa globally and supports the Irish government and European Union's efforts in the region. The breadth of skills and talent on the continent complement UCD's existing expertise and the aspirations of our strategic plan to create a sustainable global society, build a healthy world, and empower humanity. To live up to this commitment, UCD must build upon existing initiatives, dedicate adequate resources, and cultivate an ethos of equal partnership.

This strategy documents the University's current connections across Africa and articulates avenues for deepening engagement. Five key areas for engagement are identified: (1) Partnerships & Academic Engagement; (2) Student Recruitment; (3) Student Engagement; (4) Alumni Engagement; and (5) Government & Industry Engagement. The paper also offers recommendations related to the enabling environment and implementation of a strategy for increased collaboration in Africa.

The review of activities and recommendations included here were developed through extensive consultation with academic and professional staff, current students, alumni, government and industry partners, as well as other stakeholders in the region.

Context & Motivation

UCD is among the Irish HEIs most actively engaged in Africa based on student population, educational initiatives, and research collaborations. Between 2017 and 2022, 1,681 academic publications included co-authors from UCD and an African institution. Between 2000 and 2022, 35 external grants were awarded for collaborations between UCD and a partner in Africa. There are 454 African students currently studying at UCD, who make up 1.2% of the overall student population. However, the number fails to reflect those with dual nationality or other close connections in Africa. Moreover, the current engagement does not adequately represent the importance of Africa in the world or the potential it presents for UCD. This Strategy envisions a future in which UCD, alongside with other European institutions, works closely with partners across Africa to address global challenges.

Ireland's relationship with Africa has been shaped by centuries of missionaries, educators, health and development workers, humanitarian responders, and peacekeepers. UCD's efforts should acknowledge this history as well as our country's role in Africa's colonial legacy. At the same time, engagement must be based on equality between partners and reciprocal commitments in line with Ireland's contemporary approach to the region. This includes 13 Irish embassies, bilateral and multilateral political cooperation, and ever-growing commercial links that accounted for trade levels of €2.41 billion in goods and €4.07 billion in services in 2021.

Proudly Made In Africa Fellowship

The [UCD Proudly Made in Africa Fellowship](#) was established in 2013 with the UCD College of Business as the lead academic partner and funding from Irish Aid, Trócaire, and Concern Worldwide.

Recipients of the fellowship teach UCD modules at the undergraduate and postgraduate level, while also working to embed a focus on sustainable business in and with Africa into business education and research across Ireland.

To date, the fellowship has integrated content on Africa-inclusive business in 25 modules, working with a network of 60 lecturers in 15 business schools and reaching 15,000 business students across Ireland.

Topics covered include Africa as an emerging market, exporting and franchising in Africa, information technology and Africa, marketing in Africa, supply chain management, human resources management in Africa, innovation and business in Africa, and social entrepreneurship.

The lasting influence of the PMIA Fellowship can be seen in the annual African Business Conference hosted by the UCD Quinn School of Business as well as the appointment of Dr. Penelope Muzanenhamo as assistant professor following her completion of the fellowship. Dr. Muzanenhamo's research interests include Brand Africa, Sustainable Development, Africapitalism and African Consumer Markets, and her teaching continues to integrate Africa in Business in her curricula.

www.proudlymadeinafrica.org



UCD-PMIA Africa Business Conference 2020. With theme 'Discussing Africapitalism', pictured here are: Dr Penelope Muzanenhamo, Assistant Professor of Business in Africa, UCD School of Business; Professor Kenneth Amaeshi, Edinburgh University - Co-Author Africapitalism: Sustainable Business and Development in Africa; Professor Maeve Houlihan, Associate Dean and Director UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business; Ms. Neltah Chedamoyo, African inventor and co-founder GoCHA; Mr Brett Beach, CEO Made in Africa Chocolate (MIA Chocolate); Mr Richard Rugaya, CEO Gorilla Highlands Coffee Uganda; Mr Killian Stokes, CEO Moyee Coffee Africa-Ireland; Dr David Nyaluke, UCD-Proudly Made in Fellow in Business and Development; and Ms. Vikki Brennan, CEO Proudly Made in Africa



Samburu lowlands of Kenya. Through “Samburu Stories: Communicating Architecture in the Climate Emergency” the UCD School of Architecture tells through a range of media, the story of a collaboration between UCD and the Samburu tribe in northern Kenya. The collaboration was conceived and organised as an experimental active-learning studio that took place in the summer of 2019 in the Samburu lowlands, a conservation area 400km north of Nairobi.

In [Global Ireland: Ireland’s Strategy for Africa to 2025](#), the Irish government commits itself to strengthening political, economic, and cultural relationships with Africa, contributing to peace, prosperity, and sustainable development. Similarly, the African Union and European Union have initiated a shared [AU-EU Innovation Agenda](#) to enhance collaboration in the areas of public health, green transition, innovation & technology, and capacities for science. UCD is positioned to contribute to both of these efforts in light of its academic strengths and expertise. It will also benefit from increased involvement with existing African partners including leading universities and networks. Among these are [Universitas 21](#) (U21) and the [International Association of Universities](#), both of which have members in Africa. U21 has also recently established a network-to-network partnership with the [African Research Universities Alliance](#) and the [Una Europa Alliance](#) is similarly deepening its engagement with African partners.

Geographic Scope

Africa’s 54 countries are home to over a billion people and a wide diversity of culture, economic strength, governance, and structural capabilities. Given the scale and complexity, UCD’s efforts will focus on three strategic regions: The Horn of Africa, Anglophone West Africa, and Southern Africa. These regions have been identified based on levels of existing engagement as well as the potential for increased activity around UCD’s strategic themes. They are not intended to forestall efforts to engage elsewhere on the continent and we will continue to engage in countries with strong existing relationships.

Pictured at a student seminar in the UCD School of History boardroom, under the watchful eye of Eoin MacNeill, the inaugural UCD Professor of Early (including Medieval) Irish History are Salman Khurshid, Indian National Congress Party, Minister of External Affairs India 2012-14 and Minister of Law and Justice, 2011-12; Thabo Mbeki, African National Congress, President of South Africa, 1999-2008 and Deputy President 1994-99; and Benjamin Mkapa, Revolutionary State Party: President of Tanzania 1995-2005, Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education 1992-95.



Building Resilience Through Education (BRTE)

In 2018, the Building Resilience Through Education (BRTE) was initiated to support the development of resilient communities in the Wolaita zone of Ethiopia. The region has experienced multiple climate related shocks in the past decades, which have complicated development efforts.

The programme grew out of a long-standing relationship between UCD's Centre for Humanitarian Action and the Wolaita Sodo University, and research that found ongoing vulnerabilities to climate stresses. The programme seeks to build critical infrastructure that enables educational and research partnerships in a wide range of academic disciplines, including agriculture, education, engineering, and healthcare.

BRTE was initially funded by Horizons 2020 and included additional partnerships with Concern Worldwide, the Network on Humanitarian Action, and Future Analytics Ltd.

www.ucd.ie/cha/research/brtebuildingresiliencethrougheducation



Contributors to the Building Resilience Through Education project meet at Wolaita Sodo University in Ethiopia.

PhD in Global Human Development

Coordinated by UCD's School of Politics and International Relations (SPIRe), the PhD in Global Human Development is a full time PhD jointly offered by UCD and several select partner universities, including the University of Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania, the University of Malawi, the University of Zimbabwe, and others.

The programme is tailored to the needs of government personnel and public servants seeking to enhance their understanding of and capacity to undertake advanced research.

The programme entails joint supervision by a UCD academic alongside faculty from the partner university, with the PhD candidate alternating time in both locations.

Although SPIRe coordinates the program, past and current students have been supervised by academic staff from the UCD Schools of Architecture, Planning & Environmental Policy; Economics; Biomolecular & Biomedical Science; Languages, Cultures, & Linguistics; Education; Agriculture & Food Science; Business; Sociology; Medicine; and the Innovation Academy.

The PhD in Global Human Development is part of the Human Development Initiative (HDI). HDI aims to promote and foster development education, produce quality research in partnership with universities in the global south and raise awareness of contemporary development issues through various outreach programmes. It is comprised of an inter disciplinary group of academics, researchers and students whose work focuses on contemporary development issues.

Key Areas for Engagement

This strategy articulates a case for deepening UCD's engagement with Africa as a component of the [University's Global Engagement Strategy 2021-2024](#) and identifies opportunities for meaningful and synergistic partnerships with African institutions that facilitate greater academic engagement between UCD and African academics.

Five key areas for engagement have been identified:



4th year student of Area52/UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science/UCD doing their project in Galana Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya. They are assessing the biodiversity of the Galana River. Students from Pwani University teamed up with UCD students and are in the background.

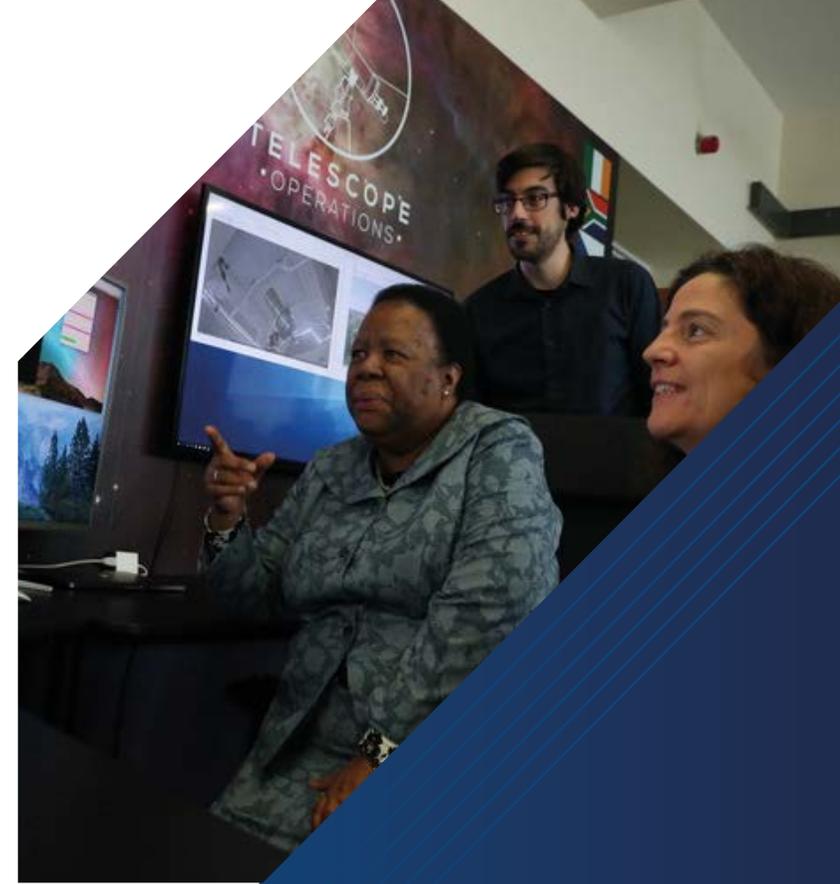




Global Partnerships and Academic Engagement

Activities that raise the profile of Africa within UCD and of UCD across Africa will enhance awareness and encourage development of further partnerships. Internal seed funding can be used to initiate activity where required, but currently available external funds should also be leveraged, including those available through networks and alliances. Although there are existing MOUs in place with universities across the continent, many remain dormant. Active collaboration across multiple areas will be necessary to build and maintain momentum. In this regard, the research interests and priorities of academic staff and their colleges should serve as the foundation of UCD's efforts at partnership and academic engagement.

UCD's current initiatives in Africa provide a strong foundation for future collaboration. These include engagement with African institutions through our networks (e.g. U21, IAU, and several college- or school-level networks that include African universities); through individual academic-led research and other collaborations; through activities undertaken by UCD units, including the UCD Centre for Sustainable Development Studies, the UCD Human Development Initiative (HDI), the UCD Centre for Humanitarian Action (CHA), and the UCD Centre for Business and Society (CeBaS) Africa; and through collaboration with the Irish government, including the Irish Aid fellowship programme and the government's contribution to the AU-EU Innovation Agenda. The main disciplinary fields of joint research are physics and astronomy, medicine, engineering, earth and planetary sciences, and agriculture and biological sciences. South Africa is the leading location of joint research, counted by number of co-authored publications, with Egypt, Nigeria, and Ethiopia also occupying prominent positions. South Africa and Ethiopia stand out in terms of externally-funded research projects.



Former South African minister of Science & Technology, Naledi Pandor controlling remotely the Watcher robotic telescope from the UCD's operation room during her visit in 2017. Alongside, Prof. Lorraine Hanlon and Assist. Prof. Antonio Martin-Carrillo principal investigators of the telescope.

To increase engagement, UCD will:

- **Actively participate in existing networks and alliances that include or engage African institutions.** These include Universitas 21 (U21), the International Association of Universities (IAU), Una Europa, multiple college-level networks, and a new U21-led partnership with the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA). Collaborations that develop from these networks can be supported by Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, and other external funding sources.
- Create an internal **UCD Network for Africa** to facilitate cross-UCD connections and synergies between academic and professional staff with interest in the region. Academic members of the network will drive its priorities, but it is envisioned as a place to convene conversations on relevant research, host events, and (once appropriate) pursue official status as a university-recognized centre. UCD's Office of Global Engagement will support these activities initially while seeking an appropriate long-term host.
- Seek funds to support a **permanent dedicated fellowship to host emerging scholars from Africa.** This fellowship could be modelled after the PMIA Fellowship in UCD Smurfit Graduate Business School or integrated into the Ad Astra Fellows with dedicated lines for scholars who have a meaningful connection to Africa.
- Identify funds to host **visiting scholars from an African university** for periods up to one term. The UCD Office of Global Engagement will facilitate funding for the visiting scholar

while relevant schools provide office space and an intellectual community. A parallel programme placing UCD scholars at African partner universities could also be developed.

- Continue to **host a range of incoming delegations from Africa** (virtually and on campus) in order to maintain relationships with government agencies and partner institutions. Priority will be given to those identified strategic partners falling within focus areas. However, individual academic staff wishing to host African partners are encouraged to do so and modest support will be available as resources permit.
- Allocate a portion of the current **UCD Global Engagement Seed Fund** to projects with African partners. These resources are intended to provide the resources for starting new initiatives and demonstrating proof of concept.
- **Prioritize delegation visits from UCD to partners in Africa.** A fund will be established to incentivize visits exploring potential collaboration at the institutional level. These funds will be available to complement efforts previously developed (via the seed fund or otherwise) and will support travel in both directions. The intention is to scale up existing individual partnerships with the potential for institutional engagement.
- **Consult with organizations in Ireland that work with African and/or African diasporic communities** in order to identify potential shared activities and other engagement opportunities.

2



Student Recruitment

A growing middle class, economic prosperity, youthful population, and labour-market trends are driving increased demand for higher education across several emerging markets in Africa. Africa's high-quality universities will likely be unable to meet the increased demand, leaving students looking for international opportunities. To capitalise on these trends, UCD can increase the number of applicants from Africa as part of a holistic strategy to deepen engagement in Africa. Such recruitment will result in a student body that is even more culturally diverse than it is presently. A diverse classroom benefits pedagogy and supports student development of cross-cultural capacities necessary in an increasingly globalised world.

Nearly all academic programmes that were consulted in the preparation of this strategy expressed a desire to recruit more students from Africa. These included undergraduate, graduate taught, and graduate research programmes. Additionally, there was strong interest expressed for joint programmes coordinated with African universities.



South Africa high school guest lecture series 2023, led by Prof. Jeremy Simpson, College Principal, Science.

UCD can increase the number of applicants from Africa as part of a holistic strategy to deepen engagement in Africa.

To increase recruitment, UCD will:

- Pursue **greater engagement with second and third level institutions in Africa**. Partnerships with these institutions are crucial for identifying high-potential students and ensuring that UCD is the university of choice for their further education. As with all other initiatives, effective student recruitment relies upon long standing relationships that are built on trust.
- Employ the Global Scholarship tuition scholarship scheme to **counteract price sensitivity** in target markets. Scholarships should prioritize (a) applicants from partner institutions that have a track record of providing quality students and (b) programmes with an under-representation of African students. Efforts will be made to identify funds that could support living expenses in addition to tuition.
- Engage **local sponsors and funding agencies** (like the Botswana High Commission who have a long standing relationship with the UCD School of Medicine) to provide additional financial assistance as well as identify high-quality students.
- Partner with Irish Government agencies such as Education Ireland/Enterprise Ireland and the Irish Embassy network to **promote Ireland as a destination for higher education**.
- Continue to **work with recruitment agents** as a key resource for identifying and recruiting students to UCD. Agents will be selected and reviewed with consideration for their ability to represent the best of UCD to prospective students.
- Maintain a **strong partnership with Irish Aid** as a critical vehicle to reach students and a crucial funding source for many who wish to study at UCD.
- Work with partners in government to **advocate for policies that are more inviting and inclusive of students from Africa**.
- **Identify and develop opportunities for joint academic programmes**, employing multiple models. The UCD School of Politics and International Relations (SPIRe), PhD in Global Human Development employs a co-supervisory “sandwich” model that might be replicated by other schools. Articulation programmes that employ a 2+2, 3+1, or similar arrangement also offer a model for joint programmes. The academic expectations and quality assurance requirements of specific disciplines should guide the preferred model in each instance.

3



Student Engagement

There are currently limited opportunities for UCD students to travel to Africa. A notable exception is UCD Volunteers Overseas, whose longstanding commitment to Tanzania and Uganda provides students with opportunities for community-engaged learning.

In addition to creating opportunities for UCD students to visit Africa, the university intends to develop a menu of options for students studying at African universities to visit UCD and experience Ireland. Establishing a variety of modalities in both directions will enhance access and encourage participation. These might include traditional academic exchange programmes, short-term research projects, internships and experiential learning, online engagement, and hybrid activities.

UCD Volunteers Overseas longstanding commitment to Tanzania and Uganda provides students with opportunities for community-engaged learning.



Dr David Nyaluke,
UCD-Proudly Made in
Fellow in Business and
Development



UCDVO volunteer with children from the community in the Nurture Africa Health Centre, Nansana, Uganda, 2019.

A multi-disciplinary health group working with our partners in the Nurture Africa Health Centre who provide primary health treatment to the most vulnerable children and their HIV-infected parents/guardians in Wakiso District, Uganda.

To increase engagement, UCD will:

- Develop a suite of additional programmes that **facilitate UCD and African student mobility and offer study, work, and research opportunities** away from the student's home campus.
- Work with partner institutions to **host summer schools and other short-term experiences in Africa** that can be promoted to UCD students unable or hesitant to pursue longer study abroad programmes. These programmes can be opened to interested students from across Africa, other Irish universities, or elsewhere.
- Develop opportunities to **globalize the curriculum**, exposing UCD students unable to travel to the diversity of African cultures as well as those of other global regions. Among other efforts, this can include virtual online programmes pursued in collaboration with partner universities in Africa.
- **Support the UCD Africa Society** on campus in bringing people from different backgrounds together and celebrating the rich diversity of African cultures. In doing so, they offer an avenue for cultural exchange among African students as well as between African and non-African students.
- Support other **student-led initiatives to create spaces for students from Africa to meet and establish support networks**. These efforts can complement the work done by the UCD Africa Society and UCD's Global Community Team.

4



Alumni Engagement

UCD alumni numbers are growing in Africa with over 1,000 identified alumni from across 32 countries. South Africa and Nigeria have the largest alumni populations. The only official UCD Alumni Chapter is in Kenya, however, alumni networks are active elsewhere across the continent. As an integral part of UCD's enhanced engagement, the University will develop and widen its alumni networks in Africa. UCD's alumni sit in positions of influence around the region, which creates opportunities for access, strengthens partnerships, increases visibility, and enhances UCD's reputation. Consultation with African alumni can also leverage their unique expertise and guide the University's efforts.

With a global network of almost 300,000, the UCD alumni community is far reaching and yet more connected than ever. In Africa, UCD alumni numbers is 1,000 identified alumni from across 32 countries.



Leadership Insights Event
held on March 10, 2023
in UCD



To increase engagement, UCD will:

- **Conduct an extensive alumni survey** to better understand the landscape, alumni network, and their perceptions of UCD.
- **Implement a CRM** for tracking alumni engagement and activities.
- Establish **new UCD Alumni Chapters** in locations with current activity.
- Identify a **system for tracking academic and professional staff visits to the region that can be communicated to local alumni**. When UCD staff visit a location, it creates opportunities for local alumni to coordinate events and offer hospitality. This is a benefit to the visiting staff while also cultivating affinity among alumni.
- Establish a programme that offers **opportunity for alumni to volunteer in support of student recruitment**. The period after receiving an offer and before commitment is likely the point at which alumni can be engaged most effectively.

Dr Jean-Christophe Jacquier, School of Agriculture and Food Science, during tree planting ceremony in Kenya

5



Government and Industry Engagement

Coordination with the Irish government is critical for amplifying UCD's activities in Africa. Many of UCD's existing connections on the continent have benefitted from the support of Irish Aid, Science Foundation Ireland, Sustainable Food Systems Ireland, and Enterprise Ireland/Education in Ireland as well as various sources within the European Union.

Similarly, partners from private industry are crucial for UCD's engagement with Africa. The African connections of the Irish-based technology firms is just one example of the extent and depth of relationships found in Irish industry. These connections create opportunities for internships, career placement, continuing education and training, and applied research innovation.

More than 400 Irish companies are doing business in Sub-Saharan Africa in sectors such as fintech, life sciences, agritech, information and communications technology (ICT), and high-tech construction.



UCD academics at the Irish Embassy Ethiopia



Professor James Kinsella,
School of Agriculture and
Food Science, participating
in industry visits

To increase engagement, UCD will:

- Maintain UCD's **relationship with the Irish Departments of Foreign Affairs**, which are particularly important for deepening engagement. Doing so will also increase visibility and build UCD's reputation in the region.
- Support the **development of initiatives that engage private industry** across Africa. Irish-based firms with operations in Africa can serve as an initial entry point.
- **Coordinate efforts with other EU partners** in line with the AU-EU Innovation Agenda. The Una Europa Alliance will be a main avenue of activity and coordination.
- At the **country level, UCD will develop direct relationships with key education departments and commissions**, recognising the significant influence that local governments have on education policy.

Enablers

A key enabler involves empowering staff to engage creatively with African partners and networks. Opportunities to do so must be visible, open, and accessible, without overly burdensome initiation requirements. Once efficacy is demonstrated, Colleges and other units can manage and support these initiatives in line with their own strategic priorities. Ideally, this will include the creation of a centre or other unit that can serve as an intellectual hub for scholarship around Africa on campus.

In order to ensure University-wide commitment, alignment of efforts, and compliance with the core values identified in this proposal, UCD will establish an Africa Advisory Group (AAG). The AAG will consist of UCD staff appointed from units across campus as well as representation from key universities and other partner organizations based in Africa. As appropriate, student and alumni representation will also be sought.

The UCD Middle East and Africa Global Centre (based in Dubai) will continue to support the university in its promotion and outreach in Africa, with a significant role in online promotion and marketing. To achieve UCD's aspirations, UCD must maintain a physical presence in Africa with local representation as an extension of the Middle East and Africa Global Centre. The placement of representation for UCD in Africa is critical to better positioning UCD to engage in Africa across the key areas identified in this paper. This representation is an initial step in fulfilling UCD's aspiration to have a global centre located in Africa.

The creation and maintenance of strong networks at every level of education, from primary to tertiary, are necessary to create pipelines for the multifaceted approach envisioned by this strategy. This will enable UCD to identify committed partners with whom it shares core values and can develop long-term relationships based on trust.

Sarahjane Power (Area52/SBES/UCD, PhD student) participating in an elephant rescue at the Galana Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya. The elephant had to be sedated to remove the snare. This image was taken by Dr Andrew Tighe (Area52/SBES/UCD) and in the picture with Sarahjane is John Byrne, Area52/SBES/UCD, PhD student.



UCD Volunteer Overseas

UCD Volunteers Overseas (UCDVO) is a registered charity founded in 2003 by the late Fr. Tony Coote. UCDVO's vision is of a vibrant, global community working together for a fair and sustainable world. It promotes this vision by creating opportunities for transformative learning and responsible volunteering. The programme combines the best of in-person global citizenship education with responsible international volunteering. UCDVO partners with the same organisations each year and has built strong relationships in each of the communities where the volunteers work, including in Tanzania and Uganda. Amongst others, UCDVO works with UCD's School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science (SPHPSS) to connect volunteering opportunities with students' academic studies.

UCDVO works closely with The Holy Union Sisters in Tanzania, who run the Matumaini Centre, in Dar es Salaam. The Matumaini Centre is a centre for children with disabilities - offering rehabilitation, education, nutrition, and livelihoods support. Physiotherapy and nutrition/dietetics students volunteer with UCDVO to support the Matumaini Centre staff in carrying out assessments of children and developing rehabilitation plans. In Uganda, UCDVO partners with Nurture Africa, an Irish-founded internationally registered Non-Governmental Organisation in the Wakiso District, Kampala that focuses on healthcare, education, child protection & gender equality, and economic empowerment. UCDVO volunteers currently offer support to the health (physiotherapy) and vocational training programmes in the Nurture Africa Health Centre.

In addition to its engagement in Africa, over 1,700 students, staff/faculty, and alumni have participated in UCDVO's sustained engagement with local not-for-profit partner organisations in India, Haiti, and elsewhere.

www.ucdvo.org

UCDVO volunteers with school children from the community in Ruaha, Tanzania as part of a computer education and english language programme with our partner TanzEd in 2016.





**RISING
TO THE
FUTURE**
UCD Strategy 2020-2024

For further information please contact:

Office of the Vice-President for Global Engagement

University College Dublin

 vpforglobalengagement@ucd.ie

 www.ucd.ie/globalengagement

Printed on FSC® paper. FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council®) certifies that a paper is made of responsibly sourced wood.