



Centre for Academic Practice Annual Report

2022-23



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

Trinity Teaching & Learning

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A Message from the Head of Academic Practice

I am delighted to welcome you to this year's annual report from the Centre for Academic Practice. This report captures the commitment, creativity, partnership and innovation that underpin our work in enhancing excellence in teaching and learning across College.

Strengthening and advancing excellence in teaching and learning as a core feature of a world-class educational experience. Over the past year, we have aimed to enhance the learning experience for Trinity students by supporting staff as they strive for excellence in their teaching, learning and assessment practices.

I would like to thank our team in the Centre for Academic Practice for their commitment to enhancing teaching and learning across College. I would also like to thank the staff, and students who have engaged so enthusiastically in our programmes and initiatives, provided important insights into their experiences and who are key to the ever-expanding teaching and learning community at Trinity.

Thank you for your support and I hope you enjoy reading this report of our collective endeavours.

Dr. Pauline Rooney

Head of Academic Practice: Teaching & Learning



About the Centre for Academic Practice

Our Vision

is to strengthen cultures and communities of teaching and learning at Trinity that are underpinned by research, innovation, inclusivity, sustainability and collaboration.



The Team 2022-23



Dr Pauline Rooney

Head of Academic Practice: Teaching & Learning



Nicola Byrne
Project Manager



Jade Concannon
Programme Administrator



Dr Jonny Johnston
Academic Developer



Dr Caitriona Ni She
Academic Developer



Dr Ana Schalk
Academic Developer,
Digital Learning

2022-23 At a Glance



132

Graduates from Special Purpose Certificate (to date)



331

Graduates from Graduate Teaching Assistant Programme (to date)



35

Professional development events in 22-23



900+

Participants at events in 22-23



7

For-credit modules for staff in 22-23



531

Staff enrolled on our modules (to date)



100

Teaching Excellence Award winners (to date)



2

For-credit modules for postgraduate students

Special Purpose Certificate in Teaching, Learning & Assessment

The Professional Special Purpose Certificate in Teaching, Learning & Assessment is a level 9, non-major award. The 15 ECTS-credited 'SpCert' focuses on four interrelated facets of Academic Practice: teaching, learning, research and leadership.

We were delighted to celebrate with our SP Cert graduates this year at their graduation in College's Public Theatre on 14th July 2023.



SpCert graduates share core values grounded in collaboration, partnership, and a clear understanding of the key role of teaching in advancing Trinity's educational mission. You make an exceptional contribution to and share an exceptional commitment to the College teaching and learning community – and we are delighted to be here today as our University formally recognizes your commitment and achievements. We are delighted to celebrate with you, and very much look forward to continuing to collaborate as you progress within Trinity and beyond. Congratulations! "

Dr Jonny Johnston,
Academic Developer

132

Graduates
to date

531

Staff
attendees
to date



[Click here to find out more about our SP Cert programme.](#)



SpCert Graduates 2023

Graduate Teaching Assistant Programmes

The Centre for Academic Practice co-ordinates two 5 ECTS modules targeted to the needs of postgraduate researchers with responsibilities for teaching and learning.

Both modules are particularly appropriate for research students aiming towards a career as a lecturer. They are designed to impact on module participants' professional practice in the context of their role as Graduate Teaching Assistants and as future leaders in research and teaching.

Our Graduate Teaching Assistant modules

Teaching & Supporting Learning as a Graduate Teaching Assistant

Assessment & Feedback in a Digital Context

There is a strong focus on peer engagement with peer-to-peer conversation and small-group interactions enabling participants to share practice and insights into their roles and to develop a scholarly approach to their own teaching practice.

Both modules are structured to take place fully online, making timetabling for module delivery highly flexible.

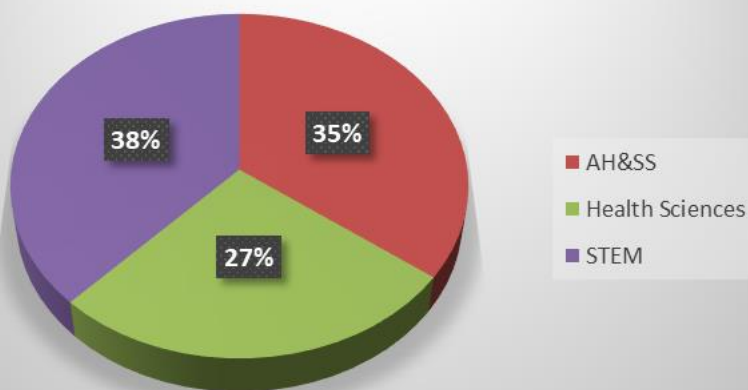
Credits awarded can form part of the structured PhD programme. Registered PhD students may also access a self-guided version of the module that does not lead to the award of credits and which is available on demand through the VLE on a purely professional development basis.



[Find out more about our Graduate Teaching Assistants Programme](#)

Graduates to date by Faculty

Graduates by Faculty 2018-2023



331

Graduates to date



490

Enrolments to date

Research Supervisor Development Programme

Established by the Centre for Academic Practice in 2014, the Research Supervisor Development Programme is a unique collaborative initiative under the auspices of the Irish Universities Association which is run by Graduate Studies and Academic Practice, in partnership with UCD and RCSI.

Targeted at new and experienced supervisors, this programme highlights current pedagogies, practices and challenges in research supervision, offering fora for discussion, collaboration and peer learning.



Nine events were offered in total during 2022-23, with two of these facilitated by Trinity, supported by the Centre for Academic Practice. These included:



- Mental health and wellbeing for research students and supervisors.
- Strategies for managing conflict in the research supervisor-student relationship.



- Attracting the right candidate.
- Navigating supervisory styles, roles and responsibilities.
- Enhancing the research student's skills base.
- Monitoring, assessment, examiners, viva voce.
- Navigating challenging conversations.



- Developing clinician-scientist relationships to progress clinical research.
- On-line and distanced learning in research supervision; benefits and challenges.



[Find out more about the Research Supervisor Development Programme](#)

Professional Development Events & Workshops

Each year, we run standalone professional development events and workshops, in response to academic and institutional needs and priorities. In 2022-23, we focused on **Generative AI** and **Assessment Integrity**.

National Panel Debate

On 18 April 2023 we ran a **National Panel Debate on Generative AI and ChatGPT: What's next for Assessment in Higher Education?** This was attended by over 230 people from higher level education in Ireland, the UK, Switzerland and South Africa. The event aimed to:

- raise awareness of the potential implications of generative AI for teaching, learning and assessment;
- engender debate on how generative AI could challenge and/or enhance assessment integrity;
- enable reflection on the wider implications of using generative AI for teaching, learning and assessment (including legal/ethical issues).



Events at a Glance



900+
Participants



35
Events



26
Contributors



25
Resources

Faculty-based Assessment Integrity Clinics

Recognising the variety of assessment practices across the disciplines, and the challenges posed by generative AI in this regard, we also ran three Faculty-based assessment integrity clinics. Facilitated in partnership with Trinity academics, these aimed to:

- showcase potential modifications to assessment practices in the respective Faculty in response to these challenges;
- provide a forum for colleagues to discuss ongoing challenges posed by generative AI and to share potential strategies for mitigating these challenges.

Working in the disciplines

The Centre for Academic Practice works collaboratively with individuals, groups, and programme teams to provide bespoke guidance and support in teaching, learning, assessment and curriculum design.

Over the past year we have worked extensively with a range of staff, offering supports and consultancies targeted to School and Department needs.

Supporting Excellence in Curriculum Development

Each year we support academic staff in the development of new programmes and modules, with a focus on the curriculum design process. This year we ran a series of workshops, underpinned by the ABC learning design method, where staff were supported to map out their module plans, including teaching, learning and assessment activities.

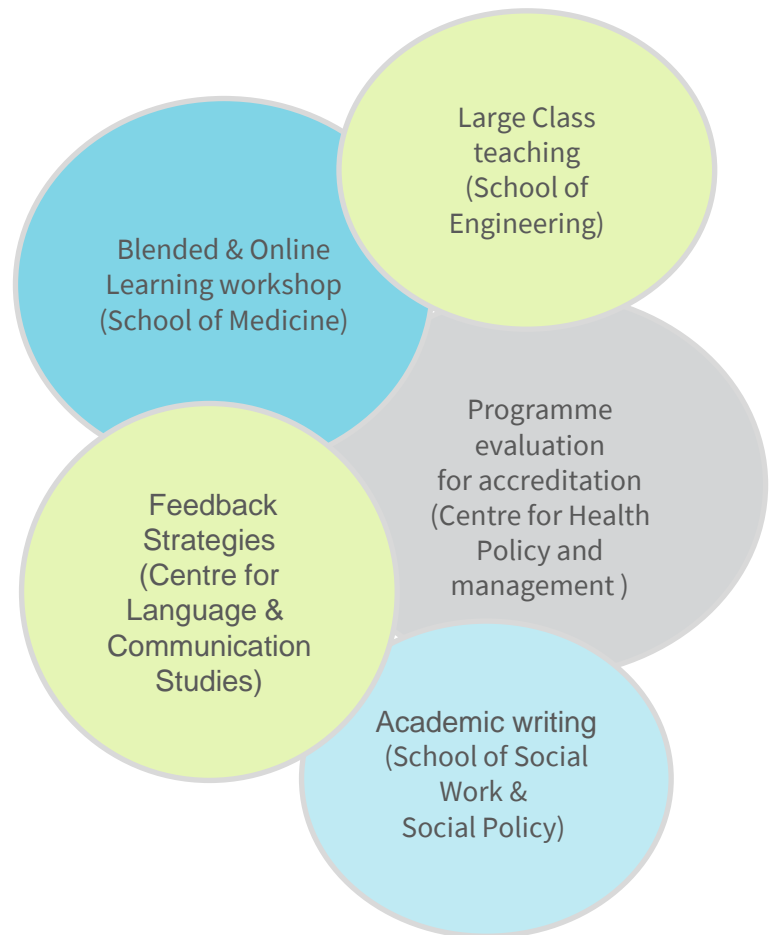


The workshop provided a roadmap for developing my module step-by-step.



[Click here to find out more about how we support programme and module design processes.](#)

Sample Initiatives Supported:



Participants at one of our Curriculum Design workshops, 2023

Strategic Teaching & Learning Projects

Education for Sustainable Development

The [Strategic Alignment of Teaching and Learning Enhancement Funding in Higher Education](#) (SATLE) aims to drive teaching and learning innovation and enhancement across the Irish higher education sector with a focus on **Education for Sustainable Development**, Digital Transformation, and Cultivating Academic Integrity.

Supported by this funding, in May 2023, Trinity Teaching and Learning appointed five **Fellows in Education for Sustainable Development**. With established academic careers in their respective disciplines and with particular expertise and interest in ESD, these Fellows will work in partnership with the Centre for Academic Practice and Trinity Sustainability to lead the development of an ESD Strategy and Implementation Plan for Trinity.



Using discipline-specific and interdisciplinary approaches, all Trinity students and staff will be empowered to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to act as successful agents of change, individually and collectively, in working for sustainable development within planetary boundaries.



[Click here to find out more about ESD at Trinity.](#)

Trinity Excellence in Teaching Awards

The Trinity Excellence in Teaching Awards 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.

This year saw a new two-phase process initiated. In the first phase, each School convened a panel who were tasked with identifying a deserving candidate from applicants within their respective schools who would 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**.

Award winners were announced by the Provost Dr Linda Doyle at a ceremony in the Provost's House on Thursday 8th June 2023.



School Award Winners with the Provost, June 2023



“The Trinity Excellence in Teaching Awards recognise those who educate the minds of the future and push boundaries. The awardees are hugely dedicated to their teaching and show great care for their students. They are very inspiring as they constantly strive to do even better and are so innovative in their approach to teaching.”

Provost Linda Doyle



Trinity Excellence in Teaching Award Winners with the Provost, June 2023

2023 Award Winners

Here's what our students both past and present had to say about this year's award winners.

“[This professor's] passion for his subject, his understanding of how students learn, and his willingness to implement new technology into his module was outstanding ... I think he is worthy of an award for at the very least: modernising a module for the new generation of students”.

Dr Jonathan Dukes School of Computer Science & Statistics,
Trinity Excellence in Teaching Award Winner 2023



“To put it anecdotally- when the whole class applauds you after a lecture, you know you've done a good job. Dr Kneafsey has helped me truly enjoy the study of Political Science, and I am sure many other students as well...Dr Kneafsey is undoubtedly the best lecturer I have had and has a clear love and understanding for the material he teaches”.

Dr Liam Kneafsey, School of Social Sciences & Philosophy
Trinity Excellence in Teaching Award Winner 2023



“Yvonne is a good-hearted person and an academic who is trustworthy in word and deed. ..she is approachable, passionate, well prepared and if this were not enough, she also ensures effective workshop-based activities in her lectures”.

Dr Yvonne Lynch, School of Linguistic, Speech & Communication Sciences
Trinity Excellence in Teaching Award Winner 2023



“Brendan is a warm, empathetic and understanding individual who is always engaging and bright in every lecture. He feels like an approachable individual and has proven to be so on many occasions when I have needed help and advice, on which occasions he has gone out of his way to be more than helpful”.

Dr Brendan O'Connell, School of English
Trinity Excellence in Teaching Award Winner 2023



2023 School Award Winners

“[She] was very kind and supportive to me. She helped me a lot with all the questions I had and made me feel very welcomed as a new student. She is very passionate about teaching and it makes the process for students easier and more motivational”.

Prof Maeve Caldwell, School of Medicine



“What distinguishes Dr Carr's pedagogy as exceptional and worthy of an award is that it is impactful both in the classroom and beyond. She is one of the most empathetic, kind and joyful teachers in Trinity who is well admired by staff and students alike”.

Dr Rebecca Carr, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies



There are not enough awards that Catherine can receive to demonstrate the impact she has on her students...I have been in education for 25 years and I have never once come across a person like Catherine, she is a leader, a role model, an inspiration and someone to look up to and admire.

Prof Catherine Comiskey, School of Nursing & Midwifery



“I believe that he is among the best lecturers, in fact probably the best lecturer I have had during my time in Trinity... Personally, I feel that he has shown a uniquely high level of dedication to those of us he teaches”.

Dr Mauro Ferreira, School of Physics



“Dr Fitzgerald has an outstanding way of teaching complicated engineering topics in a simplified and understandable manner. This approach greatly motivated me and my fellow classmates in the subject... I think [his] teaching methods are worthy of an award because they are encouraging and motivating.”

Dr Breiffni Fitzgerald, School of Engineering



“I have not attended a lecture like Dr Kelly's Psychology of the Climate Crisis. Crucially, she has done what is the central goal of any teacher: She has inspired me to take a more active part in the world”.

Dr Clare Kelly, School of Psychology



“She never ceases to inspire her students and make them want to learn more every day. Not only does she smile at everyone and is extremely friendly and approachable, but she also actively reaches out and tries to support us whenever we might seem stressed or overwhelmed.”

Dr Ewa Komorek, School of Law



“Dr Logan has an incredible approach to teaching that isn’t often found among our other lecturers... her lessons are structured in such a way that it becomes how I think about that problem. It carved out the path in my brain such that even when I’m reviewing the material for the first time since we last covered it, I can picture her saying the lesson to me again”..

Dr Miriam Logan, School of Mathematics



“Thorough. Passionate. Prepared. The way Dr McHugh was able to bring the cohort along on an exciting journey through Financial Statement Analysis, where majority of us had no previous experience in the topic, was well paced and perfectly executed.”

Dr Gerard McHugh, School of Business



**Warm congratulations to all 2023 Award winners
on your outstanding achievement!**

Research & Scholarship

Peer Reviewed Publications



Roche, C., Abria, L., Farrell, O., Johnston, J., Penny Light, T., McKibben, A., Reast, A., Yancy, K.B. (2023) ePortfolio for experiential learning: guided by theory, cultivated by students. *International Journal of students as Partners*.



Flynn, S.; Byrne, J.; Molloy, K.; Johnston, J.; Stone, S.; Lowney, R.; Munro, M.; Moloney, D. (2023) 'Vibrant, open and accessible': Students' Visions of Higher Education Futures'. in: Czerniewicz, L.; Cronin, C. (eds.) *He4Good: Teaching and Learning Futures*. Open Book Publishers.



Caitríona Ní Shé, Ciarán Mac an Bhaird & Eabhnat Ní Fhloinn (2023) 'Factors that influence student engagement with technology-enhanced resources for formative assessments in first-year undergraduate mathematics', *International Journal of Mathematical Education in Science and Technology*.

[>> Read more](#)



Ní Shé C, Ní Fhloinn E, Mac an Bhaird C. Student Engagement with Technology-Enhanced Resources in Mathematics in Higher Education: A Review. *Mathematics*. 2023; 11(3):787.

Conference Posters



Roche, C., Mc Gowan, E. Grimes, T., Rangariroyashe C. (2023) Authentic, Innovative and Feasible: Designing Assessments for a New Module. *QQI Rethinking Assessment in Higher Education*, Dublin, 30th January 2023.



Johnston, J., Rooney, P., NiShe, C., Concannon, J., Byrne, N., Roche, C. (2023) Surfacing academic integrity via authentic & integrated assessment. *QQI Rethinking Assessment in Higher Education*, Dublin, 30th January 2023.



NiShe, C., Rooney, P., Byrne, N. Johnston, J., Concannon, J., Roche, C., (2023) Signature Assessments in the Disciplines. *QQI Rethinking Assessment in Higher Education*, Dublin, 30th January 2023.



Roche, C., Jameson, G., Gardiner, C., (2023) Assessment of graduate attributes: priming for & observing elective vaccines debates. *QI Rethinking Assessment in Higher Education*, Dublin.

Looking forward to 2023-24

As we move into the next academic year, we are looking forward to continuing our work with staff across College and to leading and contributing to institutional teaching and learning initiatives.

In addition to our core professional development provision for staff and graduate teaching assistants, our work over the coming year will focus on three key areas of national and institutional strategic importance: academic integrity, digital transformation in teaching and learning and education for sustainable development.

Academic Integrity

Digital Transformation

Education for Sustainable Development

We will continue to strand our activities under three pillars:

Leading
academic
professional
development

Advancing
and
promoting
research &
scholarship

Nurturing and
supporting
teaching
excellence



[Find out more at our website](#)

We are always interested in hearing from you!



Find out more on our [Centre for Academic Practice website](#).



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These are Faculty spaces where you can share questions, research, ideas and experiences related to your teaching, learning and assessment practices.

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