



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

**Trinity College Dublin
Royal Irish Academy of Music
Associated College Degrees Committee**

Minutes RIAM ACDC

The Royal Irish Academy of Music, Associated College Degrees Committee (RIAM ACDC) was held on 4 February 2025 at 10am at Trinity College in the Arts Building Conference Room.

Present: Prof. Martine Smith, Dean of Graduate Studies (Chair), Trinity
Prof. Vincent Wade, Senior Lecturer/ Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Trinity
Ms Deborah Kelleher, Director, RIAM
Mr Conn McCluskey, School Manager Education, Trinity
Mr. Grant Goodwin, Quality Officer, Trinity
Mrs. Jo McNamara, School Manager Creative Arts, Trinity
Professor Jonathan Hodgers, 2nd Representative Creative Arts, Trinity
Ms. Rima Fitzpatrick, Assistant Academic Secretary, Trinity
Prof Kathleen Tynan, Chair of Undergraduate Studies, RIAM
Mr. Pdraig Rynn, Administrative Officer Registry, RIAM
Prof Peter Tuite, Chair of Doctoral Studies RIAM

Apologies: Prof. Neville Cox, Registrar (Chair)
Dr Ann Devitt, Head of School of Education, Trinity
Prof. Justin Mac Gregor, Head of School Creative Arts, Trinity
Dr Susan McCormick, 2nd Rep School of Education, Trinity
Prof. Diane Daley, Chair of Postgraduate, RIAM
Prof Lynsey Callaghan, Research Representative, RIAM

Attending: Prof Joanne Banks, DUTL Education (representing Dr Ann Devitt)

The meeting was chaired by the Dean of Graduate Studies, Prof. Martine Smith, deputising for Prof. Neville Cox.

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed Grant Goodwin, the new Trinity Quality Officer, to the meeting and committee members introduced themselves.

Apologies were noted for Prof. Neville Cox, Dr Ann Devitt, Dr Susan McCormick, Prof. Diane Daley and Prof. Justin Mac Gregor. The Chair noted that Prof. Lynsey Callaghan is on leave.

RIAM/ACDC/24-25/007

Draft Minutes 12 November

The minutes of the 12th of November 2024 were approved, subject to minor spelling corrections.

RIAM/ACDC/24-25/008

Matters Arising

The Chair noted that the Students Complaints Policy and the Student Code of Conduct were approved by the Trinity Board on December 4th.

RIAM/ACDC/24-25/009
Quality Office

Standing Update on Quality Assurance of Linked Providers by

Mr. Goodwin informed the Committee about a new project to review Linked Provider processes and policies to improve efficiency and strengthen the relationship. The Trinity Quality Officer will collaborate with Academic Affairs and RIAM on this project.

The application window for TrustEd (formerly IEM) closes at the end of March. The RIAM Director confirmed that their application is on track despite some uploading issues with the QQI portal.

[Prof Kathleen Tynan, Chair of Undergraduate and Prof Peter Tuite, Chair of Doctoral Studies joined the meeting at this point.]

The RIAM Director welcomed the collaboration with the new Quality Officer and suggested it would be helpful to clearly differentiate processes between academic and non-academic policies to avoid duplication and excessive oversight mechanisms.

The RIAM Director noted that the institutional review had highlighted a potential risk, in that she is the only member connecting the RIAM ACDC and the Governing Body. A suggestion to add a Trinity member to the RIAM Governing Body to bridge this gap is under review at RIAM.

RIAM/ACDC/24-25/010

RIAM Programme entries for Calendar Part II and III for 2025/26

The Bachelor in Music Performance (B.Mus.Perf) will remain in the Calendar for 2025/26 to accommodate any off-books or repeating students. Other changes are minor.

The Chair queried the impact of lowering the English Language admission requirements for RIAM. The Director reported that lowering the requirements has increased application numbers but also presented challenges with English comprehension for successful candidates. Additional 1-to-1 lessons and supports have been made available to support students.

The RIAM Director noted plans for a stricter audition and application process, including assessing spoken language comprehension during interviews. There will also be a longer entry induction for students who enter with an IELTS score of 5.5, focusing on developing English language competence for six weeks. RIAM has engaged with Trinity's Centre for English Language Learning and Support in relation to this induction.

The Chair commended the solutions for addressing lower English language competence scores and emphasized the importance of language competence not just for academic success but also for integration of students into the wider student community.

RIAM/ACDC/24-25/011

Standing Items on Communication

The RIAM Director was asked to share an update from RIAM. An update was provided on behalf of Prof Lynsey Callaghan, Research Representative:

- The Trinity elective is in its 3rd cycle, with Dr Susan McCormick as the new module coordinator. Guest speakers from the Schools of Music and Education have been secured.
- A new research project for final-year students has been introduced. Marita Kerin (Visiting Research Fellow in Music and Arts Education, School of Education) from the School of Education will be a panel member for presentations.
- The AERG has resumed meetings under Erika Piazzoli's (School of Education) convenorship. Prof Lynsey Callaghan and Dr. Jennifer McCay will continue to participate and look forward to collaboration opportunities.

- The Amplify Research Day is scheduled for February 25th, with Prof. Nicole Grimes from the School of Creative Arts as a speaker.

The Pro-Head of the School of Education, Prof Joanne Banks, noted that an update had been prepared by Dr Susan McCormick, who had given apologies for the meeting.

- B.Mus.Ed students have returned from long placements, and first-year students have started their school placements.
- The Expansive Canvas Conference is scheduled for August 26-28, focusing on 19th Century Women Composers, in collaboration with RIAM, Trinity Department of Music and Trinity Long Room Hub

Professor Jonathan Hodgers, (representing the Head of School of Creative Arts), provided the following update:

- St. Sunniva Mobility Grant: This grant supports staff exchange between the University of Bergen and the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. RIAM is encouraged to apply.

The Senior Lecturer, Prof. Vincent Wade, was invited to update on Undergraduate Education.

- The University is proposing to amend the Academic Year Structure, started teaching a week later in September to avoid current unmanageable time pressures between supplementary exams and the start of teaching term. Michaelmas Term examinations will be scheduled up to and including December 22nd. No change is anticipated to the Hilary Term schedule. This proposal will be discussed at Council on February 5th and Board on February 26th.
- Trinity will fully implement an upgrade to Blackboard Ultra in Semester 1 of 2025/26, with training currently being rolled out for academic staff and Teaching Assistants.
- The Trinity College Strategic Plan 2026-2030 Education Pillar will focus on digital education and systems updates, with significant investment in teaching support systems and AI applications. The Education Pillar, "University For Life," is a shared responsibility of the Senior Lecturer and the Dean of Graduate Studies.

The Chair thanked the Senior Lecturer and updated the committee in her capacity as Dean of Graduate Studies.

- The Postgraduate Renewal Project will be bringing forward a proposal for a Trinity Triple / framework to ensure that all postgraduate (and undergraduate) students have opportunities to engage with interdisciplinary, intersectoral and international experiences as part of their Trinity education. RIAM expressed particular interest in these elements in relation to their upcoming review of their Masters programme.

The Director of RIAM noted in relation to the changes to the Academic Year Structure and the associated Orientation and Teaching start dates that RIAM first-year students will complete their orientation within Trinity and was pleased that RIAM timelines will align with the newly proposed schedule in Trinity.

The Chair thanked everyone for their updates.

The Chair noted no other business from the Committee and thanked all members, especially the RIAM members for coming to Trinity for the meeting.