



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

**Trinity College Dublin
The University of Dublin
Global engagement Committee Meeting
24th February 2026**

Present:

Dr E Stokes (Vice President for Global Engagement), Ms B Walls (Director of Student Services), Prof B Broderick (Associate Dean of Research), Dr C Ehrhard (Global Director School of Pharmaceutical Sciences), Dr C Barbour (Global Director School of Languages, Literature & Cultural Studies), Dr C Cunningham (Global Director School Biochemistry & Immunology), Dr D Zaitsev (Global Director School of Mathematics), Dr E Nixon (Global Director School of Psychology), Dr F O'Toole (Global Director School of Social Sciences and Philosophy), Ms G McNally (Student Union President), Dr J Erickson (Global Director School of Religion), Ms J Whelan (Global Director School of Nursing and Midwifery), Prof K Maguire (Global Director School of Physics), Dr M Huggard (Global Director School of Computer Science and Statistics), Dr R Hobbs (Global Director School of Chemistry), Dr R Costello (Global Director School of Law), Dr N NiChiarain (Global Director, School of Linguistics), Prof S Holt (Social Studies)

Apologies:

Dr A Bray (Global Director School of Education), Dr Daniela Tropea (School of Medicine), Dr E Vybralouva, (Global Director School of English), Dr I Polyzois (Global Director School of Dental Sciences), Prof M Smith (Dean of Graduate Studies), Dr M Sihra (Global Director School of Creative Arts), Mr N Murphy (Head of Accommodation), Dr N O'Connor (Global Director, School of Natural Sciences), Dr R Porter (Dean of Students), Prof R Jayasekera (Global Director School of Business), Dr S Smith (Senior Tutor), Dr S McCaughren (Global Director School of Social Works and Social Policy) Dr Tim Persoons (Global Director, School of Engineering), Prof V Wade (Senior Lecturer)

In Attendance:

Ms A Févry (Secretary to the Committee)

Ex Officio:

Ms A Byrne (Future Students Strategy Adviser), Mr D Coogan (Associate Director: Student Recruitment), Dr J Johnston (Policy & Research Advisor), Ms M Garvey (Business Planning & Data Manager), Ms N Burke (Associate Director Partnerships and Global Mobility)

GEC/25-26/Feb/1

Previous Minutes

The minutes from the GEC meeting held on 4th December 2025 were approved.

GEC/25-26/Feb/2

Matters Arising

Framework and Business Plan: The Vice President for Global Engagement noted that the Trinity Global implementation plan did not proceed to the



December Finance Committee meeting, and that it will be picked up by the upcoming Vice President for Global Engagement in September.

Report of the Taskforce on Academic and Institutional International Links:

The Vice President for Global Engagement noted this item was raised at Council in February and will proceed to the Principal Committees and subsequently Board.

GEC/25-26/Feb/3

Update on Student Numbers

Mr D Coogan, Associate Director: Student Recruitment, provided an update by way of presentation.

Mr Coogan noted a forecast of 103% against income ambitions for 25-26 before discussing global and national trends. He highlighted a change in international student preferences opting to study closer to home or undertaking international programmes in their own countries. He also noted a global drop in the number of Indian and Chinese students studying abroad. He highlighted sectoral developments such as an increased interest from other countries in becoming destinations resulting in a change in the competitive landscape. Mr Coogan also noted the diversification of offerings in response to these trends including a rise in innovative programmes, digital delivery and a switch towards Transnational Education (TNE).

Mr Coogan spoke to the admissions trends within Trinity noting the shifting demand from China and India for Postgraduate applications. The quality of applications and the resulting higher offer rates despite a lower application rate was noted. He noted an increase in Postgraduate applications from the US, UK, MENA, EU regions as well as from Ireland, while also highlighting the ongoing growth in Undergraduate applications.

Admissions data as of 11th February 2026 and in comparison, to 11th February 2025 was presented.

Discussion:

In consideration of diversification of offerings, Trinity's experience in TNE as part of the SIT programme was discussed. It was noted that while it is part of emerging strategies for other countries e.g. the UK, TNE requires a large commitment which does not immediately yield large financial rewards. It was suggested that future approaches to TNE within Trinity may be driven by several schools developing a series of offerings with a partner institution through a joint programme or joint institute. It was noted that China and India have an appetite for TNE with STEM an area of particular interest. Opportunities such as online or blended mobility and Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) were discussed.



In consideration of diversification of markets, the approach to emerging markets e.g. Africa was discussed. It was noted that logistical challenges such as visa, currency and recognition of education can apply and focus within Africa has extended to date within South Africa and Kenya. The diaspora in countries e.g. Australia, and their impact on student recruitment applications was discussed. It was noted that the price-point may not be optimum for full degree students, but international exchange at Undergraduate level could be a focus and result in future interest for Postgraduate applications.

The topic of internal recruitment from Undergraduate to Postgraduate was raised.

Action: *Academic Registry to track applications and conversions from UG to PG*

The question of overarching goals in terms of student recruitment was raised. It was noted that schools are forecasting a 1% growth with both quality and diversity of the students areas of focus. The next Global Engagement business plan will address future goals.

GEC/25-26/Feb/4

Any other business

The topic of Erasmus+ partnerships was raised. It was noted that the threshold of students in Erasmus+ outbound mobility has been reached within the funding available and further Erasmus+ partnerships should be paused.

The meeting concluded at 12pm.