



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

Academic Affairs

Annual Report 2025-2026

Contents

Foreword	3
What we do	4
People	5
Strategic Initiatives	6
Programmes.....	9
Academic Policies, Procedures & Regulations.....	11
Academic Committees.....	11
College Initiatives and Working Groups.....	12
Sectoral Work / Networks.....	13
Looking forward to 2026/27	14

Foreword

I am delighted to present the seventh annual report of Academic Affairs (AA) which reflects on our activities and developments throughout 2025/26 and offers a look ahead to our future priorities.

Throughout the year, the team has led and contributed to a range of projects, policy reviews, and programmes. These collective efforts have supported academic governance and development and have helped align our work more strategically with institutional goals. We've continued to build meaningful relationships with the Schools and key units such as the Academic Registry and Trinity Global, establishing Academic Affairs as a trusted and collaborative partner.

Looking ahead to 2026-27, we will focus our efforts on ensuring that our workplan, priorities and processes are clearly aligned with College's Strategic Plan 2025-30 and its objectives for Education. We are committed to enabling impactful outcomes through coordinated planning, supportive and collaborative working ethos.

I want to acknowledge and thank the team for their continued dedication and professionalism, which have once again made this a successful and forward-looking year for Academic Affairs.

I hope you enjoy reading this report.

Yours sincerely,



Assistant Academic Secretary: Head of Academic Affairs

What we do

Welcome to Academic Affairs (AA), a cornerstone division within Trinity Teaching and Learning (TT&L).

In Academic Affairs our mission is to shape **world-class academic policies**, robust **standards**, and **innovative programmes**.

Our vision is to work **collaboratively and inclusively** with academics, disciplines, and Schools, with Trinity Units and Divisions, with College Officers, with national and international partners and to nurture a dynamic and supportive environment.

Our working ethos is rooted in **consultation, collaboration, supporting innovation** and enabling teaching and learning excellence in Trinity College Dublin.

Our Core responsibilities:

Policies & Regulations	•We shape academic policy, regulations, and standards, ensuring alignment with both national and European legislation as well as Trinity's own guidelines
Programmes	•We support Schools in the development of new programmes and modifications to existing programmes [e.g. major curricular changes, suspensions and cessations]
Strategic Projects	•We lead and contribute to College and sectoral strategic teaching & learning projects
Trusted Advisor	•We advise and assist the Academic Secretary and College Officers in policy development
Academic Committees	•We support management of academic committees, namely Academic Council, USC, GSC, Trinity Electives, and Associated Colleges

People

Rima Fitzpatrick

Assistant Academic Secretary/Head of Academic Affairs

Rima joined Academic Affairs in April 2024, having previously managed the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies in Trinity College. As the Head of the unit, Rima holds overall responsibility of Academic Affairs office, ensuring its strategic and operational objectives are met.

Ciara Conlon

Education Support Manager

Ciara supports Schools in the development of undergraduate course proposals, advises on undergraduate policy and regulations and manages Undergraduate Studies Committee and its annual workplan.

Ewa Sadowska

Administrative Officer

Ewa supports Schools in the development of postgraduate course proposals, advises on postgraduate policy and regulations and manages the Graduate Studies Committee.

Liz Donnellan

Education Policy Developer

Liz joined Academic Affairs in April 2023, having previously worked in the Quality Office and in Graduate Studies. Her areas of responsibility include the annual Academic Affairs work programme for academic policy and regulation review, and the management, development, and review of Calendar Part II.

Solange Daini

Education Support Manager

Solange worked with the team from August 2025- the end of May 2026 as maternity cover for Ciara. Solange was responsible for advising and supporting Schools in the development of undergraduate course proposals, advising on undergraduate policy and regulations and managing the administration of Undergraduate Studies Committee.

Ellen Kampinga

Education Support Officer

Ellen joined Academic Affairs in November 2024. Ellen had the responsibility for managing the administration of the Associated College Degrees Committees of Trinity's Linked Providers (Royal Irish Academic of Music (RIAM) and Marino Institute of Education (MIE)), and the Trinity Electives Sub-Committee. Ellen also managed the TE Review Working Group administration and supported the drafting of minutes for University Council.

Strategic Initiatives

QQI FET Distinction Awards

In 2025/26 Academic Affairs have played a key role in developing and designing inaugural Trinity QQI FET Distinction awards and ceremony. In line with Trinity's commitment to widening access, College has launched a new awards initiative to recognise the achievements of students entering through non-traditional, alternative / non-CAO routes.

The focus of the award was on undergraduate students who entered via the QQI–FET pathway and attained the highest possible result—eight distinctions—on their Level 5 or Level 6 FET award. The inaugural year award ceremony saw over 150 students receiving this award (approx. 70 students from 2024/25 and 83 from 2025/26 entrants). Awardees received a €150 voucher for Hodges Figgis and a certificate.

The award reflects Trinity's strategic commitments by recognising outstanding academic achievement among QQI–FET entrants, affirming the value of diverse educational journeys, and strengthening partnerships with Further Education colleges and Education and Training Boards. In doing so, it highlights that excellence can emerge through multiple pathways, promotes equity in access to higher education, and celebrates the collaborative role of FET institutions in supporting student success.

Modular Repeats Framework

In 2025/26 a working group was established by The Senior Lecturer and Dean of Undergraduate Studies to examine the introduction of a Repeat-by-Module framework for undergraduate students, which was approved in principle by Council in May 2026. The framework is set out to permit eligible students to repeat failed modules (up to 30 ECTS) as fully registered students, replacing the existing options of either repeating the full year or repeating failed assessments while off-books. Repeating students would pay fees on a pro-rata basis linked to the ECTS load.

The proposal aligns with Trinity Strategic Plan 2025–2030 (*Thrive*), particularly commitments relating to enhancing student belonging and support, improving the student journey, and designing more flexible and responsive teaching and learning pathways. The implementation of the proposal is contingent on necessary amendments to SITS being carried out and is expected to be in operation in the academic year 2027/28.

New Policy on Recording of Lectures

In Michaelmas Term 2025, the Senior Lecturer and Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the Dean of Graduate Studies convened a joint USC/GSC working group to consider the development of a College-wide Policy on Recording Lectures that would respond to the University's commitment to provide an accessible and inclusive learning environment for its students, aligned to the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). The working group, which was managed by Academic Affairs, explored issues around technology, data protection, intellectual property, copyright and data storage issues associated with the recording and sharing of lectures or lecture summaries. The new [Recording of Lectures Policy](#) was approved in June 2026, with the key points of the Policy being that (i) recording of lectures is not mandatory; (ii) lecture recordings are not a substitute for students attending lectures, (iii) any unauthorised sharing, downloading, uploading, distributing or misuse of recordings by students is a breach of University regulations, (iv) reuse, redistribution, or use of lecture recordings by College for purposes unrelated to teaching requires the explicit prior consent of the teaching staff member, and (v) lecture recordings must be managed according

to EU-GDPR legislation. A Recording of Lectures [webpage](#) was launched in June 2026 to support the implementation of the new Policy.

Appeals Policy and Procedures

Academic Affairs led the updating of the [Appeals Policy \(Academic Progress\)](#), the aim of which was to more clearly outline the appeals process at undergraduate, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research level. To support the implementation of the revised Appeals Policy (Academic Progress), two new Procedures were developed. [Procedures for the Conduct of Courts of First Appeal \(COFA\)](#) which combines [existing information](#) on the Court of First Appeal process into a procedure document and [Procedures for the Conduct of School Postgraduate Appeals Committees](#), which extracts information on postgraduate appeals from the Calendar Part III into a Procedure document. The revised Appeals Policy and the two new Procedures documents were published on the Academic Affairs website, along with a process diagram and supporting resources for staff and students.

Development of two Tertiary Degree programmes

Academic Affairs played a key role in supporting the development of two new Tertiary degrees offered by the School of Nursing and Midwifery, in partnership with City of Dublin ETB and the National Tertiary Office. This is a 1+4 model, whereby students undertake a Level 5 Nursing Studies programme in a FET College before progressing to Trinity to either a B.Sc. in Mental Health Nursing or B.Sc. in Intellectual Disability Nursing. The proposal provides 15 places per programme, five of which will be reserved for students from the Traveller and Roma Communities. The new pathways are the first tertiary degrees undertaken by Trinity and align with the 2025-2030 Trinity's strategic plan and commitment to widening participation and creating alternative pathways to higher education.

Bachelor in Civil Laws (Graduate Entry)

In May 2026, a new graduate entry law degree in Civil Law was approved by Council. This innovative two-year programme is targeted at graduates from other disciplines to obtain a Level 8/honours Law degree and will provide graduates with pathways to professional practice both in Ireland and internationally.

New Certificate Exit awards all PGT programmes

Academic Affairs developed and advanced a proposal for the introduction of a General Postgraduate Certificate as a Level 9 minor exit award for students who complete between 30 and 55 ECTS of a taught Masters or Postgraduate Diploma programme but do not complete the parent programme. The proposal was approved in principle by Council in May 2025 and, following the development of the academic regulations, award framework, operational processes, and School-based award titles, received endorsement from the Graduate Studies Committee in January and final approval by Council in February 2026. The new award aligns with the National Framework of Qualifications, existing postgraduate exit award arrangements, and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) policy, providing a consistent exit qualification across the University.

New Postgraduate taught programmes and Micro-Credentials sub-committee

Academic Affairs led the development of the governance arrangements for the establishment of the Postgraduate Taught Programmes and Micro-Credentials Sub-Committee, a new sub-committee of the Graduate Studies Committee. During 2025/26, Academic Affairs developed the Committee's Terms of

Reference, membership, and operating procedures to support the review and approval of new postgraduate taught programmes, major programme amendments, and Micro-Credentials. Council approved, on 27 May 2026, the establishment of the proposed Postgraduate Taught and Micro-Credential Sub-Committee on a pilot basis for the 2026/27 academic year, following the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee at its meeting on 14 May 2026 (Decision GS/25-26/129).

Programmes

Support and collaboration with Schools and academic colleagues in the development and revision of programmes are a core function of the Academic Affairs Team. AA provides guidance, support and feedback to Schools throughout the programme development and approval process. The team reviews academic proposals for all new programmes, Trinity Electives and Micro-credentials, as well as proposals involving significant curriculum amendments or developments at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, before they are submitted to College Academic Committees.

All Trinity programme proposals are developed and approved in line with the '[New Programme Design and Approval Policy](#)', which ensures that the same standards are applied to all programmes, including programme proposals submitted by Trinity's Linked Providers, Marino Institute of Education (MIE) and the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM), those developed under inter-institutional framework agreements/partnerships, and the Micro-Credentials developed under the HCI Pillar 3 pilot programme. A list of undergraduate and postgraduate proposals and curriculum developments, which were both reviewed and supported by AA in 2025/26 and subsequently approved by University Council, can be found in Table 1 below and on our page [2025-2026 - Academic Affairs, Trinity Teaching and Learning | Trinity College Dublin](#).

Table 1a: UG proposals and curriculum developments approved by Council in 2025/26.

Undergraduate Education	
New Approved UG Courses	Bachelor in Civil Law (Graduate Entry)
	Tertiary degree proposal for BSc in Intellectual Disability Nursing and BSc in Mental Health Nursing ¹
Amendments to existing UG Courses	Curriculum revisions for Year 2 of the Medicine programme.
	Revisions to the architecture of three programmes in Nursing, Midwifery, and Children's and General Nursing Integrated Degree Programme (CGIDP), with a reduction of the B.Sc. in Children's and General Nursing Integrated Degree Programme from 4.5 years to 4 years.
	Suspension of Dual Degree Programme with University of Sydney
	Changes to entry requirements for the following programmes: Business and Language, and Business (TJH subject)
	Change of title for programme in Global Business (TR080) to Global and Sustainable Business
	Cessation of the following combinations within the European Studies programme: German/Polish; German/Russian and Polish/Russian combinations
New Trinity Electives	Cultivating Creative Confidence The Art of Climate Change Cantonese Language and Culture Korean Language and Culture Beginners

¹ 1+4 model – 4 years of BSc in Intellectual Disability Nursing and BSc in Mental Health Nursing are unchanged.

Table 1b: PG proposals and curriculum developments approved by Council in 2025/26.

Postgraduate Education	
New Approved PG Courses	Generic Postgraduate Certificate exit award
	Postgraduate Certificate in Traffic Medicine Online
	Postgraduate Diploma in Garda Executive Leadership Programme
	Approval in principle for Erasmus Mundus funding for Joint Masters on Planetary Health (PATH)
	MSc in Physiotherapy
	Joint course proposal: Masters in Theatre SPACeS (Theatre in Social, Participatory Art, Community and Educational Contexts) and a new joint award of Master in Education (MEd) (<i>conjunctim</i>) to be awarded by the University of Dublin
Amendments to existing PG Courses	Introduction of a framework structure for the current MSc in Gerontological Nursing while retaining its traditional structure
	Removal of strands from Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Radiation Therapy and Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Radiation Therapy
	Cessation of MSc in Clinical Speech and Language Studies (Full-Time and Part-Time) and Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Speech and Language Studies (Dysphagia)
	Modifications to current MSc in Business Analytics including change of MSc course title to “Business Analytics and AI for Management”, Postgraduate Diploma exit award title change to “Business Analytics and AI for Management” and introduction of an Online 2 Year Part-Time MSc strand in “Business Analytics and AI for Management”.
Micro-Credentials	Changes to Micro-Credentials Module in Chronic Cardiac Disease Management (NU9MC9) in School of Nursing and Midwifery

Academic Policies, Procedures & Regulations

In association with relevant stakeholders, Academic Affairs reviews and updates academic policies and procedures, in accordance with a cyclical schedule of reviews. New policies, procedures and regulations are also developed, as required, in response to sectoral or statutory initiatives or identified need.

In 2025/26, AA managed the development of three new Policies/Procedures and the review and update of nine others, which are listed in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Academic Policies Developed and Reviewed during 2025/26

College Statement on Artificial Intelligence and Generative AI in Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research
Appeals Policy (Academic Progress)
Conduct of Courts of First Appeals (COFA) Procedures NEW
Conduct of School Postgraduate Appeals Committees Procedures NEW
Recording of Lectures Policy NEW
Academic Awards Policy
Dual and Joint Awards Policy
Transfer to External Examiners of Students Assessed Work Procedures
Conduct of Focus Groups for Student Feedback on Modules and Programmes
Academic Integrity Policy*
Assessment and Academic Progression Policy*
Late Submission of Assessments Policy*
Programme and Curriculum Design and Approval Policy**
Programme Suspension and Cessation Policy**
Recognition of Prior Learning Policy*

**To align policy with the College Statement on Artificial Intelligence and Generative AI in Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research*

*** To align policies with the Linked Provider Framework*

Academic Affairs also informed the development and review of undergraduate regulations and managed the review of and updates to regulations in the Calendar Part II. These included updates to the Fitness to Study and Fitness to Practise regulations to reflect changes to Policies on both; amendments to the Academic Appeals section to reflect revisions to the Appeals Policy (Academic Progress) and the newly developed Procedure for the Conduct of Courts of First Appeal; and amended wording to reflect the change in degree nomenclature from B.A. to B.Sc. for new entrants to five Science Programmes. AA also managed the review and updating of derogations to the TEP regulations relating to course assessment and progression.

Academic Committees

Academic Affairs works closely with the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, the Dean of Graduate Studies, and the Registrar, and provides support to University Council's principal committees namely, the Undergraduate Studies Committee and its sub-committee on Trinity Electives; Graduate Studies Committee, and the sub-committees of University Council – the Associated Colleges Degree Committees

(ACDC) of Marino Institute of Education (MIE) and the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM). Table 3 below provides information on the number of committee meetings held in 2025/26.

Members of the AA team have specific responsibility for committee support and work with the relevant College Officers in setting meeting agendas, drafting documentation, collating and reviewing papers for circulation, acting as minute secretary to meetings, communicating committee decisions to relevant stakeholders and following up on committee actions.

Table 3: Academic Committees and sub-committees supported by Academic Affairs – Key figures 2025/26.

31	Committee/sub-committee meetings, of which:
7	University Council
8	Undergraduate Studies Committee
7	Graduate Studies Committee
6	Associated College Degrees Committee (excl. Annual Dialogue Meeting)
3	Trinity Electives Sub-committee (incl. Trinity Electives assessment review meeting)

College Initiatives and Working Groups

Team members in Academic Affairs actively participate in and bring expertise to a wide range of College's working groups, project groups and committees.

Modular Repeats (USC Working Group)

Academic Affairs led the USC Working group chaired by the Senior Lecturer to develop the framework for Modular Repeats for undergraduate students (see *Strategic Initiatives* section for further details)

Admission Regulations Review (USC Working Group)

Academic Affairs team, along with the Admission Office in Academic Registry, has led a USC Working Group on Admission Regulations Review. This WG is chaired by ADUSE and the complexity of its work meant that the work would span over 2025/26 and well into 2026/27. Terms of Reference for this working group cover a review of general matriculation regulations, programmes' specific regulations, and policies and processes needed to ensure a quality assured, data informed and transparent regular review of undergraduate admission regulations.

Trinity Electives Review (USC Working Group)

During 2025/26, Academic Affairs supported the Trinity Electives Review, a strategic review commissioned by the Senior Lecturer to evaluate the effectiveness of Trinity Electives as a key component of the Undergraduate Common Architecture and the Trinity Education Project (2013-2020). The review examined assessment practices, teaching and learning, governance arrangements, operational processes, and sectoral benchmarking, drawing on institutional data, stakeholder consultation, and committee-led analysis. The interim WG review was presented to USC in 2025/26 and the final report and recommendations are due in early 2026/27.

Recording of Lectures policy (Joint USC/GSC Working Group)

Academic Affairs led a joint USC/GSC Working Group chaired by the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies to develop the College Policy for Recording of Lectures (see *Strategic Initiatives* section for further details).

Micro Credential Systems Steering Group

Academic Affairs participated in a USC/GSC Working Group chaired by the Dean of Graduate Studies which provides strategic oversight, governance, and assurance in relation to the development and implementation of a systems architecture to support the delivery of Micro-Credentials. The Steering Group will also oversee the integration of functionality which will support teaching and lifelong learning, in line with Trinity's Strategic Plan 2025-2030.

Sectoral Work / Networks

The AA team also actively engages and represents Trinity College in industry-wide networks and events:

Coimbra Group

The Assistant Academic Secretary / Head of Academic Affairs continued to play an active role in the Coimbra Group's Education Innovation Working Group, strengthening Trinity's engagement with European partners on advancing teaching and learning. As part of this collaboration, the Head of Unit attended numerous working group meetings advancing its workplan and participated in the Coimbra Group Annual Conference held in Granada in June 2026. This involvement supports the sharing of best practice and contributes to shaping innovative approaches to education across member institutions.

IQQF QQI Committee

Since November 2024, the Assistant Academic Secretary - Academic Affairs has represented Trinity on the QQI Irish Qualifications and Quality Framework (IQQF) Forum, contributing to national discussions on qualifications, quality assurance, and educational standards. This engagement enables Trinity to remain aligned with evolving national frameworks and to actively participate in shaping policy and practice in higher education across Ireland.

Staff Mobility – Visit to Bergen

In January 2026, Academic Affairs team member Solange Daini took part in a week-long staff mobility visit in Bergen University, where she learnt and shared practices on programme development, education innovation projects and academic policy advancements.

Sectoral Events

Staff in Academic Affairs have attended and or contributed to a range of sectoral events – from RPL Policy forums, IUA Microcredentials events, Advance HE Governance in HEIs seminar, to European Degree label workshops and HEA teaching & learning conferences. These engagements contribute to professional development of the team and enables the unit to remain aligned with evolving national and international initiatives and frameworks.

Looking forward to 2026/27

Work and developments planned for 2026/27, include:

- Planning is underway for the review and updating of several College academic policies:
 - External Examiners Policy – Research Programmes
 - External Examiners Policy – Taught Programmes
 - Operation of an Online Viva voce Examination of a Research Thesis or Dissertation
 - Programme Handbook Policy
 - Dual and Joint Awards Policy
 - Quality Policy Statement
- An online application-based pilot for new postgraduate taught (PGT) course proposals, developed internally during 2025/26, is scheduled for launch in Michaelmas Term 2026. Developed as part of the ongoing enhancement of Trinity's programme development processes, the pilot will digitise the submission, review, and approval workflow for new programme proposals. The system is designed to improve efficiency, transparency, and user experience by providing a structured online environment for applicants, reviewers, and approvers, while reducing reliance on document-based submissions. The pilot will enable real-time tracking of proposals, streamline administrative processes, and support consistent governance and quality assurance practices. Feedback from participating Schools and stakeholders will inform further refinement before wider institutional rollout.
- Working Group and Initiatives for Teaching and Learning strategic objectives and continuous improvements will include:
 - Completing the work of Admissions Regulations Review WG.
 - Completing the final report and recommendations to TE Review WG.
 - New Joint USC/GSC Working Group on Review of Assessments.
 - Initiatives with Trinity Global - from Grade conversion models to Global-linked policy and processes reviews – to enable delivery of milestones set out in *Thrive Strategic Plan 2025-2020*.
- Business as usual in 2026/27 will comprise the management and support of USC and GSC, their annual workplans and working groups, and their respective sub-committees (Trinity Electives and new sub-committee on PG Taught and Microcredentials), supporting Schools with course proposals and curriculum developments, guiding development of new programmes and policies by Associated Colleges, and providing policy and regulation guidance to College community and College officers. As part of building collaborative community with Schools, Academic Affairs will be offering an annual induction session to new School Managers and new Directors of Teaching and Learning to brief them on changes to processes managed by Academic Affairs, and to highlight the academic policies coming into effect from 2026/27.

The AA team looks forward to providing continuing guidance and support to the College community in 2026/27. If you have any ideas/feedback to inform our work, please do get in touch!

[Academic Affairs - Academic Affairs | Trinity College Dublin](#)
acadaff@tcd.ie