



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

Update from the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities

School of Education, Trinity College Dublin

February 2018



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Dear Partners,

On behalf of all of us here in the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities, I would like to thank you for your continued support, both financial and practical, which has allowed us to further develop our education programme for our students as well as allowing us to develop new internship opportunities for our graduates.

It was really wonderful to meet so many of you at our Business Partners Meeting at the end of October. We are incredibly grateful to all of you for taking the time out of your very busy schedules to be there and for giving us such hugely valuable feedback.

We are very much looking forward to collaborating with you even further in 2018.

Here are just a few of our highlights over the past few months here in the TCPID.

With warmest thanks as always for your support,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mae Devitt".

TCPID Pathways Coordinator

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Tel: 01 8963885

Please follow all our latest news on our website at www.tcd.ie/tcpid as well as on Facebook [@InclusionTCD](https://www.facebook.com/InclusionTCD), Twitter [@IDTCD](https://twitter.com/IDTCD) and Instagram [inclusiontcd](https://www.instagram.com/inclusiontcd)



ASIAP Students



Our 2nd year students are enjoying the challenge of their second year and are studying a number of new modules which have a strong business focus, including Marketing, Entrepreneurship and of course their Work Placement. In addition to those, they are also completing a number of other core modules such as Film Studies, Research Theories and Health Promotion.

Our 2nd years have recently started their work placements with some of our business partners. The work placement takes place every Friday morning for a period of 8 weeks. We are incredibly grateful to each of the companies who have taken a student on for their work placement opportunity. The feedback from both our students and our partners has been extremely positive so far.

All of our students also take part in Occupational Therapy classes and one-on-one sessions with our Senior Occupational Therapist. This ongoing occupational therapy support is core to our programme.

In September we welcomed 7 new students for our ***Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice*** course. The students have settled in very well so far and are enjoying life as students of Trinity College.

Our 1st year students are studying a diverse range of modules, including Learning Theory and Practice, Language and Society, Human Rights, Disaster Management and Expressive Arts to name a few.



Furniture donated by Avolon

A huge thank you to the Avolon team for the incredibly generous donation of stunning furniture to use here in our College Green offices. Particular thanks go to John Higgins, Reyhana Ryan and Anna Macdonald who organised the donation.



The furniture has really transformed the space and allows us to create a wonderfully relaxed environment for classes, meetings and events. Many of you got to see the beautiful Avolon furniture when you attended the annual Business Partners meeting in October.

Our staff, students and graduates are so appreciative of this very generous gift.





First Annual Business Partners Meeting

We held our first annual TCPID Business Partners meeting in October 2017. We were delighted to have a fantastic attendance on the day. This shows how committed our partners are to working with us to make a real difference to our students and graduates.

At the meeting partners discussed their hopes and concerns about their partnership with the TCPID and looked at ways to develop further collaborations and improve the partnerships even further.



Some of the main points to come out of the discussions include:

Expectations

- No token roles for TCPID graduates – real meaningful roles
- Advance preparation hugely important before each placement
- Ongoing support needed from TCPID
- Full time employment eventually

Fears

- What if placement doesn't work out?
- Opening horizons and then closing them once placement ends
- Doing something wrong
- Don't want this to be a CSR thing, but a core part of the company
- Worried about matching the right role to the right person

Hopes

- Permanent employment opportunities
- Senior leadership buy-in
- Enjoyable, valuable and challenging work for each placement
- Raising awareness through visibility of diversity and inclusion in the workplace

What can TCPID do to give more support?

- Regular updates and/or meetings with Pathways Coordinator
- Training workshop on working with people with intellectual disabilities
- Connect companies with each other to share information
- Share experience of work placements
- Establish clear expectations from the beginning



We will take on board all of your hugely valuable feedback and work to try to enhance the partnerships even further. We hope to add more businesses to the TCPID Business Network over the coming months while still maintaining the close collaboration and support with our existing partners.

Your support has allowed us to be able to offer real, meaningful employment options for our graduates. This is something that is making a huge difference, not only to the graduate themselves but to their families also.





Social Innovation Award

We were incredibly honoured to secure an award from the Social Innovation Fund Ireland (SIFI)'s Education Fund in October. The awardees were announced by the Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton TD. Funding awards were made to projects that have demonstrated innovation in education service provision that tackles educational disadvantage.

According to SIFI, the Education Fund identified the “best in class” innovative education programmes that serve as models of excellence in overcoming inequalities in education with a long-term positive impact on their young and adult learners, their families and communities. Proving and improving their impact, these projects have strong potential to be replicated across Ireland with a view to creating a community of innovators who have the collective ability to create systemic change.

The SIFI fund is one of the most significant government investment initiatives that supports investments of private philanthropy in programmes that tackle educational disadvantage. The Education Fund is the largest SIFI fund to date and is made up of 50% private philanthropic funding, self-raised by the awardees. What this means is that any generous financial support that we receive from you, our business partners supports our growth plans with SIFI. As a result, your contribution will allow us to leverage additional funding which will lead to additional opportunities to develop our programme even further and to hopefully replicate the model of the TCPID into other locations in Ireland.





Student Trip to GE Capital Aviation Services Shannon

Our 2nd year students were invited on a wonderful trip to the GE Capital Aviation Services facility in Shannon in November. The students were treated to a tour of the GECAS offices, followed by lunch with the team and a tour of the Lufthansa Technik aircraft maintenance facility. We even got to climb into an aircraft that was in the process of being refitted. It was a very special day for everyone involved!



A huge thank you goes to Rebecca Connolly and Michael Deeny for setting up this wonderful day out.

Pity we didn't get to keep the shoes!!





Student Work Placements

Our 6^{2nd} year students started their work placements at the beginning of February. Before starting their placements, the students were all very nervous about the prospect of being in a new environment without the support of their classmates.

Our students are currently on placement in the following companies:

- **A&L Goodbody** – 1 student
- **Arthur Cox** – 1 student
- **Bank of Ireland** – 2 students
- **EY** – 1 student
- **GECAS** – 1 student

Thanks to the fantastic teams in each of the businesses, our students have loved every single second of being on work placement so far. A huge thank you goes to each of the wonderful mentors who have been such a support to our students and to the placement coordinators in each company who made all of this possible.





Graduate Work Placements

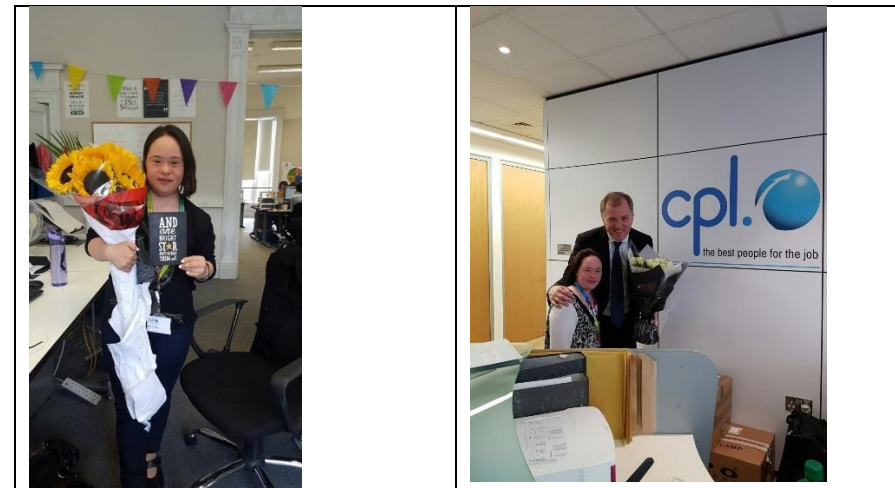


We have had a number of very successful graduate work placements since our last update in July. In addition to the placements listed here, we are in the planning stages for more which we hope will start in the next few months.

The benefits of these placements cannot be underestimated. Many of our graduates have never been offered the chance to have meaningful, paid employment before. Being in an office environment with a team of colleagues who value their contribution has had a huge impact, not only on each of the graduates, but on their families also.

- **Avolon** – 3 month graduate contract which has been extended by a further 3 months.
- **Bank of Ireland** – 2 month graduate contract.
- **Chartered Accountants Ireland** – 4 month graduate contract.
- **EY** - 6 month graduate contract in EY and this has been extended by a further 5 months.
- **Orix Aviation** – 3 month graduate contract.
- **Permanent TSB** – 6 month graduate contract.
- **SMBC Aviation Capital** – 3 month graduate contract.

Our biggest graduate success story of the past few months is that **our graduate Mei Lin Yap is now a permanent employee of Cpl Resources** after completing a 6 month contract there.



Permanent employment is our ultimate goal for any of our graduates who want to move into employment. We believe that with your help we can have many more success stories like Mei Lin's.



Music Workshop with Dave McPhillips of The Coronas

We surprised our students in January with a visit from Dave McPhillips, lead guitarist with **The Coronas**. Dave very kindly offered to deliver our first ever music workshop. Our students all got to practice their musical skills in a fun and relaxed environment.

The event was held in our **Margaret McLoughlin Expressive Arts space** which was dedicated in 2017 by the McLoughlin family in memory of Margaret. We are very grateful to the entire McLoughlin family for their years of very generous support.

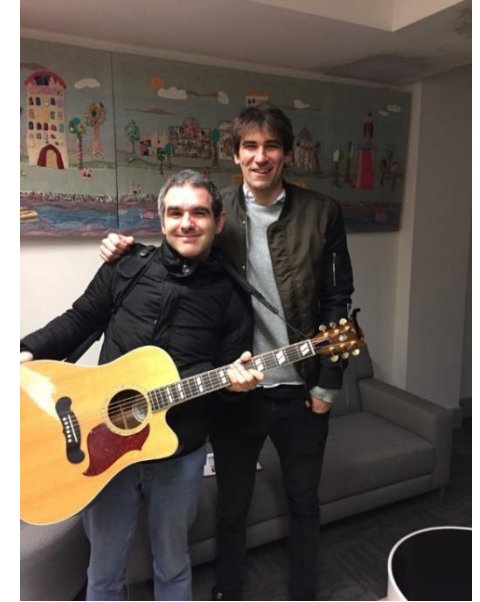


We uncovered some serious musical talent amongst the group during the music workshop. A couple of the students treated us to incredible solo performances.

We would like to give a huge thank you to Dave for taking time out of his very busy schedule to spend time working with our students. It is an experience that many of them will never forget!

Dave and The Coronas now have some serious new mega-fans!







New Collaborations

We are delighted to announce some exciting collaborations with new TCPID Business Partners / Business Patrons.

The partnership with all of our Business Partners will allow us to create further opportunities for our students and graduates to grow in confidence and to develop essential workplace skills and knowledge. This will be achieved through work placements, mentoring, training workshops and graduate contract opportunities. The ultimate goal is to find permanent employment for our graduates and to help to build true inclusion in the workplace and in the community

PayPal allows any business or individual with an email address to securely, conveniently and cost-effectively send and receive payments online. Their network builds on the existing financial infrastructure of bank accounts and credit cards to create a global, real-time payment solution. They deliver a product ideally suited for small businesses, online merchants, individuals and others currently underserved by traditional payment mechanisms. PayPal plan to offer a training workshop for our students this Summer as well as a graduate contract in the next few months.



Permanent TSB are a leading provider of personal financial services in Ireland. One of our graduates has recently started a 6 month contract with the HR team in Permanent TSB.



SMBC Aviation Capital is one of the world's leading aircraft lessors, with c. 100 airline customers in 41 countries. Established in 2001, the company rebranded to SMBC Aviation Capital in 2012 following its acquisition by a consortium comprising two of Japan's biggest companies SMFG and Sumitomo Corporation. One of our graduates completed a 3 month contract in SMBC Aviation Capital in December and we are already working together to set up the next placement opportunity.





2018 Open Day

We will be having our 2018 **Open Days** for our Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice course on the following dates so please pass the information on to anyone who might be interested.

There will be a course presentation and people will have an opportunity to meet with our lecturers and our current students

Wednesday March 7th 5.00 – 6.30pm

TCPID, 4TH Floor, 3 College Green (entrance between Starbucks and Costa Coffee)

Saturday March 24th 12.00 – 2.00pm

Room 4035, Arts Block, Trinity College Dublin

The closing date for applications for September 2018 will be April 30th 2018 and interviews will take place in late May 2018.

In addition to this, we will be having our first **TCPID Summer School** from June 26th to 28th 2018. This Summer School will be open to students accepted onto programme for September 2018 and those who may wish to apply in the future but not currently accepted/registered.





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Thank you as always to all of our Business Patrons, Business Partners and other collaborators for your continued support



GECAS

