



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

A meeting of the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Associated College Degrees Committee (RIAM ACDC) was held on 3 February 2026 (11am-12pm) online via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Professor Neville Cox, Registrar (*Chair*);  
Professor Martine Smith, Dean of Graduate Studies;  
Professor Deborah Kelleher, RIAM Director;  
Professor Peter Tuite, Chair of RIAM Doctoral Committee;  
Mr. Pdraig Rynn, RIAM Administrative Officer, Registry;  
Dr Michael Cleary-Gaffney, Interim Quality Officer;  
Professor Kathleen Tynan, RIAM Chair of Undergraduate;  
Professor Diane Daly, RIAM Chair of Postgraduate;  
Professor Lynsey Callaghan, RIAM Research Representative;  
Mr. Richard Duckworth, Department Head of Music, School of Creative Arts;  
Professor Ann Devitt, Head of School, School of Education;  
Mr. Conn McCluskey, School Manager, School of Education;  
Dr. Susan McCormick, Second Representative, School of Education.

In Attendance: Ms. Ellen Kampinga, Academic Affairs (*Secretary*)

Apologies: Professor Vinny Wade, Senior Lecturer and Dean of Undergraduate Studies; Mrs. Patricia Maguire, Academic Secretary; Ms. Rima Fitzpatrick, Assistant Academic Secretary; Professor Justin Mac Gregor, Head of School Creative Arts; Dr Jonathan Hodgers, Second Representative, School of Creative Arts  
Mrs. Jo McNamara, School Manager Creative Arts;

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**Welcome**

The Chair welcomed Professor Lynsey Callaghan, RIAM Research Representative back from maternity leave.

**RIAM/ACDC/25-26/009      Draft Minutes from the meeting 4 November 2025**

The draft minutes of the meeting that took place on November 4th, 2025, were approved.

**Action/Decision:**

**009.01:** The draft minutes from the meeting 4 November 2025 were approved.

**RIAM/ACDC/25-26/010      Matters Arising**

The Chair noted the outstanding item from the RIAM Director on the new Trinity Member to the RIAM Governing Body. The Director noted that the changes to the RIAM Constitution

are still to be finalised in February before the change to the membership will be made. The Director asked for the item to remain standing for subsequent meeting.

The Dean of Graduate Studies shared that at the previous meeting she had agreed as an action to share the Code of Conduct for Research Supervisors and Students. However, consultation with the Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT) has not yet completed. The RIAM Director said that they would be happy to receive the current version and hear of updates resulting from the consultation in due course.

**Action/Decision:**

**010.01:** The Dean of Graduate Studies agreed to share the current version of the Code of Conduct for Research Supervisors and Students.

**RIAM/ACDC/25-26/011 Programme entries for Calendar Part II and II for 2026/27**

The Chair noted the memorandum circulated from the RIAM Director on the formal cessation of legacy programmes Bachelor in Music Performance and the Bachelor in Music Composition. These programmes have been merged into one programme with the award of Bachelor in Music (B.Mus.) in 2021 and will now be ceased formally after graduation of their last cohorts.

The RIAM Director spoke to the changes suggested to the Calendar Part II and Part II as circulated. The main changes included were minor, including updated dates and including further information for the application process via direct links.

**Action/Decision:**

**011.01:** The RIAM ACDC approved the cessation of both the Bachelor in Music Performance and the Bachelor in Music Composition.

**011.02:** The RIAM ACDC approved the changes suggested to the Calendar Part II and Part III for 2026/27.

**RIAM/ACDC/25-26/012 Update to RIAM Student Handbooks for 2026/27**

The Chair asked the RIAM Director to speak to the circulated memorandum on the suggested changes to the programme handbooks. The Director confirmed the changes suggested are minor and in response to recent development of assessment roadmaps by Dr Lynsey Callaghan and align to recent reviews of the Bachelor's in Music and the Diploma in Music Teaching and Performance.

Regarding the Master's in Music Performance there will be more extensive changes that will be submitted for the subsequent ACDC meeting. These suggested changes include an additional Learning Outcome and changing some of the programme element titles. Delivery would start in the 2027/28 academic year.

It was noted that a template was suggested to administrate the changes proposed and progress will be communicated before the subsequent RIAM ACDC meeting.

**Action/Decision:**

**012.01:** The RIAM ACDC approved the suggested changes to the programme handbooks.

**RIAM/ACDC/25-26/013 Standing Update on Quality Assurance of Linked Providers**

The Chair asked the Interim Quality Officer for his Standing update. The Interim Officer shared that since the last meeting, a review has commenced of Trinity's Linked Provider Policies and Procedures. The review is ensuring that Trinity fulfils its statutory requirements to Linked Providers as set out in the QQI Act while incorporating feedback outlined in each of the Linked Providers Institutional External Review. Benchmarking has been conducted against the policies of other Designated Awarding Bodies (DABs) with Linked Providers to ensure alignment with best practice. Trinity is considering the development of a Linked Provider Framework which incorporates all the Linked Provider Policies and Procedures into a single source. The Framework is currently at the drafting stage and Trinity will undertake a consultation process on the proposed framework with both Linked Providers in April. The Chair thanked the Interim Quality Officer for his update.

The Chair added that a review has commenced led by the Academic Secretary of the Collaboration Agreement with RIAM as it is up for renewal. Consultation for this review with RIAM is likely to occur in February and the RIAM Director has been contacted on this matter.

**RIAM/ACDC/25-26/014 Standing Item on Communication****a. Inter-institutional Collaboration**

The RIAM Director was asked to speak to the inter-institutional collaboration.

- The upcoming Dublin Music Analysis Conference (DubMAC 2026) will take place from Monday 13 to Wednesday 15 July 2026 and will be hosted jointly by Trinity College Dublin and the Royal Irish Academy of Music. The event is to be chaired by Dr Nicole Grimes, with contributions from Dr Orla Shannon from RIAM.
- Before Christmas RIAM visited the Samuel Beckett Theatre for the world premiere of the inclusive Opera 'When Forests Sing' co-created by RIAM and composer Karen Power, produced by Professor Kathleen Tynan and supported by Rethink Ireland Disability Participation and Awareness Fund.
- The Director also reported on the development of the RIAM Strategy which is at the draft stage. It will include interesting aspects such as research approaches in the context of a Conservatoire and music education.
- RIAM was included in the Trinity Undergraduate Open Day on November 29, 2025. Thanks were expressed to the Trinity Event Manger Gobnait O'Shaughnessy and her team for looking after RIAM colleagues and the privilege of being part of the Trinity Open Day. RIAM hopes to be included again next year.
  - o The Chair added the next Trinity Undergraduate Open Day will be on Saturday November 21, 2026.

The Head of School of the School of Education provided an update on inter-institutional collaboration.

- The Trinity Elective Music-Making, The Arts and Society, is doing well and 39 students (98% of max capacity) are enrolled this semester. Dr Lynsey Callaghan

added there are 8 RIAM students on the elective at present. The Chair applauded the efforts of the module coordinator and the great collaboration that occurs in the co-delivery of this elective.

- For the BMusEd, the Head of School thanked both RIAM and TU Dublin for their support this month, ensuring a smooth start of the semester.
  - o The Chair asked about the effect on the rescheduling of the Foundation Scholarship Exams (Schols) to accommodate placements. The Second Representative from the School of Education reported that 3 students took the practical elements before Christmas and 2 students undertook the written papers in January before their placements in Hungary. She thanked the external examiners and RIAM for accommodating the rescheduling.
- The Department of Education is releasing a Policy on emphasising teaching through an Irish Medium. This includes supports for Teacher Education and increasing placements through Irish, with the goal of training more teachers for Gaelscoils. The possibility of bringing more Irish in school placement would be a good possibility for the BMusEd.

The Representative of the Head of School of Creative Arts provided an update on inter-institutional collaboration.

- Professor Lynsey Callaghan and Dr Orla Shannon are Creative Directors of the Irish Youth Choir and the Conducting Summer School initiative.
- There are exciting initiatives happening in the field of Music Technology and AI.

#### **b. Policies and Procedures relevant to RIAM**

The Dean of Graduate Studies provided an update on Policies and Procedures relevant to RIAM.

- The approved Research Supervision Policy was substantially revised and approved at Graduate Studies Committee on 29 January 2026 last week. This will be shared with RIAM afterward Council Approval on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2026.
- The Appeals Policy is being revised and related School-level Court of First Appeal Appeals Procedures were updated and new Procedures for the Conduct for School Postgraduate Appeals Committees. Updates will follow when the Appeals Policy and related procedures will be approved at Council on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026.
- The working group on the Recording of Lectures is still in early stages, and the Senior Lecturer and the Dean of Graduate Studies will share on this at their next update.
- The Work on Generative AI is ongoing. An update will be provided at the next meeting.
- Substantial elements of the PG Renewal Project came to a close in December 2025. Resources that might be of interest to RIAM are those focusing on research students. The PGR Lifecycle website contains an interactive PDF. The Triple I Doctoral Skills graphic, connected to the IUA skills for research students, has built in links for self-study resources on LinkedIn Learning. The curated LinkedIn Learning resources align to skill domains and are available to all registered students.
  - o The RIAM Director noted that RIAM is also focusing on wider skillsets within musicianship and addressing skill gaps with students, where the asynchronous type of supports like LinkedIn Learning are a fantastic

opportunity to allow students to learn at their own pace especially at postgraduate level.

- The Dean of Graduate Studies confirmed that the strength lies in the opportunity to allow students to select priorities as needed within provided signposts by the framework.

The Committee congratulated the Dean of Graduate Studies on the work completed within the PG Renewal Project.

The RIAM Director requested the possibility of receiving a presentation at RIAM on the PGRenewal project, as they had benefitted a lot from a similar presentation at RIAM in relation to the Trinity Education Project in 2020.

**Action/Decision:**

**014.01:** The approved Research Supervision Policy to be shared with RIAM after Council Approval on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

**014.02:** The approved Appeals Policy and related procedures to be shared with RIAM after Council Approval on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

**014.03:** The Dean of Graduate Studies to arrange a presentation at RIAM on the PGRenewal Project Resources and Results.

**RIAM/ACDC/25-26/015      Any other business**

The Chair thanked all for attending.

The next RIAM ACDC will take place on 31st March 2026 at 11am.