LAIDLAW SCHOLARS LEADERSHIP & RESEARCH PROGRAMME
GUIDANCE FOR PROSPECTIVE SUPERVISORS

The Laidlaw Scholars Leadership & Research Programme is an innovative scholarship designed to help undergraduate students from all disciplines and personal backgrounds to develop strong research and leadership skills which will allow them to excel in both their degree programmes and their future careers. Scholars are supervised by members of academic staff who engage with the student to support them in developing experience as researchers and leaders.

The Laidlaw Programme is delivered at Trinity by the Trinity Careers Service.

The 2023 cohort of the programme will take place over 18 months from April 2023 – October 2024.

Supervisors support the student to lead on the development and implementation of a 6-week research project in Summer 2022 with the potential for further research-related project work in Summer 2023. Throughout the programme timeline supervisors have also have some additional mentoring and administrative responsibilities.

Trinity is part of an international community of universities delivering the programme in 2023. You can find out more about the Laidlaw Network here: Laidlaw Foundation and https://laidlawscholars.network/

You can find more about the Laidlaw Programme at Trinity, including testimonials from previous research supervisors here: https://www.tcd.ie/Careers/staff/laidlaw.php

STUDENT PROFILE

- Undergraduates commencing the programme in the 2nd year of their degree (2nd or 3rd year for a five-year degree)
- Approximately 25 students per cohort from a range of disciplines and faculties
- Undertaking an original research project alongside a leadership development programme aimed at enhancing personal and professional competencies
- Required to complete a number of outputs including leadership training sessions, personal coaching, a research poster, and reflective reports on their experience
- Receiving a €3,300 stipend during the Summer 1 research project and the equivalent in stipend or other living expenses funding in Summer 2
- Can apply for project and travel funding up to €1,800 across their Summer 1 and 2 projects
- Supported throughout the programme by the Trinity Careers Service

SUPERVISOR ELIGIBILITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Any member of Trinity's academic staff who is on a contract which extends beyond the duration of the relevant dates of the Laidlaw Programme, is eligible to supervise a Laidlaw Scholar. Supervisors will normally be engaged in other teaching, research, and supervisory roles in Trinity related to the topic of the student's project.

The 2023 cycle of the Programme runs from April 2023 to October 2024 and students may request supervision in Summer 2023, Summer 2024, or both summer periods.

Scholars can be supervised jointly with another colleague (either at Trinity or another institution) for all, or part of the duration of the programme. Joint supervision is encouraged for projects with an inter-disciplinary and/or international dimension.

Responsibilities include:

- Providing a statement of support for the application

- Providing regular structured guidance as part of the application and throughout the Scholar's participating in the programme

- Supporting the Laidlaw Scholar with their project requirements e.g., access to department materials and workspaces, facilitating project related purchases

- Advising the Scholar where relevant with regards to ethics approval, Garda Vetting, data protection, lab protocol, and any other procedural requirements and supporting them to complete these in time for their project period

- Ensuring that the project is conducted in line with all applicable Trinity policies

- Supporting the Laidlaw Scholar to identify opportunities within their project to develop leadership experience

- Supporting the Laidlaw Scholar to engage with colleagues in your academic and professional network as appropriate

- Engaging with the Laidlaw Programme team to give feedback on the Laidlaw Scholar's progress, address any obstacles arising, and support their development

Laidlaw supervisors will also be invited to join the Laidlaw Network which connects student researchers and academic staff from over 14 international research universities delivering the programme.

LETTER OF SUPPORT – RECOMMENDED FORMAT

The letter of support can be composed at the proposed supervisor's discretion. We recommend including the components detailed below as they will strengthen the student's application and provide the selection panel with sufficient information to support and distinguish the proposal.

The recommended format for the letter of support:

- Approximately 1 A4 page and includes signature (or signatures if the proposal has joint supervisors), contact details, and letterhead
- Shows your assessment of the proposal, including your interest and availability to supervise
- Shows your endorsement that the project has merit: does it address something important or novel in the field? Does it have potential international/interdisciplinary impact?
- Shows your endorsement that the project is feasible and can be completed effectively in the 6-week timeframe for Summer 1
- Confirms that you will be able to provide or help source the resources required
- Identifies any pre-project approvals required such as ethics approval, Garda Vetting, data protection requirements and confirms that these will be handled appropriately and in sufficient time to allow the project to be completed
- Details any relevant supervisory arrangements (i.e., if there are multiple joint supervisors, if the applicant will be included in a research group, if the supervisor will be unavailable for a period)
- If the student's proposal includes application of this research as part of the second project in Summer 2024, the letter should similarly confirm your provisional availability and engagement with these plans

By providing a letter of support, the proposed supervisor agrees to take up the role and responsibilities of a Laidlaw Supervisor if the student is selected. Further information, support, and resources will be available from the Laidlaw Team at the Trinity Careers Service.

If you have any queries about the programme or are interested in becoming a supervisor, please contact us at employability@tcd.ie