



University College Dublin  
An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath  
Ireland's Global University

# UCD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

September 2023 - August 2024







# Foreword from Professor Colin Scott

I am delighted to introduce the UCD Community Engagement Report for September 2023 to August 2024.

This report illustrates the many ways in which UCD as a highly engaged university, extends its impact through sharing our resources and talent, working with communities in and beyond our campuses to enrich our wider community. It both celebrates and underscores UCD’s role in contributing to a more inclusive and thriving society, in ways that equip students and employees for a lifetime.

Drawing on learning and research, creating impact, and fostering a wider sense of community and belonging, as we review the year it is clear that community engagement is deeply connected to the ambitions of UCD’s Strategy to 2030: Breaking Boundaries. It is wonderful to see so many schools, research institutes and central units building community engagement in such diverse ways, both internally and externally.

Our strategy places significant emphasis on the UCD Student Experience and Learning for Life. This report offers compelling evidence of how community engagement contributes directly to these priorities. There are many examples of opportunities for experiential learning for our students which foster intercultural understanding and broader perspectives to better prepare them for life. These experiences go beyond the traditional curriculum, nurturing skills and awareness that are crucial for lifelong learning and active citizenship. Many of our employees benefit from these activities too. Furthermore, a strong sense of belonging for both

students and staff is vital to a thriving university community, a sentiment echoed throughout Breaking Boundaries. The activities highlighted in this report actively cultivate this sense of connection. When students and staff engage both internally and with the wider community, whether through volunteering their time or contributing to local projects, it fosters a feeling of purpose and shared identity, strengthening their ties not only to each other and the wider University but also to the society around them. This active participation builds bridges and reinforces the idea that UCD is an integral part of a larger ecosystem where everyone can contribute and feel valued.

Making a difference is also powerfully reflected in this report. Community engagement provides students with opportunities to see the real-world application of their studies and empower them to become agents of positive change, embodying the principle of learning for life. As you read the report, you will find numerous examples of the dedication of members of our University community to fostering a vibrant student experience, promoting learning that extends far beyond graduation, and nurturing a sense of belonging for all. The commitment of our students, faculty, and staff to these community engagements is truly inspiring.

**Colin Scott**  
Registrar, Deputy President & Vice-President for Academic Affairs



## UCD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

September 2023 - August 2024



## UCD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

# Introduction

At the heart of UCD's vision and mission lies a commitment not only to academic excellence but also to meaningful engagement with the wider community in which we live.



This report is comprised of submissions received from across the UCD community and was compiled by UCD in the Community, UCD's community engagement initiative. It highlights just a snapshot of the initiatives, partnerships and community engagement activities that have taken place between September 2023 and August 2024.

The Irish Universities Association (IUA), define community engagement as:

*"A mutually beneficial knowledge-based collaboration between the higher education institution with the wider community, through community-campus partnerships including the activities of community-based learning, community engaged research, volunteering, community/economic regeneration, capacity-building and access/widening participation" (Campus Engage, 2014).*

UCD is Ireland's global university, an inclusive community and a driver of positive action for sustainability. It strives to play an active and positive role within our communities, but often the people and success stories around community engagement activities across the university are unseen and unrecorded. UCD in the Community recognises the need to shine a light on these

activities while, at the same time, supporting the establishment of new and diverse community initiatives. This year's report is a testament to UCD's staff, students and external stakeholders in addressing meaningful societal change across teaching, research and engagement. It showcases a diverse selection of activities and projects which aim to provide broader social and cultural benefits to our society. From driving transformational change for sustainability to addressing educational inequality, the UCD community is committed to enriching our communities and transforming lives through education, engagement and collaboration.

## Delivering on Strategy and Building Reputation

Community engagement is closely tied to the UCD Strategy to 2030 - Breaking Boundaries particularly through the strategic pillar - 'Engaging for Impact' and the strategic initiative - 'UCD Student Experience'. UCD in the Community can be identified in the Strategic Plan as a way to "support an increasingly diverse community of students to feel a sense of belonging at UCD, including through a wide range of opportunities in sports, societies, volunteering and student representation". The pillar

emphasises ethical partnerships, active collaborations with local and global stakeholders and a strong commitment to social responsibility and transformative outcomes.

In addition, UCD in the Community is honoured to be part of the UMT Sustainability Group under the 'SDG Engagement and Impact Working Group' and is delighted to share in the implementation of the [UCD Sustainability Plan to 2030](#). [Una Europa](#), is an alliance of 11 European Universities, sharing the common goal of developing a truly European University of the Future. As part of this alliance, UCD in the Community and peers from eight other alliance universities will continue to collaborate under the WP6 – Una Europa For Society, service learning (community-engaged) network. The UCD in the Community team looks forward to collaborating and contributing to these plans and continuing to better society through meaningful societal impact.

Engagement with the community is also key to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with universities being identified as playing a critical role in guiding the SDG response and building global capacity to implement the goals. UCD's community engagement activities deliver on our national commitment to supporting this global framework and clearly

demonstrates that UCD is committed to playing a key role in achieving the SDGs. We have a responsibility through our teaching and research to equip the next generation of leaders, innovators and creatives to understand the global challenges facing the world and the role they play in addressing them. Throughout this report you will find tangible and real examples of how the university is delivering on this and the benefits that are gained by those involved.

A key part of the UCD in the Community team's remit is to build and enhance UCD relationships with community-based organisations and work with them to identify needs that UCD is uniquely capable of addressing. There is mutual value in strengthening relationships with the community, enabling UCD employees and students to learn while they serve and simultaneously supporting and addressing local needs. At the same time boosting the institution's reputation and cohesion in local, national and international communities.

UCD in the Community hope that this report gives you a taste of some of the excellent community activities that are currently taking place, while inspiring new ideas for engaging with the wider community.



## UCD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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← Inaugural Brian Mullins Healthy UCD Memorial Lecture panel members: Philly McMahon, footballer with Ballymun Kickhams and former Dublin player; Kate Kilcommins, camogie player and UCD Brian Mullins/GPA Scholarship recipient; Marie Crowe RTE Sports broadcaster and journalist; and Ger Brennan UCD GAA Executive and Louth football manager

CULTURE & ENGAGEMENT, UCD

# Employee Engagement & Volunteering

In 2023-2024 Culture & Engagement continued its mission to support employees by providing activities and opportunities to connect them as a community to each other and the objectives of the University, while promoting good physical, mental and financial wellbeing. Ultimately making UCD an employer of choice.

A key aspect of the unit’s work is the organisation of employee community focused events. A major initiative for the year saw the organisation of Wellbeing Day 2024. This employee focused day provided information on the UCD policies and supports available to promote good mental, physical and financial wellbeing. Across the day some 800 people attended the 14 seminars held and engaged with the stands hosted by UCD colleagues, support networks or commercial partners. The day also featured the inaugural Brian Mullins Healthy UCD Memorial Lecture delivered by former Dublin GAA Manager, Jim Galvin on the topic of sport and wellbeing in everyday life. A panel of current and former players then discussed the topic with RTE Sports broadcaster and journalist, Marie Crowe. The panel comprised Kate Kilcommins, camogie player and UCD Brian Mullins/GPA Scholarship recipient; Philly McMahon, footballer with Ballymun Kickhams and former Dublin player; and Sinéad Ahern, senior Dublin ladies’ footballer. UCD GAA Executive and Louth football manager Ger Brennan introduced the lecture.

## UCD Employee Gatherings

The work to build the UCD community continued through large-scale events. To mark the start of the academic year Culture & Engagement organised a large gathering of colleagues. Over 1,500 attended the food market-style lunch on the lawns of O’Reilly Hall, fulfilling the objective of reconnecting employees with their colleagues and campus life prior to the start of the academic year. Entertainment was provided by community members who volunteered to perform during lunch.

This was followed by the Winter Celebration in December bringing 500 colleagues together to celebrate the season and connect with each other while being entertained by the UCD Community Choir and Staff Band.

In March 2024 a reception organised by Culture & Engagement was hosted by the President to acknowledge the contribution of colleagues who retired in 2023. While colleagues’ retirements would have been acknowledged locally throughout the year, it was felt important that the University as a whole should mark their retirement at an annual reception.

In June a memorial event to remember colleagues, students, family and friends who had passed away was held in the UCD Rose Garden. The event organised by UCD Chaplaincy colleagues and Culture & Engagement, featured spoken word, music and a reflection by Bryan Nolan, an end of life bereavement specialist and was followed by a light lunch. The UCD Rose Garden was dedicated as a memorial garden in 2015 after three students; Eimear Walsh, Lorcán Miller and Niccolai Schuster died when the balcony they were on collapsed, in Berkeley, California.



a group of colleagues led by Prof. Joe Carthy came together to organise a community concert featuring employee and student acts. The concert held in O’Reilly Hall on Tuesday, 9 April 2024 featured the UCD Community Choir, UCD Dance Society, UCD Musical Society, and UCD Traditional Music Society as well as guest Ukrainian performers. The event raised funds for the UCD Centre for Emergency Medical Science led Ukraine Trama Project to train frontline responders and the 2024 programme of UCD Volunteers Overseas.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

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## UCD Culture Trail - Community Concert

An initiative sponsored jointly by the UCD President and UCD Student Union’ President sought to facilitate faculty/staff and students at College level to collaborate around cultural activities, helping to build a sense of community. At the University level,







CULTURE & ENGAGEMENT, UCD

# UCD Values in Action Awards 2023

In their sixth year, the Values in Action (VIA) awards celebrated individuals or teams/committees who acted as ambassadors for the UCD Values through their daily work, volunteering or establishing initiatives that brought the UCD Values to life. The awards were established by the Employee Engagement Network.

For the 2023 awards, 29 submissions nominating 27 individuals or teams were received. The adjudication committee awarded nine UCD VIAs, out of the pool of high-quality nominations that captured the diverse achievements of colleagues to bring the University's shared values of Collegiality, Creativity, Diversity, Engagement, Excellence, and Integrity to life.

The Adjudication Committee was chaired by Prof. Joe Carthy, Chair, and comprised Dr Rachel Farrell, previous VIA recipient, UCD School of Education; Éimear Ryan, previous VIA recipient, UCD Conway Institute; Rory Carey, Director Culture & Engagement; and Mark Simpson, Culture & Engagement.



RECIPIENT: Gisela Tuchszer

Unit: UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science  
Nominators: Joanna Kacprzyk, Sonia Negrao

Gisela Tuchszer is being recognised for the many voluntary initiatives she involves herself with which make the School of Biology and Environmental Science and UCD a better place for both students and employees. As the events/outreach officer within the Multicultural Employee Network of UCD (MENU) she has driven numerous activities, including curating an international cookbook that focused on the memories behind the selected recipes from UCD members of diverse backgrounds.



Gisela is a co-chair of the Women at STEM committee, and a member of UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science Athena SWAN self-assessment team. In these roles she supports equality, diversity, and inclusion values and helps to address structural inequities and biases in STEM fields at the School and University levels.

Gisela's work and contributions are clearly aligned with UCD's values. She is extremely collegial and supportive, highly engaged in both her School's and University's life, and demonstrates excellence and commitment while driving numerous voluntary initiatives.



RECIPIENT: John Hammond

Unit: UCD Rugby  
Nominator: Tadhg O'Leary

John Hammond is being recognised for his ongoing contributions and voluntary initiatives that support the animation of UCD's Values. John has been the mainstay behind UCD Rugby's annual Daffodil Day collection for the Irish Cancer Society. Over eight years, John's leadership has raised an impressive €80,000, a testament to his embodiment of the values of collegiality and engagement.

His initiation of the tag rugby program, which has now been running for a decade with over 300 students participating weekly, has become a success story, fostering physical activity, social interaction, and skill development among UCD students. His selfless dedication extends beyond retirement. Since he left the role of UCD Rugby Club Administrator in 2020, he has provided invaluable support on match days and efficiently overseen operations at the UCD Bowl, exemplifying the value of collegiality.

RECIPIENT: Library Furniture Recycling Team

Team Members: Ursula Byrne, Catherine Bodey, Debra McCann, Seamus Murphy, Thomas Lewis  
Nominators: Lorna Dodd, Cormac Reynolds

The Library Furniture Recycling Team are being recognised for reaching out and engaging with the local community to reuse and upcycle furniture that was destined for landfill as part of the James Joyce Library Level 3 refurbishment.

During what was one of the busiest periods ever in the James Joyce Library, the team volunteered to undertake this project and: Assessed how much and what type of furniture was available Contacted local community groups and schools to offer furniture Arranged for the furniture to be delivered or collected in partnership with Estate Services (even delivering some themselves).

Over 910 pieces of furniture and 60 meters of shelving were given a new home as part of this initiative with over 50 organizations, schools and individuals in the local community benefiting. By offering the old library furniture to members of the local community, the group brought the UCD values to life. In Particular engagement with the local community; creativity by thinking differently about the impact of a refurbishment project; and integrity by upholding UCD's commitment to sustainability by making it an integrated part of the project.



RECIPIENT: Dr Craig Slattery

Unit: UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science  
Nominator: Orla Donoghue

Craig Slattery is being recognised for his commitment to make science accessible and engaging for the general public through his outreach work in the UCD College of Science and elsewhere. He is the chair of Midlands Science, a voluntary position in the not-for-profit company which works to create greater interest in STEM education and skills among students, teachers and members of the public in the counties of Laois, Offaly, Longford and Westmeath. Midland Science reaches over 16,000 people directly per annum and their work has been independently and positively evaluated and found to be impactful, creative and innovative. The initiative makes a particular effort in all projects to engage with those from lower socio-economic backgrounds, as they are the least likely to engage with STEM outreach.

Craig's work is a wonderful example of the UCD objective to engage with the wider community, in particular, outside of Dublin. Midlands Science is an initiative that embodies inclusiveness, community, equality and provides services to local and national communities while helping attract an excellent and diverse cohort of students.

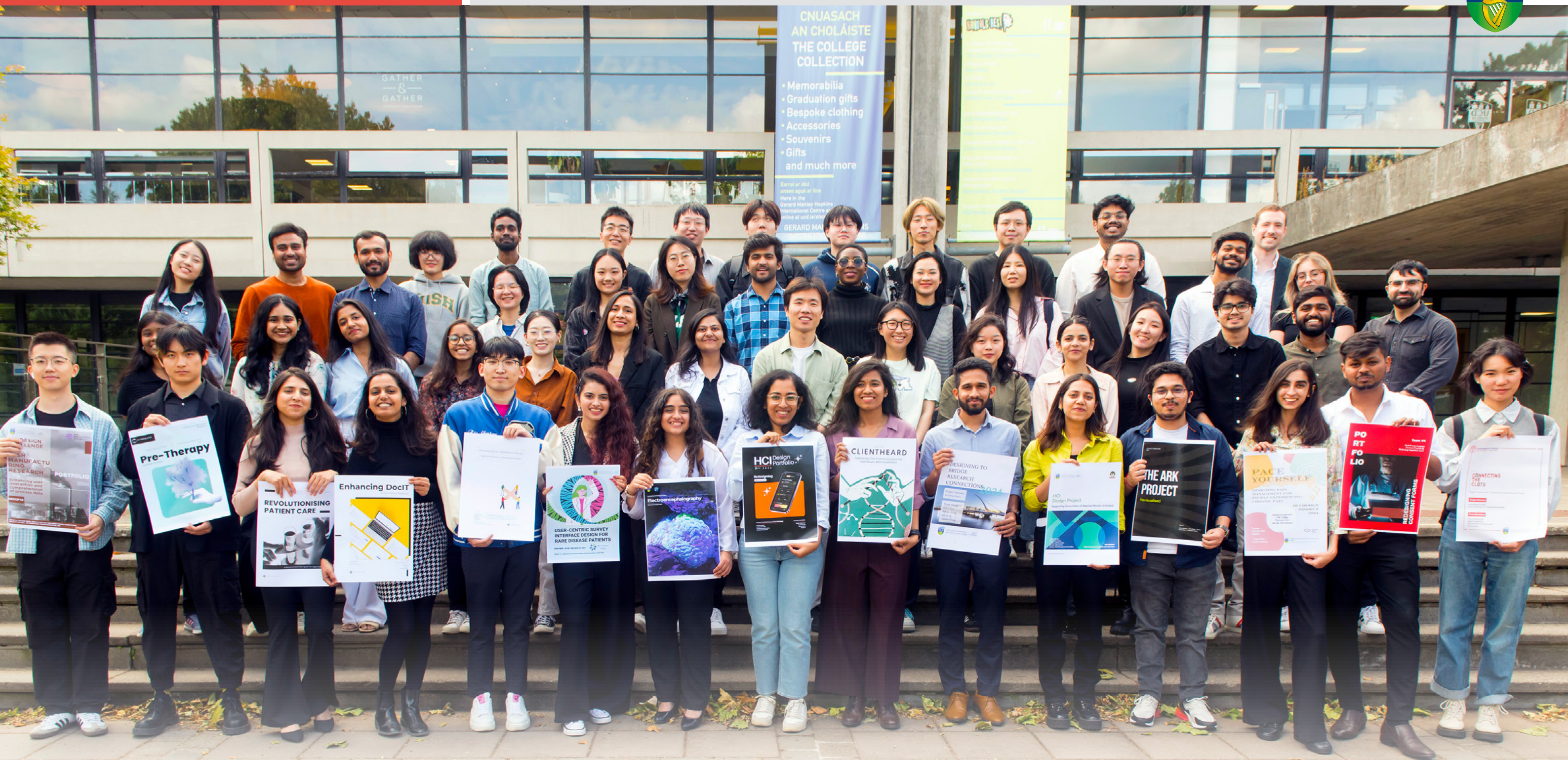
To see the full list of 2023 VIA recipients visit:  
[www.ucd.ie/engage/engagement/events/ucdawardspage/2023viaawards](http://www.ucd.ie/engage/engagement/events/ucdawardspage/2023viaawards)

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FEATURED ARTICLE

# UCD's Human-Computer Interaction Design Projects:

A New Community-Engaged Postgraduate  
Research Module at the School of  
Information and Communication Studies.



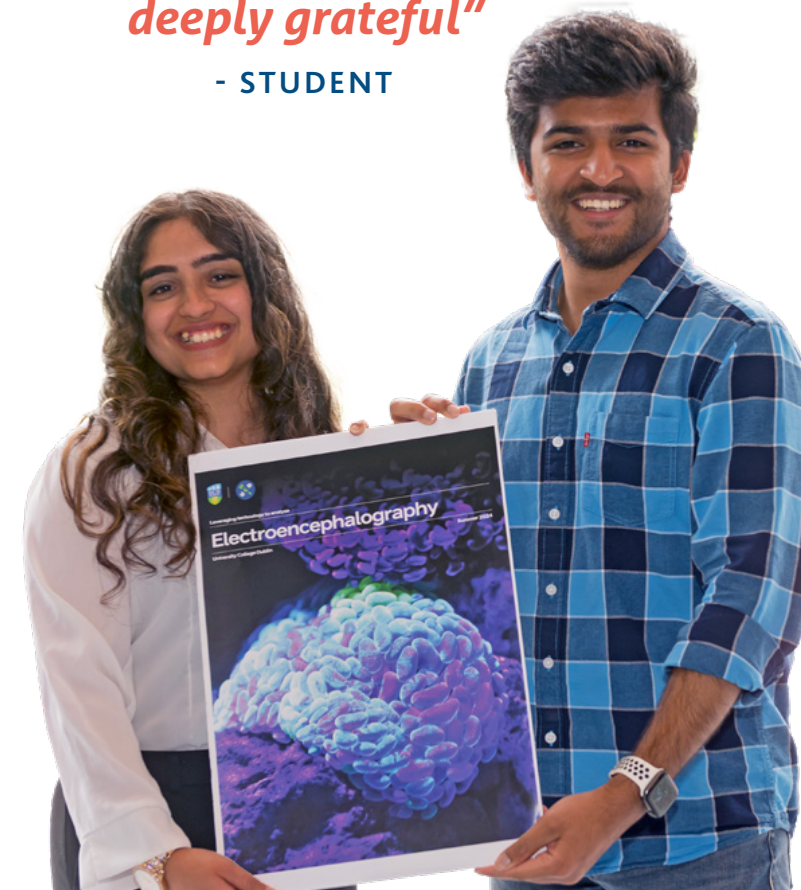
FEATURED ARTICLE

**IN SUMMER 2024**, a new programme of community-engaged research was established at the School of Information and Communication Studies — connecting interdisciplinary postgraduate teams to community, academic and industry partners across Ireland, to realise the potential of technology for good.



*"The entire summer module was thoughtfully structured and executed with precision... and allowed me to uncover my potential, for which I am deeply grateful"*

- STUDENT



This Summer 2024, a new programme of community-engaged research was established as part of the MSc in Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) at the School of Information and Communication Studies. HCI is a fast-moving interdisciplinary field, bringing together diverse professional and academic disciplines to advance our knowledge of users' needs, values and aspirations with respect to technology, as leveraging these insights to advance in turn novel digital solutions to complex human challenges.

It was with the ambition to realise the potential of technology for good, that our HCI Programme this year connected sixteen interdisciplinary student teams - each comprising a computer scientist, designer, social scientist, and business, medical or research professional - to partners spanning community, industry, and professional organisations across Ireland. Each partner offered a unique challenge to our teams;



from optimising in-hospital rehabilitation therapy time, to coping with chronic pain, improving practices of communication within healthcare teams, enhancing public-speaking skills, and many more. And each of our sixteen teams produced in turn, through 3-months of devoted effort, a beautiful portfolio documenting in visually-striking fashion the research, design and implementation of a novel digital solution to partners' challenges — many turning functioning prototype technologies over to their partners upon conclusion of their projects.

This success would not have been possible without our

deeply engaged, passionate and gracious partners, to each of whom we extend our heartfelt, collective thanks; from our hospital (Peamount Hospital, Tipperary University Hospital, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Saint Luke's General Hospital Kilkenny), to academic partners (the ADAPT ARK Team at St. James's Hospital, PPI Ignite Network, Muhammad Naveed Akhter), national charities and non-governmental organisations (Thrombosis Ireland, St Michael's House, the Association of Nigerian Nurses in Ireland, Rare Diseases Ireland, Chronic Pain Ireland), startups and major companies (Endurae Voice Technology, Myndgard, Apharo Health Futures, Irish Manufacturing Research).

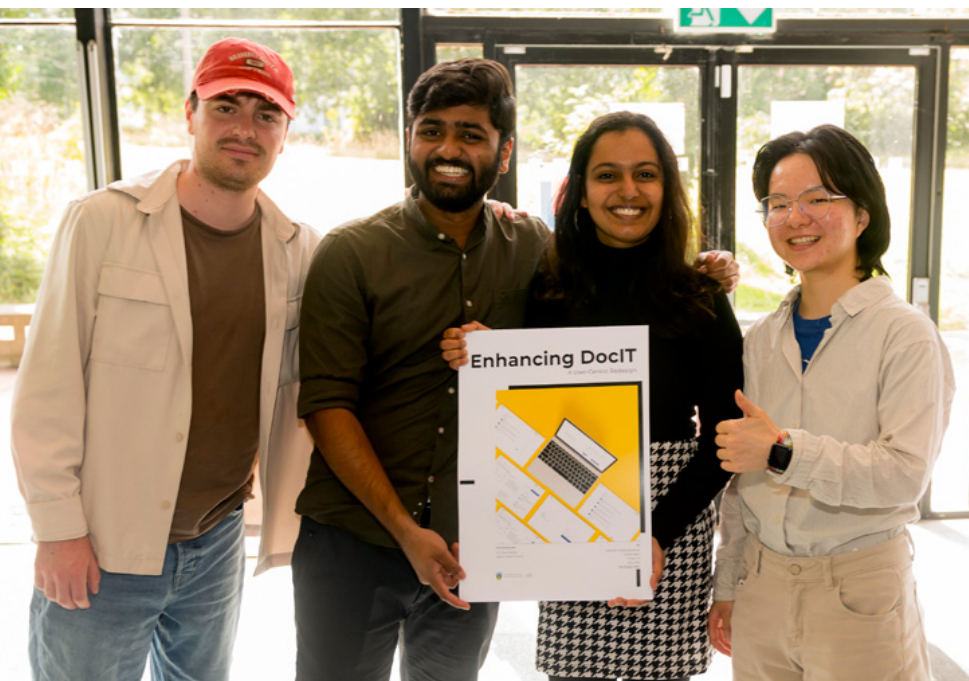
The impact of this work, we are equally grateful to have seen evidenced by the positive experiences of our students - "the entire summer module was thoughtfully structured and executed with precision... and allowed me to uncover my potential, for which I am deeply grateful" and partners alike; "really enjoyed seeing the development of the students... from being quite uncertain... to really being able to led out on designing a product that meets our needs".

This programme of engaged research will run again in 2025, and if you might be interested in taking part, consider contacting Dr. Kevin Doherty at [kevin.doherty@ucd.ie](mailto:kevin.doherty@ucd.ie)

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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*"Really enjoyed seeing the development of the students... from being quite uncertain... to really being able to led out on designing a product that meet our needs"*

- PARTNER





GAELTACHT UCD

# Irish in Everyday Life', Irish Language and Careers Fair

Gaeltacht UCD students Cormac Ó Dubhláine and Orla Ní Chofaigh invited over 30 Irish language clubs, organisations, media outlets and employers to Belfield to connect with and inform students of the opportunities to use the language in the wider community.

## 'Irish in Everyday Life'-Irish Language and Careers Fair

One of Gaeltacht UCD's key projects in language promotion is its Irish Language Student Residence Scheme. The scheme revolves around 24 fluent Irish-speaking students from various faculties, who live together in a house in the Merville student residences and who organize language promotional activities. The students act as language ambassadors and form a bridge between the University and many external Irish-speaking communities. Teach na Gaeilge celebrates 25 years in existence in 2025 and many of the projects initiated by its alumni have had a lasting impact on the use of the living language in Ireland.

In February 2024, UCD Teach na Gaeilge scholars Cormac Ó Dubhláine and Orla Ní Chofaigh organized a unique fair held on a university campus. The fair entitled 'An Ghaeilge sa Ghnáthshaoil', (Irish in everyday life) highlighted employment and recreational opportunities for

speakers of Irish. Cormac and Orla, supported by their Teach na Gaeilge peers, by UCDSU and An Cumann Gaelach, invited over 30 Irish language companies and institutions from the 32 counties in Ireland as well as the EU Parliament in Luxembourg, to host a stand in UCD Sports Hall. All invitees sent representations.

Representatives from within UCD included UCD's Career Network, Gaeltacht UCD, UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Irish Folklore and UCD School of Education. Various other Irish universities, public bodies, private companies, media organizations, translation companies and Irish language sports clubs were represented also, see list below.

***"Teach na Gaeilge celebrates 25 years in existence in 2025 and many of the projects initiated by its alumni have had a lasting impact on the use of the living language in Ireland"***

The event highlighted the variety of social, educational and employment opportunities available to those who wished to continue to use the language during and beyond their time at UCD. Representatives at the stands had the opportunity to get to know prospective employees and/or prospective members.



'Irish in Everyday Life 2024' proved a great success thanks to the professionalism, energy and enthusiasm of Cormac and Orla who led the project and the support of UCD Sports Centre staff and 'Poolside Café'. Further to the fair, several enquiries were received from Irish language companies, clubs and organizations regarding participation at future fairs. The positive experience encouraged the organisers and fellow students in Teach na Gaeilge to continue to build on this initiative in 2025.

The following organizations were among those who partook in the 2024 fair: Coimisiún na Meán, Macalla Teo, An tAontas Eorpach, Ógras, GaelGoer, Cumann na bhFiann, Raidió na Life, An Garda Síochána, Coláiste Uisce, BÁC le Gaeilge, Conradh na Gaeilge, Gaillimh le Gaeilge, Bloc TG4, Raidió RíRá, STAR Translations, Foras na Gaeilge, Gaelchultúr, OPW, Raidió na Gaeltachta, Gael-Linn, Kina, Nemeton TV, An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna, Ostaí na Rí, Tithe an Oireachtais, GaelPhoist, Club Dornálaíochta, Club an Chonradh, Cúirt Bhreithiúnais an Aontais Eorpaigh, TG4 Foghlaim.



Teach na Gaeilge Scholars and Project leads, Orla Ní Chofaigh & Cormac Ó Dubhláine



SUBMITTED BY: Clár Ní Bhuachalla



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## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







## HEALTHY UCD

# Healthy Eating Active Living Week

**Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Week took place during the week of the 7th of November 2023 and was coordinated by the students from the Masters in Nutrition & Dietetics and Masters in Physiotherapy programmes, supported by Healthy UCD.**

The purpose of HEAL week is to support the students in achieving their required competencies for professional practice through facilitating the planning, delivery, and evaluation of a health-promoting project.

Included in the initiatives on offer were physio-led exercise sessions followed by healthy breakfast options, QR codes in the village gym linking to physio-led demonstrations of how to use the equipment and the installation of "FitFoods" vending machines to provide healthy hot meals outside of restaurant hours.

The students created a real buzz on campus, while also developing sustainable health-promoting initiatives. Overall, it was a great effort by this cohort of students and a very well-run and well-received event.

→  
During Healthy Eating Active Living Week the students created a real buzz on campus, while also developing sustainable health-promoting initiatives



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HEALTHY UCD

## FISU Platinum Accreditation

**UCD was awarded FISU Healthy Campus Platinum Accreditation in January 2024.**

A key milestone reached this year was the Platinum Status awarded to UCD by the Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire (FISU) Sports. The FISU Healthy Campus programme believes that universities should be an enabling environment, encouraging its community to practice a healthy and sustainable lifestyle.

The award recognises Universities that promote opportunity and access for students and staff to engage in healthy lifestyle behaviors as part of campus life. Healthy UCD, with the support of the Bursar's office, has been working towards FISU Healthy Campus Accreditation since early 2023 and were delighted to receive this prestigious award, which highlights the hard work taking place throughout the campus and the university's commitment to the Healthy Campus programme.







## HEALTHY UCD

# Healthy UCD and UCDSU Collaboration

Healthy UCD continued the successful collaboration with the UCDSU again this year, with a wide-range of successful initiatives, focusing on the needs of students.

Early morning breakfasts for commuters proved popular, not just in providing a nutritious start to the day for commuters but also in providing a safe and welcoming space for students facing long commutes each day.

Free breakfasts and dinners were provided during revision/exam weeks to show support to UCD students during this stressful time and to help ease the burden on those struggling financially. Take Active Care of Yourself (TACO) Tuesday provided wellbeing supports for students during exams including study tips, mindfulness and free tacos!

Clinical placement care packs were offered to 200 students in Health Sciences, to help support them during this difficult transition.



## HEALTHY UCD

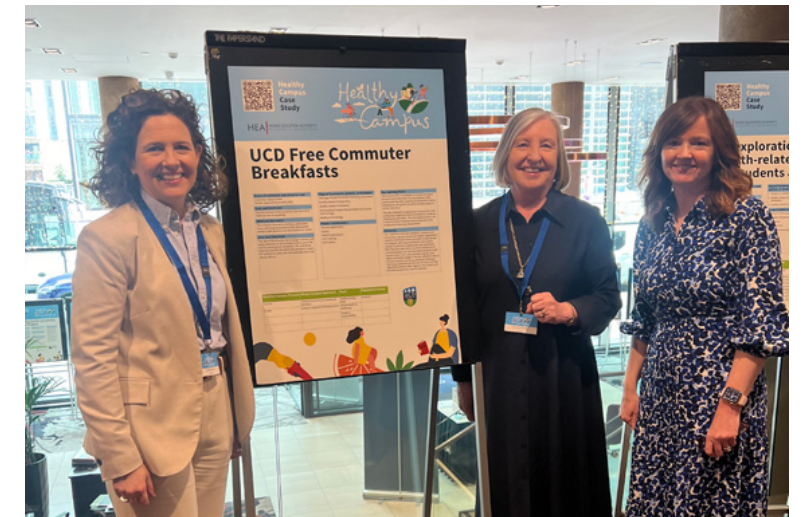
## Staff Wellbeing Activities with UCD Culture & Engagement

Healthy UCD continued its successful collaboration with UCD Culture & Engagement to deliver a wide range of staff wellbeing activities in 2023-2024.

A wide range of wellbeing activities for employees were delivered by UCD Culture and Engagement, in partnership with Healthy UCD. Healthy UCD was delighted to attend the Employee Wellbeing Day in October, where a full range of staff initiatives were highlighted including pension supports, health screening and bike to work scheme. In the autumn, an "Active Autumn" range of classes were offered, with yoga, pilates bootcamp, and a learn-to-swim programme, which all proved very popular.



FitFeb took place in February and saw teams come together from across the University to compete in the walking challenge. This event proved very popular with over 50 teams registered and was a fun way to promote increased activity among staff. HealthyUCD was delighted to sponsor the event and provided goodie bags for all participants at the celebratory lunch.



## HEALTHY UCD

## HEA Healthy Campus

Healthy UCD continues to engage with other Irish universities and colleges and took part in the Higher Education Authority Annual Conference on "A Whole of Institution Approach to Health and Wellbeing" in June 2024.

The aim of the conference was to bring together leadership and staff from across the higher education sector working on the implementation of the HEA Healthy Campus Charter and Framework and the National Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Framework. Dr Celine Murrin was part of the panel discussion on the day which focused on challenges and opportunities around the implementation of the Healthy Campus framework in HEI's. Healthy Campus Case Studies were showcased, including one from UCD on the successful UCD Commuter Breakfasts initiative.

Dr Celine Murrin was also part of the team of experts from HEI's involved in the development of a 6-week open course "Supporting a Whole Campus Approach to a Healthy Campus" which will run in Autumn 2024. The aim of the course is to help staff and key stakeholders in Higher Educational Institutions develop and implement the Healthy Campus Charter and Framework effectively and efficiently.



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SCOIL NA GAEILGE, AN LÉINN CHEILTIGH AGUS AN BHÉALOIDIS UCD

# First-ever Gaeltacht Summer Course for LGBTQ+ Adults

Staff and tutors from the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, and Folklore collaborated with Meitheal Chléire and the arts collective AerachAiteachGaelach this summer to launch the first Gaeltacht summer course for LGBTQ+ adults on Cape Clear Island in Cork.

Summer 2024 saw the launch of the first-ever Gaeltacht summer course explicitly designed for LGBTQ+ adult learners of Irish. The UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, and Folklore supplied the teachers for the week-long course. 18 learners from all over the island (north and south of the border) and from the USA joined us on Cléire to improve their Irish or to set out on their learning journey.

Each day began with yoga through Irish before students met their teachers for the Irish language classes, which covered conversational Irish, LGBTQ+ literature and poetry in Irish, Irish songs and LGBTQ+ terminology. Students then took part in arts and sports activities through the medium of Irish in the afternoons and explored the island. After sundown, the group came together with the island community for quizzes, céilithe and other social activities.

The week-long course culminated in a celebration of Pride, with a boat trip around the island, a local launch of the Irish language translation of Heartstopper by Eoin McEvoy (UCD) and a production of the queer Irish-language play 'Grindr, Saghdar agus Cher' by Eoin Mc Evoy (UCD), Ciara Ní É (UCD alumna) and Sam Ó Fearraigh, members of the innovative collective AerachAiteachGaelach.

This colourful and exciting course was an important demonstration of the warm welcome within the Irish language community for LGBTQ+ speakers and learners of Irish.



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







## STUDENT ADVISERS

# Bulb Planting for Mental Health Awareness Week

Students and staff from the School of Medicine, Quinn School of Business, Smurfit School of Graduate Business and Sutherland School of Law planted daffodil bulbs as part of Mental Health Awareness Week to raise awareness of mental health.

During Mental Health Awareness Week in October 2023, daffodil bulbs were planted by staff and student volunteers from the School of Medicine, Sutherland School of Law, Quinn School of Business, and the Smurfit School of Graduate Business. The project aimed to increase awareness of mental health and to let staff and students know that it's okay to ask for help, in addition to spreading hope and promoting well-being.

Daffodil bulbs were planted on the Blackrock campus and in areas on the Belfield campus between the Quinn School of Business and Sutherland School of Law.

This act of planting the bulb symbolises that we start as a bulb and then like a bulb, we grow, develop and bloom. There is always hope. It also symbolises that it's important to nurture our mind, body and soul and that we are always growing.



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## STUDENT ADVISERS

# Peer Mentoring: Partnering with Peer Mentor Senior Leaders

Peer Mentor Senior Leaders enhanced UCD's transition experience by designing an extended Orientation initiative to provide first-year students with essential insights into university life. They curated and developed visually engaging micro-learning content on eight topics covering college life and support.



In 2021, UCD introduced the role of Peer Mentor Senior Leaders (PMSLs) to our peer mentoring programme. This is a dynamic role and adapts each year based on feedback from the PMSLs themselves. The primary aim is to provide support to the programme and refine the UCD peer mentoring experience. PMSLs are active members of the Peer Mentor Working Group along with staff. Their involvement in this committee ensures the student perspective is represented in key decisions regarding the programme's direction.

In 2023, eight PMSLs supported the programme's rollout and served as the first point of contact for peer mentors seeking guidance. They also engaged in a new initiative to deliver nuggets of Orientation information to incoming students throughout the first trimester.

Understanding the challenges of information overload during

Orientation week, PMSLs were tasked with designing an extended Orientation programme. This initiative aimed to provide first-year students with timely access to relevant insights into university life over the duration of the first semester. PMSLs co-created micro-learning content on essential topics covering college life and UCD's support and services to ease the transition to university.

The PMSLs reviewed transition resources from other universities

*"It was a good way to learn  
tips about UCD and find out  
more about the supports  
available"*

- MENTEE

and curated information tailored to UCD's first-year students. They then transformed this material into visually engaging presentations on eight topics which they shared with mentors via Instagram over the eleven weeks of the first trimester. Additionally, the Peer Mentor Manager sent these topics by email to mentors to share with their mentees in Google Spaces. This platform was chosen because it allows content to remain accessible until removed, providing a repository of consistent and valuable guidance for all first-year students.

A review of the programme showed that only 21% of first-years accessed this information via Google Spaces. Based on this finding a change was proposed to the dissemination strategy for the next academic year. It was agreed that first years would be asked to follow the PMSL Instagram account and that the content would also be emailed to peer mentors to forward to their mentees via email ensuring access for those who aren't on Instagram.



SUBMITTED BY: Nadia Clarkin

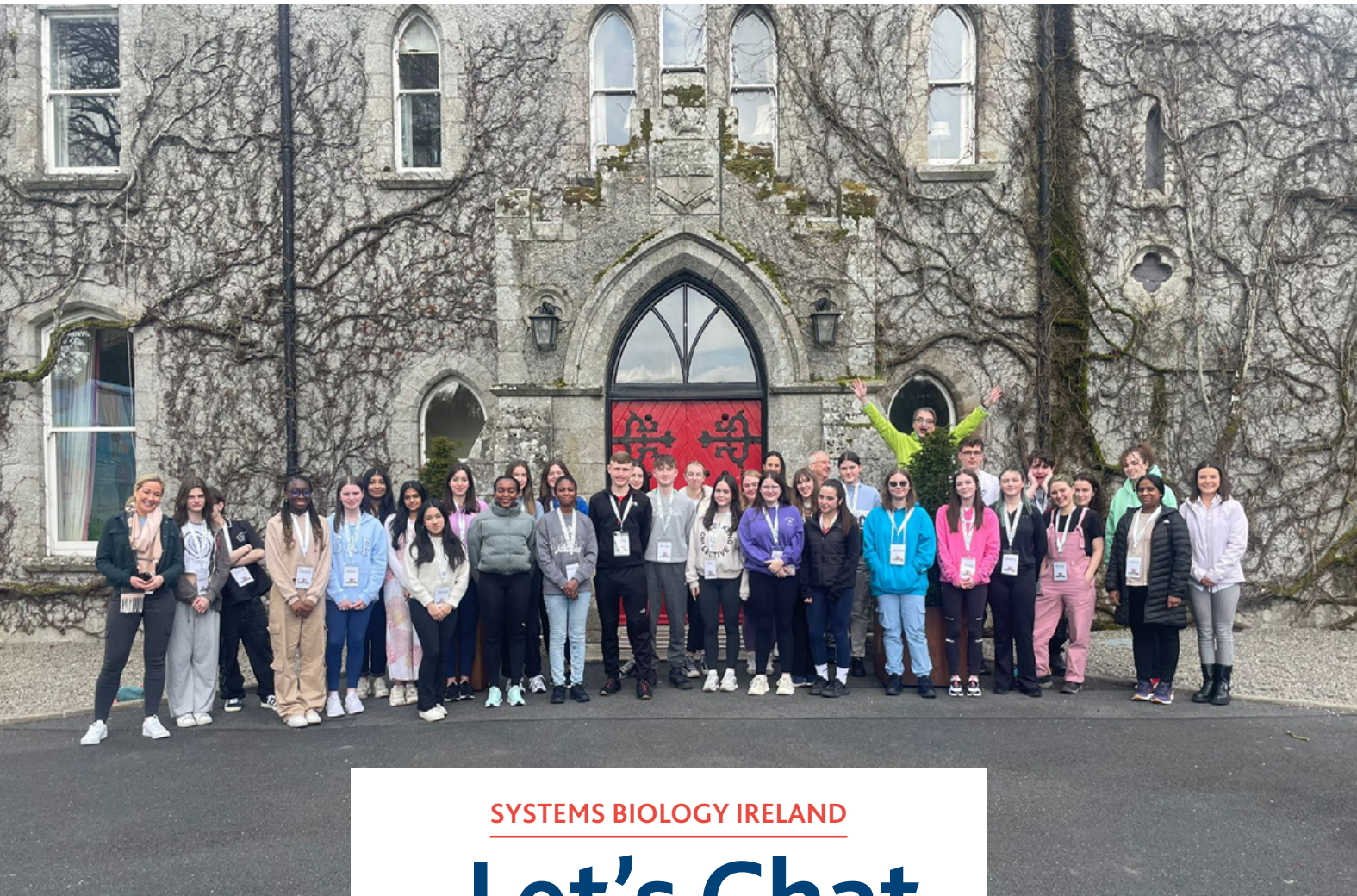


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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







SYSTEMS BIOLOGY IRELAND

# Let's Chat Medicine

**LET'S CHAT MEDICINE** gives young people a chance to learn about personalised medicine, and to harness visual communication to share what they've learned with the public, thereby raising awareness of this important approach that is transforming healthcare.

**L**et's Chat Medicine (LCM) is a public engagement and involvement (PEI) initiative funded by Research Ireland. LCM brings young members of the public together with STEM researchers, artists, and professionals from the teaching and learning, science communication, public engagement and charity sectors. The initiative consists of a four-stage cycle that works to transform public dialogue around personalised medicine by having these groups work together in partnership.

At Stage 1 in February, we focused on recruitment and training. 30 young participants, aged 15-18 years old, were recruited to participate in LCM. 45% of participants were from DEIS-designated schools. Eleven early career researchers (ECRs) were recruited to guide participants through the LCM workshop activities and support them in their learning. ECRs received training in science communication and focus group facilitation to enhance their participation.



Participants Engaging in the LCM Workshops

During Stage 2 in March/ April, our young participants joined us for a series of educational and artistic workshops across UCD and Barretstown campuses, where they had the opportunity to learn about topics of genomics and personalised medicine from scientists in the field. Working with artists, communication professionals and ECRs, participants utilised the knowledge and skills acquired in the workshops to co-create a portfolio of accessible multimedia content.

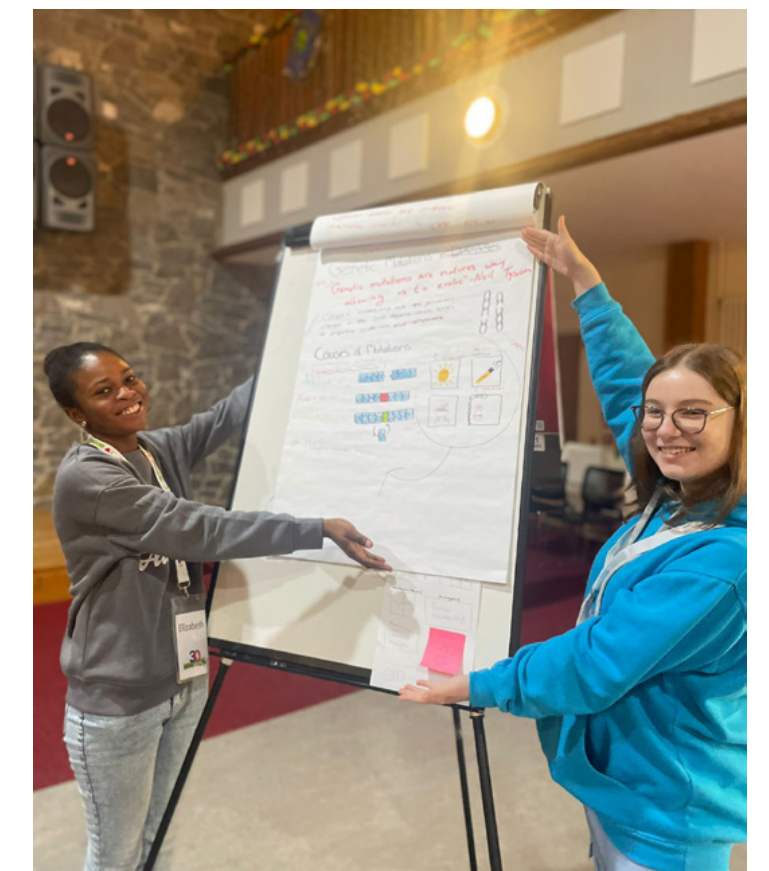
The multimedia content comprised four posters depicting topics of genomics and personalised medicine. For Stage 3, these posters are being amplified at public facing events to enhance public awareness and understanding of personalised medicine. To ensure public participation in STEM initiatives and in health-related research continues, LCM's Stage 4 is a "progression" stage, whereby participants and ECRs are presented with

***"This programme opened my eyes to the possibilities in biotechnology and science, inspiring me to dream bigger and pursue my ambitions."***

- LCM PARTICIPANT

a variety of other research opportunities. The idea here is that participation does not end with LCM, but continues into subsequent research initiatives to ensure continuous improvements and lasting impacts. A resounding 77% of young participants signed up for notification of subsequent research opportunities, as did 67% of ECRs.

To see the final posters, please visit our website here:  
[www.ucd.ie/sbi/lcm](http://www.ucd.ie/sbi/lcm)



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 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





SYSTEMS BIOLOGY IRELAND & UCD CONWAY INSTITUTE JOINT PROJECT

# School Outreach - ABE Ireland & CuriosiTY

From teacher workshops and equipment loans to transition year (TY) weeks, Systems Biology Ireland and UCD Conway Institute reached over 5,390 secondary school pupils with STEM initiatives this academic year through its joint programmes: ABE Ireland and CuriosiTY.



## Amgen Biotech Experience, Ireland

Amgen Biotech Experience (ABE) Ireland is the Irish site of the global education programme aiming to equip teachers to deliver cutting edge biotechnology labs in the classroom. We train teachers and offer loans of the equipment and samples needed, completely free of charge. ABE Ireland has been hosted at Systems Biology Ireland with support from the UCD Conway Institute since 2014. Since its inception, ABE Ireland labs have been delivered to over 23,700 secondary school pupils across Ireland, 4,343 of whom were reached in the 2023/2024 academic year with 40% of those students attending DEIS-designated schools.

In 2023/2024, 45 teachers were trained from schools across Ireland in seven workshops that took place in-person and online. Lab equipment was loaned by 73 teachers. ABE Ireland also linked classrooms up with UCD Conway Institute and Systems Biology Ireland researchers who spoke about their research and helped judge SciFest competitions, reaching over 400 students.

In March 2023, ABE Ireland ran the first 'ABE Advanced' workshop for 5th year pupils with Temple Carrig School teacher Dr Declan Cathcart. In this workshop, pupils genetically engineered bacteria. We believe this was the first group of Leaving Certificate pupils to have carried out this technique in Ireland due to licensing restrictions around genetic engineering in schools. Sixteen pupils from seven counties attended this workshop, with 75% of pupils coming from DEIS-designated schools.

<https://amgenbiotechexperience.net/ie/>

## CuriosiTY Programme

CuriosiTY is a transition year placement programme to broaden participation in STEM, with 80% of spaces reserved for students in DEIS-designated schools or those at a geographical disadvantage linked with the ABE Ireland programme. CuriosiTY focuses on increasing awareness of STEM education and careers as well as developing key skills within a framework that provides



equity of access and widens participation. This programme is funded by Research Ireland and the Department of Education.

Postgraduate researchers are also trained in public engagement to lead the delivery of the CuriosiTY programme through small groups that facilitate informal mentorship. They guide pupils in exploring the world of research through hands-on laboratory activities and career talks.

This academic year Systems Biology Ireland and UCD Conway Institute ran four immersive Transition Year placement weeks, enabling 102 pupils from Dublin, Kildare, Louth, Laois and Monaghan to experience research life at UCD. Alongside this, 13 researchers visited 7 schools to deliver hands-on practicals with the whole Transition Year group - 529 students were reached through these school visits.

<https://www.ucd.ie/sbi/publicengagement/curiosity>

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







UCD ALUMNI VOLUNTEERING

# The UCD Alumni Volunteering Programme



**Alumni Volunteers make a difference at UCD. By volunteering, alumni enrich the lives of current students and help build a vibrant community. In 2023-2024, over 2,500 alumni of all ages showed immense generosity and commitment by getting involved.**

UCD is shaped and sustained by the lifelong engagement of alumni across the university. Alumni volunteering activity was as vibrant as ever in 2023-2024 and helped foster connections worldwide. We are grateful to the 8,405 alumni who, over the years, have collectively volunteered to support students, fellow alumni, and the wider UCD community.

Throughout the year, alumni spoke at Career Panels, Open Days, Guest Lectures, and Global Chapter events. We were delighted to welcome alumni to campus for in-person events, including the Golden & Diamond Reunion and UCD Alumni awards. Alumni gave testimonials as part of social media campaigns and shared encouraging words through one-to-one conversations on the online UCD Alumni Network.

Our growing mentoring and alumni buddy programme list reached hundreds of students this past year. The UCD Career Mentoring Programme supported nearly 400 students across four

colleges (Arts & Humanities, Social Sciences & Law, Engineering & Architecture, and Science), and bespoke mentoring programmes across the College of Business continued to thrive and engaged over 200 students with over 150 mentors and mentees attending a hybrid launch event in the student village. The Alumni Buddy Programme brought together incoming international students and local alumni with over 1,000 student sign ups and more than 100 one-to-one matches, monthly group walks, and vibrant events to help them settle into life in Ireland.

Alumni based around the world volunteered to support student recruitment efforts. For example, the Global Alumni Ambassador Programme offered prospective UCD students access to helpful alumni who could give first-hand advice and answer questions about life in Ireland and studying at UCD.

We are eternally grateful to all our alumni mentors, buddies, speakers, panellists, media contributors, chapter reps, class


agents, board members, and more who have volunteered their time. They make a real difference to the University community in so many ways.


Volunteering with UCD not only provides an opportunity to impact the lives of current students but can also spark meaningful personal connections, broaden horizons, advance skills and expertise, and cultivate innovative thinking.

The UCD Alumni team offers and supports alumni volunteering programmes and projects across the university and is open to collaborating on new initiatives.

To register your interest in creating volunteer roles in your College, School, or Unit or to learn more about getting involved, join the online UCD Alumni Network ([www.ucdalumninetwork.com](http://www.ucdalumninetwork.com)), visit the Alumni Volunteering webpage ([www.ucd.ie/alumni/volunteering](http://www.ucd.ie/alumni/volunteering)), email the team at [alumnivolunteer@ucd.ie](mailto:alumnivolunteer@ucd.ie).



 SUBMITTED BY: Niamh McGowan

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UCD ALUMNI VOLUNTEERING

# UCD Alumni Buddy Programme

The UCD Alumni Buddy programme is a collaboration between UCD Alumni and UCD Global. It brings together local alumni and international graduate students to help ease their transition to life in Ireland.

An active collaboration between UCD Alumni and UCD Global, the UCD Alumni Buddy programme, brings together local alumni and international graduate students to help ease their transition to life in Ireland. In 2023-2024, the programme returned to in-person activity with one-to-one matching, Global Lounge events and group walks.

Since its launch in 2017, the Programme has linked incoming international students with locally based UCD alumni. It has enhanced the student experience significantly by:

- Providing friendly and practical support to students, especially on their arrival in Ireland.
- Helping students integrate into UCD and local communities and become familiar with Irish culture.
- Facilitating intercultural and intergenerational exchanges between students and alumni.

The broader benefits of the programme, frequently reported by students, include networking opportunities, general and practical advice, getting to know Dublin, professional mentoring and friendship, and learning about Irish culture and traditions. On several occasions, Alumni Buddies have exceeded expectations, even inviting students to their homes for a family dinner on Christmas Day.


We were delighted to include both one-to-one matching and fortnightly events this year with alumni encouraged to offer individual support online or in person. Alumni Buddies demonstrated great enthusiasm and adaptability by supporting students virtually, including via the UCD Alumni Network.


Global Lounge events with themes such as Irish culture, Christmas and Easter were insightful for students. Monthly outdoor scenic walks exploring Dublin and beyond gave students and alumni the opportunity to network and form lasting friendships.



*“Amazing. I was very nervous coming to a place that was completely different from my home, but the Buddy Programme helped me understand Irish culture and gave me a feel of a second home here in Dublin. Without this programme, I would never have met my buddy. Thank you!”*

- PARTICIPANT

 SUBMITTED BY: Niamh McGowan

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UCD ALUMNI VOLUNTEERING

# The UCD Career Mentoring Programme

The UCD Career Mentoring Programme provides students with a fantastic opportunity to network with professional alumni mentors who can offer support in developing their career ideas, clarifying their goals, and improving their employability.

The UCD Career Mentoring Programme is a joint initiative delivered by the UCD Careers Network and UCD Alumni Relations. It began in 2014 with 10 students; in 2023-2024, over 400 students applied to participate. This year saw the return of an in-person launch event which was held in the UCD Student Village in November 2023 and a turnout of 150 people.

One of the most active alumni volunteering programmes, in 2023/2024, was mainly held online to facilitate international engagement. Over 300 undergraduate students and alumni mentors found each other on the UCD Alumni Network, our online networking platform. Both alumni and students are trained and supported to navigate this process. Mentoring sessions occur online, by telephone, or face-to-face at least 3 times in 6 months (January – June).

Alumni mentors are volunteers who come from a range of

HERE'S WHAT THE MENTEES HAVE SAID:

**90%**  
of students felt more confident approaching their career planning as a result of participating in this programme


**81%**  
of students know more about roles/career paths/sectors that might interest them due to this programme.


**86%**  
of students would recommend this programme to other students

different personal and professional backgrounds with vast knowledge and a range of experience. They provide a sounding board and offer practical information on specific roles and sectors, including what is required to work in that area and what their day-to-day job involves.

This programme aims to support students at a critical time in their career planning as they decide about their next steps in employment, internships, or further study. Overall, the feedback from participants is excellent, and alumni mentors' time and commitment are valued. Students are grateful to alumni volunteers who give their time.

***"[My mentor] was fantastic. So helpful and encouraging. It was great to have someone with knowledge in my industry to bounce ideas off of and get resources to help with obstacles encountered during my internship"***

 SUBMITTED BY: Niamh McGowan

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 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS





UCD CAREERS NETWORK

# UCD Advantage Award

The UCD Advantage Award facilitates students in reflecting upon their interests and activities to evidence personal and professional development, contribution to UCD and the wider community, health and wellbeing and culture and engagement. Students are recognised at University level for developing transferable skills through their co-curricular engagement and activities.

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and activity leaders across campus to expand and enrich the UCD Advantage Award. Collaborative efforts with units such as Student Recruitment, UCD Library, and the Peer Mentoring Programme have led to the introduction of new activities, providing students with diverse opportunities to develop skills and achieve the award.

The award is managed by the UCD Careers Network on behalf of the University by the Co-Curriculum Project Officer. The application is hosted on SISweb and details and activities a student can undertake are explained on the UCD Careers Network Website. Students attend an induction session which covers all aspects of the award. Once a student begins their application, they can add activities and begin answering the application questions.

Additional support is available throughout the process via one to one appointments and a specific email address [skillsaward@ucd.ie](mailto:skillsaward@ucd.ie). One on one appointments are available for students to book for queries relating to the application.

The award ceremony takes place in April where students are invited to receive their certificate. Students also receive a digital version of their certificate to share on their social media, and UCD Advantage is listed on the Diploma Supplement.

For UCD staff engaged in Co-Curricular activities and awards, please contact Aradhna Mathur at [aradhna.mathur@ucd.ie](mailto:aradhna.mathur@ucd.ie), for further information on how to ensure your co-curricular activities can contribute to the achievement of the UCD Advantage Award. We are keen to work with other colleagues around UCD who are working in the co-curricular space.

The UCD Advantage Award is an important addition to the UCD community. To achieve the award the student has to demonstrate engagement across four themes, which were developed in line with UCD’s strategic objectives and strive to reflect UCD’s values. Students are required to have a minimum of two co-curricular activities but can include as many as they wish and the focus is on what they have learned in the process of undertaking these activities.

The four themes are listed below:

- Theme 1: Personal and Professional Development
- Theme 2: UCD and the Wider Community
- Theme 3: Cultural Engagement
- Theme 4: Health and Wellbeing

There are many co-curricular activities that UCD students can engage in. Examples include volunteering in the community, actively engaging as a member of a club or society to participating in a Careers Network event to holding a part-time job.

In the Academic Year 2023- 2024 there was a significant increase in Advantage Award achievers from 531 to an impressive 797. The UCD Advantage Award was successfully introduced to students at the UCD Global Campus in Singapore. To enhance engagement with this international student cohort, targeted information sessions were organized specifically for UCD College of Business students based in Singapore. These efforts were supported by a strong partnership with the Global Campus overseas Programme Manager and Director. As a result, 20 students from the Singapore campus successfully achieved the award.

The co-curricular team actively engages with various units







## UCD CENTRE FOR JAPANESE STUDIES

# Special Seminar on Japan's Security and Foreign policy

The Centre for Japanese Studies organised and hosted a seminar at MoLI on 20 October 2023.

Professor Shinichi Kitaoka (formerly at the Graduate School of Law and Politics, University of Tokyo, former President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and former Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations) gave a talk entitled "Recent developments in Japan's Security and Foreign Policy". Prof. Kitaoka also visited Belfield Campus and had a roundtable discussion with key Centre members, VP for Global Engagement, Prof. Dolores O'Riordan, Registrar, Prof. Colin Scott, Prof. Ben Tonra and Assoc. Prof. Alex Dukalskis (School of Politics and International Relations).

*"Such a wonderful event bringing old and new friends back together! Thank you"*

- PROF. LUIS CULLEN (TCD)



## Hiroshima Seminar & Poster Exhibition

The Centre for Japanese Studies held an evening seminar 'Is Hiroshima still radioactive?' in the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI) on the 20th of February 2024 and launched a two-week long poster exhibition on the theme of 'nuclear bombs and their aftermath in Hiroshima' in the Student Centre on the Belfield Campus.



These events are hosted by the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies, and partly supported by Hiroshima City University and the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation. In addition to the seminar and the poster exhibition, on the 22nd of February 2024, Mr Takehiro Kagawa (Chairperson of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation and Secretary General of Mayors for Peace Secretary, and former Japanese Ambassador to Egypt) visited UCD, separately from the earlier delegation. He met and conversed with UCD students from various Societies including Law, Politics & International Relations and History and others.

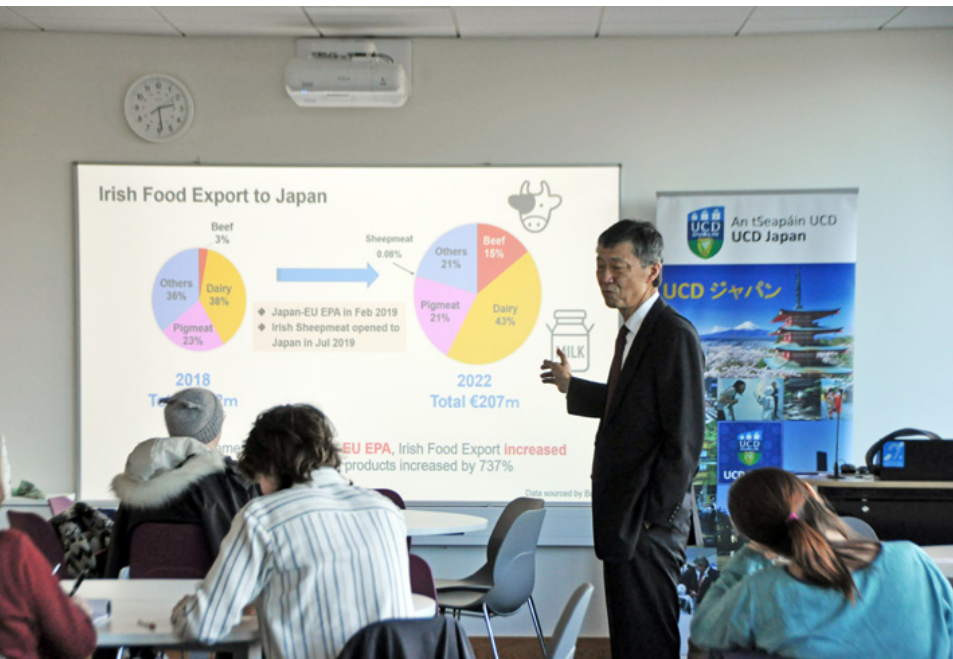


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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







## UCD CENTRE FOR JAPANESE STUDIES

# International High School Students' Photo Festival Exchange in Higashikawa, Japan

For the first time, Ireland participated in Japan's International High School Students' Photo Festival Exchange, with UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (JaSt) taking the initiative in organising the Irish section of the competition.

This summer, the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies, led by Nobuko Ijichi and supported by Hugo O'Donnell from the Centre for English and Global Languages reached a major milestone. For the first time, Ireland participated in Japan's International High School Students' Photo Festival Exchange, with the Centre taking a key role in organizing the Irish section of the competition. In collaboration with the Department of Education's Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI), the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies attracted submissions from 20 schools across 12 counties, promoting cultural awareness and inspiring young adults to explore new perspectives on the world and heighten cultural awareness.

The Irish Section Competition's theme, "The Charm of Your Region", challenged participants to capture the unique beauty of their local areas in a portfolio of six photographs. These entries were judged by a panel of experts in photography, art, and media.

The initiative seeks to foster global connections, encourage dialogue, and promote peace through visual storytelling.

The winners from St. Andrew's College, Dublin, then represented Ireland in August at the HIGASHIKAWA Youth Fest. in Hokkaido, Japan, where youth teams from 20 countries came together to share their work. During the festival, participants not only had the opportunity to showcase their work but also attended photography workshops led by top international photographers and immersed themselves in Japanese culture, interacting with the local community and students from around the world. This educational experience was invaluable for all participants.

In an exciting achievement, the Irish team of Valeria, Sara, and Elisa from St. Andrew's College won the prestigious Hokko Gakuen Award, judged by a panel of five renowned photographers. Their success highlights the talent and dedication of the Irish participants and underscores the potential for this project's future growth.



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## UCD CENTRE FOR JAPANESE STUDIES

## Module - DSCY10080 Gateways to Japan

### Japanese Ambassador's special lecture for Discovery Module "Gateways to Japan"

H.E. Mr Norio Maruyama (Ambassador of Japan to Ireland) gave a special lecture 'Global Ireland and Japan'. H.E. Mr Norio Maruyama (Ambassador of Japan to Ireland) highlighted the importance of learning a foreign language as a 'gateway' to its culture, society and people, even when AI and robotics can aid and enhance knowledge acquisition of other cultures and intercultural communications. Ambassador Maruyama also spoke about career opportunities for students, and business collaborations between Japan and Ireland, as an EU member state. The Joint Statement between Japan and Ireland "Taking Forward Partnership with Shared Ambition" signed by the then Taoiseach (Micheál Martin T.D. and Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio

in Tokyo on 20 July, 2022, as well as the Ireland House (to be opened in 2025) were mentioned.

The module, established in 2018/19, is coordinated by two Co-Chairs of the UCD Japan Group, Prof. Emma Sokell (Physics) and Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate (Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice), in collaboration with Ms Nobuko Ijichi (Japanese language and culture). UCD Japan committee members and guest lecturers have been contributing to it, together with special guest lecturers from Japan and the community. Special thanks to Mr Hugo O'Donnell (UCD Global Engagement, UCD Japan, and the Experience Japan Festival Committee's Founding Chairperson).

*"A wonderful opportunity to listen to Ambassador's lecture and meeting and speaking with him in person"*

- (MR XIAOKUN TAN, 2ND-YEAR STUDENT, BA GLOBAL STUDIES)



UCD CENTRE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WELLBEING

# FACES Families: Adult & Child Enhanced Services

**Child Poverty Pilot, led by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and Wicklow CYPSCs, LCDCs, Bray Area Partnership and Southside Partnership, in collaboration with UCD. The pilot aims to map drivers of poverty and develop/test interventions to promote the wellbeing of children, and the family system within their community.**

**T**he UCD Centre for the Advancement of Wellbeing and School of Education team of Seaneen Sloan, Joyce Senior, Jessica Surdey are assisting by participating in the project stakeholder and learning communities, helping to raise awareness about the project and its importance, and contributing to the pilot impact assessment.

We are excited and energised after our Dún Laoghaire Rathdown and Wicklow CYPSC/LCDC Local Area Child Poverty Action Plan Briefing with Senior Management across DLR and Wicklow. Delighted to have Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership, SPECS, Southside Partnership, HSE (Public Health Nursing, Primary Care, Health and Wellbeing), An Garda Síochana, Kildare and Wicklow Education Training Board, Department of Social Protection, University College Dublin, DLR/Wicklow County Council and LCDC and DLR/Wicklow CYPSC join us this week. A commitment to how we, as a cross-county pilot, will work together to consolidate and integrate services for better outcomes for families.



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SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS





## UCD CHAPLAINCY

# UCD Student Volunteers at Glenstal Abbey



↑ Felix Zarka at work in the Abbey's Oak Woodlands.

UCD Chaplaincy forged links with Glenstal Abbey, Co Limerick enabling two forestry students to volunteer for two weeks in assisting with the clearance of invasive non-native species from two special areas of conservation in the abbey's native oak woodland.

Two UCD Students, Felix Zarka and Liam Butler, volunteered for two weeks at Glenstal Abbey from Sunday 16th June 2024. The two students had just completed their primary degrees at UCD, one in forestry. On the first Monday morning, Sean Hoskins of Enfor Forestry was present to guide them and give them safety training in handling tools, etc.

Glenstal has 240 acres of forestry, including native oak woodland and a 19th century pinetum, and many diverse plantations of various ages from the last 100 years since the foundation of the Abbey. The forest and pinetum is threatened by invasive species, especially Rhododendron and Cherry Laurel. The students working alongside two of the brothers cleared laurels and rhododendron from the pinetum and from a section of the broader woodland. The species were mostly cut down

by either hand saw or chain saw and then treated to prevent regrowth. Some smaller bushes were uprooted. The students also go to do some work in the various different plantations experiencing the wide variety of species and habitats. Glenstal has two Special Areas of Conservation (one for the Killarney Fern), part of one Special Protection Area for the Hen Harrier, and also includes a proposed Natural Heritage area for the Lesser Horseshoe Bats.

Certificates of completion were provided to both students signed by Sean Hoskins of Enfor, and Fr Luke Macnamara, Assistant Bursar at Glenstal Abbey. Copies of the certificates were supplied in Irish for one student who is Irish Speaking, and in German for the second student who hopes to work in forestry on the continent."

***"The students provided invaluable help to the monks of the Abbey in preserving areas of special conservation in native oak woodlands.***

- FR. LUKE O.S.B., GLENSTAL ABBEY

SUBMITTED BY: Fr. Brendan Ludlow

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A young visitor trying on a replica Greek helmet during Heritage Week

Students handling an ancient terracotta lamp



UCD CLASSICAL MUSEUM

# Ancient Artefacts and Contemporary Culture

UCD Classical Museum is Ireland's only museum focused on curation, display and education using artefacts from the Classical world (Greece, Italy, Egypt and Cyprus), including ceramics, inscriptions, glass, and coins. The museum recently has branched into hosting cultural events too.



Founded over a century ago, the UCD Classical Museum is a vibrant centre for teaching and learning, research, outreach and inspiration. It has always played a key role in the community engagement of both the School of Classics and the College of Arts and Humanities. It welcomes hundreds of visitors from primary and secondary schools every year (many of them through our award-winning Access Classics scheme), provides work experience for Transition Year students, and is open for a variety of local and national heritage events, such as Heritage Week, Culture Night, the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Festival of Inclusion, and UCD Festival.

Visitors from within and beyond the university are welcome to arrange visits or drop in during opening hours also. We are especially keen on enthusing children about the ancient world and have developed a range of scavenger hunts, mythical monster trails and worksheets. The Museum has become a key partner

in the annual ClassicsNow festival too, providing a venue every January for workshops that bring the Classical world alive for modern visitors.

Building on the success of a previous contemporary art show – The Museum of Ancient History, co-curated with Pádraic E. Moore – we decided to host a series of evening performances in the Museum in 2023 to highlight its potential as a venue for other types of cultural activities. Supported by a grant from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (Night Time Economy – After Hours at the Museum scheme), six free events were scheduled in autumn 2023 as Muses@UCD. These included poetry readings (by Theo Dorgan and Paula Meehan), a storytelling performance by Candlelit Tales, two musical nights, a drawing workshop, and the global premiere of a live performance of Eireann Lørsung's 'An Archaeology', performed by UCD students.

We have also expanded our community engagement possibilities by being early adopters of the Navilens app, which provides navigational assistance on campus. The potential of this app for enhancing access to the Museum for visually impaired visitors was recognised, and over the summer of 2024 we adapted it to a self-guided audio highlights tour. This is available by scanning QR codes in the Museum and listening to information in a language of choice.

All of these events have brought a diverse, new audience into UCD and the Museum, and have encouraged us to continue including cultural events in our programme and seeking new ways to make the collection accessible to all – exciting performances and exhibitions are under way in autumn 2024 and planned for 2025!



Candlelit Tales performing their storytelling in the Museum



SUBMITTED BY: Jo Day and Sasha Smith



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





## UCD COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

# UCD Smurfit School hosts 17th annual Business Journalist Awards 2024

In December, Ireland's leading business journalists were celebrated at the UCD Smurfit School Business Journalist Awards.

Seven journalists were recognised across the categories and Brian Carey received the Outstanding Achievement Award. The awards, sponsored by Bank of Ireland, recognise excellence in Irish business journalism across the media spectrum. The honours were delivered in conjunction with the Business Journalists Association of Ireland.

## THE 2024 CATEGORIES AND WINNERS ARE:

- **Business News Story of the Year** – Charlie Weston, Irish Independent  
*'Thousands whose mortgages were sold to vultures cannot call on ombudsman for help'*

- **Audio Story of the Year** – Conall Ó Móráin, The Media Group  
*'Never give up – Interview with Ashley McDonnell, Global Marketing Director of PUIG'*
- **Business Feature of the Year** – Jon Ihle, The Sunday Times, Ireland. *'A very Canadian kind of coup'*
- **Business Analyst of the Year** – Eoin Burke-Kennedy, The Irish Times. *'From high-minded ambition to mere corporate tokenism: ESG's rise and fall' and 'The rise and fall of Blackberry serves as a lesson for Ireland'*
- **Business Interview of the Year** – Thomas Hubert, The Currency, Interview with Entrepreneur Tom Cotter: *'We're back to bootstrapping, but we're doing better than ever'*



**"The importance of journalism, including fact-checking and critical thinking, has never been clearer. An independent and impartial media is of immense value to our economy and society, and these awards recognise business journalists who uphold the highest standards."**

**– DAMIEN GARVEY, HEAD OF GROUP EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, BANK OF IRELAND**

- **Women in Business Journalism Award** – Catherine Sanz, Business Post. *'Johnny Ronan in talks to sell Bewley's café building as part of €300m sale of prized assets' and 'Inside the toxic culture pushing Irish lawyers to breaking point'*
- **Upcoming Journalist of the Year** – Emer Walsh, Irish Examiner. *'IDA chief: Investors see stability and certainty in Ireland'; 'Gaza puts Ireland's public investments in the occupied territories under scrutiny'; and 'Gold shows its mettle: In a world of cryptocurrencies and AI stocks, investors still drawn to the oldest commodity'*

In addition to the seven categories listed above, an Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Brian Carey of The Sunday Times, Ireland for his contribution to journalism.

Professor Federica Pazzaglia, Director of UCD Smurfit School and Associate Dean of UCD College of Business said: "In the 17th edition of the Business Journalist Awards, we are once again proud to recognise the best of Irish business journalism. In a tumultuous time around the world, journalists play an ever-important role in highlighting business trends that have an impact in Ireland and beyond. We sincerely thank our sponsors, Bank of Ireland, for partnering with us to celebrate the best of Irish journalism."



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## UCD COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

# 50 Years of Education & Research in Human Resource Management & Employment Relations

**UCD College of Business celebrated the 50th anniversary of the formation of the current Human Resource Management and Employment Relations Department on March 12, 2024.**

UCD College of Business celebrated the 50th anniversary of the formation of the current Human Resource Management and Employment Relations Department on March 12, 2024. Gathering alumni, faculty, staff and the wider business community, the event summarised the creation of Ireland's first Chair, Professor Brian Hillery, and the Department in Industrial Relations in 1974, as well as the education and research that has influenced the field. Fifty years later, the Human Resource Management and Employment Relations Subject Area at UCD

College of Business remains at the forefront of innovative research and teaching.

"Human Resource Management remains a vibrant and influential field concerning how we manage people at work," said Head of the Subject Area Professor Anne Keegan in her opening remarks. "Since the foundation of the department, certain principles have been at the heart of our teaching and research including the importance of connection with leading actors in the employment



sphere including trade unions, employers and other social and public policy partners. The department has engaged in transformative curriculum design and programme innovation, and always strives for impact through research and education."

Emeritus Professor of Business Administration Aidan Kelly discussed the establishment of the Chair of Industrial Relations and the department's early years. This was followed by Professor of Industrial Relations & Human Resources Bill Roche who gave a fascinating history of 50 Years of Employment Relations and HRM in Ireland covering major developments in the field.

"The field has evolved radically over the past 50 years," said Professor Bill Roche. "The original Department of Industrial Relations was established during Ireland's longest and most serious strike wave. Strikes are now considerably less frequent and less damaging in their effects. Unions, at their high point during the later 1970s, organised more than one in two employees at work, now they organize less than one in four, but are pursuing strategies of revitalization. HR management has been transformed into a more strategic and impactful function."

A panel discussion chaired by Dr Majella Fahy, Lecturer in Human Resource Management, featured MSc HRM alumni Norah Ambrose, HR Director, Chief State Solicitor's Office; Barry Holmes, Director of HR, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland joining from China; and Sarah White, Director of People, Global Customer Experience, at eBay Inc joining from the US, who offered insight on 'The Changing Roles of Human Resource Managers in Ireland'.

The event concluded with the inauguration of Student Prizes which celebrate the contribution to UCD, business and public life of Brian J. Hillery, Foundation Professor of Industrial Relations at UCD. Members of the Hillery family joined senior leaders of the UCD College of Business to present the two new awards.

## UCD COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

## Christmas Generosi-tree and Charity Coffee Mornings

**College of Business supports local charities through fundraising events**



In conjunction with UCD St Vincent de Paul Society, this year's Christmas tree in the UCD Quinn School atrium has been set up as a Generosi-tree. People were encouraged to take a tag with a child's age and buy a gift for that age to leave under the tree.

In addition, the UCD Quinn School Charity Christmas Coffee welcomed guests with festive treats. Since 2009, the Christmas Charity Coffee Morning has raised an amazing €11,000+ for various charities. This year, donations will be shared between two very worthwhile charities – the Irish Cancer Society and Focus Ireland.

The annual Christmas Carols with Carysfort National School also took place at UCD Smurfit School welcoming local school children for singing, as well as hot chocolate and holiday fun.







UCD COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

# UCD Business Global Alumni Challenge 2024

## Participants from 28 countries participated

The fourth edition of the UCD Business Global Alumni Challenge concluded on March 19, 2024. It was a fantastic 30 days with over 600 participants from 28 countries making it a truly global alumni community experience. Together, participants collectively clocked over 35,000 kilometres and connected with members of the community and across UCD, while forming healthy habits along the way. It was wonderful to witness the engagement and enthusiasm of our challenge participants across the globe


# UCD Smurfit School's Carole Deering appointed to IIBA


## Carole Deering was appointed as Director of the Ireland India Business Association (IIBA)

Carole Deering was appointed as Director of the Ireland India Business Association (IIBA). Driven by a deep passion for India—its people, culture, and heritage—Carole is committed to strengthening the bonds between India and Ireland. She looks forward to advancing this important mission in collaboration with Deepak Chaudhari (Chair), Kuldeep Joshi (Vice Chair), and Sumit Mullick (former Chair).

Carole extends special thanks to Sumit for his steadfast support of her work, UCD Global, and especially the students/alumni of Smurfit School. This appointment will benefit the IIBA, UCD, Smurfit School and the UCD Global Centre in Delhi, extending to all current and past students of India.




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↑ PhD student, Elena Giardini sharing her textile story inspired by diabetic kidney disease research at the Cut From the Same Cloth 'Get-Together' in Balbriggan (May 2024)

UCD CONWAY INSTITUTE

# Cut from the Same Cloth: Engaging women from minority communities in STEM

This project is establishing connections between women in minority communities, researchers and patient partners. It is building trust in an open, equitable and accessible way through community-based events centred around textiles and experiences of health research.

Research should be shaped by the many diverse voices in Ireland today. Cut from the Same Cloth is a two-year project with textile artist, Lorna Donlon that is led by Conway Fellow, Professor Amanda McCann, UCD School of Medicine and Chair of The Patient Voice in Cancer Research initiative.

The project is establishing connections between communities, researchers and patient partners. It is building trust in an open, equitable and accessible way through community-based events centred around textiles and experiences of health research. Textiles trace the shapes of individual lives. They invoke memories, embody emotion, create connections and provide a sense of continuity. Each textile holds a story.

Lorna Donlon is passionate about how textiles connect us to place, our sense of self, and our past. She is also fascinated by patterns that she sees within cells of the body. Lorna is working with 24 scientists to visually represent the microscopic patterns in their research on fabric.

From April through August, 6 'Get-Together' events took place with 110 women from minority communities who shared personal stories of the textiles that are special to them. They heard from scientists about their personal textiles and the fabrics that have been created inspired by research. From these events, 24 women have met again with Lorna and the project team to be photographed with their textile and have their story filmed. These will form part of an exhibition alongside a centrepiece, hand-woven tapestry by Donlon inspired by these textiles.

The project team also include Conway Fellow, Dr Arman Rahman from UCD School of Medicine and Precision Oncology Ireland who is passionate about involving ethnic minority cancer patients in public and patient involvement.

Community partners include the Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland, the Venezuelan Community in Ireland, Muslim Sisters of Eire, Glencree Centre for Peace & Reconciliation, the Bangladeshi community, Department of Global Health in Children's Health Ireland, Baleskin Reception Centre, Kippure Accommodation Centre and Kilkenny Integration Forum.

The exhibition will tour nationwide in 2025 in collaboration with The Hunt Museum, Limerick; Roscommon Arts Centre; Mayfair Library, Kilkenny; Pearse Museum, Rathfarnham Dublin; and Dunamais Arts Centre, Portlaoise.

The project is conducted with the financial support of Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland under grant number 23/DP/11894.

More information about the project and dates of touring exhibition can be found on the website: <https://cutfromthesamecloth.org/>

SUBMITTED BY: Elaine Quinn  
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*"The sharing of the stories behind their clothes were so captivating that you could feel the real interest, engagement and empathy between the participants. The emotional support they offered each other was humbling."*

- KATHERINE PEACOCK, KILKENNY INTEGRATION OFFICER



Conway Fellow, Dr Maria Prencipe with her research-inspired fabric at the Islamic Cultural Centre Of Ireland, Clonskeagh.





UCD CONWAY INSTITUTE

# Introductory PPI Training for Colorectal Cancer Researchers

Health research is more transparent and relevant when the lived experience of patients is included from the start. This introductory PPI training for 10 colorectal cancer doctoral researchers on an EU project was facilitated by the Patient Voice in Cancer Research team in conjunction with Bowel Cancer Ireland.

The Patient Voice in Cancer Research teamed up with Bowel Cancer Ireland (formerly the Irish Colorectal Cancer Community) to run an in-person training workshop for 10 young doctoral candidates from across Europe on 13 -14 December 2023 in UCD Conway Institute.


ColoMARK is an EU-funded Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions doctoral network providing excellent multidisciplinary, transversal and multisectoral training. Ten ColoMARK doctoral candidates from across Europe are undertaking ground-breaking research projects to produce better colorectal cancer biomarkers using a novel liquid biopsy approach. A liquid biopsy provides a less invasive way to assess a tumour at the molecular level.


UCD President, Prof. Orla Feely welcomed the patient partners and researchers saying, "I would encourage the 10 young doctoral students to embrace this unique and valuable opportunity to work with patient partners to learn how best to communicate your research to the public. I have no doubt that these interactions over the next two days will shape your cancer

research career and make you appreciate the incredible impact your work might have for patients and carers in the future."

As well as the workshop sessions on effectively communicating scientific research to the public, the doctoral candidates heard from patients and other researchers about successful PPI partnerships and the impact they can have on research. There was also ample opportunity for some festive fun at the evening social events.

The Patient Voice in Cancer Research are grateful to all our patient partners who enabled this training opportunity.

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↑ Researchers and patient partners pictured at the MSCA doctoral network training workshop at UCD Conway Institute in December 2023

← Researchers and patient partners pictured at a workshop session in public and patient involvement in research at UCD Conway Institute





3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION





*“The experience of applying what we learned in class to help a real organization felt meaningful. It gave me a sense of how research and policy can work together to make a difference, and it was great to be part of something that goes beyond the classroom.”*

- NISHANT SHARMA, MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY STUDENT”

## UCD ENERGY INSTITUTE

# Sustainability Curriculum Project


The Sustainability Curriculum Project is a community based learning project funded by the Higher Education Authority and delivered through UCD’s Energy Institute. The project is intended to create links between academic programmes in UCD and organisations interested in all aspects of the transition to sustainable energy, cities, and communities, by mapping the current needs of partner organisations to the learning outcomes of participating modules.


Engagement takes the form of external partner organisations working in all areas of sustainability inputting on student assessments through practical topics and project proposals.

At its most involved this can entail a partner organisation proposing a topic for a Master’s thesis, and supporting the student in question during its completion. For other modules partner organisations may participate in guest lectures or submit group projects for student input.

The engagement is intended to be of mutual benefit: students gain a practical learning experience based on the issues key sustainability organisations are working on, while partner organisations gain high-quality student outputs which they can use to scope future work or feed into reports and policy papers.

The first round of participating modules concluded in the Spring 2024 teaching trimester, followed by several Master’s theses in Summer 2024. Further modules are planned for the Autumn 2024 and Spring 2025 trimesters.

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## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







UCD IN THE COMMUNITY

# UCD Community Engagement Report

The annual UCD Community Engagement Report, launched in May 2024 captures a snapshot of UCD’s community engagement activities during the academic year 2022-2023.

The annual community engagement report documents various projects where university resources and expertise have been leveraged to address local issues, ranging from education and healthcare to environmental sustainability and economic development.

Professor Joe Carthy, UCD in the Community, welcomed everyone to the launch on Wednesday 15 May, 2024. Professor Carthy outlined how the community-university partnerships highlighted in the report provide real and meaningful benefits for everyone involved.

Professor Colin Scott, Registrar, Deputy President and Vice President for Academic Affairs at University College Dublin officially launched the report. Expressing his enthusiasm for the community engagement work highlighted in this report, Professor Scott spoke about the importance of real, collaborative engagement with the community. Professor Scott officially also encouraged people to read and engage with the report and the stories featured in it.

The activities in the report bring to life the values of UCD and demonstrate the open, creative, and collaborative spirit in which we engage with the wider community for mutual benefit. The report aims to inspire UCD colleagues to continue, or to get engaged with the wider community. UCD in the Community welcomes your ideas and suggestions for future projects.



↑ Community Engagement Report  
2022-2023 Launch

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>
<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>





UCD IN THE COMMUNITY

# UCD in the Community Student Volunteering Awards

In November 2023 over 60 UCD students involved in volunteering activities had their outstanding contributions to society recognised at the UCD in the Community Volunteering Awards.

*"My class rep role in UCD Student Union gave me a lot of opportunities to learn about myself and my leadership style. I learned that I should be brave and not hesitate to participate in leadership positions"*

The UCD in the Community Student Volunteering Awards are given to those students who have excelled at making a positive change to the University and the wider community. The recipients of the 2023 awards are at the centre of running UCD sports clubs, societies, class rep and peer mentorship programmes, as well as actively contributing to UCD's strategy through their external volunteering endeavours.

On Wednesday, 8 November 2023 in a special ceremony in the UCD Global Lounge, 61 students from across the University were recognised for their outstanding contribution to society through volunteering. There were three award categories available to UCD students, Bronze (20 hours of volunteering), Silver (40 hours of volunteering) and Gold (60+ hours of volunteering).

All UCD students who volunteer are eligible for an award, using the StudentVolunteer.ie platform to log their volunteering hours and apply for the awards.

Community Engagement Report  
2022-2023 Launch

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UCD IN THE COMMUNITY

# Dublin Simon Voucher Appeal

Supporting those experiencing homelessness at Christmas time - a collaborative project with UCD in the Community, Dublin Simon Community and Localise Youth Volunteering.

Localise youth volunteering challenges young people to come together and make a difference in their local community by being of service to others. Through their Localise volunteering programme, the wonderful Transition Year students in Terenure Presentation Community College organised three fundraisers in their school. Together with the vouchers donated from the UCD community, €2,375 worth of vouchers were donated and handed over to Dublin Simon on Tuesday 19 December 2023. The Dublin Simon rough sleeper team delivered these vouchers directly to their clients, supporting them in buying essential items and warm clothing.



UCD IN THE COMMUNITY

# UCD Volunteer Day 2023

UCD Volunteer Day is an annual event which happens in the O'Brien Centre for Science.

Every year, UCD in the Community, brings together a cross section of society, connecting communities and promoting volunteering opportunities. It is a great way for UCD students, staff and alumni to connect and find volunteer opportunities to suit the individual or the organisation. On Wednesday, 11 October 2023, on the ground floor of the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science East, over 20 organisations set up an information stand with hundreds of students engaging with them throughout the day.

In addition to the information stands, UCD Careers Network delivered a talk for students on "Volunteering and Your Career" which is a great way for students to find out how to use volunteering skills on their CV and help boost career prospects. The day was a hugely successful day for volunteering organisations and the atmosphere around the Fair and the feedback from the visiting organisations is what brings it back each year.

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UCD IN THE COMMUNITY

# Hope Fest 2024

Hope Fest 2024 took place on Saturday, 11 May from 12pm - 3pm to the Iveagh Gardens, Harcourt Street, Dublin 2.

Volunteers and  
Guests enjoying  
Hope Fest 2024

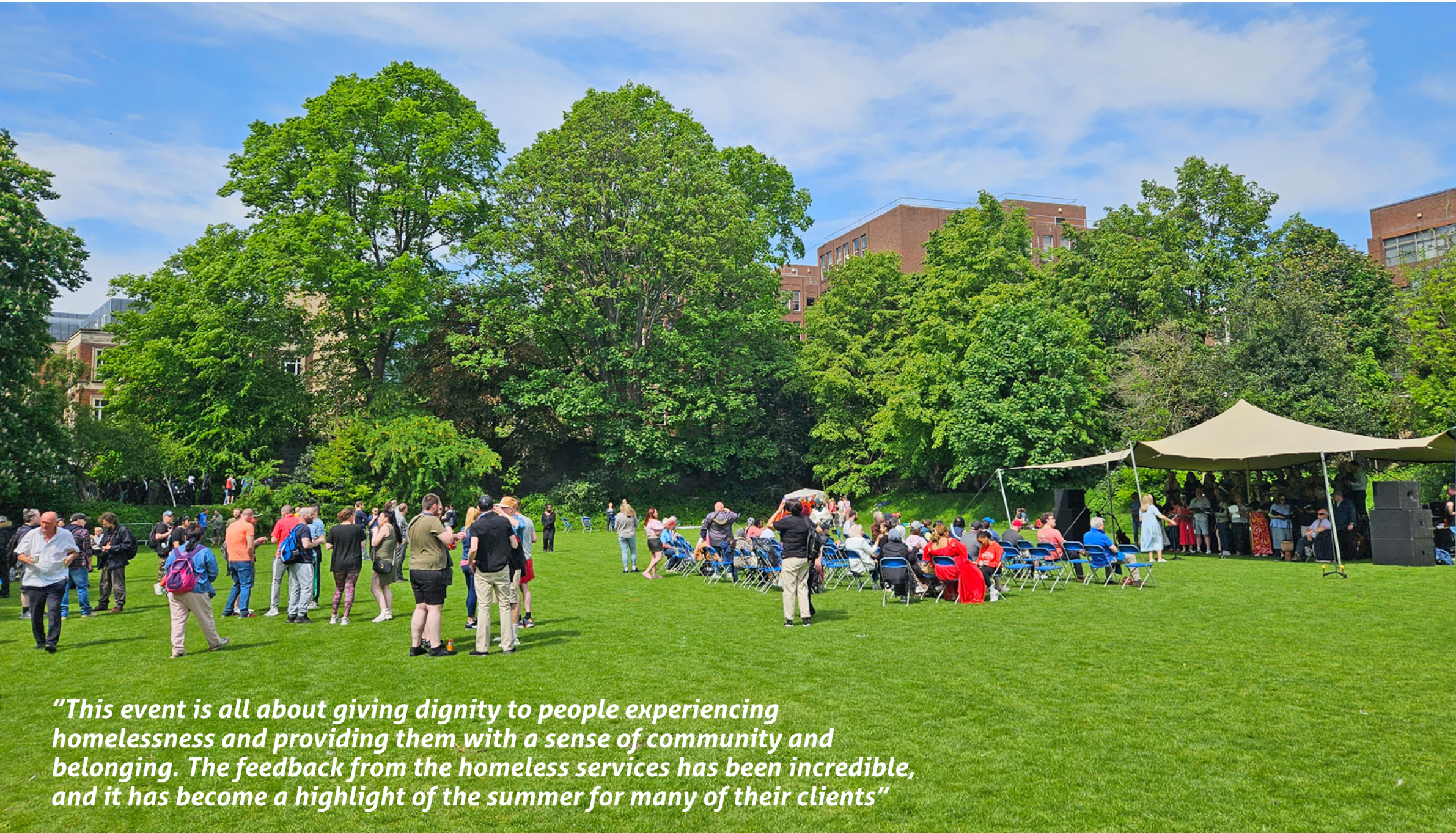


Dozens of student and staff volunteers at UCD have taken part in Hope Fest – an annual wellness event for those experiencing homelessness in Dublin. Organised in collaboration with UCD in the Community and the Dublin Lions Club, as well as over 30 homeless services across the county, the ‘mini-festival’ aims to provide those experiencing homelessness with a sense of community and belonging. Begun in 2018, Hope Fest grew out of many conversations around how UCD could support the homeless community in a real and meaningful way, while providing an opportunity for staff and student volunteers to engage with the wider community.

Through consultation with the Dublin Lions Club and various homelessness organisations, it was identified that while there

are many events around Christmas for those experiencing homelessness, there were no events taking place during the summer period, and isolation and loneliness for those experiencing homelessness is a yearlong issue.

This year over 460 guests in attendance at the Iveagh Gardens, with many families present, who were able to avail of a range of services from haircuts, chiropody, first aid, yoga and reiki, while the children’s zone had games, colouring, facepainting and balloon making. Live music was provided by the UCD Community Choir, alongside the Medlife Crisis band and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Ireland, and some 20 UCD student volunteers kept things running smoothly throughout the day.



*“This event is all about giving dignity to people experiencing homelessness and providing them with a sense of community and belonging. The feedback from the homeless services has been incredible, and it has become a highlight of the summer for many of their clients”*



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





## UCD LIBRARY

# Welcoming Second-Level Students to UCD Library

UCD Library plays host to several initiatives aimed at secondary schools

## Transition Year Programme

This year UCD Library welcomed second-level students through the gates as part of several partnerships and initiatives. Our Transition Year Programme introduced eight students to the world of academic libraries and heritage collections, providing hands-on experiences across several library units and fostering an understanding and appreciation for the library and information profession. Participants explored resources, engaged with staff, and developed critical skills that prepare them for future studies.

## National Folklore Collection Tours

The National Folklore Collection facilitated tours that offered second-level students a unique window into the past, connecting them with historical artefacts that helped to bring

their curriculum to life. These tours not only deepen their understanding of history but also spark an appreciation for the preservation of cultural heritage.

## Leaving Cert Study Programme

For Leaving Certificate students, the Health Sciences Library provides a dedicated study space scheme in the weeks leading up to and including the exam period, creating an environment conducive to focused learning. 350 students took part in the programme in 2024 and, as in previous years, fees were waived for participating students from DEIS schools.

This initiative ensures students have access to a quiet study space with required amenities alleviating the challenges of finding suitable study areas elsewhere.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## Support Services for Second-Level Students

The James Joyce Library houses two core support services for UCD students: the Maths Support Centre and the Writing Centre. Both centres offer programmes specifically aimed at second-level students from disadvantaged communities.

'Maths Xplained' is a ten-week initiative that helps students to prepare for Leaving Certificate mathematics and enables students to build confidence in their mathematical abilities. It was initiated by UCD Maths Support Centre Manager Dr Anthony Cronin and UCD Access and Lifelong Learning Outreach Officer Áine Murphy.

The Writing Centre also offers a series of writing workshops to students from DEIS schools. Facilitated by experienced tutors, these workshops equip participants with the tools to improve

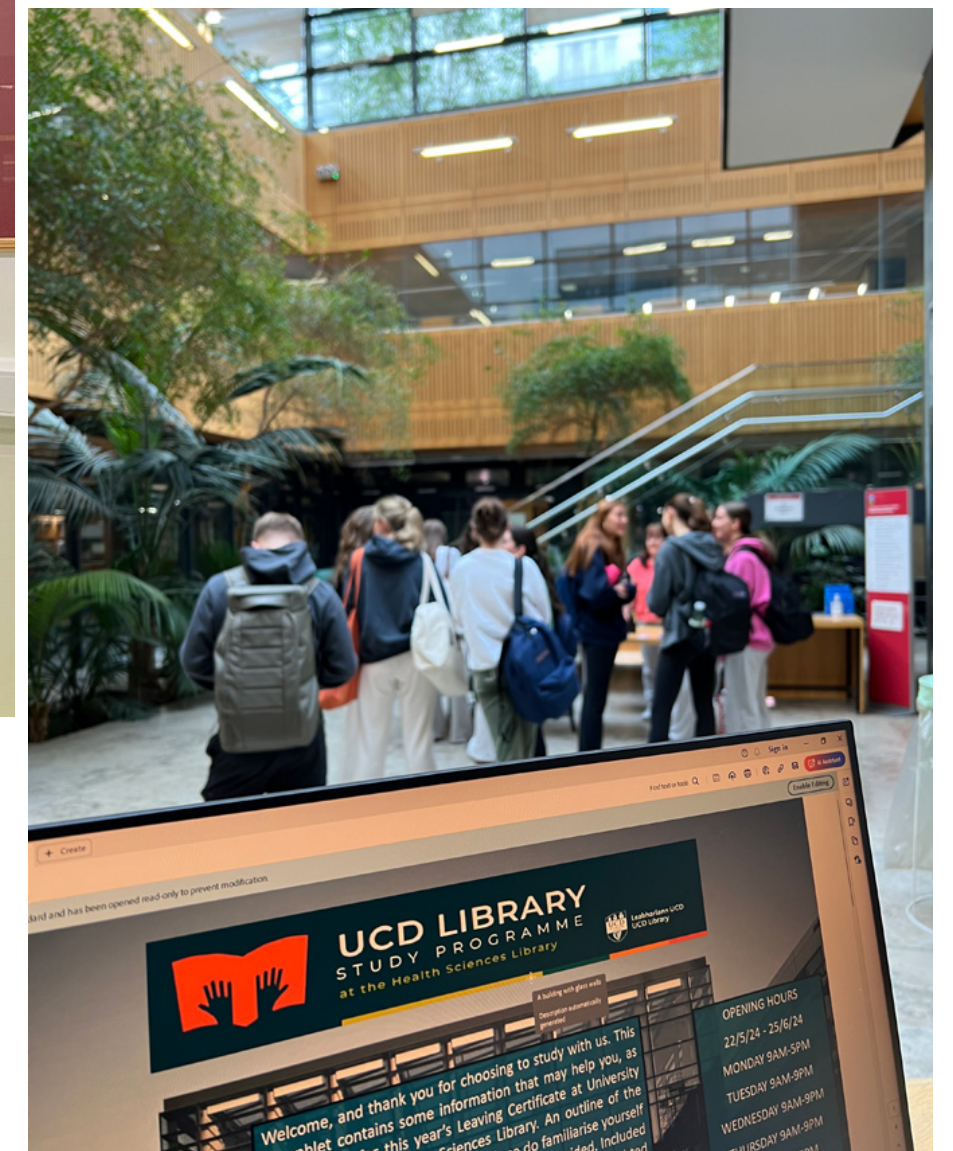
written expression and gain confidence in their own critical voice. This programme is run by Managing Director of the UCD Writing Centre Dr Zeljka Doljanin.

In supporting these programmes, UCD Library demonstrates its commitment to empowering young learners, bridging the gap between second-level education and higher learning, and nurturing a lifelong connection to libraries.

These initiatives support both University and UCD Library's strategic objectives by actively engaging with the community and working towards widening participation.

← Transition Year Students in UCD Special Collections

↓ Leaving Cert Students arrive at the Health Sciences Library





ZELJKA DOLJANIN – UCD LIBRARY

# Supporting Young Writers

## Welcoming DEIS Schools to the UCD Writing Centre

The UCD Writing Centre provides free, high-quality tuition to undergraduate and postgraduate students looking to improve their writing skills. Located in the James Joyce Library, it offers one-to-one tuition and workshops in a neutral learning space.

Each May, the Writing Centre hosts fifth-year students from DEIS schools for a day of writing workshops and an introduction to university life. This initiative, Writing as a Skill, Writing as a Process, Writing as Practice, began in 2017 with support from former Registrar Professor Mark Rogers. Each participating school sends 25-30 students, who engage in workshops led by Writing Centre tutors. Students also tour the campus with Student Ambassadors, gaining insights into university life, before enjoying lunch and additional workshops. Depending on tutor availability, two to five schools are accommodated each year.

In May 2024, students from Avondale Community College, Rathdrum, and Killinarden Community School, Tallaght, attended workshops such as Getting Started: Planning Before Writing, Watch Your Tone! Understanding Tone and Writing for an Audience, Effective Phrasing and Word Choice, and This is Me! Finding Your Unique Writer's Voice. The workshops aim to help students approach writing thoughtfully, build confidence, and value their critical voices.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive. Students highlighted learning to use their unique voice, understand tone, eliminate unnecessary words, brainstorm effectively, and plan writing more successfully. Their responses, such as "how tone is a crucial element in a writing piece" and "it is easier to

just write the first thing you think of and edit later," demonstrate active engagement and the workshops' impact.

The initiative strengthens connections with six DEIS schools, inspiring students to view writing as a skill and process while encouraging them to consider UCD for further studies. Feedback also helps refine the Centre's classes, ensuring they remain relevant and engaging

### SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE WRITING CENTRE PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

#### Writing as a Skill, Writing as a Process, Writing as Practice

10.00-10.10	Arrival and welcome
10.10-10.45	Getting started: planning before writing
10.50-11.30	Watch your tone! Understanding tone and writing for an audience
11.30-12.30	UCD campus tour
12.30-1.20	Lunch
1.20-2.00	This is me! Finding your unique writer's voice
2.05-2.45	Effective phrasing and word choice
2.45-2.50	Goodbyes



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







EVELYN FLANAGAN (DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL HERITAGE) – UCD LIBRARY

# Opening Doors

Connecting Communities to UCD's Cultural Heritage Collections



Ink &  
Imagination  
Exhibition  
at MoLI

Over the past year, UCD's Cultural Heritage Collections have fostered community engagement through exhibitions, media features, and creative collaborations, showcasing the rich history and cultural treasures held in UCD Special Collections, UCD Archives, and the National Folklore Collection.

## Exhibitions and Public Engagement

The Ink & Imagination exhibition, launched in partnership with the Museum of Literature Ireland, displayed a selection of items from UCD Special Collections to 46,500 visitors over nearly a year. This collaboration provided unprecedented access to unique literary treasures and highlighted the university's role in preserving Ireland's cultural heritage.

UCD Archives marked a milestone with the acquisition of the Irish Rugby Football Union archives, enriching its growing sports history collection. In April, Archives co-curated Judicial Attire and the Irish Free State with UCD Sutherland School of Law. This exhibition marked the centenary of the Courts system through a display of judicial robe designs.

## Celebrating Maeve Binchy

The Maeve Binchy Papers in UCD Special Collections have captured public interest, highlighted by a feature in The Irish Independent and former Director of Cultural Heritage Katherine McSharry's contribution to RTE's Ray D'Arcy Show. These efforts have brought the beloved author's works to the forefront, emphasising the enduring significance of her literary legacy.

## Innovations in the National Folklore Collection and Digital Library

The National Folklore Collection launched an online exhibition featuring 250 images of Irish Folklore Commission informants, selected from over 4,000 photographs. New additions to the collection included George and Sharon Gmelch's colour transparencies and Arthur Reynolds' negatives. UCD Digital Library unveiled Carysfort College and Its Networks, expanding access to valuable archival resources.

## Creative Collaborations and Artistic Showcases

In collaboration with the library's Poetry as Commemoration project, Ad Astra Performing Arts scholars devised a moving evening of music and poetry inspired by the revolutionary period. The Stare's Nest was performed at the National Gallery of Ireland in February.



Evelyn Flanagan presents Grief's Broken Brow to Fingal County Library

Furthermore, to mark the successful conclusion of Poetry as Commemoration, 100 copies of the letterpress book Grief's Broken Brow, featuring original art and poetry, were distributed to county library services across the island, ensuring access for all citizens.

In June, UCD Library hosted the Print Exchanges Art Exhibit curated by Dr Katherine Fama (School of English, Drama & Film) who engaged archivists, researchers, and community groups in creative dialogues around extraction sites, blending art and academic research.

These initiatives underscore UCD Library's commitment to fostering public engagement with collections, both locally and internationally.



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





JANE NOLAN (UCD LIBRARY) AND LIZ BRUTON (UCD EARTH INSTITUTE) – UCD LIBRARY

# Citizen Science Events at the Library

The past year has seen a vibrant series of Citizen Science events hosted at the James Joyce Library as outlined below.

The UCD Citizen Science Community of Practice provides a forum for UCD staff, researchers and students to engage with Citizen Science in their research and teaching through a network of practitioners and knowledge sharing. Key to this is fostering a culture of collaboration and openness. It is supported by UCD Library and UCD Earth Institute.

The past year has seen a vibrant series of Citizen Science events hosted at the James Joyce Library as outlined below.

## Tackling Microplastic Pollution

The academic year commenced with an engaging presentation by Niamh Burke and Dr. Mark Pickering (UCD School of Medicine) on their groundbreaking EnderScope project—a low-cost, 3D-printed microscope for detecting microplastics in marine environments. Attendees learned about the development process and the potential for community involvement in refining the device. This initiative empowers groups such as libraries, scouts, and sea-swimming communities to contribute to environmental research.

## Creating Our Future

In October, the Citizen Science Community welcomed Dr Sandra Collins, Ciara Cotter, and Dr Alison Boyle from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) to the James Joyce Library. The session explored “Creating Our Future,” a national dialogue on research’s role in shaping Ireland’s future. This initiative, which began in 2021, amassed over 18,000 ideas from the public, now searchable online. The event underscored the importance of public input in research policy and innovation.





↓  
Dr Alison Boyle,  
Ciara Cotter and  
Dr Sandra Collins



## Exploring Funding Models for Citizen Science

The February workshop delved into the challenges and opportunities surrounding citizen science funding. Facilitated by SFI representatives Dr Alison Boyle and Dr Colette Kirwan, the session gathered 25 academics, researchers, and staff to discuss funding needs and models. Contributions from diverse disciplines—including Archaeology, Environmental Science, and Cultural Policy—highlighted the interdisciplinary nature of citizen science. The feedback will inform the development of future funding frameworks under SFI’s successor, Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland. A convivial lunch rounded off the workshop, fostering networking and informal discussions.

↑ Exploring Funding Models for Citizen Science at the James Joyce Library

 SUBMITTED BY: Jane Nolan (UCD Library) and Liz Bruton (UCD Earth Institute)  
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←  
Niamh Burke and Dr. Mark Pickering presenting EnderScope





UCD RELAY FOR LIFE COMMITTEE

# UCD Relay for Life 2024

Relay for Life is a 24-hour event that takes place globally every year to raise awareness and fundraise for cancer research, and support for those affected by cancer.

During the event, teams of participants take turns walking around the track to parallel our fight against cancer, and the symbolization that we won't give up until cancer does.

In 2024, the UCD Relay for Life Committee was happy to host this celebration of solidarity to fundraise for the Irish Cancer Society, and bring our community together with music, games, hourly activities, laughter and a beautiful Candle of Hope Ceremony alongside a survivors lap.

With combined participation of students, professors, staff, survivors, and families, students were able to surpass their target to fundraise over €40 000 for the Irish Cancer Society.

The shared sense of compassion and dedication enabled us to create 24 hours filled with an atmosphere of unity, and make a difference one step at a time. The success of this event is a reflection of our collective dedication to make an impact in the fight against cancer.

 SUBMITTED BY: Ipsa Dutta

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3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





UCD SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

# Archaeology of the Irish Revolution

Our project worked with local communities to identify, map and record the sites and landscapes of the War of Independence and Civil War in East Limerick

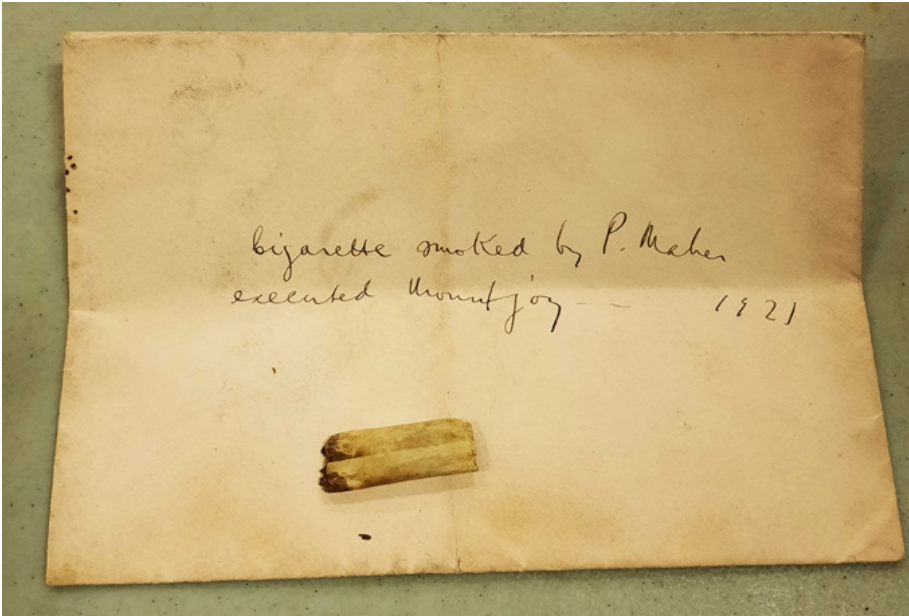
The archaeology of Ireland’s War of Independence and Civil War is one of the most engaging heritage resources in the country, but it is also understudied and at risk. The potential of archaeological approaches to illuminate the events of the period and to speak powerfully of the texture of human experience has therefore not been fully realised.

The guerilla warfare characteristic of this period means that the surviving archaeological evidence is often highly ephemeral. Although buildings like RIC barracks are easy to identify using historic maps, other locations like IRA safe houses and dugouts, or the places where ambushes or executions were carried out, can be extremely challenging to identify from documentary sources alone, and local knowledge is crucial.

Our IRC-funded project therefore worked with local communities in East Limerick to map and record their revolutionary heritage as it survives in the landscape today - from prisoners’ graffiti in an attic to bullets still lodged in a wall. Workshops gave community members the opportunity to share their stories and to show their neighbours (and the project team) family treasures from the period: one of the most fragile and moving artifacts was the last cigarette smoked by Patrick Maher who was executed in Mountjoy Jail just before the Truce in 1921, even though he was probably innocent.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who shared their knowledge and family stories with us; these provide vivid insights into the events of the period and their impact on local communities in East Limerick past and present.

For further information on the project, including the project StoryMap, see [www.ucd.ie/archaeology/research/archaeologyoftheirishrevolution/](http://www.ucd.ie/archaeology/research/archaeologyoftheirishrevolution/)



Local farmer Robert shows us the location of a War of Independence arms dump, a brick-lined cavity hidden under the floor of a stable

Left: Patrick Maher’s last cigarette

SUBMITTED BY: Joanna Bruck

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UCD SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

# The Power of Variety: Diet Diversity Food Demo & Expert Q&A

The Evolution of Dietary Diversity and the Transition to Agriculture in Europe, funded by the SFI-IRC Pathway scheme, aims to explore the development of diet in Neolithic and Bronze Age Ireland using microbotanical, palaeoproteomic and organic residue methods on dental calculus.

 SUBMITTED BY: Robert Power

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As part of the SFI-IRC Pathway-funded project, The Evolution of Dietary Diversity and the Transition to Agriculture in Europe, Dr. Robert Power participated in The Power of Variety: Diet Diversity Food Demo & Expert Q&A, a SFI-funded Science Week event on the 14th of November at Airfield Estate, Dublin. Representing University College Dublin, Dr. Power was joined by Aoife Courtney, a registered dietitian and PhD candidate in UCD's Nutrition, Biomarkers, and Health Research Group. This event brought together experts to explore dietary diversity from historical and contemporary perspectives.

The event began with a live cooking demonstration by chef Siobhán Foley, showcasing practical ways to incorporate diverse ingredients into modern diets. Siobhán also shared insights from her research on using invasive species as novel culinary ingredients, aligning with themes of sustainability and food diversity.

Following the demo, a panel discussion, chaired by Claire MacEvilly, featured Dr. Power, Ms. Courtney, and Ms. Foley.



Dr. Power shared findings from his research on ancient diets, illustrating how archaeological evidence from hunter-gatherers to early farmers sheds light on dietary transitions and their implications for modern sustainability. Ms. Courtney discussed the PROTEIN-I study, a UCD-led project addressing protein diversification in Ireland's food systems, highlighting its importance for health and environmental resilience.

Audience questions spurred engaging dialogue on topics such as sustainable food sources, the role of historical diets in informing current practices, and practical advice for diversifying everyday meals.

Community engagement, such as this event underscore the university's leadership in addressing nutritional and sustainability, a key feature of UCD Strategy to 2030. This collaboration demonstrated how historical and contemporary research can inspire actionable knowledge and foster public engagement to inform a healthier, more sustainable future.

↑ SW Diet Diversity event  
4 - Robert C Power

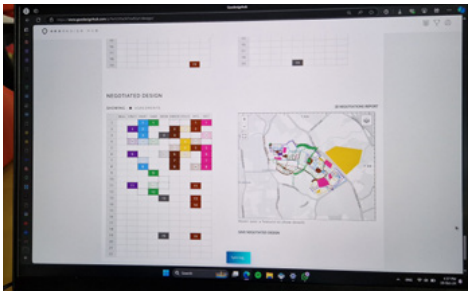




UCD SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE  
ARCT20050 SECOND-YEAR ARCHITECTURE STUDIO

# Common Ground: Campus, Community and Climate

Community engagement in architectural design studio



In Autumn 2024, the UCD second-year architecture studio integrated community engagement into as a core component of its pedagogical approach, emphasising on collaboration with local communities to inform student designs across three design cycles. The initiative was led by Dr Chiara Cocco and supported by a teaching team composed of design fellows, researchers and postgraduate students.

The initiative titled “Common Ground: Campus, Community and Climate” aimed to explore the boundaries where the campus meets surrounding neighbourhoods, focusing on enhancing campus permeability and fostering sustainable, climate-responsive architectural strategies. Throughout the studio, second-year students worked to identify gaps and opportunities for improving connections between UCD and its neighbours. We opened up as a laboratory to invite community members, both internal and external to UCD, to participate in design-led workshops, guest lectures, site visits and studio sessions.

This collaborative approach was central to the studio’s three-cycle structure, each addressing different scales and aspects of design. In Cycle 1, students conducted site studies on UCD campus. They also used systems thinking to understand the socio-ecological dynamics at play along the campus edges. This involved mapping and analysing spatial data with digital tools like GIS software, focusing on environmental, political, social, economic,

ecological and topographic information. The insights gained from this cycle were crucial in identifying areas for intervention and understanding community needs. The cycle was supported by several open-to-all guest talks and interdisciplinary workshops, focused on understanding UCD, its history and community.

Cycle 2 shifted focus to tangible design work, where students developed climate pavilions that responded to the technical and social challenges identified in Cycle 1. These structures were designed as socially minded spaces that facilitated community interaction and addressed climate resilience. The design process was informed by direct engagement with community members, ensuring that the pavilions met local needs and aspirations. A geodesign workshop, organised in collaboration with Open House Dublin, was conducted by graduate students from the Master in Architecture, Urbanism and Climate Action (MAUCA). This geodesign workshop enhanced collaboration between UCD researchers, community members, and students to co-create a collective vision for the future that will enhance permeability of the campus and foster stronger connections with the surrounding communities.

In Cycle 3, students synthesised their research and design work to propose comprehensive solutions for enhancing campus-community connections. This cycle emphasised participatory design methodologies, prompting students to work in pairs to

integrate insights from community workshops and surveys into their final proposals. The collaborative nature of this cycle ensured that student designs were not only innovative but also grounded in real-world contexts and community input.

Overall, the studio’s integration of community engagement fostered a two-way learning process, enriching student education while contributing positively to UCD communities. By involving residents in the design process, we reinforced the university’s role as a socially responsible institution committed to addressing societal challenges through engaged research and teaching, but also promoting a culture of mutual benefit and shared knowledge.



The Common Ground Geodesign Workshop held in October 2024 in collaboration with Open House Dublin brought together UCD researchers, community members, and students to co-create a collective vision for the future of the UCD Campus.

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UCD SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

## Design and Build

A Design and Build Project, undertaken by a group of students of Architecture and Engineering

The Project entails an association with a Community Group who become the “Client” and provide a brief to be worked to and partially find the work. The process aims to closely reflect the steps of a “real life” situation, with a Client, a brief, a programme and a budget. In 2024, the project was undertaken with Mud Island Community Centre.



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UCD SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

# Horizon 2020 project WaterLANDS

WaterLANDS is a 5-year EU Green Deal funded project that aims to restore damaged wetlands across Europe and lay the foundations for protection across larger areas. The project aims to develop the tools and build a legacy for large-scale wetland restoration across Europe and beyond that will persist beyond the lifetime of the project.



↑ Giants of the Lagoon citizen science programme at the Venice Lagoon Action Site. Photography by We are here Venice.

Engagement activities have been ongoing across WaterLANDS restoration sites in 2023 and 2024.

At the Venice Lagoon, the educational program Giants of the Lagoon continues, involving 7 secondary school classes from the greater Venice area. Over the summer, the students’ work was shown as part of an exhibition in Palazzo alle Zattere. Venice’s third annual community workshop was held in May to help rebuild connections between different types of “lagoon users”, gathering information and insights and promoting new thinking about the value of wetlands to the development of Venice as a living city. As part of the artistic engagement residency, the WaterLANDS Venice artist-in-residence Claudio Beorchia has developed the “La Laguna dei Cippi” project, which has been designed to engage local residents in the discovery and documentation of the Venice Lagoon from an unusual perspective: that of the Boundary Stones (Cippi di Conterminazione).

In Estonia, the Action Site partners are restoring the Kõrsa mire in Pärnumaa. As part of the restoration activities here, the

WaterLANDS team came together with the local community to plant cranberries on the bog, as well as to build peat dams. The citizen science trail in Kõrsa also opened in 2024.

In Bulgaria, the Dragoman Marsh was presented at NATURE FEST in Sofia. Annual volunteer bird ringing camps have been held at the marsh over a series of weekends in 2023 and 2024. The aim of these events is to teach visitors about bird migration, biodiversity and the benefits of the wetland. WaterLANDS Bulgaria artist-in-residence Maria Nalbantova exhibited new works inspired by the Action Site in her exhibition “Paradise Marsh” which was held from December 2023 – February 2024 in the National Gallery in Sofia.

At the Great North Bog in the United Kingdom, a series of stakeholder workshops and engagement activities have been held at different sites. Participants have had the chance to learn about peat coring techniques and palaeoecology, as well as to share ideas around the existing and planned restoration at the sites. The UK artists-in-residence have been exploring sites and speaking to restoration practitioners and community members.

At the Ems-Dollard estuary, the Dutch artist-in-residence, Marjolijn Dijkman, has been exploring the area and engaging with the local community through visits during different periods of the year. As part of her research, she has visited several history museums in the Groningen area to better understand the changing landscape’s cultural history and how people have interacted with the sea throughout history.

This includes everything from the villagers living and farming within the wetlands on top of the Wierden to the construction of dikes to block the sea and live and farm behind them to the new construction of more fluid coastlines with open connections to the sea. Marjolijn is currently planning a series of guided walks to educate participants about the biodiversity and cultural history of the area.

At the Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands SAC Action Site in Ireland, WaterLANDS has been working closely with local farmers over the last year through open information evenings, workshops and individual farm visits in order to better understand each of the farms across the SAC and find the best solutions for restoration. The team works with the

different stakeholders to design the restoration action plans, a document containing all the restoration measures for each of the restoration areas. These restoration plans are discussed with the landowners, incorporating their thoughts and ideas and promoting co-creation practices.



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UCD SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE – LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

# A greening strategy with community groups in the Tenters

Landscape Architecture students assisted local community groups to develop strategies on how to make their neighbourhood more resilient

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 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

 13 CLIMATE ACTION

 15 LIFE ON LAND

 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

It was a busy academic year for UCD Landscape Architecture’s community outreach. In the Autumn term 2023/24, the students from the “Socio-environmental interventions” module spent time in the “Tenters” in Dublin 8. They assisted local community groups to develop strategies on how to make their neighbourhood more resilient. Exploring how this residential Inner City neighbourhood could be a richer habitat for flora and fauna and therewith also improve the quality of life for the residents. They met members for the “Trees for the Tenters” group as well as members from the newly founded Donore Area Sustainable Community (DASC), a group dedicated to “playing its part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the quality of the natural environment in in this part of Dublin 8 by working together with community groups and residents”.

“Trees for the Tenters”, is another community group who came together to campaign to replant the street trees that have been felled due to ill health, in the area in recent years. They see the wide streets as a perfect area to ‘de-pave’ and plant” and are working with Dublin City Council on exploring opportunities to do so.

The residents gave tours of the areas to the Landscape Architecture students, explaining to them the rich history of the area, as well as telling them about the positive and negative aspects of living in this very central neighbourhood.

The students attended community group meetings, but also talked to residents casually, across front garden fences.

Over a few weeks the students developed proposals as well as built temporary interventions at 1:1 scale in the neighbourhood. They initiated playful placemaking events with children from

*“Interesting ideas by the UCD students, one of them is that the council builds the planters and the community plants in them what they wish”*

- RESIDENT, DUBLIN 8

local schools and exhibited their proposals to improve the neighbourhood in the local Oscar Square.

For example, they responded to the residents’ quest for reduced through- traffic, by developing a one way traffic system in collaboration with the residents during a community event, they organised in Oscar square. They offered a service to plant native medium sized trees in front gardens, as a way of improving the tree coverage in the streets. They developed, built and installed multifunctional street furniture and placed temporary planting bed installations on wide pavement corners, demonstrating how the pavement could be partially turned into planting beds, containing trees, shrubs as well as a ground covering layer of plants.

For the local children, the students organised an interactive treasure hunt, exploring the natural and hidden areas in the Tenters. They also turned a road adjacent to a school into a temporary play- road with children from local schools.

The feedback of the community was recorded and added to the final project documentation which was then shared with the community groups.







UCD SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

# Exploring ways of improving urban biodiversity

How to bridge the discrepancy between the longing for nature and biodiversity and the unwillingness to bear messy vegetation. Discussing it is a starting point...

↓ Rewild Dublin? conference at NCAD, May 2024

During the spring term, the Landscape Architecture students concentrated on developing climate crisis mitigating strategies for the UCD campus, advancing the “Compas Campus” project that was started by Von Maltzan in 2020.

They spent time exploring how the Campus could become a “model campus of resilience”. They developed their proposals through engaging the wider student community in a variety of ways to find out what the student, but also the academic and groundskeeping community would like their campus to be like.

They planted hedgerows with UCD estates, developed a collaborative design proposal for a APEP student outdoor area between the Richview and Newstead campus and explored the viability of allowing the UCD campus to grow wilder, together with students from the National College of Art and Design.

In May 2024, UCD Landscape Architecture organised a conference together with the National College of Art and Design. During this one-day conference at NCAD, academics, artists, community groups, students, researchers and environmental and planning officials explored “The role of urban rewilding in mitigating climate change impact, biodiversity loss, and improving resilience in our city”.

Tours of a wide variety of open spaces in the neighborhood, guided by professionals and community groups were an important part of the day. Over 80 participants, from a broad array of backgrounds, attended the conference, giving them a unique chance to discuss with each other the future of Dublin’s green spaces.

The list of themes and speakers included:

- Associate Professor of Sustainability ScienceTCD, Marcus Collier and artist Gareth Kennedy from NCAD in conversation on the interface between social and ecological systems.
- Hans Visser, Biodiversity Officer with Fingal County Council exploring opportunities for urban rewilding.
- Leslie Moore, Dr Catherine Keena and Sophie von Maltzan in conversation on immersive engagement with nature and rural and urban biodiversity.
- Ecologist and writer Anja Murray, artist Seoidin O’Sullivan and landscape architect Brian Gaynor in conversation about environmental community engagement with Professor David Crowley from NCAD

Artist Jennie Moran, who also provided the lunch, spoke on giving and taking from nature. Film-maker and environmentalist Randal Plunkett, spoke about the role of wilderness in contemporary film-making.

The lunch and closing reception were held in the NCAD Field, one of the several spaces that are not normally open to the public and the participants had a chance to explore. The feedback was hugely positive and many participants have asked for the conference to be repeated and the planning for Rewild Dublin? 2025 is underway.



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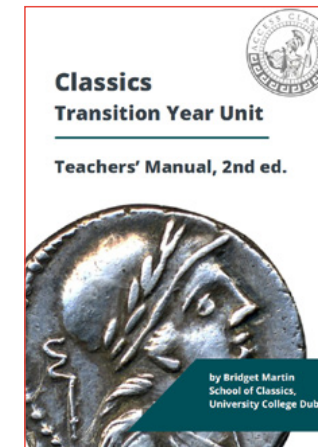






Access Classics aims to make the ancient Greek and Roman world accessible to a wide and diverse audience, which means interacting with as many students, teachers, and members of the wider public as possible! Pursuing this aim, across the year we visited second-level schools and further education institutes, collaborated with the UCD Classical Museum to welcome students and teachers to the UCD campus, and engaged with the wider public through the University of the Third Age (Dún Laoghaire branch).

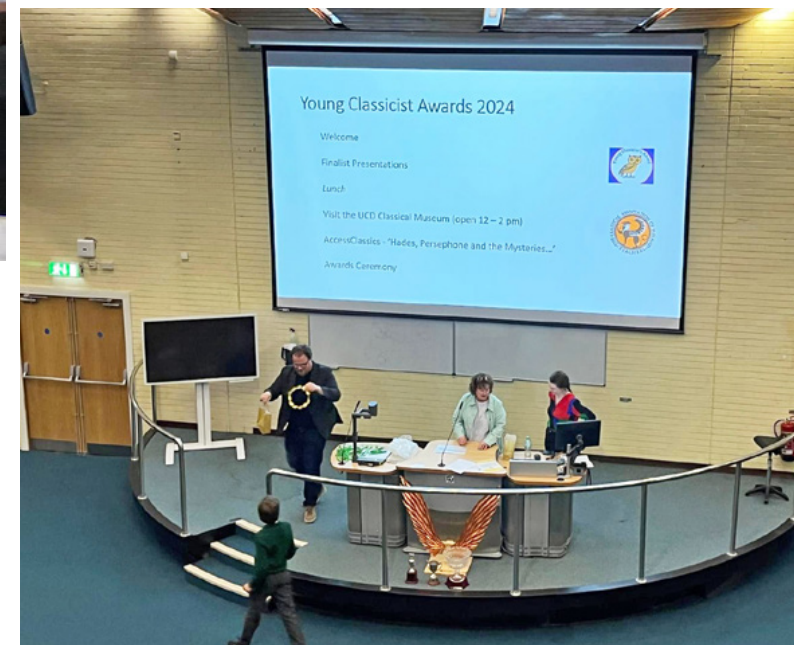
To ensure students got the most from their Access Classics visit, we worked closely with the teachers to tailor sessions to students' needs, whether looking in more detail at a Classic topic the students were studying, introducing students to the history, cultures, artifact,s and languages of the ancient world, or giving some insight into studying Classics at third level.



Strong collaborative relationships with second-level teachers are fundamental to Access Classics' success, and, as such, we were delighted to host the Classical Association of Ireland Teachers (CAIT) Young Classicist Awards in UCD in April.

Each year, the CAIT invites all second-level students in Ireland to submit a project on any aspect of the ancient Greek and Roman world to compete in five award categories: Junior (1st-3rd year), Senior (5th-6th year), Transition Year (new in 2024),

Languages (for a project based on/with a component of Latin or Ancient Greek) and Sustainability (for a project connected to Global Sustainability Goals). Access Classics has been privileged to be part of these Awards from the very beginning, as judges, facilitators of the ceremony and/or by offering talks and activities.



Awards day this year saw the 25 finalists present their projects in Newman's Theatre L, and Access Classics offered the "halftime" entertainment: a short talk on the Greek myth of Demeter, Persephone and Hades. The creativity of the students was truly inspiring, with projects ranging from beautiful bronze wings to music compositions, essays, videos, paintings, posters and hand-drawn cartoon strips!

Rounding off the academic year, we launched the second edition of our popular Classics Transition Year Unit in August. This free, downloadable resource (<https://accessclassics.ie/transition-year-unit/>), comprising a Teachers' Manual and student-facing PowerPoint, allows principals/teachers to either introduce Classics to their schools through Transition Year or build on their current Classics offerings. First launched in 2020, we have been delighted with the response to the Unit from teachers and students throughout Ireland and beyond!

SCHOOL OF CLASSICS

# Access Classics

Access Classics is the UCD School of Classics' dedicated second-level outreach program which strives to make Classics accessible and open to all.

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SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

# CS SPARKS Summer School 2024

The CS Sparks 2024 project introduced 14 students to computer science through fun, hands-on activities such as coding micro: bits, programming robots, and creating a Robot Dance-Off. This workshop develops creativity, teamwork, and enthusiasm in young learners for technology.

In June 2024, we had the incredible opportunity to lead the CS Sparks 2024 Summer School Workshop. Over four transformative days, from June 10 to June 13, we engaged with 14 enthusiastic and curious summer school students, immersing them in the inspiring world of computer science through dynamic activities and hands-on projects.

We have structured the workshop as a four-day event. Each workshop day was structured thoughtfully to develop foundational skills and raise curiosity. On Day 1, we introduced problem-solving and computational thinking through activities like the "Peanut Butter and Jelly Challenge," smiley-screen programming, and dice roller exercises with Microbits. Radio communication was covered on Day 2, in which students programmed each microbit to send and receive data, created a remote thermometer, and designed a rock-paper-scissors game.

By Day 3, we moved on to robotics programming, teaching

the students to program the control of Microbit buggies, manipulating the headlights, and creating random movements.

The Ultimate Robot Dance-Off on Day 4 was right up there, where each team got the opportunity to express themselves. Students choreographed their buggies to music that synced with all the groups. The room was alive with infectious energy and enthusiasm as they presented their projects to other summer school groups.

This workshop reminded me of the importance of creating opportunities for young learners to explore STEM fields in a welcoming, hands-on environment.

We look forward to making the CS Sparks Workshop an annual tradition, nurturing the next generation of innovators and creators. Here's to many more summers of discovery, creativity, and fun!



← From Exploration to Presentation: Students dive into coding with Microbits, build innovative buggies dance move, and showcase their final projects, demonstrating creativity and teamwork at every step of the journey!



*"This program doesn't just teach coding; it builds confidence, collaboration, and curiosity, empowering young girls to see themselves as future innovators"*

SUBMITTED BY: Prof. Catherine Mooney  
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## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

# Seanchas na Fairge / Farraige - Reviving Ancient Sea Routes and Stories (Seanchas)

Funded by the Royal Irish Academy, Ireland-Scotland Bilateral Network Grant, Seanchas aimed to strengthen collaboration between Ireland and Scotland by exploring the shared socio-cultural, linguistic, and heritage connections between the Iveragh Peninsula (Ireland) and the Isle of Skye (Scotland).

## Community Engagement and Academic Collaboration:

This partnership united two Early Career Researchers (ECR's) from research institutions in Ireland (Dr Aoife Crummy, School of Education, University College Dublin) and Scotland (Dr Leonie Schulz, The James Hutton Institute), supported by local archaeologists, tourism, and community engagement officers; Aoibheann Lambe (Comhoiste Uíbh Ráthaigh), Ireland, Angus Murray (Skye Ecomuseum) and Sine Ghilleasbuig (Comunn na Gàidhlig, Staffin Community Trust/ Urras An Taobh Sear), Scotland.

A key objective was to raise awareness of the rich local knowledge surrounding seascapes, particularly the interconnected heritage of the two regions, while promoting the preservation and celebration of minority languages (Gaeilge and Gàidhlig). The project also aimed to strengthen partnerships within and beyond academic circles by bringing together ECR's, local archaeologists, community engagement officers and community members, in a collaborative effort to showcase the regions' shared heritage.

### Overview:

This combined historical research, spatial mapping, and community engagement to explore the cultural and historical



significance of the Iveragh Peninsula (Ireland) and the Isle of Skye (Scotland). It focused on identifying archaeological, mythological, and heritage sites and connecting them to local stories through GIS maps. This work was enriched through participatory processes with local communities and schools.

### Phase 1- Archival Research and Baseline Mapping:

The first phase involved archival research and baseline site identification. Collaborating with local archaeologists and community engagement officers, the team mapped archaeological and mythological sites, Gaelic/Irish place names, and seascape-associated stories. This laid the groundwork for preliminary route identification and GIS mapping.

### Phase 2- Participatory Mapping (PPGIS)

The second phase engaged local communities in participatory mapping (PPGIS) to deepen the project. Community members from Iveragh and Skye pinpointed meaningful places on maps and shared stories, knowledge, and creative contributions, expanding upon the baseline findings.

To encourage participation, the team collaborated with local artists to create postcards and a large-scale map showcasing preliminary identified sites. These tools fostered community engagement and helped build a shared sense of cultural heritage.

## Intergenerational Contributions from Schools:

To complement the mapping, primary school students in both regions participated in creative workshops and homework

activities, collecting oral histories and folklore from family members. These activities reinforced intergenerational connections to the landscape and added richness to the collected data.

Workshops engaged 29 students: 14 from the Iveragh Peninsula and 15 from the Isle of Skye. Respecting local language traditions, activities were conducted in Gaeilge and Gàidhlig, aligning with the medium of instruction in the schools.

## Outputs and Ongoing Analysis:

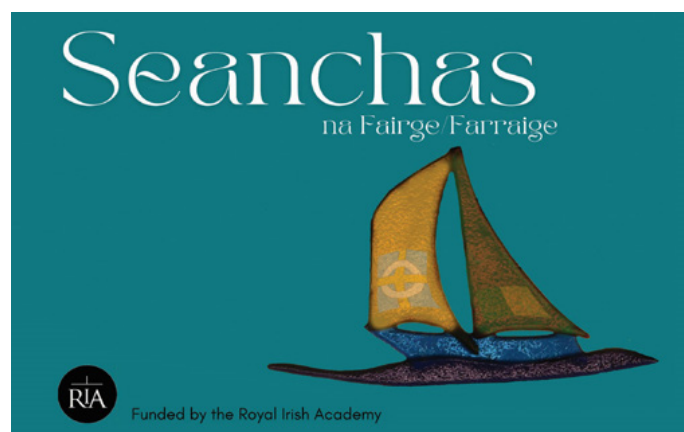
The data collected is being triangulated to create digital static maps and interactive StoryMaps, highlighting the cultural and historical significance of both regions. These outputs aim to preserve and share the unique heritage of the Iveragh Peninsula and the Isle of Skye. This will be shared through our UCD-hosted website, currently under construction [seanchas@ucd.ie](mailto:seanchas@ucd.ie)



SUBMITTED BY: Aoife Crummy



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## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

# Celebrating Language Learning in the School of Education

The Launch of #ThinkLanguages and the Linguist Award by Dr Bowman

In November 2023, Dr. Bowman hosted the inaugural #ThinkLanguages event, funded by Languages Connect, engaging 175 TY students in multilingual workshops. She also launched the Linguist Award, recognising excellence in language learning in primary and post-primary settings, with a winners' ceremony in May 2024, in UCD.

*'Thank you so much for inviting us for food and wonderful language workshops as part of the #ThinkLanguages2023. The students had a wonderful time!!'*

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SUBMITTED BY: Dr Eileen Bowman

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← Photo credits: Anthony Assad

SCHOOL OF ENGLISH, DRAMA AND FILM

# Print Exchanges: Creative-Critical Responses to Extractivist Landscapes

**Sarah Comyn and Katherine Fama’s ‘Print Exchanges’ began with a printmaking workshop that brought together artists, activists, and academics to respond to global mining. Focusing on community-building through making, the project artworks produced were exhibited at the James Joyce Library.**

In early 2024, the ‘Print Exchanges’ workshop brought together researchers, activists, and archivists to learn the art of gelli printing. Participants reflected visually on a chosen site of post/extractivist using found and/or recycled materials, texts, and images from their fields of expertise. We considered extractivism broadly: explicit examples of mining or peat bog harvests, and as patterns of removal or sale of communal resources.

The workshop began with an introduction to tools, methods, and examples of gelli printing by Dublin-based mixed-media artist, Sinéad Lawson. Participants each brought with them experiences of a local or a global site of extraction and mono-printed representations of their chosen sites in the past, present, and/or future.

Gelli printing is a form of mono-printing that uses gel plates, a light transportable and incredibly versatile printing tool that allows for experimentation using paper, acrylic paints, and everyday items such as leaves, string, and bubble wrap.

The artworks and writings produced in the workshop were displayed in an art exhibit at the James Joyce Library in UCD. The launch of the exhibition by Professor Emilie Pine was both a celebration and a catalyst for future discussion, research, and artistic production. Colleagues from the broader academic and activist communities were excited to consider their work in the context of the display of creative approaches to research and climate action. The exhibition allowed participants to share the results of the workshop (both material works and new research processes) with their colleagues in community groups, archive settings, scholarly research centers, and mining education sites. More broadly, our project considered how academic research can reach the wider community and produce a creative, active understanding of Irish and global extractivist heritage sites. ‘Print Exchanges’ was curated and organised by Sarah Comyn and Katherine Fama.

The ‘Print Exchanges’ workshop was hosted at the UCD Humanities Institute and supported by a Seed Funding grant from the College of Arts & Humanities. We are grateful to Katherine McSharry, former Director of Cultural Heritage at the UCD James Joyce Library, who participated in the workshop and helped install the launch in the Writing Centre and the longer exhibit in the library main entrance, and to Emilie Pine for her continued championing of creative-critical work.



*“Stunning work – and a vital way of introducing new ways of looking, at art, at extractivism, at what we call analysis of social and environmental realities”*

SUBMITTED BY: Sarah Comyn

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## SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY

# CONUNDRUM: A community-led mobility strategy for Enniscorthy

**CONUNDRUM** is an interdisciplinary research project that engages diverse stakeholders to co-create mobility solutions for advancing climate goals, improving liveability, and addressing community needs. Using Enniscorthy as our testbed, we've developed an innovative approach grounded in community engagement and dialogue.



Advancing towards more Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG11) necessitates collaboration among governments, citizens, and businesses. Yet traditional approaches to planning in Irish towns often excludes local communities and businesses, fails to capture the place-specific challenges, and can result in solutions being implemented that are controversial, ineffective, poorly understood by residents and fail to encourage behavioural change. The CONUNDRUM project address this challenge.

Using Enniscorthy as our testbed, our team has engaged 139 stakeholders from 3 main groups: residents and civil society; businesses; and government and policymakers. These have extensive lived experience of the existing challenges in Enniscorthy or work in fields directly related to the challenge. Through stakeholder engagement, our team refined a co-creation approach.

## Our co-creation approach emphasises:

- Empowering communities to identify local mobility needs and optimize existing infrastructure.
- Co-developing a community-led mobility strategy that aligns with national climate goals while addressing local realities.
- Equipping local authorities and stakeholders with tools and actionable insights to create sustainable, locally relevant solutions.

## Stakeholder engagement has included:

- A focus group with diverse stakeholders to build relationships and identify ideas and themes for further development.
- Individual interviews to gather a diversity of perspectives to define the key problem and possible solutions.



- Community mapping workshops to identify existing deficits and problem areas; assets that could be enhanced; and potential solutions. These workshops were open to the public and advertised widely, with targeted recruitment of key stakeholders to ensure cross-sectoral discussion.
- Participation in the Enniscorthy Community Inter-Agency Team. Through this cross-sectoral Wexford County Council-led initiative, we engaged with key organisations, gained in-depth understanding of the mobility challenges and planning context, collaborated, and tested our problem-solution fit with key groups.
- Community feedback workshops to validate our problem definition, and proposed solution, and outline a potential impact pathway through the Community-led Mobility Strategy.

- 24 stakeholders ranked potential solutions to better understand stakeholder priorities and where high-level impact can be achieved.
- An expert review of our Community-led Mobility Strategy was conducted by 7 key stakeholders to validate the feasibility of key actions related to our impact pathway.

Using this approach, 132 mobility challenges and 102 potential opportunities were identified. We consolidated these opportunities into 20 potential solutions that could be delivered through 9 key actions. By involving stakeholders throughout all stages, our team has co-created a comprehensive, evidence-based mobility strategy, equipping policymakers to implement transformative transportation solutions and acting as an exemplar for planning in other Irish towns.

*"They took time to understand the point of view of those living in Enniscorthy, the agencies working in the town, ourselves and other public transport providers"*

- MARY B O'LEARY, GENERAL MANAGER, TFI LOCAL LINK WEXFORD.



SUBMITTED BY: Dr Dean Phelan; Professor Niamh Moore-Cherry; Madeleine Gan; Dr Rachel McArdle; Professor Brian Caulfield

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relevant information about, for example, where water fountains are, how much energy is consumed in each building, or how to contact the Sustainability Society.

Continued engagement with the UCD community is encouraged through a survey embedded in the dashboard, where users can have their say with regards to additional data and functionality needs, and/or volunteer data. In addition, practical data collection exercises are incorporated in core modules of the BSc Social Sciences and BSc Sustainability programmes to annually update and expand the available information.

The dashboard provides a robust teaching and learning platform for a range of disciplines, raises awareness and stimulates action within the academic community, and supports campus operations towards a more sustainable UCD. The information collated is also relevant to neighbouring communities who use the campus.

Access the dashboard through this link:  
<https://cms.ucd.ie/sustainability/resources/>

The development of the dashboard has been funded by the Higher Education Authority from Strategic Alignment for Teaching and Learning Enhancement Funding, administered by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning.

***"The dashboard is a game-changing asset for the university, providing detailed information on the sustainability initiatives that are going on around the campus and enabling engagement by staff and students and the wider community"***

**- UCD VICE-PRESIDENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY**



Below: Screenshot of a dashboard web map.

Opposite page: the official launch of the sustainability website and dashboard for the UCD community.

# Sustainability at UCD Dashboard

**Collaborative mapping and learning about sustainability initiatives in the campus to raise awareness and encourage engagement.**

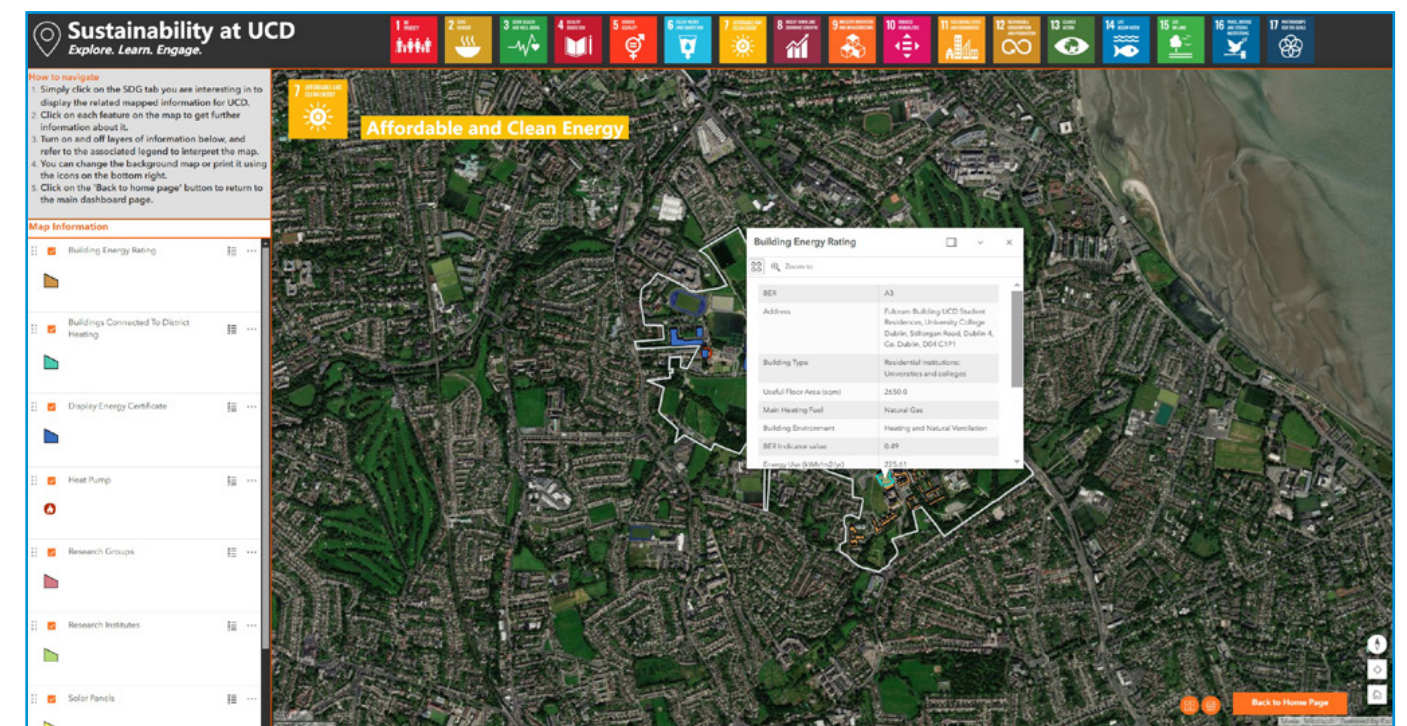
This project was envisioned as a UCD community collaboration for the community from the outset. A multidisciplinary team of students, academics and support staff came together to co-create a unique, interactive, user-friendly and publicly available dashboard that aims to advance understanding of and engagement with sustainability efforts across the campus.

The core team was composed of seven students and seven staff who worked closely to compile 100 data layers that capture sustainable infrastructure, activities and services across the university. This data gathering exercise was informed by the 1,369 responses to a campus-wide student and staff survey that

highlighted what information the UCD community considers useful to be centralised and mapped. The survey also revealed key functionalities required of the dashboard, which shaped its development.

The Sustainability at UCD Dashboard contains 17 cards and associated web maps, one for each Sustainable Development Goal. The cards include a comprehensive inventory of links to university policies, strategies and resources that have a sustainability remit.

The web maps contain location-specific data and information. By querying these data layers, staff and students can easily find





# Socially Inclusive Edible Urban Infrastructure (SYNERGI)

**SYNERGI is a 3-year interdisciplinary project between UCD and Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique. We are collaborating with communities and civil society organisations (CSOs) in Maputo and Xai-Xai, two cities in southern Mozambique, to explore the multifunctional capabilities of urban community gardens in local food systems, community engagement and climate resilience dimensions through participatory action research and citizen science.**



Urban community gardens offer promising spaces to supplement, complement and shape local alternative opportunities to access and learn about healthy foods via just, inclusive and climate adaptive practices. Due to the precarity of urban agriculture – where these vital types of land use for livelihoods and food security are at high risk of market-driven encroachment and appropriation – we've been collaborating with urban communities through protected garden spaces in local schools.

Over the last 2 years, together with teachers, students, parents/guardians, school garden committees, and CSO partners, we've successfully revitalized, expanded and strengthened urban community garden initiatives within six partner schools, where a diversity of fruits trees, vegetables, legumes and nuts are now being grown. These have become valued sites of experiential and practical learning, strong community engagement and environmental education.

Communities have been experimenting with co-design and knowledge sharing around the most appropriate strategies for gardens to serve as sites of transformative learning and practical, meaningful action on climate adaptation and urban sustainability.

These include integrating composting, the use of organic waste as fertilizer and organic pesticides like ground chilli peppers, and innovative water-saving and growing techniques that safely repurpose plastic waste.

We've also joined forces with the International Potato Centre (CIP), who have supported the gardens by introducing six varieties of local context-adapted (e.g. flood tolerant or drought resistant varieties) orange-fleshed sweet potatoes and training on their cultivation. Once an important food consumed in Mozambique, sweet potato have fallen out of favour in recent decades as people relinquish traditional, diverse and healthy foods for easily accessible, affordable and high calorie processed foods. Sweet potato are nutritionally dense, especially in vitamin A, grow year round, and both leaves and roots can be consumed. In the coming months, we'll be collaborating with the National Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Security to run community cooking demos, workshops, and fun cooking competitions, and we continue to work with school communities to explore the potential for integrating other traditional foods in Mozambique that have become neglected.

Finally, as sites of environmental education, gardens have been equipped with low cost sensors that are measuring temperature and humidity at regular intervals over the year and through different growing seasons. This data will be analysed and compared with adjacent control sites with no green coverage to evaluate the effects of edible urban green infrastructure on local urban cooling. Students and teachers have been engaged in the data collection and the interpretation of findings.

SYNERGI is funded by the Irish Research Council COALESCE programme, in partnership with Irish Aid.



**SUBMITTED BY:** By Dr Rogers Hansine and Dr Christine Bonnin  
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**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**





## SCHOOL OF HISTORY

# Mícheál O Cléirigh Summer School

This is a collaboration between the local community in Rosstown, Donegal and the UCD O Cléirigh Institute to provide an annual public summer school every May. 2024 was the 10th one.

The School was established in Rosstown in 2013. The first Summer School took place on 17th May, 2014. The purpose of the school is to celebrate the life and achievements of Mícheál Ó Cléirigh and his colleagues, the other members of the 'Four Masters.' The school also commemorates the work of the Franciscan Friars of the period who lived in Donegal and in Louvain. Mícheál Ó Cléirigh was born in Creevy, between Rosstown and Ballyshannon, and the Franciscan Friary today is located in Rosstown. The local community provides the venue, organisation and local events (such as the annual children's art competition) and UCD participants organise the speakers, the topic for each year and the academic content.



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SUBMITTED BY: John McCafferty

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SCHOOL OF IRISH, CELTIC STUDIES & FOLKLORE

# The impact (for good or ill) of the Church of Ireland on the Irish language

**An invited Heritage Week  
talk at St Patrick's Cathedral,  
Dublin, given in conjunction  
with the chairman of Cumann  
Gaelach na hEaglaise.**

This talk outlined the historical relationship between the Church of Ireland and the Irish language, touching on early proponents of the language, 17th-century engagement at policy and personal levels, 18th- and 19th-century antiquarian interest and evidence of continued preaching in Irish (including in St Patrick's), the Gaelic Revival, and the state of affairs at the dawn of Irish independence.



SCHOOL OF IRISH, CELTIC STUDIES & FOLKLORE

# Pobal na nAE istigh: Pobal na Gaeilge agus an tAontas Eorpach

A project to raise awareness of Irish as an official language of the EU, and to investigate public attitudes towards the language's EU status. Funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs' Communicating Europe Initiative.



This project circulated a survey of the Irish public to investigate attitudes amongst different age groups, language backgrounds, and regions towards the Irish language's status as an official working language of the EU. Within this, questions were designed to further prompt thought and reflection about the topics under investigation on the part of respondents. Approximately 300 responses were gathered. Later, a research trip was undertaken to Brussels for the researcher to interview Irish-language translators, administrators, and interpreters working in the EU Institutions, including to get their thoughts on preliminary results of the public survey. Finally, a public outreach event directed at students and young people was organised in late November 2024 in Dublin at Europe House to encourage the consideration of studying Irish and/or pursuing a European career that includes the Irish language.



SUBMITTED BY: Connor McCabe  
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*"The programme was brilliant,  
my daughter thoroughly enjoyed it  
and only had good things to say."*

## SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

# Junior Mathematics Enrichment

We provide a programme of Mathematics classes offering a fun and social way for younger secondary school students to develop their mathematical thinking and problem-solving skills.

The UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics, in conjunction with the Irish Mathematical Trust, runs a Junior Mathematics Enrichment Programme for students in the first four years of secondary school. There is a separate Senior Enrichment Programme. Our classes each Saturday are free of charge, run by talented tutors and are designed to develop a sound understanding of mathematics and to improve problem-solving skills. We hope that students will develop friendships through mathematics.

In 2023/24, the programme went from strength to strength, with

a big shout-out to Daniele Cassazza for his help all Autumn. We have over two hundred students registering, with a hundred-plus attending on any given Saturday.

The ALE rooms have circular tables seating up to ten students each. Interactions happen primarily at table level, based around worksheets with students talking to each other and discussing with tutors. The social element is highly valued by students and parents.

The programme is currently funded by Susquehanna.



SUBMITTED BY: Neil Dobbs



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SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

# A Celebration of Maths Week at UCD

Rubic's Cube talk and puzzles from the Museum of Mathematics of Catalonia

To celebrate Maths Week 2023, the UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics organised the outreach event for secondary school students on 20 October 2023 at the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science. The main goal of our event was to introduce students to the beautiful world of Mathematics via hands-on experimentation. The event, which was also open to all UCD students and staff members, consisted of two parts:

- 1) an engaging talk by Andrew Jeffrey about the Maths and Magic of the Rubik's Cube. He used a Rubik's Cube to explain mathematical concepts such as combinatorics and performed lots of fun demonstrations with an array of different types of Rubik's Cubes.
- 2) an interactive mathematical exhibition with fun puzzles and riddles from the Museum of Mathematics of Catalonia in collaboration with the group Divermates from Madrid.

326 students, from 8 different schools, attended the events, with a roughly 50-50 gender split. The success of this event would not have been possible without the generous support from Maths Week Ireland, which we kindly acknowledge.



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SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

# International Day of Women in Mathematics 2024

The UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics celebrated the International Day of Women in Mathematics with a poster reception to highlight the achievements of our female students and staff, as well as provide an opportunity to get together and network.

Posters with testimonials from female students, staff and alumni, were displayed at the O'Brien Centre of Science. The School organised a lunch reception for students and staff to view the posters and recognise the achievements of our female students and staff



SUBMITTED BY: Áine Byrne



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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

# UCD Ukraine Trauma Project

Since 2022, at the request of authorities in Ukraine, UCD CEMS has been sending training teams to work with emergency medical services across the country together with the equipment and drugs needed to deliver tranexamic acid (TXA).



Since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022, Ukraine's pre-hospital emergency medical services have dealt with huge numbers of victims of trauma – and often without the benefit of advanced clinical interventions, such as those routinely provided by Ireland's emergency services. Victims of combat trauma – both civilian and military – often die because of massive bleeding. There's very good evidence that early administration of drugs such as tranexamic acid (TXA), in addition to standard procedures, can help to stop massive bleeding and improve survival. But TXA must be delivered into the bloodstream and preferably within an hour of injury if it is going to save a life – and our paramedic colleagues in Ukraine have generally had no access to these techniques.

In Ireland, up to 80% of major trauma patients receive TXA within two hours of injury; Advanced Paramedics provide much of this care, often at the scene of the accident. Since 2022, at the

request of authorities in Ukraine, UCD CEMS has been sending training teams to work with emergency medical services across the country together with the equipment and drugs needed to deliver TXA. Advanced Paramedics and doctors working in the Irish health services make up teams of eight tutors for each mission. Training teams provide two-day courses and equipment and drugs for participants; innovative training aids developed by Dr. Laura Gorman, UCD School of Medicine have proved very effective. The research linked to our project is progressing 1.

The UCD Foundation, HSE Global Health, Irish Red Cross and many kind donors in Ireland have helped us raise (and spend) €1.1m to support this work so far. We are currently raising funds to continue our work in 2025 – all contributions to UCD Foundation are greatly appreciated. None of this would happen without the many volunteers who make up our training, logistics

and transport teams. We are enormously grateful to all. Almost 600 doctors, nurses, paramedics, hospitaliers, dentists, vets and combat medics have taken part in our courses – their gratitude to Ireland has been very clear. Each has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to their comrades and their country – it has been our privilege to work with them and we can only wish them safety in their work, at the end of each course. However, their work is not safe – one course participant had recently lost her husband, a combat medic on the front line; another, a civilian medic, was killed during our last training mission in November 2024 and we believe many others have been killed or injured doing their jobs: to save lives. Remarkable people – Slava Ukraini.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







***"This was an intensive creative project - composing, rehearsing, and performing all original music, and all put together in just a few days - it was a lot of fun!"***



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

# Indonesian Shadow-Puppet Play for Children

**An Indonesian "Wayang Kulit" staged as part of the Ruaille Buaille Children's Festival**

Having delivered community music workshops for the Ruaille Buaille Children's Festival over several years, I was delighted to be embedded in Scoil Áine NS, Lucan, for this year's festival to create this unique project. Working alongside Niamh Lawlor of Púca Puppets, we helped the students to create and perform their Indonesian-inspired shadow-puppet play. The play was accompanied by original music, which was composed and performed by the children themselves using some of UCD's Indonesian gamelan instruments.



SUBMITTED BY: Peter Moran

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SCHOOL OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

# Ballyfermot/Chapelizod Disability Action Collective

The Disability Action Collective is a grass-roots, disabled person-led disability rights group in Ballyfermot/Chapelizod

In the Disability Action Collective, we promote the social model of disability and disabled people's rights through advocacy and artistic expression. Our theatre project, 'Smashing Barriers', allows a diverse group of disabled people to express themselves and participate in the cultural life of the community through disability-themed plays and talent shows. We have also gathered the experiences of disabled people and their carers in

Ballyfermot/Chapelizod, which will form the basis of a shadow report to be submitted to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as an aid to their review of Ireland's performance in terms of disabled people's rights.

We have engaged with people through online and in-person consultations. These included our Human Rights Night, which



Disability Action Collective Annual General Meeting

brought together local services and representatives to meet with members of the community to discuss the barriers disabled people face in Ballyfermot/Chapelizod.

Based on these experiences, we made a written and oral submission to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Disability Matters on April 8, 2024. As a disabled person-led organization, I act as a non-voting advisor and Member of the Board and help draft the submissions and reports.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SUBMITTED BY: Graham Finlay

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SCHOOL OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

# Childhood Development Initiative



Childhood Development Initiative provides innovative, evidence-driven, preventive interventions that promote literacy, oral language, and youth mental health by supporting parents and engaging in restorative practices.

Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) is an organisation dedicated to supporting children and their parents through innovative, evidence-based interventions. These include literacy (Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, after-school Doodle Den), oral language (Chit Chat speech and language programme), support for parents in the early years (Powerful Parenting), their NOVA: Youth Mental Health Programme and restorative practices to manage conflict and wrongdoing creatively and healthily. Although based in Tallaght, CDI engages in research and supports communities across Ireland. I am a member of its Board of Management, following in the footsteps of Professor Suzie Guerin.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, PHYSIOTHERAPY, AND SPORT SCIENCE

# A Partnership with Kilmacud Crokes GAA Club

Partnership with Kilmacud Crokes GAA club, providing UCD students the opportunity to bring their expertise in athletic development to Kilmacud Crokes coaches and players.



A new partnership between the UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy, and Sport Science and Kilmacud Crokes GAA Club has become a dynamic example of community engagement, bridging the gap between academic expertise and local athletic development. Led by Dr. James Timmons and Brian Spring, this collaboration gave over 20 UCD students the opportunity to give back to the community by actively contributing to the athletic development of Kilmacud Crokes players. Over the course of the year, these students have delivered a comprehensive program to nearly 300 players across the club's underage football, camogie, and hurling teams.

This initiative has not only provided UCD students with invaluable hands-on experience but has also significantly benefited the young athletes, with noticeable improvements in athleticism. Coaches and players alike have praised the program for its positive impact on skill development and team dynamics.


As the partnership continues to grow, both UCD and Kilmacud Crokes are dedicated to expanding this collaboration, strengthening their community ties, and ensuring the ongoing development of athletes, coaches, and the broader community for years to come.




Performance testing  
at the Institute of  
Sport & Health



Dr. James Timmons and Brian Spring,  
during the opening evening of the  
partnership at Kilmacud Crokes

 SUBMITTED BY: Brian Spring

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SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

# Action Learning Outreach Project

This Action Learning project was created by Antonella Puggioni (School of Veterinary Medicine), Melinda Halasz (School of Medicine) and Nicola Dervan (School of Physiotherapy, Sports Science and Public Health) and based on the fact Students from lower socioeconomic areas are underrepresented in 3rd level education.

The second iteration of the I Decide outreach project was run in spring of 2024 with a few important and exciting differences. This time, two instead of one six classes from the Queen of Angels school in Sandyford were involved in the project. A total of 42 students and their teachers therefore visited UCD on the 15th of March.

They participated in a scavenger hunt throughout the campus while visiting and getting to know some of its most characteristic spots (for example Noah’s egg). As an exciting addition they were allowed to visit the O’Reilly Hall and to imagine their future graduation day. Like previously, the students then had a chance to enjoy hands-on experiences on being a vet or a doctor with the

props in the school of veterinary medicine and school of nursing clinical skills labs.

As a great development to this year’s edition of I Decide, the School of Computer Science also participated to the project and made available to students an interactive virtual reality experience, which was obviously a big hit with the boys and girls.

Following the UCD visit, the I Decide crew and four volunteers college students from UCD called in to the DEIS school to help with the development of the comics and journals.

Primary school students were once again incredibly talented in



describing their life as a college student and created beautiful drawings which were collected in a colourful book. The electronic version with a read out option can be accessed at <https://read.bookcreator.com/ansdEmwyRoMcnNSprsnAftK5a853/HQSkXS8nQ2a-DD9fpcN5IA>.

I Decide is now part of the Pathway to the Professions project in UCD.

Once again, the organisers Antonella, Melinda and Nicola were grateful to have the essential support from the UCD Access centre, their access leaders and in particular Kathie Orr.

 SUBMITTED BY: Antonella Puggioni

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





## UCD SPORT

# UCD Sport Clubs In The Community

**UCD sports clubs demonstrated a strong commitment to community engagement in 2023-24, making significant contributions through fundraising, volunteering, and awareness campaigns.**

The collaborative nature of UCD sports clubs was instrumental in maximizing their community impact. For instance, the UCD Boxing Club supported UCD Karate Club's fundraising events, and the UCD Equestrian Club partnered with UCD and TCD societies to host a charity pub quiz, raising €700 for My Lovely Horse Rescue. UCD Archery Club and UCD Islamic Society co-organized an event on the Sunnah of Archery, blending sport with cultural education. Additionally, UCD Sub-Aqua Club participated in a "Darkness into Light" dive, raising funds for Pieta House alongside other Dublin dive groups.

UCD Sport successfully launched a Women in Sport Week campaign, featuring insightful interviews with female committee members from the UCD Trampoline, Karate, and Archery clubs. These discussions highlighted the role and impact of women in sport. Numerous UCD sports

clubs, including Archery, Ladies Basketball, Men's and Ladies Boat, Canoe, Equestrian, Fencing, Ladies Hockey, Judo, Karate, Mountaineering, Tennis, Trampoline, TaeKwon-Do, Ultimate Frisbee, Orienteering, Women's Rugby, Sailing, Sub Aqua, and Swimming all participated in the campaign through various initiatives.

Members dedicate countless hours to officiating, coaching, and volunteering at various events, demonstrating a strong commitment to giving back. UCD Ladies Boat Club members officiated at races like the University Championship and the Dublin Metropolitan Regatta. UCD TaeKwon-Do Club and UCD Trampoline Club members regularly serve as officials, coaches, and judges at national tournaments. Furthermore, experienced members of the UCD Canoe Club volunteer for safety roles at major events like Galway Fest and the Liffey Descent, while also taking on responsibilities such as refereeing and timekeeping at canoe polo competitions, including the Irish Polo Open and the Dublin Canoe Polo League.

Over 650 UCD students, staff, and graduates generously volunteer each week as coaches and committee members, ensuring the smooth operation of UCD sports clubs. They manage essential tasks such as organising and delivering training sessions, coordinating logistics for competitions, handling club finances, and overseeing equipment maintenance, all of which are crucial for the clubs to function effectively. Their dedication often extends to the local community; for instance, members of the UCD Men's Basketball Club also coach in the UCD Marian basketball program, supporting local youth development.

This spirit of giving back is further exemplified through various fundraising efforts for charitable causes. UCD Canoe Club raised over €3,400 for the Irish Cancer Society through the UCD Relay for Life, with more than 30 members participating and some camping overnight to support the cause. Club captain Bill Fitzgerald won the "Spirit of the Event" award for his outstanding contribution. Additionally UCD Ultimate Frisbee Club, UCD Boxing Club, and UCD Archery Club also rallied for cancer awareness by participating in Relay for Life, with the latter two raising funds by training in yellow. UCD Trampoline Club raised €167 for Breast Cancer Ireland with a pink-themed training session, while UCD Ladies Hockey contributed €2,111 through a pink training day. UCD Rugby Club's annual Daffodil Day fundraiser generated an impressive €38,195 for the Irish Cancer Society through campus collections, online donations, raffles, and events.

By fundraising for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), UCD Sub-Aqua Club and UCD Canoe Club support an organisation dedicated to ensuring the safety of their members and other water users. UCD Sub-Aqua Club hosted their annual Christmas dive at Bulloch Harbour, where participants in Santa gear took to the water to raise funds. Similarly, UCD Canoe Club held a raffle at their March ball, raising €351 for the RNLI.

UCD Ultimate Frisbee Club, UCD Rugby Club, UCD Sailing Club, UCD Trampoline Club, UCD Men's Hockey Club, UCD Mountaineering Club, and UCD Surf Club all participated in



↑ UCD Trampoline Club Pie The Committee For LauraLynn - Paula Cashman

Movember, a charity dedicated to addressing three major men's health issues: mental health and suicide prevention, prostate cancer, and testicular cancer.

UCD Karate Club raised nearly €1,000 for Cystic Fibrosis Ireland (CFI) through a variety of efforts, including charity Kumite classes, a Pub Quiz, a Self-Defense class, and a Dogi Hike. The club also participated in CFI's nationwide events, like Christmas Jumper Day and 65 Roses Day, where they taught a 65-move Kata, Kanku Dai, to raise funds and awareness. Additionally, members supported the charity by promoting and attending external events such as the CFI Head 2 Head Hike and the Mac Fleetwood charity concert.

UCD Men's Basketball Club raised €2,000 for the Knights of St. Columbanus' Christmas Day Dinner through their annual collection. UCD Trampoline Club hosted a Rainbow-themed competition, raising €450 for LGBT Ireland, and showed ongoing support for LGBT hate crime victims by adding purple ribbons to their gear. They also organised various fundraisers, including committee challenges, a pub quiz, and a "Dragons' Den" event, collectively raising €905 for LauraLynn. Meanwhile, UCD Canoe Club held a table quiz with other college canoe clubs, raising over €200 for the Irish Red Cross to support relief efforts in Gaza."

↑ SUBMITTED BY: Paula Cashman

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↑ UCD Karate Club Self-Defense Workshop in Aid of Cystic Fibrosis Ireland - Paula Cashman



## UCD SPORT

# Building Community Through Sport:

## UCD Sports Facilities' Year of Engagement and Inclusion

UCD Sports Facilities championed athletic development and community engagement, impacting thousands through inclusive events, school programmes, and elite partnerships, fostering a vibrant culture of sports, inclusivity, and joy for all ages.

Over the past year, UCD Sports Facilities have affirmed their role as a beacon of athletic development, inclusivity, and community connection. Through a dynamic portfolio of programmes and events, these facilities have reached thousands of individuals across diverse demographics. Central to these efforts was the UCD Soccer Club, which engaged over 1,000 students from schools like Oatlands College, Mount Anville Primary, and St. Tiernan's through tailored initiatives.

Collaborating with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, the club launched a six-week after-school programme and conducted Easter and Summer camps, extending opportunities to an additional 600 children. Signature gatherings such as the DLR Cup drew 500 young players, while multi-seasonal camps hosted over 1,900 participants, emphasising skill enhancement alongside fostering camaraderie and fun.

The facilities have also played a pivotal role in hosting high-impact events, such as the Childhood Cancer Fun Day, championed by Irish rugby star Hugo Keenan, and training sessions for the South County Dublin Special Olympics, culminating in a major celebration in June.

Vision Sports Ireland's May Fest, an event promoting inclusive sports, was another highlight, drawing significant attention and laying the groundwork for a larger-scale event in 2025.

Local schools, including St. Killian's, Lycée Français, and St. Michael's, regularly utilised UCD's versatile astro pitches, sports halls, and athletics track, reinforcing the facilities' vital contribution to grassroots sports. Simultaneously, elite organisations such as Blackrock Athletics, Crusaders, and triathlon groups benefited from the advanced infrastructure, showcasing

its adaptability for a wide range of sporting disciplines. Corporate entities also leveraged the space for team sports days and family events, underscoring its multifaceted value.

Through the Easter and Summer multi-sport camps, which welcomed over 1,000 children, the facilities demonstrated a strong commitment to fostering inclusivity and development. These camps served UCD staff families and the broader community alike, blending athletic growth with a celebration of diversity.

UCD Sports Facilities, through these comprehensive initiatives, have not only nurtured athletic excellence but also cultivated a strong sense of community, reinforcing their status as an indispensable asset to schools, clubs, charities, and the wider public.



↑ Vision Sports Ireland's May Fest event promotes inclusive sports

SUBMITTED BY: Mags D'Arcy, UCD Student Services

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







The UCD Hockey Youth Academy stands as a shining example of how UCD Sports Facilities foster athletic talent while strengthening community connections. This year, the Academy attracted players from over 40 schools across Ireland, including notable representation from regions like Kilkenny and Sligo, as well as international participants from as far as California, Hong Kong, Canada, and the UK. The Academy's growing global reputation highlights its role in providing world-class hockey training opportunities and creating a sense of belonging for young athletes.

The indoor hockey programmes engaged 150 participants, focusing on skill development in a controlled environment, while outdoor hockey programmes welcomed an impressive 550 participants across various age groups. The Academy also ran goalkeeping camps that set a new standard for specialised training, offering an unmatched 1:4 coach-to-player ratio. This meticulous attention to detail ensured each participant received tailored coaching, fostering technical excellence and confidence.

Players came from prestigious Irish schools like St. Andrew's College and Kilkenny College, as well as international institutions like Great Oak High School in California. These diverse participants not only benefited from expert training but also experienced the inclusivity and camaraderie that define UCD Sports Facilities. By engaging with such a wide array of schools and regions, the Academy created a dynamic pipeline of talent, encouraging many students to consider continuing their athletic and academic journeys at UCD.

The UCD Hockey Youth Academy's success underscores UCD Sports Facilities' broader mission: to provide young athletes with opportunities for personal growth, skill enhancement, and community building. By blending excellence in sports with a welcoming environment, the Academy continues to solidify its position as a beacon for hockey talent and a model of community engagement, ensuring a lasting impact on participants both on and off the field.

## UCD SPORT

# UCD Hockey Youth Academy Fostering Talent and Building Community Connections

The UCD Hockey Youth Academy nurtures talent and builds community, engaging over 700 participants from Ireland and abroad through elite training programmes and camps, solidifying UCD Sports Facilities as a hub for hockey excellence.



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UCD SPORT

# Empowering Local & National Talent Through Gaelic Games

UCD’s GAA facilities foster Gaelic games by supporting local clubs, schools, and national events, including the Kilmacud Crokes Festival of Hurling, which united 350 players and showcased UCD’s commitment to community and talent development.

UCD’s state-of-the-art GAA facilities have played a pivotal role in fostering Gaelic games at local and national levels, serving as a vibrant hub for clubs, schools, and players of all ages. Local clubs like Kilmacud Crokes, Ranelagh Gaels, and Cuala have made extensive use of these spaces, alongside schools such as St. Benildus College and Blackrock College, highlighting the facilities’ versatility and accessibility.

The highlight of the year was the Kilmacud Crokes Festival of Hurling, an exceptional event held over five Sundays in September and October. This nationwide showcase brought together 350 players from clubs across Ireland, including teams from Roscrea in Tipperary and Athenry in Galway. The festival celebrated the spirit of Gaelic games while providing young athletes with opportunities to compete, develop their skills, and connect with peers from different regions.

Through its GAA facilities and programmes, UCD continues to solidify its reputation as a cornerstone of Gaelic games, ensuring its positive impact on athletes and communities for generations to come.



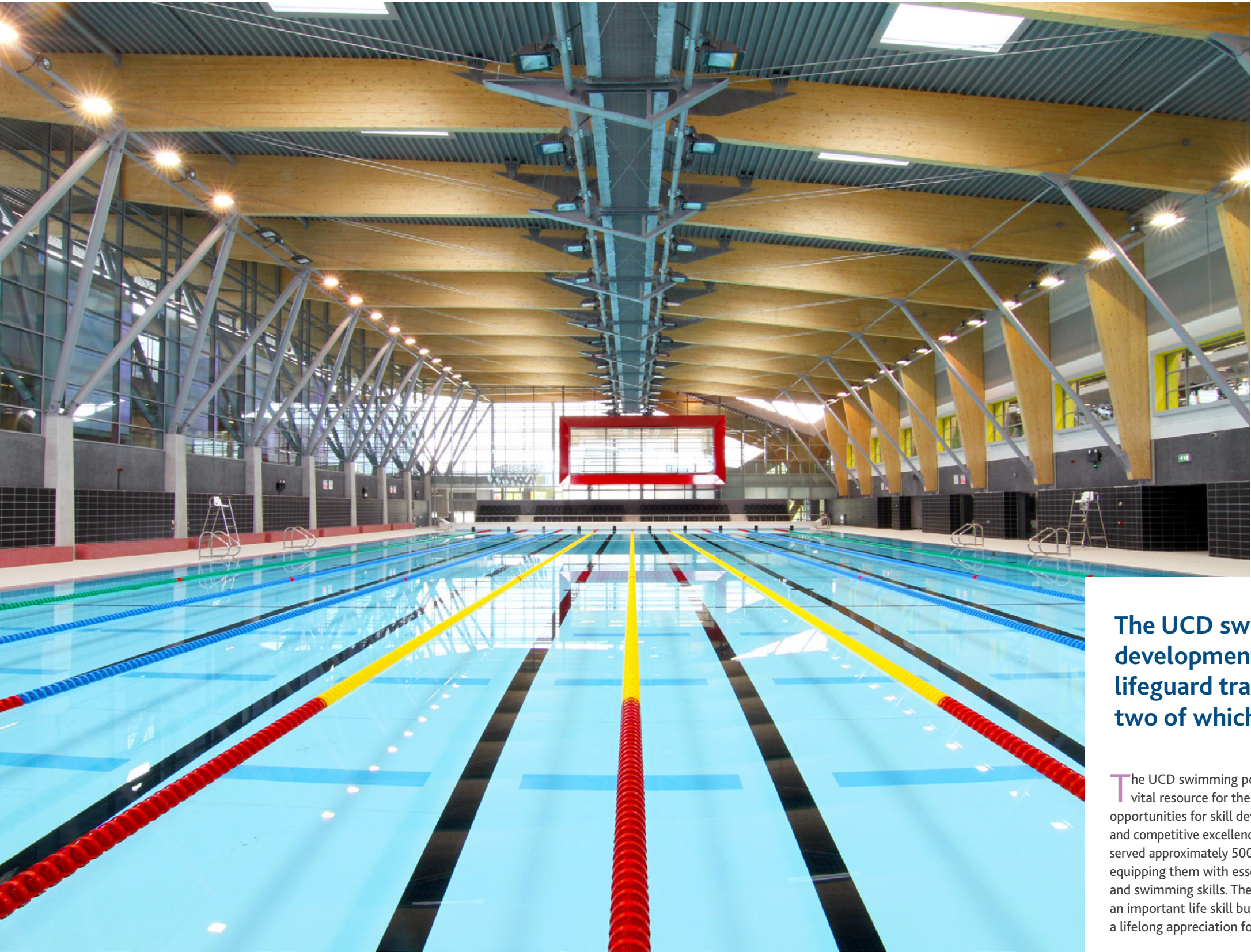
← The Kilmacud Crokes Festival of Hurling



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UCD SPORT

# UCD Swimming Pool Driving Community Engagement and Aquatic Excellence

The UCD swimming pool supports water safety and talent development through lessons for 500 children weekly, lifeguard training, and hosting 15 community swimming clubs, two of which produced Olympic athletes for Paris 2024.

The UCD swimming pool has cemented its role as a vital resource for the local community, providing opportunities for skill development, safety training, and competitive excellence. Weekly swimming lessons served approximately 500 children from 15 local schools, equipping them with essential water safety knowledge and swimming skills. These lessons not only addressed an important life skill but also fostered confidence and a lifelong appreciation for aquatic activities.

To meet the increasing demand for qualified lifeguards, the pool hosted six fully booked Irish Water Safety pool lifeguard courses, training 144 participants. These courses provided internationally recognised qualifications, opening pathways to career opportunities both locally and globally. By addressing the critical need for lifeguards, the programme ensured that pools and aquatic centres could continue

operating safely while empowering participants with valuable skills and credentials.

The pool also became a hub for competitive swimming, hosting 15 community swimming clubs for regular training sessions. Notably, two of these clubs produced athletes who represented Ireland at the 2024 Paris Olympics, showcasing the role of UCD's facilities in nurturing talent at the highest level. These achievements underscore the pool's dual significance as a community resource and a contributor to national sporting excellence.

Through its comprehensive programmes, the UCD swimming pool continues to serve as a cornerstone for community engagement and talent development, promoting a culture of safety, skill-building, and athletic achievement in aquatic sports.

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*"I'm delighted that UCD has been selected as an SDG Champion this year and welcome the opportunity to showcase our work on sustainability and to engage widely to promote action."*

- PROFESSOR TASMAN CROWE,  
VICE PRESIDENT  
FOR SUSTAINABILITY

← SDG Champions 2024/25 pictured at the launch

## UCD SUSTAINABILITY

# UCD appointed SDG Champion 2024/25

UCD was appointed one of Ireland's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Champions for 2024/2025. The programme was launched on June 25th by Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan TD.

UCD is one of 20 organisations from across Irish society, ranging from The Irish Girl Guides to Sligo Rovers and from ALDI to Mayo County Council, all joining the movement to drive forward Ireland's progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - the 17 Goals which aim to deliver sustainable development for people and the planet.

The SDG Champions Programme was developed to raise public awareness of the SDGs and to demonstrate, through the examples provided by the SDG Champions themselves, that everyone in society can make a contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Announcing the appointments, Minister Ryan said: "The world is currently off track to achieve the SDGs and accelerated action is needed. However, in this decade of action for the SDGs, Ireland is determined to play a leading role in delivering on the goals - locally, nationally and internationally.

"Over 90 organisations applied to take part in the programme this year, demonstrating the growing commitment of Irish society to live up to and promote the goals which have at their heart equality, access to basic rights like clean water, clean energy, food and shelter for all, and

climate justice. It is great to see such a variety of commercial organisations, academic institutions, those working with young people, and environmental organisations joining the SDG collective last year. It's like looking at a cross section of Irish society, all with a common aim to make our collective future better."

Responding to UCD's appointment, Vice President for Sustainability Professor Tasman Crowe said: "I'm delighted that UCD has been selected as an SDG Champion this year and welcome the opportunity to showcase our work on sustainability and to engage widely to promote action."

Champions are encouraged to collaborate with one another and with the wider community.

During SDG Week, UCD joined forces with fellow SDG Champion, Change Clothes, a community based clothing reuse hub based on Dublin's Thomas Street. Their co-founder Mary Fleming hosted upcycling workshops on campus attended by students and staff eager to learn how to patch and repair their clothes.

"I'll try to come up with a solution, no matter what sort of problem there is with the clothing, and in a really creative way," she said. "We like to use textiles that would have otherwise been thrown in landfill to add something to clothes that are in need of a bit of TLC."

Change Clothes run workshops in their studio on Dublin's Thomas Street, as well as in schools, libraries and other public spaces all over Ireland.

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## UCD SUSTAINABILITY

# SDG Dashboard launched

A newly launched interactive Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Dashboard allows staff, students and the wider community to explore sustainable initiatives and features across campus.

Ever wondered where your nearest drinking fountain or recycling bins are located in UCD? Or where you can microwave your lunch? Would you like to know the BER ratings of the buildings you frequent on campus?

A new user-friendly online mapping tool has been developed by a multidisciplinary team of UCD students and academics with funding from the HEA under the SATLE programme.

"The SDG dashboard is an interactive interface where users can explore sustainable initiatives, activities and services across campus," says project lead Ainhua Gonzalez del Campo, associate professor at the UCD School of Geography. "There are a number of web maps in the dashboard, each one associated with an SDG, and in these web maps you can find data layers and information embedded about specific sustainability activities."

For example, within SDG 12 is an inventory of all the locations of indoor segregation bins. Within SDG 7 is information about the Building Energy Rating of UCD's buildings.

"I've found the SDG dashboard really useful in my day to day role as auditor of the Sustainability Society and as campus assistant," says Ellen Curran, a student on the BSc Sustainability programme. "I find a lot of people ask me questions about policy, about how they can get involved, about where things are on campus, and I often don't have all the answers, as much as I try to stay informed. I found that using the dashboard as a resource to hand out to people has been really helpful, not only to me, but also to the students asking me questions."

Her fellow student Kendra Paleczny lists some of the information she found by perusing the dashboard.

"Where the water fountain refill stations are, solar panels on campus, EV charging points, bike racks, what the biodiversity looks like..."

The dashboard is also proving to be a helpful teaching tool.

"It's a wonderful example of how web GIS can be made really accessible to everyone," says Dominic Robinson, GIS teaching assistant. "Of course, where data is involved, people get scared and they disengage. And when we see data through maps and these types of dashboards, it just comes to life."

UCD Vice President for Sustainability Professor Tasman Crowe calls it a "game changing asset" for the university.

"It provides detailed, granular information about all the sustainability initiatives that

are going on around the campus, enabling a higher level of engagement by staff and students and also the wider the wider community. Everybody who uses the tool has an opportunity to give their feedback and provide their own ideas as to how the tool can be expanded."

Find the dashboard at  
<https://www.ucd.ie/sustainability/resources/>

*"The SDG dashboard is an interactive interface where users can explore sustainable initiatives, activities and services across campus"*

- AINHOA GONZALEZ DEL CAMPO,  
PROJECT LEAD



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Colin Scott, Ainhua del Campo,  
Tasman Crowe







## UCD SUSTAINABILITY



Plastics workshop - Participants in UCD SRI Plastics workshop day in the UCD Village

# The UCD Sustainable Research Initiative (SRI)

The UCD SRI is a community of practice dedicated to building a culture of sustainability in research at UCD.

Environmental sustainability and climate action are key topics that must be addressed by UCD as an Institute of Higher Education. We are a group of UCD staff and students, who feel that it is increasingly urgent to embed sustainability in our work, whether our focus is research, teaching, clinical practice, field work, admin, operations, or any other area. For this reason, we formed the Sustainable Research Initiative (SRI) initially as a pilot project in CHAS, the College of Health and Agricultural Sciences.

The pilot was successful and, now into our third year, we have active participation from members across many disciplines in the University. We are currently affiliated with the UCD Sustainability Unit.

One of the major areas we have addressed is "sustainability in wet labs". Scientific laboratories consume up to 10x the amount of energy and significantly more single-use disposable plastic than comparable office spaces. SRI members have participated in the



My Green Lab ([mygreenlab.org](https://mygreenlab.org)) certification process, which involves auditing and improving laboratory performance in 14 different areas, including energy use and waste management.

During our monthly meetings, we hear from members on their My Green Lab certification journeys. Member presentations are fantastic as we learn from each other and can discuss best practices in sustainable lab management here at UCD.

Every year we host themed events, during Green Week 2024, we presented a collaborative workshop with Precious Plastics (<https://www.preciousplasticdublin.org/>) and the Innovation Academy promoting awareness of plastic recycling. A highlight of this event was a demonstration by Niamh Burke on her citizen science project, measuring plastic waste on our beaches.

Other events have featured presentations on sustainability at UCD Lyon's farm, reducing carbon footprint while doing patient interviews in a translational medicine research project, and the issues facing recycling practices in UCD's Residences.

Significant outcomes from our work include new initiatives on campus, for example, a polystyrene recycling scheme in which polystyrene is repurposed into building materials with UCD Estates and Rehab, and also recycling of nitrile gloves with Kimberly Clark and Terracycle.



SUBMITTED BY: Mary Sekiya, Ash Middleton, Carlotta Sacchi, Gwyneth MacMaster, Ana Vale



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Emma and John - Volunteers putting together stickers packs for CHAS Lab Sustainability Kits

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## UCD SUSTAINABILITY

# Sustainability Website Launch



Louise Griffin,  
Colin Scott,  
Ainhoa Gonzalez  
del Campo,  
Tasman Crowe

The UCD Sustainability website was launched in September 2024. It is intended as a 'one stop shop' to showcase the diversity of thought leadership and action for sustainability being undertaken and to help inspire and inform more, both within and outside UCD.

As well as laying out UCD's mission, vision and governance for sustainability, the website presents a series of Action Areas which summarise and illustrate the university's research, education, campus initiatives and innovations in biodiversity, climate action, energy, water, transport, health, sustainable communities, food systems and others.

In the What's New section you can read about upcoming events and recent awards, guest speakers and workshops, and other updates from the community. There's also a Get Involved tab signposting ways in which staff, students and the wider community can take action for sustainability in their own way and inviting comments, ideas and requests for help.

The Resources page is intended to make it easy to access key documents within UCD and also to become better informed and to explore pathways to impact through external organisations. Ultimately it is hoped that the website can serve as a place for engagement and communication about sustainability to help move the dial in addressing the critical challenges it encompasses.

"We emphasised interdisciplinarity and the combination of education, research and innovation, campus and operations and wider engagement as UCD's pathway to impact for sustainability," says UCD's Vice President for Sustainability Professor Tasman Crowe.

"We also try to convey the sense of engagement and partnership to make things happen, with an invitation for questions, comments and suggestions and a section on how to get involved. The website itself is certainly going to continue to evolve so please do send us feedback for its improvement."

[www.ucd.ie/sustainability](http://www.ucd.ie/sustainability)





The associated panel discussion involved experts from UCD as well as the National Economic and Social Council and the Irish Doughnut Economics Network (IDEN). Kate was involved in a range of additional events allowing wide engagement with students, stakeholders, policy makers and the wider public.

This included her participation in a 'Step into the doughnut' workshop in UCD, organised by IDEN.

"The aim of the doughnut is to meet the needs of all people within the means of the living planet. What kind of economy would help us achieve that?" she commented, adding that the workshop allowed people to engage with her economic model "in a very tangible way".

The theory behind Doughnut economics consists of two concentric rings: a social foundation - to ensure that no one is left falling short on life's essentials - and an ecological ceiling, to ensure that humanity does not collectively overshoot the planetary boundaries that protect Earth's life-supporting systems. Between these two sets of boundaries lies a doughnut-shaped space that is both ecologically safe and socially just; a space in which, the theory says, humanity can thrive.

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*"The aim of the doughnut is to meet the needs of all people within the means of the living planet. What kind of economy would help us achieve that?"*

- KATE RAWORTH

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## UCD SUSTAINABILITY

# Kate Raworth visit

In September UCD awarded ecological economist and Doughnut Economics author Kate Raworth with an honorary doctorate in economic sciences, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to advancing the sustainability agenda. She was conferred alongside the first cohort of BSc Sustainability graduates.

Known for her economic model that balances essential human needs and planetary boundaries, Kate is senior associate at Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute and a Professor of Practice at Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences.

Her internationally bestselling book Doughnut Economics was referenced in a 2020 speech by President Michael D. Higgins, who said that humanity's "...overriding goal must be to remain within what Kate Raworth has described, 'a safe and just space for humanity'. This means we can improve human wellbeing on a global level while simultaneously preserving the preconditions for a safe, healthy planet and the future wellbeing of its peoples."

In his book, A Life on Our Planet, Sir David Attenborough lauded the doughnut model as our "compass" towards sustainability.

During her visit to UCD, Kate delivered a public lecture to a full UCD Moore Auditorium which was live streamed to an online audience from 32 countries worldwide.



First cohort of BSc students conferred on the same day as Kate Raworth received honorary doctorate





UCD SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY

# UCD Sustainable Energy Community

UCD Sustainable Energy Community is a group of professional and academic staff and students working together to engage and educate the UCD community about sustainable energy research and practice with a view to reducing carbon emissions in our local area.

UCD Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) is a group of professional and academic staff, and students working together to engage and educate the UCD community about sustainable energy research and practice with a view to reducing carbon emissions in our local area.

The UCD SEC objectives are:

- 1) Develop skills and capacity in energy efficiency at a UCD community level
- 2) Promote the adoption of lower carbon options for transport and heating
- 3) Promote investment, research and education in smart and renewable energy technologies in UCD
- 4) Create opportunities for successful collaborations in sustainable energy community initiatives

Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) are an initiative of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) that look to engage and enable energy citizens to work together to achieve their energy goals. The UCD SEC hosted a workshop in May 2024 with representatives from the SEAI and its mentor network, the EU-funded AURORA project and Higher Education Institutions

(HEIs) including Atlantic Technological University (ATU - Galway, Mayo and Sligo), Dublin City University (DCU), Technological University of Dublin (TU Dublin), University of Galway (UG) and UCD.

One of the key topics up for discussion at the UCD SEC workshop was whether and how HEIs in Ireland should pool resources and approaches and build such a community of common interest. The meeting heard from individual institutions about their current practices and challenges, where local SECs seek to lead the energy transition in their locality, in some cases through an active leadership role and demonstrating energy efficiency and emission reduction in action.

One of the key messages from the meeting was that HEIs have a significant opportunity to reach many students and staff now and impact their behaviours into the future. HEIs also offer an environment for mixing research and education for energy sustainability, for example through 'living labs'.

More details about the UCD SEC here: <https://www.ucd.ie/sec/>



SUBMITTED BY: Paula Carroll

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SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS





SUTHERLAND SCHOOL OF LAW

# Calcutta Run 2024

The Dublin Calcutta Run, the legal fundraiser, took place in Blackhall Place on Saturday, 25 May

The Dublin run/walk is the cornerstone event of the Calcutta Run – the legal fundraiser, having first taken place in 1999. In 2023, approximately 1000 people took part and Collectively an incredible €320,000 was raised. The team at the Law Society and Calcutta Run Committee plan to deliver an even better series of events in 2024 to raise vital funds for homeless young people in Ireland and India. This is the third year that UCD Law School takes part and we would be grateful if you could support us in our fundraising this year. The UCD Law team page can be accessed at <https://www.idonate.ie/team/ucdlawteam>

*"If you achieve the personal fundraising target of €120 you will get a free BBQ ticket, which is our way of saying thank you for making a huge effort. All participants will also receive a free goodie bag containing a technical t-shirt and other treats."*

SUBMITTED BY: Julie Lim

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



↑ What a lovely morning in Blackhall Place at the Calcutta Run. Great team spirit, amazing running talent.





UCD VOLUNTEERS OVERSEAS

# Volunteer with UCDVO for a Fair and Sustainable World

UCDVO provides students, staff and graduates of UCD with the opportunity to participate in a volunteering and global citizenship programme. Through our overseas volunteer programme and campus based initiatives, UCDVO works to empower active citizens for a fair and sustainable world.

UCDVO’s flagship Volunteer Programme, has been running responsible, ethical volunteering opportunities for over 20 years. The programme places emphasis on developing participants’ interpersonal, intercultural, and life skills with many opportunities for progression.

In 2024, 51 members of the UCD community participated in volunteer projects in Uganda, Tanzania and Cambodia contributing to UCDVO’s partners’ health, education and livelihoods programmes.

Project outcomes for 2024 include:

- 160 physiotherapy assessments and interventions for children with disabilities and their families in Uganda and Tanzania;
- Over 800 hours of informal English language training in Cambodia;
- Sustainability and plastic upcycling community engagement workshops in Uganda;
- 185 Ugandan youth took part in workshops, debates and cultural exchange.

The volunteer programme is framed within a global education framework with considerable emphasis on quality and impact of the programme. Each project is led by a team coordinator or clinical tutor who engages in project planning with the local partners and the UCDVO Manager. While the overseas projects take place in July/July, the overall programme commences in January, with five months of preparatory workshops, followed by debriefing and a graduation/ recognition event on return.

The workshops include global citizenship education which engages with the Sustainable Development Goals, and issues around ethical and responsible volunteering and local-global connections. There are also team building days, health and personal safety awareness training, child safeguarding and project planning workshops.

The volunteer programme has a transformative impact on many of the volunteers, with consistently high numbers reporting positively on their journey to becoming active global citizens.



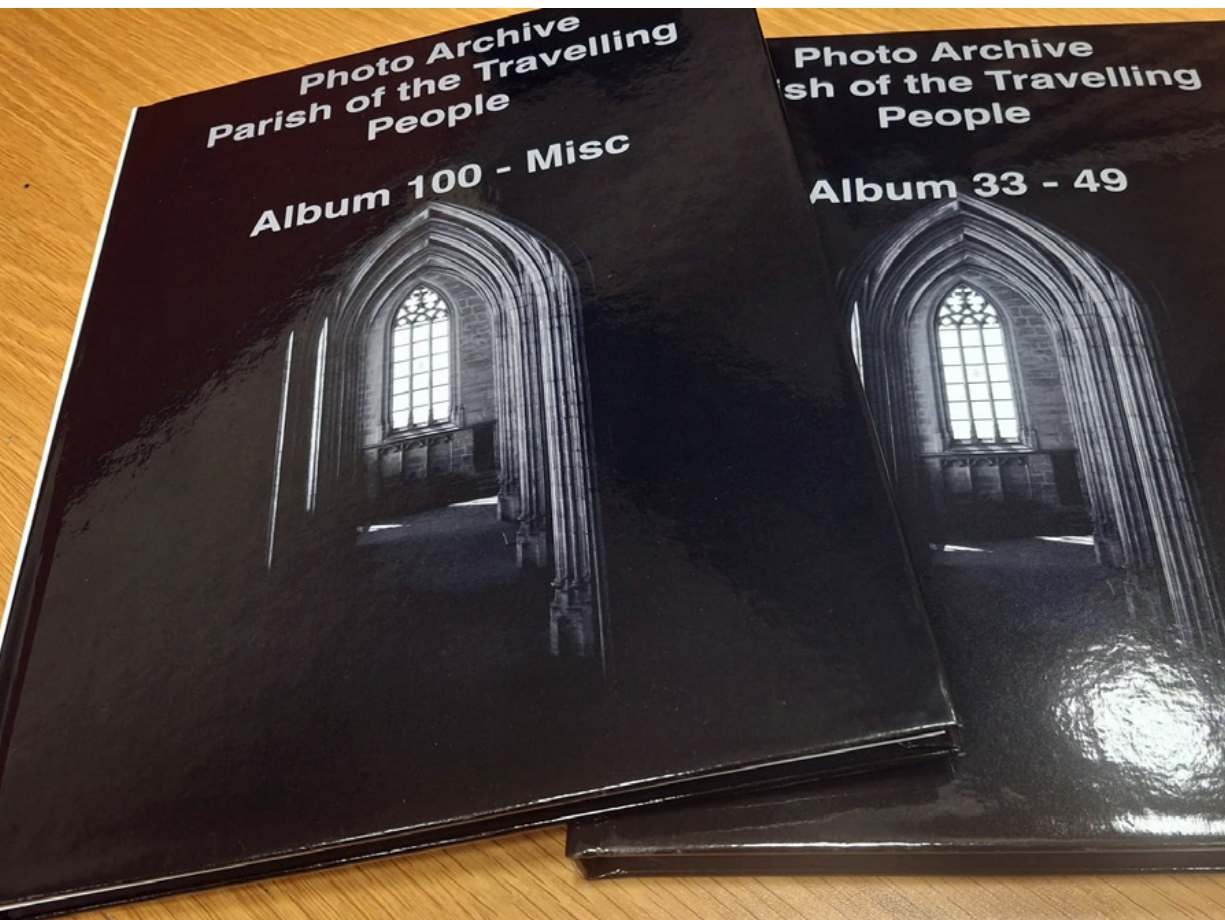
↑ FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
Be the Change evening course  
2024 Volunteers Final Programme Day  
A volunteer in Cambodia working with Education Partner

SUBMITTED BY: Zoe Liston  
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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS







INDIVIDUAL IMPACT STORIES

# Preserving the Photographic Archive of the Parish of the Travelling People

This project used Heritage Council funding to preserve and make accessible an archive of over 8,000 photographs that record the history of the Parish of the Travelling People in the Dublin Roman Catholic Diocese. These photographs, which were largely taken by community members, document key moments in the spiritual life and social justice activism of the Travelling people in the Dublin region.

The Parish of the Travelling People (<https://ptrav.ie/>) was established in 1980 by Archbishop Dermot Ryan. Since its establishment, this unique parish has worked to provide pastoral care to the travelling community living in the Dublin diocese and raise awareness of human rights issues affecting Travellers.

The parish's work has created a valuable archive, including administrative records, scrapbooks, parish newsletters, audio recordings, and a large quantity of photographs. The photographic collection documents the life of the parish since its beginning. It includes material created by the parish and additional images, donated by the community, in search of good keeping and in request of prayers. The photos capture images of a range of sacramental occasions such as baptisms, first communions and weddings.

They also document social events in the parish and various pilgrimages undertaken by the parish sometimes in conjunction with other Traveller/ Mincéirí groups to raise awareness of human rights issues. Following a successful application for funding from the Heritage Council, Elizabeth Mullins worked in collaboration with members of the parish council, including Oein de Bharduín, Traveller Cultural Collector at the National Museum of Ireland, to secure the preservation of some 8000 photographs and their continued accessibility to the community.

The Heritage Council funding was used to purchase archival-grade storage supplies to facilitate the repacking of the analogue photos in a way that will secure their long-term preservation and storage. It has also been used for the second strand of the project which ensures the continued accessibility of this treasured collection to the community by the creation of a series of photo books based on c 5000 digital surrogates of these images.

In this way, this valuable visual archive documenting the history of traveller faith is being preserved for the long term while continuing to be accessible to the community which created it. It also serves to secure an often-neglected aspect of Irish social and cultural history.

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3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS







INDIVIDUAL IMPACT STORIES

# AI in My Life

Modular AI, privacy and AI ethics workshops for transition year students

AI in My Life is a modular, teacher-led classroom workshop series by the Research Ireland ADAPT Centre and founded by Rob Brennan, UCD School of Computer Science. Since 2024 AI in My Life has collaborated with the UCD Cyberwise programme hosted by the UCD Centre for Cybersecurity Resilience Education. A taster session of AI in My Life was run for secondary teachers attending the Cyberwise event in UCD on April 26th 2024. Teachers don't need any prior knowledge of AI to deliver the programme. ADAPT's Education and Public Engagement team will provide training for teachers, and the course toolkits will provide teachers with background information and a walkthrough of each of the modules. We will also be available if you have questions at [education@adaptcentre.ie](mailto:education@adaptcentre.ie).

SUBMITTED BY: Rob Brennan

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

INDIVIDUAL IMPACT STORIES

# COST Action-DIVERSICROP

DIVERSICROP is COST action that aims to build up a large multidisciplinary network, using an innovative, cross-sectoral approach by analysing the deep history of underutilized crops in Europe, understanding the genetic diversity and adaptation to climate change of crop germplasm, analysing current regional trends in the consumption of food products and by involving national and EU policymakers and key stakeholders to revive diverse crop production and maximise the impact of Europe's agricultural sustainability.

The project has reached over 380 participants from over 53 countries. UCD Research together with Enterprise Ireland (COST National Contact) have been at work by engaging the community and promoting information sessions with DIVERSICROP as an example.



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

13 CLIMATE ACTION

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

15 LIFE ON LAND

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





INDIVIDUAL IMPACT STORIES

# Bean Around

Bean Around is a coffee repurposing company that transforms spent coffee grounds into new and innovative products! Founded by sisters, Sadhbh and Aisling Wood, Bean Around creates hand craft sustainable skin care cosmetic products ie. Exfoliating Coffee Bars and scrubs from used coffee grounds that we collect from local coffee shops and work canteens.

The Hult Prize is the world's largest student-led social enterprise competition, with over 10,000 applications in 2024. It challenges young people to address global issues through social entrepreneurship, with one team receiving \$1M USD in funding to bring their idea to life. Teams pitch their ideas in 4 minutes, followed by a Q&A session.

Bean Around's journey began in February 2024 at UCD's On-Campus round, where they won after several preparation workshops and pitching against fellow UCD teams.

Next was the Regional round, where 300 teams competed in seven Summits across the world. The Bean Around team participated in the Regional Summit in Lisbon,



competing with 80 teams from across Europe. While they didn't win, they were nominated for the Second Chance round and selected as one of 16 teams to enter the Digital Incubator in July 2024. This three-week program, held via Zoom, provided intensive mentorship and resources to refine ideas, validate products, and develop go-to-market strategies.

In August, Bean Around joined the Hult Prize Global Accelerator at Ashridge House in London. This immersive program helped refine their strategy, expand networks, and scale globally. After the final pitch day, Bean Around was selected as one of six Global Finalist teams to pitch at the Mermaid Theatre in London for a \$1M investment.

While the Bean Around team did not win the overall investment, the mentorship and support they had received over the course of the competition was unparalleled and crucial to their future success.

## Bean Around Collaboration with UCD

Over the past year, Bean Around has worked with a number of UCD departments to reduce food waste on campus! Bean Around is a coffee repurposing company that transforms used coffee grounds into new and innovative products. We have worked closely with UCD Quinn Business School, UCD Global and UCD Alumni to repurpose used coffee grounds from coffee shops on campus into our Exfoliating Coffee Bars. These Exfoliating Bars are great for general exfoliation and relieving dry skin, leaving it feeling soft and smooth!

Bean Around aims to demonstrate that sustainability and the circular economy can be part of our everyday lives and change the world one cup of coffee at a time.

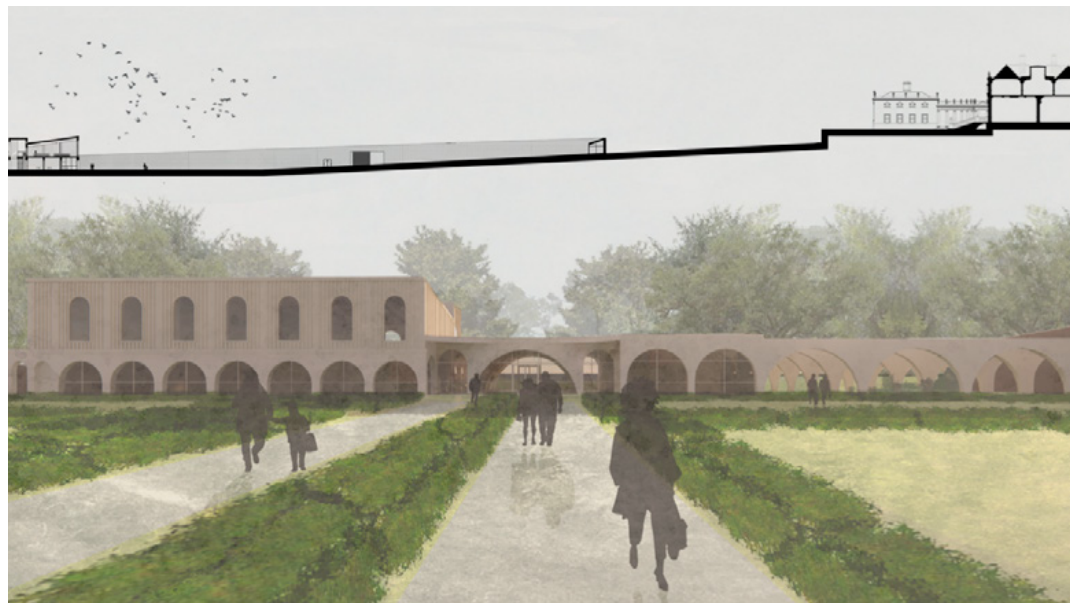


SUBMITTED BY: Sadhbh Wood

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INDIVIDUAL IMPACT STORIES

# Russborough House (Alfred Beit Foundation) Community Engagement Activities 2023/2024

Russborough House continued to engage with local and national communities throughout the 2023-2024 academic year.

Stressing the importance of the art of Music within the Beits' legacy and collection, the house hosted several music events, including the West Wicklow Festival and special concerts to celebrate Culture Night and the National Harp Day, with artists such as Tara Viscradi & Robert Harvey, Bray CCÉ Harp Ensemble & Claire O'Donne, and the Kylemore College Music Centre Harp Ensemble. In May 2024, it also hosted the launch of the Music Capital Scheme 2023 by Music Network, a project supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media, that 'provides vital funding for musical instruments to both community music groups and individual musicians, an investment which continues to make a significant impact on the quality of, and access to, music-making and live music performance throughout Ireland'.

Russborough has been involved in various projects that


engaged with the local younger community, hosting a visit with Blessington's Community College's horticulture TY students working in the Royal Horticultural Society-managed walled garden in November 2023, and a visit to the house and demesne with Blessington's West Wicklow Youthreach in March 2024.


The house was also used as a film location for a video ActionAid Ireland, entitled 'Together we are stronger', a piece that 'celebrates the migrants who come to Ireland to seek safety, security and a happy future for themselves and their families. Together, they make Ireland a better place. 'Inspired by the Department of Foreign Affairs video for St Patrick's Day celebrating Ireland's diaspora around the world, the video was created following the request by the women ActionAid Ireland works with who are seeking asylum in Ireland. The goal of the



video therefore was to create a new, positive and welcoming narrative for migrants in Ireland'.

Throughout the year, Russborough has organised and promoted several initiatives that encouraged the community to engage with biodiversity in Ireland and at Russborough, including a walk with head gardener Damien Blackweir for National Biodiversity Week in May 2024, and family-friendly bug safaris with entomologist Brian Murray for National Heritage week in August 2024 – as well as offering free tours of the house, as kindly supported by the Heritage Council.

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 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	 4 QUALITY EDUCATION	 5 GENDER EQUALITY	 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	 13 CLIMATE ACTION
 15 LIFE ON LAND	 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS		



INDIVIDUAL IMPACT STORIES

# Building Capacity for the Cultural Industries: Towards a Shared Island Approach for Dance and Theatre

Dr Durrer collaborated with dance and theatre practitioners, arts policymakers and academic researchers across the island of Ireland from December 2021 – November 2022 to capture the extent, nature and impact of cross-island relations in professional, publicly subsidised dance and theatre.

Academic researchers, arts policymakers and dance and theatre practitioners across the island of Ireland collaborated from December 2021 – November 2022 to respond to the precarity underlined by Brexit and the global pandemic. The group collated new and existing academic and sector-based data to assess all-island relations within professional performing arts of dance and theatre. Collaborating to foster shared approaches to recovery and regional development, the group met quarterly to share and critically discuss data regarding existing shared island operations.

Partners discussed, debated and shared: reviewing policies, comparing arts spending, examining organisational data sets, and holding workshops, focus groups and interviews with artists, arts and cultural practitioners and officers in local government and the civil service (90).

The work culminated in a final report, Building Capacity for the Cultural Industries ([https://culturalpolicyireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Shared-Island-Report\\_Digital\\_AW.pdf](https://culturalpolicyireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Shared-Island-Report_Digital_AW.pdf)), that presents findings and a substantial research agenda along with welcomed actionable industry-based and high-level policy recommendations aimed at fostering more socially and environmentally sustainable livelihoods in performing arts on the island:

1) Nurture regional stability: Work to address financial precarity and risk aversion to support enthusiasm for collaboration.

2) Develop and implement enabling frameworks: Align financial resourcing and administration, facilitate progress through action-research and dialogue events.


3) Embed access and inclusion: Address challenges arts workers face: Brexit and difficulties regarding spatial / geographic connectivity and legislative and administrative coherence in pay and disability supports




Research participants gather at to hear and feedback on research findings

- 4) Raise awareness: Showcase work, fund / facilitate exchange
- 5) Support legacy: Archive practice, allocate / resource time and staffing to embed strategic collaboration.

The engaged research process facilitated and confirmed a sense of solidarity and promoted greater understanding of shared values and concerns. Research partners and participants have initiated changes to practice through planning new cross-island activities as a direct result of the project. The project's findings have been recognised in new policy developments, such as Arts Council Ireland's national, all-island dance company, Luail, and Creative Ireland's Shared Island Shared Communities programme. New, funded engaged research projects have resulted to address the research agenda identified by the project and advancing sector-academic partnerships.

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8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS





INDIVIDUAL IMPACT STORIES

# VirusHunters

**VirusHunters was a citizen science outreach program that engaged six secondary school students in virus discovery and research. It aimed to enhance public involvement in science, aligned with the curriculum, and provided hands-on experience and insights into scientific careers.**

The VirusHunters citizen science outreach program successfully engaged secondary school students in hands-on virus discovery and scientific research. This project bridged the gap between classroom learning and real-world scientific exploration, aligning with the senior cycle curriculum while fostering public involvement in cutting-edge research.

The program's multi-faceted approach included independent sample collection by students, pre-workshop surveys to gauge initial knowledge, and in-school workshops focused on virus discovery. The culmination of these efforts was the "Discovery Day" held at University College Dublin (UCD) School of Veterinary Science on May 1, 2024, which provided a comprehensive scientific experience for the participants.

During the UCD visit, students engaged in creating scientific posters based on Frontiers for Young Minds articles, honing their ability to distill complex information into clear, visually appealing presentations. This exercise not only enhanced their scientific communication skills but also introduced them to the process of synthesizing and presenting research findings. The subsequent poster presentations to a panel of scientists and peers further developed their public speaking abilities and confidence in discussing scientific concepts.

A highlight of the event was the career insights session, featuring a diverse panel of scientists from UCD. This provided students with valuable exposure to various career paths in science, inspiring them to consider future opportunities in research and academia. The inclusion of laboratory tours offered a glimpse into the practical aspects of scientific work, while the networking lunch facilitated informal interactions between students and scientists.

Funded by a Microbiology Society outreach and CHAS seed funding award, the project's impact extended beyond the immediate participants, with social media dissemination on platforms like Twitter/X and LinkedIn generating significant engagement. This broader reach helped to raise awareness about the importance of virus discovery and citizen science initiatives.

By combining hands-on activities, mentorship from experienced scientists, and exposure to real-world research environments, VirusHunters created a powerful learning experience that went beyond traditional classroom education. This project serves as a model for future community engagement initiatives in science, demonstrating how collaboration between educational institutions and research facilities can foster scientific curiosity and skill development among young students.

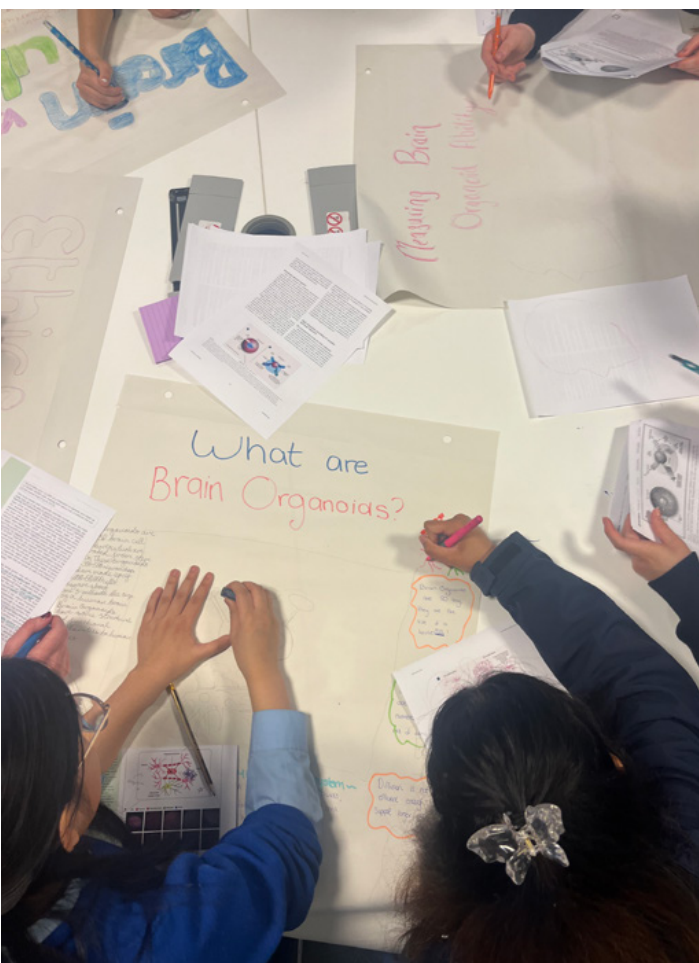
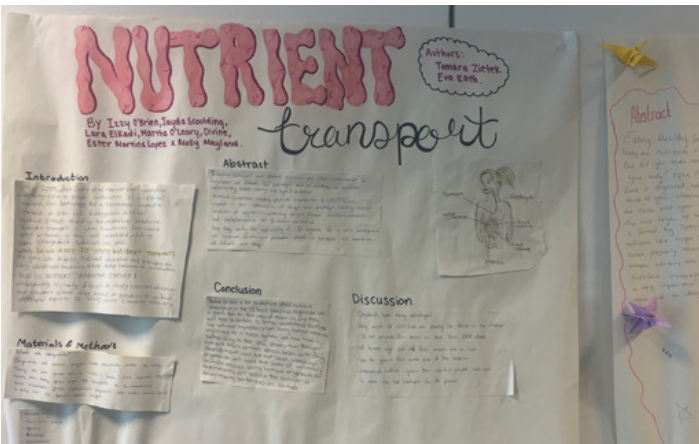
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**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**  


**4 QUALITY EDUCATION**  


**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**  





*“The class is absolutely brilliant; I have learnt quite a lot within a very short period. To think of that, I never studied history in school. The class presentation has taught me a lot about Irish history and culture, it left us wanting to learn more”*

- BERNADETTE CHIWAYA (BALSESKIN RESIDENT, 2024)


INDIVIDUAL IMPACT STORIES


# Balseskin Cultural Orientation Programme

The Cultural Orientation Programme was developed as a resource to engage with asylum seekers, refugees and forcibly displaced persons of various demographic backgrounds within Balseskin Reception Centre, Dublin 11. The programme is delivered by Wayne Malone on behalf of Professor Aidan O’Sullivan and Professor Joe Carthy (UCD) and is facilitated and supported by the Jesuit Refugee Service. Wayne is a UCD Bachelor of Art’s graduate (2011-2014) and an archaeologist (Archaeology & Built Heritage Ltd.) with extensive experience in public outreach and community archaeology.

The programme comprises a series of Irish history workshops promoting cultural diversity. This is achieved by embracing Ireland’s rich archaeological, historical, geographical, artistic, architectural and linguistic heritage while drawing on global parallels. The primary aim is to create an inclusive social environment. This is achieved through an informal and active classroom environment within the Seomra Fáilte room, a multi-purpose resource centre designed to provide a safe space for Balseskin residents. Following each class, participants are provided with information on local cultural amenities. This encourages residents to visit a range of sites that include public parks, monuments and museums.

Additionally, two field trips have been provided. Balseskin residents were invited to visit St. Anne’s Park, Clontarf and were led on a guided tour of an extensive Victorian landscape, by the Guinness family. The public space contains a wealth of features including numerous follies and gardens with panoramic views of Dublin Bay extending towards the Dublin mountains. The tour concludes with a visit to an active archaeological excavation (led by James Kyle, ABH Ltd.) of the former Guinness estate house. In all, the programme encourages residents to actively participate and engage with Ireland’s cultural heritage through the positive integration of diverse groups, resulting in an enhanced pride of place within Irish society. Furthermore, the programme aims to promote social capital leading to improved well-being.

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 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

 1 NO POVERTY	 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	 4 QUALITY EDUCATION
 5 GENDER EQUALITY	 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	



# Contact Information



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UCD's community engagement initiative

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