PASSIONATE ABOUT RESEARCH?
WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD?

APPLY NOW to become a Laidlaw Scholar at Trinity College Dublin.

Receive generous funding for an independent research project, cultivate your leadership potential, and create real-world impact.
Laidlaw Undergraduate Leadership and Research Programme

2024 Information Session

Joel McKeever
Laidlaw Programme Coordinator | Student Employability Officer
Trinity Careers Service
What is the Laidlaw Programme?

- Laidlaw Scholarship founded by Lord Laidlaw of Rothiemay in 2014
- Philanthropist and entrepreneur, gifts up to 25 Scholarships each to 15+ international universities per year
- Established in Trinity in 2018, now entering 7th intake of Laidlaw Scholars

Purpose of Scholarship is to “invest in talented and motivated undergraduate students, giving them the knowledge, skills and experience to become active global citizens and future leaders”
Eligibility to apply

1. You are a registered undergraduate student

2. You are currently in:
   - 2nd year of a 4-year undergraduate degree programme
   OR
   - 2nd or 3rd year of a 5-year undergraduate degree programme
   OR
   - 2nd or 3rd year of a 5-year integrated masters degree programme (e.g. MAI, Pharmacy)

3. You are available to take part in all the requirements over the duration of the Programme
# What is the Laidlaw Programme?

## Leadership development programme
- 18-month personal development and skills training
- 7 full days of workshops
- 6 weeks funded “Leadership in Action experience” in Summer 2025
- Ethical leadership module
- 1-to-1 coaching, feedback, and reflective exercises
- Peer learning groups
- Outputs: reports, presentations, posters

## Research project
- 6 weeks funded self-directed research in Summer 2024
- Supported by an academic supervisor
- Opportunities to apply for additional funding for research travel, conferences, project expenses
- Share your research in the Laidlaw Network

## Laidlaw community
- Discussion groups
- Professional networking and social events
- Optional skills training sessions
- Community outreach and volunteering
- Webinars, guest speakers, and more
Laidlaw Scholars

Student Perspectives
Programme Timeline

2024

- Applications close: 12th February
- Scholars announced: Early April
- Leadership 1 and 2: Two day training, Late May
- Leadership 3: One day training, Early November
- Summer 1 Poster and Report Submission: September
- Summer 1: 6 week research project
- Interviews: March
- Welcome event and induction: Late April
- Laidlaw community events / coaching / online learning ongoing throughout Programme
Programme Timeline

2025

January 2025

Leadership 4 and 5 (residential)
Three nights, two days training
   Early March

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

Leadership 6 – Ethical Leadership Module
Several sessions
   Early Summer

September

Leadership 7
One day training
   Early October

October 2025

Beyond

Final Submissions
   Mid-October

Laidlaw community events/coaching/online learning ongoing throughout Programme

Join the international Laidlaw alumni community

Summer 2
6 week ‘Leadership in Action’ experience

Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

LAIDLAW SCHOLARS
### Commitments

- At least 7 days of leadership training
- 6 weeks full-time research in Summer 1
- 6 weeks practical ‘Leadership in Action’ experience in Summer 2
- Time for online learning, peer reflective work, coaching
- Outreach and volunteering activities
- Research poster in Summer 1 and reflective reports in Summer 1 and 2
- Engagement with the Laidlaw community via the Laidlaw Network and the Trinity Laidlaw group

### Benefits

- Financial support to the value of €7,000+
- Additional funding through training sessions, opportunities for travel grants and project expenses
- Gain valuable transferable skills in project management, leadership, communications and team working
- Undertake an original research project with an experienced academic
- Be part of a unique ‘Leadership-in-Action’ experience
- Profile raising opportunities through the Programme by joining a prestigious international Scholar group
Sample Leadership Sessions

The role of a leader in fostering creativity and innovation in their field

*Guest panel – Trinity alumni*

Championing Inclusive Spaces as a Leader in Research

*Prof Lorraine Leeson, Associate Vice-Provost for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion*

Conflict Resolution and Mediation

*Irish School of Ecumenics*

Leadership theory and competencies

*Melissa Sayers, MBA Leadership and Professional Development, Trinity Business School*

Leadership through Storytelling

*Cathal Quinn, Head of Voice, the Lir Academy*

How to Network without Cringing

*Sinead English, Hilt Career Services*
# Research Project

**Define a research question which...**

- Is feasible as a project over one 6 week research period in Summer 1
- Is not part of your core, assessed curriculum
- Has the potential to integrate with your leadership training to enhance the impact of your project

**Identify a Research Supervisor who will...**

- Write a supporting statement confirming your project is feasible within the period and is of academic value
- Whose research interests are aligned with your project
- Be available to support you in refining and progressing your project throughout the period
- Will support you in any necessary ethics/lab safety requirements
What is ‘Leadership-in-Action’?

The Leadership-in-Action (LiA) component is a ca. 6-week immersive project that usually takes place in the second summer of your programme.

Learning through service, you will be testing your leadership skills, expanding your understanding of what it means to be a global citizen, and challenging yourself to grow.
What is ‘Leadership-in-Action’?

1. A 6-week immersive, international leadership project
2. An experience in a new and personally challenging environment
3. Working with communities in need
4. Doing something which makes the world a (sustainably) better place
5. Developing and demonstrating your leadership skills, attributes and Laidlaw values
6. Learning through service overseas
Leadership in Action experience

1) Central Laidlaw Foundation Project

Participate in a 6 week international expedition with a team of Laidlaw Scholars from other participating universities to work on community-based leadership projects.

2) Leadership Placement

A leadership placement for 6 weeks in a not-for-profit/community-based organisation to give the scholar the opportunity to develop and apply their leadership skills in a practical setting, which will involve leading others.

3) Implementing your research findings in a community of need

A 6 week project evolved from your Summer 1 research project which must be a practical application of your research in a setting outside of the university. This is a leadership focused continuation and not a second research project.
Leadership-in-Action

Category A: Central Laidlaw Project
Leadership in Action experiences

Category A – Laidlaw Foundation Project

• You can choose from a list of projects offered by organisation partners of the Laidlaw Foundation

• You will develop your leadership skills by working with a partner non-profit/NGO to help them fulfil their vision and mission
Leadership in Action experiences

Category A – Laidlaw Foundation Project

make sense
MAGGIE'S - Everyone's home of cancer care
Tortoise

Think Pacific
Teckack 2030
The Kasiisi project
TSN

TIMOTHY SMITH NETWORK
St Andrews Laidlaw Scholar Yukiko Braun worked with Youth Champs 4 Mental Health, a Fijian organisation advocating for mental health and suicide prevention, through Foundation partner Think Pacific.

Yukiko and her team led projects to help foster young Fijians’ wellbeing and raise awareness about taking care of one’s mental health.
Leadership-in-Action

Category B: Leadership Placement
Leadership in Action experiences

Category B – Leadership Placement

• Working with a partner organisation or programme contributing positively to society i.e. an NGO/charity/social enterprise/not-for-profit community organisation

• Leading on a project you organise to contribute to the organisation’s goals and support the community in need
Tufts Laidlaw Scholar Eleanor Cheung worked with the Center to Support Immigrant Organizing to host vaccine clinics and provide educational outreach in immigrant communities across Massachusetts in an effort to reduce disparities in vaccination rates.
Leadership-in-Action

Category C: In-field application of research
Leadership in Action experiences

Category C – In-field application of research

• Continue working and building on your research project from the first summer by applying, testing and refining your findings in the field.

• Including clearly defined objectives and leadership development goals beyond the research topic
Leadership in Action experiences

Category C – In-field application of research

Trinity College Dublin Laidlaw Scholar Xiaolou Feng researched Game Theatre and its application in theatre education for young people during the first summer. During the second summer, Xiaolou practically applied the findings by working with children at Ba'chuan Quantum International School to set up a Game Theatre-Making Lab.
## Funding

### Funding Step-by-Step

- Financial support to the value of €7,000+ including a stipend of €3,500 for the Summer 1 project
- Funding available to your supervisor for any project related expenses e.g. lab materials, subscriptions, equipment
- Additional support throughout the programme through workshops, coaching, and funding for the Leadership in Action experience in Summer 2
- Separate travel grant on a case-by-case basis for research related trips e.g. research visits to other universities, conference attendance, field work
How to Apply

1. Application form
2. Leadership development statement video (3 minutes max.)
3. Research project proposal (750-1000 words max.)
4. Leadership-in-Action proposal (500 words max.)
5. Letter of support from project supervisor(s)

Go to www.tcd.ie/careers to submit an application by 12th February 2024 (noon)
Q&A

NB: Informal student Q&A session
In January 2024

Register on MyCareer