Trinity Access Programmes (TAP)

The Trinity Access Programmes (TAP) are a key part of Trinity’s social mission. TAP aims to increase participation in education by students from non-traditional backgrounds, to address educational disadvantage and to create a university campus that mirrors the diverse composition of Irish society.

Since 1993, TAP has worked in partnership across the education sector and with families, communities and businesses to widen educational access through a range of innovative, targeted educational programmes. TAP provides a continuum of support to primary, second-level, young adult and mature students, enabling them to overcome barriers and fulfil their educational potential.

The TAP Programmes

The School & Community Outreach Links
A range of programmes and activities with up to 5,000 students, teachers and parents from TAP linked primary and second-level schools participating annually.

The TAP Foundation Courses for Higher Education
Year long preparatory courses which aim to prepare mature students and young adults for the academic, social and personal demands of third-level study. TAP also runs a series of pre-university programmes in partnership with a number of VEC Colleges.

The Post Entry Progression Programme
Encompasses a comprehensive range of services and supports - financial, academic and social - for TAP students currently studying in Trinity.

TAP Evaluation & Research – ‘Learning what works’
Continually evaluating TAP initiatives to ensure high quality and impact and conducting research to inform current practice, develop transferable models and influence policy.

TAP in Numbers

The annually increasing number of students and graduates of Trinity College from socio-economically under-represented groups are testament to the College’s dedication to widening participation and the success of the TAP initiatives.

- 515 TAP students currently studying in Trinity
- 404 TAP graduates from Trinity since 2002
- 157 students entered Trinity degree programmes through TAP routes
- 660 students from TAP linked schools progressed to higher education in 2010
- 5,000 students, parents and teachers participated in campus and school activities.

TAP Initiatives - 2011

Within the broad programme areas, TAP has developed a range of targeted interventions, each responding to an issue of key importance for the Irish education system:

Bookmarks
A creative literacy and book-making programme for primary school children.

The Maths & Science Initiative
A targeted programme supporting and enhancing maths and science tuition in selected partner schools.

Pathways to Law
A school and college based persistence programme to inspire students from under-represented groups interested in law and to support their educational formation.

Bridge2College
An innovative educational model utilising teamwork and technology to mediate a creative and cross-curricular learning experience for second-level school students.
Support for TAP

TAP’s mission has been strongly supported by a range of businesses, individuals and Trinity Alumni groups. We are extremely grateful for this invaluable support which has ensured that a transformative educational experience is available to people of all ages from disadvantaged areas of Dublin – one which will impact on their own families and communities for generations to come.

In addition to State funding, TAP endeavours to secure at least one third of the cost of all programmes from private philanthropic or corporate sources. This support has allowed TAP to continue to learn, grow and innovate. We are keen to ensure this support is sustained through these challenging times so that we can continue to offer hope and opportunity to those most at risk from adverse economic circumstances.

Why support the Trinity Access Programmes?

Support for TAP helps change lives, transform communities and is in a very real way an investment in Ireland’s future. To sustain this pioneering work, TAP is seeking the imaginative support of partners in social responsibility. By supporting TAP you will be helping to:

- Create opportunities and eliminate barriers for bright students from under-represented backgrounds
- Prepare the role models and leaders of the future in their schools and communities
- Change negative expectations and make a real difference in communities affected by disadvantage
- Effect positive change in the Irish education system
- Make a direct and lasting impact on thousands of lives.

“In these challenging times, it is more important to harness the talent and potential available in every part of society and channel it into the Ireland of the future. Business needs to be involved in helping address the challenges of widening access to education – this is why NCB is a TAP partner.”

Conor O’Kelly, Director of NCB

TAP Supporters

TAP 20 Partners
An expanding group of companies engaged in tailored partnerships with TAP – providing funding, strategic input and practical support for key programme areas. The TAP 20 Partners are: Accenture, Grant Thornton, Irish Life & Permanent, KPMG, NCB, Nissan Ireland, One 51 Foundation.

Corporate Supporters
Supporting TAP students, programmes and research: Allianz, Arthur Cox, Barclays, Citi, Knight Frank, Matheson Ormsby Prentice, SAS Institute, The Digital Hub, William Fry.

Trinity Alumni and Private Supporters
Trinity Annual Fund, TCD Association & Trust, University of Dublin Fund (US), The UK Trust for TCD and hundreds of TCD alumni.


If you are interested in finding out more about TAP, or would like information on how to get involved as a supporter, please contact:

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