The Student Experience

Trinity attracts motivated, bright, and curious students and we are committed to providing an environment where they will develop and enhance these attributes further. We seek to expose them to ideas and experiences that will empower them to make impact for their professions and for the good of their communities and wider society.

It is our aim to educate students who have mastered the intellectual and creative challenges of their degree, who understand the value of supportive networks and are willing to use their talents and leadership to make a positive lasting difference on the communities in which they live. This vision for them is at the core of the Trinity Student Experience.

This experience is delivered through the rigour of the academic programmes, but also through the richness and diversity of the experiences and networks developed in co and extra-curricular activities. The real strength of these activities (sports clubs, societies, volunteering) is that they are student-led, reflecting the passions and interests of the students themselves and allowing them to achieve and recognize benefits to themselves and others outside the academic sphere. Students involved in at least one activity outside the classroom are happier, better-adjusted, enjoy college life more, create broader networks of friends, perform better academically, and are better prepared for life after graduation.

The Dean of Students champions the student experience, integrating the out-of-class activities of students with the academic mission of the University to ensure that the years in Trinity provide students with unlimited opportunities for involvement, leadership, and personal exploration.
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Student Societies

This year Trinity offered 121 student societies and 48 sports clubs, with three new societies launching—Space, Agriculture and TedX. As every year, Freshers Week showcased the huge diversity of Trinity clubs and societies including political, musical, cultural, volunteering and professional as well as plain fun and entertainment. It was followed by a very successful ‘Fourth Week’ at the end of October that allows the entire College community to try out societies they may have missed joining.

International guests are a feature of many societies—including notably the Hist, the Phil, the Law Society and SOFIA. This year ambassadors from the US, Switzerland, Egypt, Italy, and Korea addressed students while politicians Nick Clegg, the former deputy prime minister of the UK and Pat Cox, former President of the European Parliament, spoke to the Hist, as did the American singer-songwriter and activist Patti Smith. The Law Society presented its Praeses Elit Award to the former South African President, F.W. De Klerk, who spoke eloquently on the importance of defending the ideals of freedom and equality, particularly in the light of political developments in 2016.

The Orchestral Society performed their David Bowie set at Electric Picnic in September 2016 and reprised the performance in the Exam Hall for staff and students.

At the 2017 Student Achievement Awards Ireland, Trinity organisations and individuals won in eight of the 17 categories. Individual awards went to:
- Niall Cooke (Part-time Officer of the Year)
- Cyndi Lou (International Student of the Year)
- Carly Bailey (Mature Student of the Year)
- Dale Whelehan & Glen Byrne (Students Rights Champions of the Year)
- Niamh Herbert & Laura Beston (Activists of the Year)
- Sinead Baker (Journalist of the Year).

The University Times won Publication of the Year while Cumann Gaelach and AML Coláiste na Tríonóide won the Feachtas Gaeilge na Bliana (Irish Language Campaign of the Year) award.

Volunteering

This year the Dean's Roll of Honour recognized one outstanding student for the Trinity Legacy Award for Volunteering, 30 students for the Dean of Students Leadership Award for Volunteering, and 62 for the 2017 Dean's List. The Legacy Award went to Andrew Murphy who has played a fundamental role in societies such as the Philosophical Society, DU Photographic Society, Visual Arts Society and the Trinity Arts Festival and has held...
the position of executive member of the Central Societies Committee. Andrew spoke memorably of the impact that his extracurricular activities have had on his personal and career development:

“During a recent interview process, throughout the entire competency based interview, I was continually bringing up cases from my time in societies, more so than some of the challenges I faced during my academic studies. There is no doubt in my mind that the experience I received in extracurricular life in Trinity College has placed me on my current career trajectory.”

Evidence of this is apparent—he was one of eight selected from a pool of over 900 to join the International Enterprise Ireland Team.

As always, volunteering and fundraising showcased the generosity and outward focus of Trinity students. FLAC raised over €5,000 for the Peter McVerry Trust on the annual ‘Sleep-Out’ and Raise and Give (RAG) week was again a great success. Organised by the Students’ Union and Trinity Volunteering, it supported over a dozen charities and volunteering groups, including ten student-run charities as well as the Trinity Access Programme and the Student and Postgraduate Hardship funds.

Student Spaces

A campus-wide network of student spaces, ‘Zón Mac Léinn’, was launched with the opening of two new Student Spaces in Spring, one in the Arts Building and one in the Hamilton Building. Additional spaces in St James’s and Tallaght hospitals and D’Olier Street are underway. Spearheaded by the Student Life Committee and the Students’ Union, they are rooms designed and organized by students for students. They are spaces for students to hang out and relax and follow a decision of the Student Life Committee in 2015 to create more student spaces. In addition, a nap /respite room for students was opened in Goldsmith Hall to promote wellbeing and mental health.

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→ To read the full publication, please click here