



November 2020



Dear Friends,

My name is Mia O'Connor. As a Trinity Access student, I am so happy to have started my first year studying Medicine. I would love to tell you why Trinity Access is so important to me and so many other Trinity students. Especially now, as we face additional worry and uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I will also explain how you can help at this time of crisis.



Trinity Access works throughout Ireland, encouraging and supporting students from under-represented groups to go to university. The Trinity Access Foundation Course prepares students, personally and academically, to go on and study at degree level, so we can break the cycle of educational disadvantage. Trinity Access provides scholarships from €1,000 to €2,500 to Access students, to help pay for the equipment, services and facilities we need to complete our studies. **This is made possible by the generosity of Trinity alumni and friends, like you.** Alumni support is essential to Access students and to our education, now, more than ever.

The global health crisis has exacerbated systemic inequalities and created many new obstacles for all Trinity students. We must adapt quickly to online lectures, strict social distancing and constantly changing guidelines and timetables. It can be scary, stressful and not at all how I imagined my Trinity experience. I am so grateful to know that I have support from Trinity Access.



Until I got my place in Trinity, no one in my family had ever gone to university. It is not the norm where I grew up, in the flats in North inner-city Dublin. I live with my mother and my 11-year-old sister, who is autistic. We are a single parent family, in a disadvantaged area, but we are lucky to be part of a tight-knit community.



My mother is a taxi driver and works hard to support me and my sister. Most people I know work as hairdressers, plumbers or in other trades, or they drive taxis, like my Mam. The career options can seem quite limited. I always dreamed of being a doctor or nurse. I love helping people and my favourite subject in school was biology.



Dreams and potential are not limited by a Postcode. Access to opportunities should not be either. I am writing to you today because **Trinity Access students need your help...**



Please read on...

... please, will you consider making a gift of €250* to support Trinity Access students?



I am so thankful to Trinity Access for giving me financial support to pay my fees and other expenses, but there are lots of extras coming down the line, like my lab coat, stethoscope, goggles, health screening, placement expenses, to name but a few! I lost my part-time job at the start of the pandemic, and it will be difficult to fund my education. There are many other students like me, who, without financial support from Trinity Access, are at risk of losing the opportunity they have worked so hard for.

If you can make a gift of €250*, you will be supporting students like me to become doctors, keeping our communities healthy. Scientists, researching cures and treatments for life-threatening diseases, like COVID-19. Teachers, educating the young minds of tomorrow. Business leaders, innovating to meet society's biggest challenges. Future Senators, Taoisigh and Presidents.

For me, the Trinity Access Foundation Course was the stepping-stone I needed to make my dream of studying Medicine a reality. My grandparents tell me they're proud to have someone in the family studying at Trinity. When my sister sees me getting my degree, she will realise that she can have that same opportunity. So will other young people in my community.

When I had my pre-college health check, my GP said, "I'm so proud of you, Mia! Make sure to get in touch if you need help with your placement!"

It is amazing to know there are so many people within my family, my community and Trinity who are rooting for me and will support me in becoming a doctor.

Please consider making a gift of €250* to our Trinity Access Scholarship Fund

Your generosity today will ensure that Trinity Access students can realise their dreams and make a real difference in their lives and communities through education.



Please visit
www.tcd.ie/campaign/donate

Alumni support for Trinity has always been strong. At this time of crisis, it's proving exceptional. **Please consider making a gift of €250* to our Trinity Access Scholarship Fund.** Your generosity today will ensure that Trinity Access students can realise their dreams and make a real difference in their lives and communities through education.

Financial or social circumstances should never prevent students from reaching their academic potential and fulfilling their ambitions. **Please, help Trinity Access students with a gift today.**

On behalf of all Trinity Access students, thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

We really appreciate your support.

With gratitude,

Mia O'Connor

Mia O'Connor
1st Year Medicine

***If you are an ROI taxpayer, your gift of €250 or more is Tax-Effective. This means we can apply to Revenue for a tax refund, almost doubling your gift, at no extra cost to you!**
For more information, please contact us on alumni@tcd.ie



P.S. Your generosity will make a real and lasting difference to the lives of Trinity Access students, now and in the future. Please consider making a gift to Trinity Access today.