

Work-Life Programme

A Key Objective of the CCL programme is to assist the students in finding appropriate employment on completion of the Certificate. The Work-Life Programme is part of the CCL and involves Career Development and Work Placement modules.



Information for Employers

Selection process: As with the general population, skill-sets and interests will vary from student to student. An initial task analysis, in conjunction with the prospective employer, identifies suitable roles and develops an appropriate job match for each student.

Support: The advice and support of a Vocational Support Officer from the NIID is available to employers and students at all times throughout their placements. A Job Coach is also available to support students at work and will be at hand when required to identify and resolve any barriers to a successful placement.



Working arrangements: As part of their placement, students are required to carry out 70 hours over the academic year. This works out at 2/3 hours per week. Students are not paid during their work placement. Students are covered by Trinity College insurance while on work placement. Graduates are generally employed on a part-time basis.

Benefits for Students

To date students of the CCL course have secured work-placements in diverse areas such as retail, office work, catering, childcare, and hotel work. A high number of CCL graduates have found part-time employment on a permanent basis while others have gone on to further education and training.

The benefits for students are:

- Increased independence, autonomy, and self-esteem
- Successful work experience contributing to successful paid work
- Employment promoting full citizenship

“People where I worked were very friendly and made me feel like one of the gang” - Jan Mahon, CCL Graduate

Benefits for Employers

Feedback from employers has been extremely positive with multiple benefits reported, including:

- Helping create an inclusive work environment
- Contributing to staff motivation and team-building
- Assisting planning and productivity in the workplace
- Providing a channel to implement community and corporate responsibility

“We are delighted that Emma and Brian have joined our team. They settled in straight away and have made a huge contribution already” - Irishjobs.ie

“One of our guiding principles is diversity in the work place and the team really enjoyed this element of the work placement” - Starbucks

How to Get Involved

Employers can become involved in supporting the Work-Life Programme at NIID in two ways:

- Providing placements on the Work Experience programme
- Considering NIID candidates for job opportunities after graduation

If you are interested in providing work experience or employment for one of our students / graduates we would be delighted to hear from you and provide you with further information.

Please contact:

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National Institute for Intellectual Disability

The National Institute for Intellectual Disability (NIID) at Trinity College Dublin is an inclusive Institute focusing on lifelong learning for individuals with intellectual disabilities, disability research and social change.

The NIID is one of Trinity's most innovative initiatives and is developing exciting new models for achieving the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in society.

The Certificate in Contemporary Living

The Certificate in Contemporary Living (CCL) at the NIID is a two year, full time Trinity College approved course. The course aims to:

- Facilitate lifelong learning for students with intellectual disabilities
- Develop skills for independent living
- Promote the full inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities within Irish society

In February 2008 the first 19 students from the NIID graduated in Trinity with the Certificate in Contemporary Living, sending a powerful message to the world about the ability and potential of people with intellectual disabilities. NIID is now planning the national rollout of the Certificate course so that the same opportunities can be provided to people with intellectual disabilities all over Ireland.