



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin



THE CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC PRACTICE TEACHING AWARDS

2024







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Teaching excellence can be defined as achieving and sustaining outstanding quality of teaching and positive educational impact through the effective use of pedagogies that engage and enhance student learning.



ABOUT THE AWARDS

The Trinity Excellence in Teaching Awards are designed to recognise and celebrate those who have made an outstanding contribution to the pursuit of teaching excellence. 'Teaching excellence' can be defined as achieving and sustaining outstanding quality of teaching and positive educational impact through the effective use of pedagogies that engage and enhance student learning. The prestige of the award reflects the value that Trinity places on promoting teaching as a scholarly activity and the importance placed on enriching the learning opportunities of its students. All members of Trinity academic staff, or academic-related professionals with roles in supporting teaching and learning, are eligible for nomination by students, alumni and staff. Candidates must receive a student or alumni nomination to be deemed eligible to proceed.

In the first phase, each School convened a panel tasked with identifying a deserving candidate from applicants within their respective schools to be honoured with a prestigious School Award for Teaching Excellence. In the second phase, School Award winners were invited to submit their application to be considered by an institutional review panel for a Trinity Excellence in Teaching Award.



REVIEW PANEL 2024

Chaired by the Senior Lecturer, Prof David Shepherd, this year's institutional review panel included:

- The Dean of Graduate Studies, Prof Martine Smith.
- The Head of Academic Practice, Dr Pauline Rooney.
- Academic staff representatives:
 - Dr Annemarie Bennett (Faculty of Health Sciences)
 - Mr Kevin Kelly (Faculty of STEM)
 - Dr Julie Regan (Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences)
- Postgraduate Student representative, Mr Oran Cassidy.
- External Examiner, Dr Jane Pritchard, Head of Educational Development, Centre for Teaching & Learning at the University of Oxford.

Many thanks to all our panel members for their time and expertise.

TRINITY EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD WINNERS

Introducing our Award winners this year, hear what the students had to say!

The Centre for Academic Practice would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to each staff member for their remarkable achievement in being honored with an Award. Your exceptional dedication and contributions have truly set a remarkable standard for excellence.



**Dr Aibhín
Bray**

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

"Aibhín has a really upbeat and positive teaching style. Her lectures are well planned, and she distributes excellent, well-chosen, and highly relevant reading material in advance of lectures...she involves students in the class and puts us in the centre, encouraging discussion and peer-to-peer learning and other engaging activities. She seems to have a genuine interest in and respect for her students and the respect is mutual".

"A genuine
interest in
and respect
for her
students".

**Dr Liz
Heffernan**

SCHOOL OF LAW

"[Her] impact on teaching and learning is exceptional in that she encourages students to test their boundaries, and never shies away from going the extra mile to offer them the chance to achieve this. She goes out of her way to find materials tailored to specific queries, which not only answers each student's particular queries, but also shows that their opinions and curiosities are valued.... And never once does she do it with anything short of infectious optimism".



"[Her] impact
on teaching
& learning is
exceptional".





Dr Rachel Hoare

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES,
LITERATURES & CULTURAL
STUDIES

"Rachel is such a credit to Trinity, and she is so understanding. Rachel always responded to all emails within no time and answered queries with so much detail [and] always shared lecture content and made sure important material/ seminars were recorded to give everyone a chance to catch up. I wish all my lecturers were like Rachel. She was so understanding and explained everything really well".

"A credit to Trinity. I wish all my lecturers were like Rachel".

"He has inspired my future. & opened my eyes to a whole new world of research".

Dr Matthew Saunders

SCHOOL OF NATURAL
SCIENCES

"He's so incredibly helpful in the labs, is such an attentive professor who genuinely cares about the student's wellbeing. In class he explains abstract and complex topics in such a clear and simple manner. His work is outstanding. The impact of his teaching is most definitely exceptional. He has inspired my future and has opened my eyes to a whole new world of research. He makes any lecture content exciting and thrilling".



Mr Glenn Strong

SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
& STATISTICS

"Glenn's passion for teaching really shines through in his lectures. [He] stands out in that this passion for the content he teaches, mixes wonderfully with his soft skills. This means that he can teach the content in a way that makes it exciting, accessible, and applicable. Furthermore, it means that he is easy to approach and always willing to find the time to explain things in more detail if needed and to help students work through content or problems that are confusing them".

"Glenn's passion for teaching really shines through in his lectures".



SCHOOL AWARD WINNERS



**Dr Robert
Baker**

SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY

"His charisma and expertise in the subject matter that he was teaching was exemplary, and he made it very easy for us who were unused to college life to get into the swing of things...Overall, his teaching was of a spectacular standard, and I feel he most certainly deserves to be recognised for it".

"His teaching was of a spectacular standard".

**Dr Sheila
Cannon**

TRINITY BUSINESS SCHOOL

"Dr Cannon fostered an inclusive and collaborative classroom environment, encouraging active participation and open discussions among students. Through her exceptional teaching methods and unwavering support, Dr Cannon exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding educator".

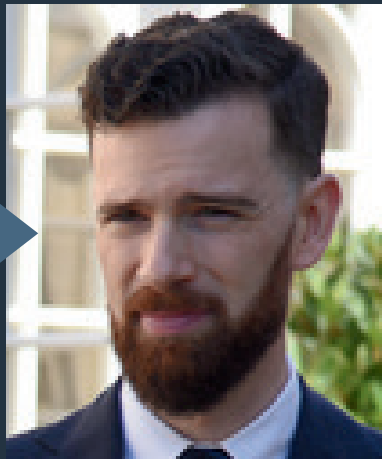


Exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding educator".

**Dr Martyn
Egan**

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL
SCIENCES & PHILOSOPHY

"Martyn's patience, empathy, and willingness to go above and beyond to help his students have been particularly noteworthy. His dedication to his students and commitment to their success is deserving of recognition and is undoubtedly making a significant impact on their education".



"Is undoubtedly making a significant impact on their education".



**Dr Jacob
Erickson**

SCHOOL OF RELIGION,
THEOLOGY & PEACE STUDIES

"Dr Erickson's method of teaching creates an atmosphere which is empowering and inclusive. He is able to hear his students' voices, recognise their potential and reflect it back so that we, the students come to hear and appreciate our own unique gifts and are motivated by the conviction that we count in this world".

"[We] are motivated by the conviction that we count in this world".



**Dr Neale
Gibson**

SCHOOL OF PHYSICS

"Neale's teaching has been the most interactive and engaging I've seen in all my years in Trinity. His love for his subject matter comes across in his lectures, which transfers that love of the subject matter to me...He is second to none in likeability which makes his lectures fun and engaging as everyone is comfortable and happy to talk to him".

"Most interactive and engaging I've seen in all my years in Trinity".

**Prof Stephanie
Holt**

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL
WORK & SOCIAL POLICY

[Her] approach in sharing her knowledge and expertise was professional yet had considerable depth and left us with more questions and a hunger [for] greater understanding...each week, the lectures expanded on those questions and brought us to a really wonderful conclusion for our final lecture".



"Left us with more questions and a hunger [for] greater understanding".

SCHOOL AWARD WINNERS



**Dr Aaron
Hunter**

SCHOOL OF CREATIVE
ARTS

"Dr Hunter's teaching was incredibly well-rounded. He seemed to always anticipate the needs of students, and what we might find slightly difficult to understand. Overall, I found that because of his exceptional engaging teaching style, the information always stuck in my head and I left his lectures with a smile on my face".

"I left his lectures with a smile on my face".

**Dr Martin
McMahon**

SCHOOL OF NURSING &
MIDWIFERY

"He is worthy of an award because he is highly supportive and approachable. As a student, I believe that a supportive lecturer will enable the student to become enthusiastic and confident in learning... Students will feel secure and eager to achieve academic excellence when the lecturer-student relationship is positive".

"[Enables] the student to become enthusiastic & confident in learning".



**Dr Suzanne
O'Neill**

SCHOOL OF HISTORIES &
HUMANITIES

"Sue gave me a newfound love of history with her passion. Now I'm studying in JF for a history degree.

She is passionate, skilled, and hardworking".

"Gave me a newfound love of history with her passion".



**Mr Eugene
O'Rourke**

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

"He was both a good leader of the class and a friend to every student. He really set the pace of the class. I really felt like he cared about the class and wanted us to become the best engineers possible, I don't think one person in that class would say otherwise. He cared about our development both as engineers and as people".

"A good leader of the class and a friend to every student".



**Mr Seán
Phelan**

SCHOOL OF DENTAL
SCIENCE

"His teaching is characterised by a unique blend of expertise and approachability...and fostering inclusivity. His consistent support in students' personal matters reflects a genuine investment in each individual's well-being. His consistent and personalised support has become a hallmark of his outstanding teaching".

"His consistent and personalised support has become a hallmark of his outstanding teaching".

**Prof Roman
Romero-Ortuno**

SCHOOL MEDICINE

"His dedication, organisation, optimism, and passion...[he] has sincerely inspired everyone's practice/research in the room. I am truly not the same person. [We] will never be able to thank [him] enough, for offering us his valuable skills, and advice (always so well-intentioned & in a friendly environment) for our practice and research steps".

"[He] has sincerely inspired everyone's practice/research in the room".



SCHOOL AWARD WINNERS



**Prof Cristin
Ryan**

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY &
PHARMACEUTICAL
SCIENCES

"I don't know where I'd be without her. She was extremely engaged from day one, guided me with my project without taking full command, allowing me to learn and grow my skills with performing academic duties. She is down to earth, kind, extremely professional, and clearly an expert in her field".

"Down to earth, kind, extremely professional, and clearly an expert in her field".

**Dr Lorraine
Swords**

SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

"I feel that Lorraine truly cares about us as students, even though we are technically adults. In essence, I will come away from my time at Trinity next year and Lorraine will be one of the professors I think I will always remember in years to come, largely due to her compassion and kindness".

"One of the professors I think I will always remember in years to come".



**Dr Chaolun
Wu**

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

"His impact on me personally has been profound... He is someone who believes that a relaxed and open teaching environment is very important, hence he encourages us to ask questions constantly whether it's in or out of class...this really creates an environment that is interesting, enjoyable and thought-provoking to learn in".

"His impact on me personally has been profound".



**Nominations for 2024-25 will open on the
Centre for Academic Practice website in Michaelmas Term 2024.**

<https://www.tcd.ie/academicpractice/celebratingexcellence/Trinity-excellence-teaching-awards/>



THE CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC PRACTICE

"Our mission is to inspire and strengthen a culture of enhancement and innovation in teaching and learning underpinned by research, innovation, inclusivity, sustainability and collaboration".

Connect With Us!



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