What will you learn on the programme?

There are a range of benefits to taking part in the Laidlaw Programme such as:

- You will increase your employability by developing your skills and confidence in research, designing a project and leadership situations.
- You will gain valuable transferable skills in project management, leadership, communications and team working.
- You will undertake a unique research project with funding provided.
- You will have the opportunity to become part of the prestigious Laidlaw Scholars community and to become involved in profile raising opportunities during the Programme.

Can you apply to be a Laidlaw Scholar?

You are eligible to apply if you are:

2nd year of a 4-year undergraduate degree programme in 17/18
OR
2nd or 3rd year of a 5-year undergraduate degree programme in 17/18
OR
2nd or 3rd year of a 5-year integrated masters degree programme in 17/18 (e.g. MAI, Pharmacy).

The applications are not open to visiting students due to the length of the programme.

How do I apply to be a Laidlaw Scholar?

Applications for the 2019 session will open in December 2019.
Application requirements

You need to submit the following in your application:

A research project title
You should propose a research question of your choice, in an area you’re interested in and which isn’t part of your core curriculum. It can build upon topics you’ve studied as part of your programme. You should approach an academic staff member whose research interests are in the area of your research topic and ask them if they’d be willing to support your project as a supervisor.

Project summary
A short summary of the research question and objectives in simple terms which can be understood by a non-expert.

There is no set length for the project summary - it should be succinct, and as long as required to explain your proposal in sufficient detail for the application stage.

A statement of support from your project supervisor

A statement on how you wish to develop as a leader (300 words max)

A statement on how you intend to develop academically and personally through research (300 words max)

Projects with an international dimension or of an interdisciplinary nature are encouraged.

You can check out the following resources to help you define your research question:

Examples of Laidlaw Research Project Titles
An Overview of Trinity’s Research Themes
Trinity’s Policy on Good Research Practice
Trinity’s Research Homepage

You can use the keyword search facility on the research homepage to identify experienced members of the academic staff and their research interests.
How will your application be assessed?

A review panel will assess the applications in these areas:

- The student’s research proposal
- The student’s research and leadership statement.
- The supervisor’s supporting statement.
- The student’s academic record.

The panel will decide on the strongest applications, taking into consideration the quality of the candidate, research project content and leadership potential. Interviews with shortlisted applicants will be used as part of the selection process. The decision of the Review Panel is final.

Who can I ask to be my supervisor?

You can ask any permanent member of Trinity’s academic staff to support your application – this staff member would ideally have research interests in the same area as your proposed project. They will need to be available to support you for the duration of the programme; this will include regular meetings with you as you progress through your schedule of work, providing needed resources in the department and advising you on any requirements in terms of ethical approval and risk assessment, if required.

You can ask more than one supervisor to support your project, they will both need to sign a letter of support. You can also search the Trinity research pages to search for academics who have research interests which overlap with your project - www.tcd.ie/research/

What happens if my supervisor leaves Trinity during the programme?

Supervisors and students should discuss the length of the programme as part of the initial proposal meeting and it is expected that the supervisor commits to supporting you for the entire length of the programme. If your supervisor leaves their post in Trinity due to unforeseen circumstances we will support you and your department in identifying an alternative academic in Trinity who can replace your supervisor for the remainder of your project.

What format is required for the supervisor's letter of support?

There is no set format required for the letter of support. Your supervisor should outline their support for your project, that the resources of the department will be made available, and their availability to supervise for the duration (and any factors relevant at this time). Any additional pertinent details of support from the supervisor, e.g. if your research project requires ethical approval, should be included in this letter.
What funding is provided to students?

If you are successful in becoming a Laidlaw Scholar, you will receive a stipend of €550 per week for the 10 weeks of your research project. There will also be a travel fund available to which you can apply if you feel your research requires travel outside Trinity.

What is included in the travel fund?

You can apply to the travel fund if your research would be best supported by travel outside Trinity - you must have the written support of your supervisor for any proposed trips. This can also apply to conferences. This fund only covers the cost of travel abroad (flights, visas, inoculation, transport in-country). Subsistence and conference fees are not included and accommodation costs should normally be paid from your research stipend. For more information on the travel fund see:

Laidlaw Travel Fund Application Form

Laidlaw Travel Fund Application Form (Notes)

I'm an international student - will I be able to take part in this programme under my visa?

Students from the European Economic Area (EEA) may take up employment in Ireland while studying. If you are unsure about your status, please contact the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS).

Students from outside the EEA attending a full-time course of at least one year's duration leading to a qualification recognised by the Minister for Education and Skills are granted a Stamp 2. If you have a Stamp 2 you are entitled to take up employment in Ireland during your studies. Stamp 2 entitles you to undertake casual part-time work for up to 20 hours per week during term time, and up to 40 hours casual full-time work per week from 15th December to 15th January and during June, July, August and September.

In order to work in Ireland you will need to get a Personal Public Service Number (PPS Number), but you need to have evidence of a job offer to secure one. The first step is to find work, and then apply for a PPS number. Find out more at the Citizens Information Board website.

Can I opt out of part of the programme?

To get the most out of the programme, we expect you to commit to take part in all activities during the duration of the programme and to prioritise your time to allow you to get fully involved.
During the 17 months, we will ask you to submit a report about your research, including insights from your time on the leadership development programme, a video which explains your research findings, and a poster outlining your project. You may also be expected to contribute to blogs for Trinity’s website, and for the Laidlaw Undergraduate Research and Leadership Programme website.

You will need to work full-time on your research project during the weeks for which you will receive a stipend; you will not be able to travel on holidays or undertake other paid work during these periods. We will not be able to provide any extensions to these five week research periods.

What happens on a leadership development programme?

The leadership development section of the programme is made up of residential weekends, online reflection modules, and mentoring, with an emphasis on personal development, self-awareness and communication skills. Two leadership workshops will be residential and will be run off-campus, with a focus on interactive learning and team activities. There will also be ongoing mentoring and online learning activities, in addition to opportunities for networking and reflection. There will be modules to help you develop your research skills and to train you to use video to report on your research findings.

What reporting is required?

You will be asked to write a report on your project (up to 3000 words) as well as producing a poster explaining your research question, and a short video clip (up to three minutes) reflecting on your experience. All posters will be displayed at the final Laidlaw Scholar Event to be held in 2019, which will be a public event open to staff, students and members of the wider Trinity community.

The award of a Laidlaw Scholarship will also be included on your official Trinity transcript.

An annual programme report will be sent to Lord Laidlaw detailing the scholarships awarded and highlighting particular successes. The report will also contain feedback from participating students.
What happens to my data if I am selected for the Laidlaw Undergraduate Research and Leadership Programme?

Click here to read the Laidlaw Undergraduate Research and Leadership Programme Data Protection Statement

As part of participation in the Laidlaw Undergraduate Research and Leadership Programme, the University will share the following data about Laidlaw Scholars, which will be used for the purposes outlined, below:

- Your name and project title will be published on the University’s Laidlaw webpage.
- Your name and email will be forwarded to the Laidlaw organisation to allow them to be added to the Laidlaw Scholars intranet.
- You will be required to provide details of your research project; this will allow Laidlaw scholars to see the project titles of each other’s research and make contact with one another.
- Your name and dietary requirements will be forwarded to any external venues used in the leadership development programme.