



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

July 2020



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Dear Partners,

I hope that you and your families are all safe and well during these uncertain times. It is hard to believe how much our lives have changed over the past few months. When I sent out my February update, I could never have imagined what was just around the corner for all of us. The COVID 19 crisis has dramatically changed the world of education and the world of business. Some aspects have been incredibly challenging but there are many that have been positive. We have all had to embrace new ways of learning and of working. Virtual classes and meetings via Zoom, Teams, Google Meets etc have now become the norm.

I am very proud to say that our students all managed incredibly well with the change to online learning and all successfully completed the remainder of the course through online classes and assessments. They had very little time to adjust to the changes and they all coped exceptionally well with the challenge.

The TCPID teaching team, along with all teachers and lecturers across the world, had to adapt their teaching to an online format in a very short space of time. It is truly remarkable how efficiently and effectively this was done to ensure that our students did not struggle with what was required of them.

We interviewed all of our 2nd year graduating students to get their views on the course, on Trinity, on their work placements and on the COVID 19 crisis. You can read all the wonderful interviews here to get a true sense of what the past two years have been like for each of them.

One thing that came across very clearly from all the interviews was how much the students had been enjoying their work placements earlier this year and how disappointed they were when these placements were cut short. They all unfortunately missed the chance to say goodbye to their mentors and to their teams, but we hope that they may have the opportunity to meet again in the future once it is safe to do so.

As you know, we had to cancel all of our scheduled business partners workshops, as well as our annual SciFest@TCPID student programme and exhibition. We look forward to hopefully rescheduling these to May 2021 instead. These are always a big highlight each year for the students and for me personally.



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Any new graduate internships also had to be postponed due to the COVID 19 crisis. Our aim is to hopefully start these towards the end of 2020 if it is safe to do so at that point. We are very keen that our graduating students will have the opportunity to do some internships with our partners and we are actively looking for internship opportunities from you. While I know that it is very difficult to plan for the coming months, if any of you feel that an internship might be possible within the next 6 months, please let me know.

We have been overwhelmed with the supportive messages from all of you and we are incredibly grateful that you have remained with us throughout such a difficult time. As you know, your support is critical to the success of the TCPID. Our students, our graduates and our entire TCPID team are incredibly grateful for all that you continue to do for us.

I greatly miss the fact that I cannot meet with any of you in person for now, but I am very much looking forward to when we can meet again safely.

I cannot thank you all enough for continuing to support the TCPID.

Stay safe and I will be in touch with you over the coming months,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Marie Devitt'.

TCPID Pathways Coordinator

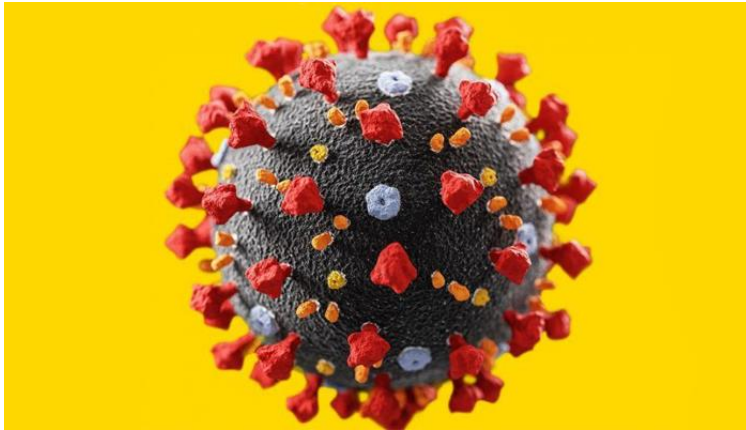
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COVID 19 Update



Just like the rest of the country, Trinity College closed its doors on Thursday March 12th and the remainder of the teaching term was then switched to an online format. This was a huge challenge for everyone involved but all managed remarkably well. Our 1st and 2nd year students all successfully completed the remainder of their course and submitted their assignments online.

We were forced to cancel our Open Days and candidates were asked to submit applications for the course via email. Candidates were then invited to attend a Zoom interview with the selection panel. I am delighted to announce that we have a wonderful incoming cohort of students for September 2020 who are all very excited to start their Trinity College Dublin journey

Trinity has started the process of re-opening and is working towards starting the academic year on September 28th for current students and on October 5th for new 1st year students. Freshers Week is scheduled to take place during the week of September 28th. While this will be very different from previous years, all efforts are being put in place to ensure that it will be as special and as memorable as always.

Strict new measures are being put in place across the Trinity College campus to ensure the safety of all our students and staff. This is the main priority of everyone involved. Currently it is planned that all large lectures will be held online while smaller tutorials will hopefully take place on campus with strict social distancing measures in place.

Trinity College researchers have been hugely active over the past few months and we are proud of all the work that has been achieved so far. I would particularly like to draw your attention to the work of our colleagues in the School of Education who have completed significant research with parents, schools and students about the impact of COVID 19. You can read the reports here:

<https://www.tcd.ie/Education/research/covid-19/>

This will be a year like no other for everyone, but we are all working hard to ensure that students will still have a wonderful Trinity College experience when they join us in September.



TCPID Student Experiences

We conducted interviews with each of our graduating 2nd year students who finished their course during the COVID 19 crisis. These incredible students coped so well with all the changes and with the fact that they had to complete the remainder of their course online. We are incredibly proud of them and we see a very bright future ahead for each of them.

Benóg Brady Bates



TCPID Graduate Benóg Brady Bates

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and your background?

My name is Benóg. I live in Cork. I do a lot of cycling and I play lots of sports. I like to travel.

Why did you decide to come to Trinity College Dublin to complete the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice?

I decided to come to Trinity College Dublin because I wanted to make more friends and to get education. I wanted to feel independent and to know more about myself, to see what are my weaknesses and my strengths. I found out that I have a learning disability. I feel everyone should be equal.

What did you enjoy most about Trinity College?

What I enjoyed most about Trinity College was making new friends and playing sports and using the free gym.

What did you enjoy most about the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice course?

One of my favourites was using my skill of rap and music making in the SciFest STEM project. I also enjoyed acting and drama a lot. The work placement was brilliant I got to work with the pharmaceutical company ICON.

What did you find difficult?

Trying to get all my exams done in time I found that hard.



What helped you during your time in Trinity College Dublin?

All my family and my friends supported me through all the two years in college. College made me think like a student and made me think that I could take the chance to travel.

What would your advice be to other students who might be considering applying for the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Practice?

Don't be shy going in college. Head up to college. It is a fantastic experience because you get to learn new skills and you to get to meet new people.

What is your most special memory of your time in Trinity College Dublin?

Going to the gym and socialising more with students

What will you miss the most about Trinity College Dublin?

I will miss learning about disability rights.

What are your goals for the future?

My goals are trying to get a new job and to travel and to be more independent.

My Work Placement

Where did you do your work placement earlier this year?

I worked in ICON in Leopardstown. I loved it.

Tell us about your role and about the team that you worked with?

I had to use my skills in photography and take pictures of the staff and the gym.

Can you tell us about any new skills that you learnt during your work placement?

I learned how to use the computer and to work in an office, and to use a swipe card

What did you enjoy the most about your work placement experience?

Having their food and coffee and being able to use their amazing camera to take pictures.

Was there anything that you found difficult?

Trying to get to know everyone and finding the different places in the building.



Is there a message that you would like to send to your mentor or to your team since the placement was cut short?

Thank you for your time and for getting to show me your place of work. ICON is a brilliant company. I met the boss and all the lovely staff. I would like to go to the horse racing. I had a fantastic time.

COVID 19

Can you tell us about your experience of the COVID 19 crisis?

This year with the COVID 19 was difficult because I had to do exams and presentations online as well as doing online class work.

Did you find it difficult doing your classes and submitting your assignments online?

Yes I did because it's hard to get up look at a computer and do your assignments online.

Is there anything that would have made the experience of online classes easier?

No because it was my first time.

What new skills have you learnt because of the COVID 19 crisis?

Using the computer for the first time and using the Zoom.

Aoife Cleary



TCPID Graduate Aoife Cleary

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and your background?

My name is Aoife. I am an only child and live near the phoenix park with my mam and dad. I love reading walking and listening to music I recently developed an interest in classical guitar and would love to learn how to play it.



I am very shy and it takes time for me to get used to new places and people but with lots of encouragement I can do great things and surprise people.

Why did you decide to come to Trinity to complete the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice?

I wanted to learn more and go to college like my friends so that I would get a good job. Being in Trinity has made me very happy. I am more confident. The course had a lot of what I liked, including Art, Drama and the Occupational Therapy module which will hopefully help me to get job.

What did you find difficult?

I found getting up in front of class to give presentations hard. I would have liked to join the Drama society, but I would have needed additional support for that. I found group work hard because some students didn't reply to emails.

What was your most special memory about your time in Trinity College?

My special memory is just being a student, being in college like everyone else, the noise of all the students at lunch and going to lectures. I loved going on field trips with John to the National Art Gallery.

SciFest was a good memory too. Everyone who came to see our projects gave us loads of encouragement.

Travelling on the Luas on my own to my job in Carne Group made me feel very grown up and I loved being able to do the work that I was given.

What will you miss about Trinity College?

I will miss the TCPID team and all my class.

I will miss all the other students.

What are your goals for the future?

I would like to go back to Carne Group where I did my work placement. I loved being able to do the work I was given. My goal is to get a proper job. I want to join a drama group and learn how to play classical guitar.

My other goal is to be supported to live independently.

Trinity has made me believe in myself and to know that by working hard you can reach your goals.



Liam Cummins



TCPID Graduate Liam Cummins

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and your background?

My name is Liam Cummins. I am 22 years old. I live in Dublin near the Phoenix Park. I went to primary school in St John Bosco's on the Navan Road and then to St. Michaels school in Chapelizod. After secondary school I did a level 3 course at the National Learning Network in Mulhuddart.

When I was younger, I played Gaelic football and hurling. Now I play soccer and basketball and floorball with Sports Club 15 in Blanchardstown. I like

meeting new people and I like playing sports. I am also a big Manchester United fan.

Why did you decide to come to Trinity College Dublin to complete the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice?

The course at Trinity College was a great opportunity to get a good education and a level 5 certificate. The course also looked very interesting with lots of new and different subjects like poetry and film studies and marketing and occupational therapy to learn about.

What did you enjoy most about Trinity College?

I enjoyed learning new subjects and meeting new people and going to the classes. I also enjoyed going into the college every day and I liked meeting my classmates and going for lunch between the classes.

What did you enjoy most about the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice course?

I enjoyed learning about all the subjects on the course and I really enjoyed doing SciFest. I think that I was most interested in Disability Rights and Occupational Therapy because they are the subjects that I think will help me to get a job. I really enjoyed the work placement even though it got cut short because of the coronavirus.



What did you find difficult?

Sometimes it was difficult to know what work I had to do at home if I didn't get an email from my lecturer because I am not very good at taking notes in class. Sometimes I took pictures of the work on the board and that would help me.

What helped you during your time in Trinity College Dublin?

My Lectures and the mentors helped me during my time in Trinity. I also got some help from my parents.

What would your advice be to other students who might be considering applying for the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Practice?

I would tell them that it is a very good course and you learn lots of different subjects. That you will meet lots of new people and that you will enjoy the time in the college campus. I would tell them that they will have a lot of work to do at home to make sure that they always know what they have to do.

What is your most special memory of your time in Trinity College Dublin?

I really enjoyed doing the SciFest project because it was a lot of fun doing the experiments with my mentor Ben. I enjoyed showing the work we did and telling everyone all about it.

What will you miss the most about Trinity College Dublin?

I will miss going into the college and meeting my classmates and the lecturers. I will also miss learning something new every day.

What are your goals for the future?

My goals for the future are to get a job and get my own house.

My Work Placement

Where did you do your work placement earlier this year?

I did my work placement in GECAS.

Can you tell us about your role and about the team that you worked with?

The team I worked with at GECAS was Rebecca Connolly who was the office manager and my mentor and Lucy Heaney who helped me to get my work done. I also worked with Michael Deeny and Mark England who explained to me all about how aircraft works. When I arrived at GECAS first I met Susan at the reception desk. Susan told me that I have to sign in before I could go inside. Susan gave me my I.D. card and she showed me how to use it to open the doors in the office. I then had to check that it worked okay to get in and out of the office.



My role at GECAS was to help the team with their work. Rebecca was my mentor and on my first day she introduced me to everyone in the office. Rebecca then showed me where my desk was. Then Rebecca asked me to carry some bags of display boards to the meeting room. I had to take them out of their bags and put them standing around the room. She asked me to take a photo of each display board with my phone. I then had to connect to the WIFI in the office on my phone and send the photos to Lucy. I had to print out the photos and stick them on each of the bags.

Lucy was one of my mentors and I helped her fill some presentation boxes that had to be packed up to be sent out to other companies. Then we took pictures of the GECAS marketing banners for the project at the end of my work placement.

Mark told me all about Helicopter leasing. This means that GECAS buy helicopters and then they lease them out to people all over the world that want to use them. They have all different types of helicopters. Some of them are very important because they are used to rescue people who are in danger. We watched some videos about rescue helicopters on YouTube. Because of the COVID 19 virus I didn't get to finish the last few weeks of work placement.

Can you tell us about any new skills that you learnt during your work placement?

Time Management Skills: I had to figure out how to make sure that I arrived on time at 09:30, I also learned about how long it takes me to complete a task when I was working on the billboards.

Communication Skills: I learned about how important it is to listen carefully and follow instructions to get a task done so that I can work independently. I learned that working independently means being able to work on my own.

What did you enjoy the most about your work placement experience?

I enjoyed learning about the different types of aircraft the GECAS lease all around the world.

Was there anything that you found difficult?

I found everything OK but one day I had to do some work with Twitter that I wasn't really used to because I never used it before.

Is there a message that you would like to send to your mentor or to your team since the placement was cut short?

Rebecca, I really enjoyed working with you and the rest of the team. I am sorry that I couldn't get to finish my work because of the virus.

COVID 19

Can you tell us about your experience of the COVID 19 crisis?

Because of the coronavirus I couldn't carry on with my work placement. I was very unhappy about this because I was looking forward to the work



placement all year and I even bought new work clothes. We all had to stay home after the lock-down and I missed going out to my sports clubs and college and my work placement.

Did you find it difficult doing your classes and submitting your assignments online?

No, I didn't find it difficult doing the Zoom assignments online.

Is there anything that would have made the experience of online classes easier?

When I was on Zoom, I found it easier to hear everyone when I was using headphones.

What new skills have you learnt because of the COVID 19 crisis?

I learned about how to meet other people online and attend my classes online.

What are you most looking forward to doing once the COVID 19 crisis is over?

When the coronavirus is over I want to get a job and meet my friends and get back to playing my sports.

Sadbh Feehan



TCPID Graduate Sadbh Feehan

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and your background?

My name is Sadbh Feehan, I am 22 years old, live in Carlow with my Mam Paula, Dad Dan and my brother Milo. I have a black cocker spaniel called Jet and a black and white cat Alfie

I am very involved with the Special Olympics Ireland. I do many sports with special Olympics which include horse- riding, swimming, running, bowling and basketball. I also take part with the athletic leadership group.



I am a young leader with the ladybirds in Carlow every Tuesday, I am a senior branch with the girl guides, I have been on many camping trips and trips abroad with my unit. I recently completed a brownie challenge for the brownie diva badge it was very difficult

I completed my two year course in Trinity College, I did part of an animal care course in Carlow College of Further Education, I ran for the Carlow Rose in 2017.

Why did you decide to come to Trinity College Dublin to complete the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice?

The reason why I wanted to go to Trinity College to complete the course was because my dad and my sister went to Trinity so I wanted to see what it would be like to be a part of college life. Also, I really wanted to step out my comfort zone and meet new people and learn more about disabilities I also wanted people to know that if you are willing to work hard that you will do wonderful thing in your life.

I wasn't too sure at the start, but I am glad that I stayed with it and completed the two years.

What did you enjoy most about Trinity College?

What I enjoyed about Trinity College was definitely the buzz around the campus, whether outside on the green or in the hall in the arts block, there was always something to see or do. I also really liked just being able to go for coffee before classes and after classes at the perch, or in Starbucks if we were in TCPID. I liked the fact that I even got the

chance to be a student in Trinity. It was a big thing in my life and I am so grateful for all of the lectures who helped us along the way to the end.

What did you enjoy most about the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice course?

What I enjoyed most about ASIAP was the inclusion with all the students in the class and the lectures were all so understanding. I got to experience everything that any other student would learn on the same level. Nothing was easy and we had to work just as hard as any other student would, but we also got some help along the way which I was so grateful for.

I also enjoyed the work placement in A&L Goodbody, which was so brilliant. I am so grateful to be able to have had my five weeks working there.

What did you find difficult?

What I found difficult was figuring out the timetable and time management, trying to find where I was meant to be at certain times. I also found that I had some difficulty interacting with people outside of my course.



What helped you during your time in Trinity College Dublin?

What helped me most during my time in Trinity was that my sister Sorcha would try and help me with any work I would need help with and that was really nice. If I ever needed to stay in Dublin, I would stay with my sisters in their house which was really handy. I would get up quite early with Sorcha or Etain, so we would have time to get breakfast before I went to college and they went to work. If I really needed to get work done, I would go to the Leckey or the Berkeley library and do some study with Sorcha which was really nice.

When I was in class I would get some help from Barbara, our OT, as well as from our lecturers and from friends.

What would your advice be to other students who might be considering applying for the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Practice?

My advice for anyone who is considering applying for this course would be just go for it because it is certainly worth it. You meet some amazing people in the process. Don't let anyone stop you from applying. You will become a lot more independent. I know I have become a lot more independent.

Don't doubt yourself! If I can do it surely you can too. I am not going to say that it was easy because it wasn't, but you don't know if you will enjoy it if you don't try.

I never thought that I could ever go to college but here I am two years later and can tell you with absolute confidence that it was the best two years of my life!

If you are thinking about applying, try going to the summer school it is worth it and if you think it's for you then fill the form and see and you get on from there.

What is your most special memory of your time in Trinity College Dublin?

To be honest I can't really pick one because I had so many great memories in Trinity. If I had to pick one, it would be the quizzes that we have every year in the TCIPD Building. The Summer School was pretty great too.

What will you miss the most about Trinity College Dublin?

What I miss most about Trinity is the interaction with other students, walking through the arch and just walking up to the square, going for coffee at the perch and going for lunch with my fellow classmates and going to Starbucks and even just sitting out in the sun reading a book outside the perch.

What are your goals for the future?

One of my big goals would be to get a job in an office and/or a part time job in an animal shelter.

I would like to live away from home at some stage of my life. I would like to open a coffee shop or run yoga classes with my sister in the long term.



I would like to represent Ireland in the Special Olympics World Games in basketball or horse riding.

I would like to open an animal rehabilitation centre for all types of animals. I would have a coffee shop and play area for young kids and a picnic area for families, a petting zoo.

I would like to become fluent in Spanish and to maybe study abroad in Spain or Italy.

My Work Placement

Where did you do your work placement earlier this year?

I had my work placement in A&L Goodbody Law Firm

Can you tell us about your role and about the team that you worked with?

My role while I was doing work placement was that I was basically job shadowing. I didn't work with just one team I was in different departments each week.

Can you tell us about any new skills that you learnt during your work placement?

I learnt a lot of new skills. For example, I learnt how to work their printers and their scanners. I got to post on their website about different events

that were coming up. I learnt how to make my presentations better and what I could do to improve them in the future.

What did you enjoy the most about your work placement experience?

What I enjoyed most about my work placement was meeting the teams that I was working with. I enjoyed learning about the company and what they do. I enjoyed discovering that I have a lot of things in common with my colleagues and being able to talk with them about lots of things.

Was there anything that you found difficult?

What I found difficult was trying to remember everyone's names in the departments. That was really the only thing that I found very difficult. and trying to find where the building was.

Is there a message that you would like to send to your mentor or to your team since the placement was cut short?

I would like to say thank you so much for welcoming me into your workplace, I am so grateful for letting me be part of your department. I learned so much in the short amount of time that I had with you all and I am hoping that I can see you all after this all over and catch up.



COVID 19

Can you tell us about your experience of the COVID 19 crisis?

The good experiences that I had during the COVID 19 was that I was very busy with classes, and doing a brownie challenge, getting housework done, learning Spanish on Duolingo, ballet classes, going to Dublin to see my sister's, having time to read a book and having time on my own, it was nice for my mam listening in on my classes so she could hear what my class times are like, having video chats with my friends, baking with my mam, not having to rushing of anywhere, saving money and not drinking too many Frappuccino's.

The bad experiences that I am having during COVID 19 is that I miss going on the train every morning, physical contact with my family and friends, going out for coffee/ lunch, traveling, not being able to go Special Olympics, being the house with everyone all the time, not having anything really to do or any places to go, to be able to get out of my head at times. My world has become a lot smaller in a lot of ways, one being that I find myself always on my laptop and more often than usual but not at the same time because I am still talking to my friends and family on the phone or on the laptop.

Did you find it difficult doing your classes and submitting your assignments online?

Yeah, some parts of it I found difficult because it was such a huge change, but I got used to it pretty quickly.

Is there anything that would have made the experience of online classes easier?

Honestly no, I don't think so because we had a lot of help during and before we had training so we could get used to using Zoom.

What new skills have you learnt because of the COVID 19 crisis?

I learned how to use Zoom. I learnt how to use House Party to keep in contact with my friends, I am learning how to speak Spanish on Duolingo, how cut the grass, time keeping, being ready on time for classes and being motivated, cooking dinner/baking cupcakes etc

What are you most looking forward to doing once the COVID 19 crisis is over?

I am looking forward to traveling, being able to see all my friends, being able to do my Special Olympic Sports, to go out for coffee with friends, going on the train, being able to give my friends and family hugs and being able to have the human contact again, being able to go to the girl guides.



Heather Marshall



TCPID Graduate Heather Marshall

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and your background?

My name is Heather Marshall. I am 22 years of age.

I live in Greystones with my parents and brother and sister. I am the eldest of the three.

I was born in Boston so i am an American citizen as well as an Irish citizen.

I went to a national school in Greystones and I went to NewCourt School in Bray for secondary school. NewCourt School is a school that caters for students with special needs.

When I was finished there, i went to the National Learning Network in Bray. I studied an Access course for 2 years. My biggest hobby is horse riding. I also volunteer in the riding school.

Why did you decide to come to Trinity College Dublin to complete the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice?

I decided to go to Trinity College Dublin because I wanted to further my education, to get a fresh start and to meet new people.

What did you enjoy most about Trinity College?

Being a student in a world-famous college made me very proud of myself.

What did you enjoy most about the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice course?

I loved going to class and walking to class with my friends.

What did you find difficult?

I found the exams and some classes a bit difficult.

What helped you during your time in Trinity College Dublin?

Barbara, Mary-Ann, Emma and my parents at home all helped me.



What would your advice be to other students who might be considering applying for the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Practice?

Go for it! Just be yourself. You have to commit to working hard for the 2 years and you have to be punctual for all your classes.

What is your most special memory of your time in Trinity College Dublin?

My most special memory is when I met my friends in Trinity for the first time.

What will you miss the most about Trinity College Dublin?

I will miss seeing my friends every day, travelling in on the Dart and seeing the lecturers.

What are your goals for the future?

My goal for the future is to get a good job.

My Work Placement

Where did you do your work placement earlier this year?

I did my work placement in Novartis.

Can you tell us about your role and about the team that you worked with?

I didn't really have a specific role because I was working in different departments each week.

Can you tell us about any new skills that you learnt during your work placement?

I learnt that I was flexible because I didn't mind moving around the different departments. My computer skills improved because I learnt how to locate people and book rooms for meetings.

What did you enjoy the most about your work placement experience?

I really enjoyed meeting new people and seeing what work they do in Novartis.

Was there anything that you found difficult?

I found it a little difficult remembering everyone's names because I was working in different departments.

Is there a message that you would like to send to your mentor or to your team since the placement was cut short?

To Maria, thank you so much for working with me on my work placement. I really enjoyed working with you and working in different departments as well. I really enjoyed getting to meet new people in Novartis. Thank you so much again.



COVID 19

Can you tell us about your experience of the COVID 19 crisis?

I found it pretty frustrating being stuck in the pandemic.

Did you find it difficult doing your classes and submitting your assignments online?

i found it a bit difficult at the beginning but once I did it a couple of times I found it easier.

Is there anything that would have made the experience of online classes easier?

No, I found it to be okay.

What new skills have you learnt because of the COVID 19 crisis?

We don't have to be in the same room to communicate. I have learned to use Zoom, HouseParty, Microsoft Teams and Google Hangout.

What are you most looking forward to doing once the COVID 19 crisis is over?

i am really looking forward to seeing my family and friends but also looking forward to travelling.
I am really looking forward to going back into Dublin to see my College.

Julie O'Brien



TCPID Graduate Julie O'Brien

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and your background?

My name is Julie and I will tell you about myself. I volunteer for Meals on Wheels. I do it 6 days a week. I joined a zoom quiz every Thursday at 7pm for kids in the community. I help to do swimming. Every Sunday night I feed the homeless and I volunteered to give out Communion.



Why did you decide to come to Trinity College Dublin to complete the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice?

I decided to come into Trinity because I finished my Leaving Cert and I met Mr Michael Shevlin in Maynooth and he said to my Mom that there was a course for students with special needs. I went for a interview with John, Barbara and Mary-Ann. I decided because I am a person with special needs since I was born with an extra chromone in my head that it was a good course for me.

What did you enjoy most about Trinity College?

I enjoyed of meeting new people and I enjoyed meeting with the new students. I enjoyed walking into my classes and I enjoyed of walking with my classmates. I enjoyed everything. I liked doing sports to keep fit. I was really good at time keeping for all my classes.

What did you enjoy most about the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice course?

I enjoyed when I got in for this course, I enjoyed Drama because I am fan of Drama. I enjoyed Marketing with Mary-Ann because I do Marketing in the hotel. I enjoyed of doing Film Studies because I am really good at acting and its really enjoyable.

What did you find difficult?

I found it difficult because I couldn't find the Business school for my Marketing class. I found Exploring Arts and Poetry difficult because I find

those subjects are hard to understand. I find the maths difficult as well in the Application of Numbers module because Maths is not my interest at all.

What helped you during your time in Trinity College Dublin?

Yes, I got a lot of support in Trinity College and I got helped by Barbara because Application of Numbers was hard and I had one on one meetings with her and it was great.

What would your advice be to other students who might be considering applying for the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Practice?

I would get some advice to the students if they are applying for the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice. They should get advice from other students when they start.

What is your most special memory of your time in Trinity College Dublin?

My special memory is when Mary-Ann and Barbara brought the whole class to the cinema and we brought the first years as well. Now we don't have Mary-Ann any more because she is moving to Sydney and we will all miss her so much.



What will you miss the most about Trinity College Dublin?

I miss Trinity because I love to travel to Trinity on the bus with my cousins because they were great to bring me up to Dublin. It was great because they have a lecture same time as me and sometimes they have a different time of lecture as well and I enjoyed it all and being part every week when I am in Trinity.

What are your goals for the future?

My future will be hopefully I will get my part time job back in the hotel if it opens up when the Virus is over. I might find another course in Dublin that would be great or I could find a job somewhere like in Bank of Ireland where I did my work placement.

My Work Placement

Where did you do your work placement earlier this year?

I did my work placement in Bank of Ireland. Marie and Barbara choose the Bank of Ireland for me and I am very happy about that.

Tell us about your role and about the team that you worked with?

I was working with Michelle and I was doing Excel and typing and I was printing my details out for my work placement presentation and putting it all together. My role was putting names of people and putting numbers on them and putting it all into Excel.

Can you tell us about any new skills that you learnt during your work placement?

I have learnt a lot of new skills from being on the computer. I did a lot of new things. I learnt to use the printer.

What did you enjoy the most about your work placement experience?

I enjoyed my work placement because I got a lot of experience. I paid attention to my mentor and I improved my typing skills. I liked having my own desk as well.

Was there anything that you found difficult?

Well on my first day I found it difficult because Michelle and I couldn't get into the computer because the computer was playing game on us. We got into it eventually and everything was okay except my badge was so small and I could have lost it very easily.

Is there a message that you would like to send to your mentor or to your team since the placement was cut short?

Well I am thinking of saying to Michelle and my team that I would to have job a someday in the Bank of Ireland and do some new things that I didn't do and finish off what I was doing with Eoghan because he was my mentor too. I didn't get to finish my work placement with the Bank of Ireland because of the Virus so I would love to come back again.



COVID 19

Could you tell us about your experience of the COVID 19 crisis?

Well I think the management of the Covid 19 crisis is good because it is all on the televisions now and hopefully we get the good news and advice about how we be safe from it like keeping our social distancing and making sure we that we wear masks, gloves and wash our hands every single day. My hands are sore from washing them so much!

Did you find it difficult doing your classes and submitting your assignments online?

No it was okay because I got loads of information from the lecturers. It was difficult sometimes because it was hard when we were linked in and all of that and was difficult to have to get up and get ready for Zoom classes, but we did get to sleep in later so that was good.

Is there anything that would have made the experience of online classes easier?

Well if we don't sleep in you can be on time for your classes. I think it would have been easier if the lecture started automatically and we didn't have to have a code to get in that would have been easier for us all.

What new skills have you learnt because of the COVID 19 crisis?

I learnt some new skills for Zoom because we were on our computers for 1 hour at a time. We were so busy and it was affecting our time but we did all the work that we were supposed to do and it was really enjoyable.

What are you most looking forward to doing once the COVID 19 crisis is over?

Well it be great when this is all over well it depends when Leo has to say and if is this all over then that be great for us.



Barry Olwill



TCPID Graduate Barry Olwill

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and your background?

My name is Barry I am from Carlow. I am 31 years of age.

I love all sports and I am a Special Olympian.

Why did you decide to come to Trinity College Dublin to complete the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice?

Because I wanted experience college life and I love learning about new things.

What did you enjoy most about Trinity College?

I enjoyed making new friends and I love the good feeling around the college.

What did you enjoy most about the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice course?

I loved every subject we studied during the course particularly disability rights class.

What did you find difficult?

I found PowerPoint presentations difficult in the beginning.

What helped you during your time in Trinity College Dublin?

Being able to talk to the lecturers if I had difficulties.



What would your advice be to other students who might be considering applying for the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Practice?

Go for it because you get lots of help so don't be afraid to try.

What is your most special memory of your time in Trinity College Dublin?

The first Christmas party/quiz stands out for me.

What will you miss the most about Trinity College Dublin?

Meeting up with my college friends.

My Work Placement

Where did you do your work placement earlier this year?

I did my work placement in Mason Hayes and Curran Law firm.

Can you tell us about your role and about the team that you worked with?

I worked with Liz Quinn my manager and Dan Mooney my mentor.

My role was filing case notes and all types of office work.

Can you tell us about any new skills that you learnt during your work placement?

I learnt how to answer the phone properly in the office setting. I learnt how to do filing.

What did you enjoy the most about your work placement experience?

I enjoyed having my own office and meeting new people and my trip to the Four Courts.

Was there anything that you found difficult?

No, I found nothing difficult.

Is there a message that you would like to send to your mentor or to your team since the placement was cut short?

Yes, I would like to thank both Liz and Dan for the support they gave me while I was on work placement. I was really enjoying the work I was given to do and the trust in me that I could do the job properly.



COVID 19

Can you tell us about your experience of the COVID 19 crisis?

I just did what was recommended by the health people to keep safe.

Did you find it difficult doing your classes and submitting your assignments online?

Yes, sometimes I had difficulty submitting assignments.

Is there anything that would have made the experience of online classes easier?

No, the classes were all fine.

What new skills have you learnt because of the COVID 19 crisis?

Using zoom was new to me, also presenting my assignments online.

What are you most looking forward to doing once the COVID 19 crisis is over?

Getting back to special Olympics sports and meeting my friends for real, not online.

Sinead Sharkey-O'Keeffe



TCPID Graduate Sinead Sharkey-O'Keeffe

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and your background?

I am 23 years old and I live in Skerries. I went to St Augustine's in Blackrock and lived in houses attached to the school during the week. I want to get a job and be like my brother. I want to keep studying part time.



Why did you decide to come to Trinity College Dublin to complete the Certificate in Arts, Science, and Inclusive Applied Practice?

I was interested in getting an award and doing something new.

What did you enjoy most about Trinity College?

I enjoyed studying different subjects. I felt great being part of Trinity and hanging out with my friends.

What did you enjoy most about the ASIAP course?

My favourite subjects were Disability Rights, Poetry and Marketing.

What did you find difficult?

I found Film Studies and Sign Language difficult.

What helped you during your time in Trinity College Dublin?

I got great help from Barbara, Marie, Mary-Ann and Shelli.

What would your advice be to other students who might be considering applying for the Certificate in Arts, Science, and Inclusive Applied Practice?

I would advise any other students to do this course as I really enjoyed it.

What is your most special memory of your time in Trinity College Dublin?

Being part of Trinity Campus. Making new friends and being in town.

What will you miss the most about Trinity College Dublin?

Everything, the lecturers, my friends and being challenged.

What are your goals for the future?

Get an internship and be kept on.

My Work Placement

Where did you do your work placement earlier this year?

I did my work placement in Ornu, on Mount Street, Dublin 2.

Tell us about your role and about the team that you worked with?

My mentors were Stephen and Jeanne. I also got help from Imelda as well.



Can you tell us about any new skills that you learnt during your work placement?

When I arrived there I was shown around the building and introduced to everyone. I was given my own desk and two computers to use. I learnt how to send emails and do a skype call. I was involved in a cheese and butter tasting.

What did you enjoy the most about your work placement experience?

I was asked to organize a fundraiser for my favourite charity.

Was there anything that you found difficult?

I found it difficult to work on two computers together.

Is there a message that you would like to send to your mentor or to your team since the placement was cut short?

Hi everyone, I really enjoyed working with all the team in Ornuu. Everyone was so helpful and nice to me. I hope to drop in one day to meet you all again.

COVID 19

Can you tell us about your experience of the COVID 19 crisis?

It was hard not to be able to go to college. All the lecturers did their best to support us.

Did you find it difficult doing your classes and submitting your assignments online?

Not really.

Is there anything that would have made the experience of online classes easier?

It would have helped if we could have had done a trial run beforehand.

What new skills have you learnt because of the COVID 19 crisis?

I have got better at using Zoom.

What are you most looking forward to doing once the COVID 19 crisis is over?

I am looking forward to starting an internship and meeting up with my friends that I met in Trinity. I am also trying to set up a Social Club when it's safe to meet inside.



Kai Tiernan



TCPID Graduate Kai Tiernan

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and your background?

I'm Kai, I have just completed the 2nd year of my course. I'm 20 and I did my LCA (Leaving Cert Applied) in 2018.

Why did you decide to come to Trinity College Dublin to complete the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice?

I decided to come to Trinity College Dublin to complete the 'Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice (ASIAP)' because it was a course for people who have intellectual disabilities like me and wanted to get a qualification for passing this course which I did.

What did you enjoy most about Trinity College?

I enjoyed being in the City Centre the most.

What did you enjoy most about the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice course?

I enjoyed the module 'Disability Rights and Practicum' the most which was my favourite module and the other module 'Expressive Arts' (Drama) the most from 1st year.

What did you find difficult?

I found finding my way around to college difficult when I was in 1st year but when I got used to going to those classes I remembered where to go then.

What helped you during your time in Trinity College Dublin?

Getting support helped me during my time in Trinity College Dublin which I'm thankful for.



What would your advice be to other students who might be considering applying for the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Practice?

My advice to the students would be to go to the Open Day to meet the lecturers, students, etc in Trinity to see what it's like and to think about whether you're interested in it or not before applying for it.

What is your most special memory of your time in Trinity College Dublin?

My most special memory of the time in Trinity College Dublin is winning the SciFest award for taking part in it.

What will you miss the most about Trinity College Dublin?

I will miss going to the library the most.

What are your goals for the future?

My goals for the future are to work in Trinity as an intern which I'm looking forward to and I'll see what happens after that.

My Work Placement

Where did you do your work placement earlier this year?

I did my work placement at Bank of Ireland Group Head Office on Baggot Street in Dublin this year.

Tell us about your role and about the team that you worked with?

My role was working on the computer by highlighting and marking the surveyor's names on Excel.

The team that I worked with was Colm, James, Sinead and a few others whom I got to know.

Can you tell us about any new skills that you learnt during your work placement?

I learned about shaking hands with my mentor/boss when meeting him at the reception, greeting with others and communicating during my work placement.

What did you enjoy the most about your work placement experience?

I enjoyed getting lots of support from my mentor which I'm really thankful for.

Was there anything that you found difficult?

I found nothing difficult.



Is there a message that you would like to send to your mentor or to your team since the placement was cut short?

I'd like to thank my mentor Colm for sitting beside me and for being very supportive while working on the computer. I really appreciate it. I also like to thank Sinead for helping me too while stepping in for Colm and to James for helping me. Of course, last but not least, I'd like to thank Rod for introducing me to my mentor Colm, having me at Bank of Ireland and getting paid for working hard.

COVID 19

Can you tell us about your experience of the COVID 19 crisis?

After hearing the coronavirus was spread all over Trinity, I had to stay at home. I didn't think classes would still go on by using Zoom on the computer. I thought lecturers were finished.

I felt stressed out and overwhelmed but I'm pretty much doing ok now. I enjoyed having laughs on Zoom and I love that software. It's fun to use.

When I was having classes online, it was breaking up because of my personal hotspot. I couldn't hear what everyone was saying and I had to keep telling them to repeat or type in a chat box what they were saying. There was no WiFi in my house until now.

Did you find it difficult doing your classes and submitting your assignments online?

No but the personal hotspot that I had to use made it a bit difficult.

Is there anything that would have made the experience of online classes easier?

Yes. When using the personal hotspot with no WiFi, I'd like the lecturers and classmates to type in a chat box more so that it would be a lot easier for me to read what they were saying if it's breaking up on me.

What new skills have you learnt because of the COVID 19 crisis?

I learned how to set up meetings on Zoom which is my favourite, attending meetings, etc.

What are you most looking forward to doing once the COVID 19 crisis is over?

I'm looking forward to going out for spins in the car around the country.



New Margaret McLoughlin TCPID Student Scholarship



We recently launched the new Margaret McLoughlin TCPID Student Scholarship programme. The Scholarship programme is named in honour of Margaret McLoughlin, daughter of Joan and Tony McLoughlin, and sister of Kieran, David and Louise.

Margaret, who had Down Syndrome, passed away in 2003 at the age of 25. The McLoughlin family have been huge supporters of the TCPID for many years and have already provided significant financial support, including the sponsorship of the Margaret McLoughlin Expressive Arts programme in 2011. The aim of the McLoughlin family has always been to help support people with intellectual disabilities to reach their true potential. This scholarship programme builds upon the very solid foundation of the existing support provided to the TCPID by the McLoughlin family.

The new scholarship will allow the TCPID to offer assistance to incoming students who might face financial barriers to support the costs of their participation in the 2 year Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice in Trinity College Dublin. One scholarship will be awarded each year to an incoming 1st year student.

Joan McLoughlin – Margaret’s Mother: *“It was only when Margaret joined our family, and when it became clear that she had no intention of complying with the medical prognostications of a very short lifespan, that we gradually realised there can be a reservoir of talent, ability and charm that often goes undiscovered and unrecognised in people who have Down Syndrome.”*

The work of TCPID in unlocking these people’s talents has advanced their place in society considerably. Tony, myself and our family and our many friends who supported us are very happy to play a small part in it’s work and development.”

Professor Michael Shevlin – TCPID Director: *“The Margaret McLoughlin scholarship provides a wonderful opportunity for young people who have an intellectual disability to participate in a higher education programme designed to enable these young people to become valued citizens in our society. We are very grateful to the McLoughlin family for their generous support which will make such a difference to the students who benefit and to their families.”*



Margaret McLoughlin



Permanent Roles

We are thrilled to announce that three more of our TCPID graduates have been offered permanent jobs with our partners.

Luke Campion – EY



TCPID Graduate Luke Campion

TCPID Graduate Luke Campion began work with EY in June 2019. He has been an integral part of the EY team since then with a hugely positive impact upon everyone he meets.

Alannah Mc Mahon Diversity and Inclusion Assistant Director at EY said
“You hear him long before you see him and instantly you can’t stop smiling because you know Luke is on his way. Beyond thrilled to welcome him as a permanent member of our team.”





Paula Conradie – PayPal



TCPID graduate Paula Conradie

TCPID Graduate Paula Conradie has been working with PayPal in their Dundalk office since August 2019. Paula had hoped for years to get an internship close to where she lives and was absolutely thrilled when the PayPal role was offered to her. Paula's positivity and enthusiasm has been evident to everyone in PayPal since day one.

Aisling Gordon, Head of Consumer Risk Operations EMEA at PayPal said:
"Paula will be returning to PayPal, rejoining the Consumer Risk Operations Team, as soon as it's safe to return to the office. In addition to helping out on Reception, part of Paula's role will be to support the fax process within Operations.

To ensure that Paula has variety in her role, she will also do a rotation across some of the other business groups in PayPal Dundalk, where her infectious enthusiasm will, no doubt, be of huge benefit to those she works alongside. "





Shane McGilton – Arthur Cox



TCPID graduate Shane McGilton

Shane McGilton completed an 8 week work placement with Arthur Cox in February 2018 while still a student in Trinity College. He did so well during this placement that he was invited back for a paid internship once he had finished his course in June 2018. She has been working in Arthur Cox since that date and recently found out that he had been offered a permanent contract there.

Geoff Moore, Managing Partner at Arthur Cox, said: *“We were delighted to offer Shane a permanent contract to work with us following his very successful placement from the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities (TCPID). As part of our Responsible Business programme, we strongly believe in supporting institutions that provide education to students from all walks of life. Shane helps us all be more aware of how we can make our workplace more inclusive and accessible. He is such a positive person to have as part of the Arthur Cox team and he helps us every day to be a more friendly, collaborative and team-orientated place to work.”*

ARTHUR COX



The Rory McDonagh Trust Gift to the TCPID

We are delighted to announce a generous gift from the Rory McDonagh Trust which will allow us to significantly upgrade and enhance classroom technology in the Centre. This new technology will vastly improve the learning experience for our students over the coming years, creating a truly interactive and engaging learning environment.

In addition to the classroom technology, the Rory McDonagh Trust will be providing a new laptop to every student enrolled on the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice in September 2020.

The current COVID 19 situation has shown us that we need to provide additional technology assistance to our students to help them to complete their education with all possible supports in place. We expect that the next academic year will consist of a blend of physical engagement on campus and online learning. This gift from the Rory McDonagh Trust will ensure that every student will be able to fully engage with the course whether in person or online.

About the Rory McDonagh Trust

The Trust was established in 2013 in memory of Rory McDonagh who died in a tragic accident in 2012. Rory was a graduate of Trinity College Dublin. Both Rory's father and sister are graduates of Trinity. The objectives of the Trust are to advance the education of young people and particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. In addition, the Trust supports the development of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds by enabling them to participate in sport. For example, since the Trust's establishment it has supported

the Trinity Access Programme through the provision of scholarships, it has built a school in rural Nepal and supported the football programme for a school in Kolkata.

Professor Michael Shevlin – TCPID Director: *“Technology plays an important part in all our lives. The generosity of the Rory McDonagh Trust will enable our students to fully engage with their studies and learn how to use technology in their adult lives.”*

Professor Damian Murchan – Head of the School of Education: *“Students on Trinity's Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice embrace the passion for learning shared by all students of the university. Through the generous gift from the Rory McDonagh Trust, our students will be able to better develop the four Trinity College attributes: to think independently, to communicate effectively, to develop continuously and to act responsibly. The trustees of the Rory McDonagh Trust share Trinity's passion to advance the education of young people in the most inclusive manner possible. I thank the trustees for their kind assistance in donating funds that will help to provide enhanced technology-enabled teaching and learning for the students and thus help them to realise their potential.”*

Further information about the Rory McDonagh Trust can be found at www.rorymcdonagh.org



New Collaborations

We are absolutely delighted to announce a new partnership with Keelings. The fact that this partnership has happened during the current crisis makes it even more meaningful as we know what a difficult time it has been for all businesses. We are really looking forward to working with all the team in Keelings over the coming years to develop further opportunities for our students and graduates.

Keelings is a 100% Irish-owned family business, focused on growing, sourcing, shipping, marketing, sales, distributing fresh produce and supplying first-in-class produce-specific ERP software solutions and consultancy. Its head office is located in Food Central, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Keelings started producing fruits and salads in the 1930's supplying produce to local Dublin markets. The Company has expanded to its current size with 5 divisions – Keelings Retail, Keelings Select, Keelings Market, Keelings International and Keelings Knowledge. Keelings is headquartered in Ireland but has operations in the UK, Europe and Costa Rica.

Keelings first engaged with the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities in Summer 2019 when Audrey Cahill, People Director at Keelings and Sylvia Caldwell, Learning and Development Manager at Keelings, met with Marie Devitt of TCPID. It was quickly obvious that such a partnership was a great opportunity for both parties. At Keelings, we have a diverse workforce that we are really proud of and understand the importance of providing equal education opportunities to everyone in the community. With a workforce of more than 2,000 people, Keelings are encouraging of both personal development and supporting inclusive opportunities for our people at all levels and abilities.

Audrey Cahill, Keelings People Director : *"We are delighted to partner with TCPID on this programme which aims to provide invaluable support for those pursuing academia with intellectual disabilities. Family values and personal growth are important to us at Keelings, and we are happy to be able to support a programme such as this and look forward to the opportunities that this will bring to the fore.*





Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
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Thank you as always to all of our Business Patrons, Business Partners and other collaborators for your continued support





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