

Trinity's Visitors

Trinity features strongly on all lists of Ireland's Top 10 visitor attractions—no.3 on Trip Advisor and no.5 on Fáilte Ireland—and over two million people visit the University each year.

Welcoming the public

Trinity's iconic campus has plenty to offer the culturally-curious: the Book of Kells and the Long Room, which houses 200,000 of the Library's oldest books together with one of the few remaining copies of the 1916 Proclamation and the Brian Boru Harp. Science Gallery Dublin, the Zoological Museum and student-led walking tours are also key visitor attractions.

There was strong consecutive growth of visitors on campus this year: over 964,000 visitors came to view the Book of Kells from all over the world, with increasing numbers from France, Germany, Ireland, China and the US. Almost 10,000 people visited the Zoological Museum from last June to August to view the unique 200-year-old collection, which includes approximately 25,000 specimens from Ireland and further afield as well as 'live animal' displays.

Since opening in 2008, over three million people have visited Science Gallery Dublin and experienced more than 40 unique exhibitions, ranging from living art experiments to materials science, and from the future of the human race to the future of play.

Through a cutting-edge programme that ignites creativity and discovery, Science Gallery Dublin encourages young people to learn through their interests. In 2016/17, the four shows DESIGN AND VIOLENCE, HUMANS NEED NOT APPLY, SOUND CHECK and IN CASE OF EMERGENCY attracted a record-breaking 436,350 visitors.

RIGHT (L-R) – Provost Dr Patrick Prendergast and Mario Draghi, President of the European Central Bank



→ There was strong consecutive growth of visitors on campus this year: over 964,000 visitors came to view the Book of Kells from all over the world, with increasing numbers from France, Germany, Ireland, China and the US.



14



TOP LEFT (L-R) – Martin Scorsese with Provost Dr Patrick Prendergast and Matthew Nuding, President of The Phil

BELOW LEFT – Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland viewing the 1916 Proclamation with Anne-Marie Diffley, Visitor Services Manager, Old Library

→ Since opening in 2008, over three million people have visited Science Gallery Dublin and experienced more than 40 unique exhibitions, ranging from living art experiments to materials science...

This summer visitors to campus enjoyed an enhanced visitor experience with new developments such as the refurbished entrance at Nassau Street, a refreshed Book of Kells exhibition and a brand new visitor centre in Regent House.

A team of student Welcome Ambassadors worked during the peak tourist season, June to October, promoting the venues and facilities open to the public. This summer, for the third year running, they were a real point of difference to visitors who love hearing insider knowledge on Trinity student life.

Welcoming dignitaries

To mark the 425th anniversary of the founding of the University, a symposium on 'Trinity through the Centuries' was held in September 2017. The opening address was given by An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar TD, who earned the distinction this year of being the first Trinity graduate to hold the office of Taoiseach.

The President of the European Central Bank, Mr Mario Draghi gave a keynote address at Trinity on 'Youth unemployment in the euro area' at the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy's annual Henry Grattan Lecture in September. It was followed by a roundtable discussion – the ECB Youth Dialogue – when he was joined by Trinity Economics students. The visit concluded with Mr Draghi being presented with the Gold Medal of Honorary Patronage by the University Philosophical Society (The Phil).

The First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon, was another recipient of The Phil's Gold Medal in November 2016, while a few months later renowned film director, Martin Scorsese also became an honorary patron when he visited Trinity in February. Both addressed packed audiences of students and staff.

In January Nobel Peace Prize winner F.W. de Klerk was presented with the Trinity College Law Society *Praeses Elit* Award in recognition of his key role in ending apartheid and his outstanding contribution to reconciliation in South Africa.

The 47th US Vice President Joe Biden returned to Trinity for a visit in September with his family. In June of last

year he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University.

His Excellency Governor General of Australia, Sir Peter Cosgrove announced a €200,000 scholarship fund for Australian students to study on the Trinity MBA during his visit in September.

The Minister of Environment and Climate Change for Canada, Catherine McKenna, MP engaged in a student debate and Q&A session in October, focusing on Canada's leadership on climate change, encouraging youth involvement, the role of women, and the role of innovation in transitioning to lower-carbon economies. She was joined by former President of Ireland and Chancellor of Trinity, Dr Mary Robinson, who is President of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice.

Other dignitary visits throughout the year included H.E. Mr Ji Bingxuan, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of NPC, Mr Fumio Kishida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Japan, Mr Igor Crnadak, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ms Margrethe Vestager, EU Commissioner for Competition, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of UAE, Mr Jean-Marc Ayrault, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development, France, Professor Norbert Lammert, President of the German Bundestag, Mr Eiki Nestor, President of the Estonian Parliament, Mr Michel Sapin, Minister for the Economy and Finance, France, Mr Zeid Ra'ad al Hussein, UN High Commissioner of Human Rights and Mr Hu Chunhua, Secretary General of the Chinese Communist Party, Guangdong province.

Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, Louise Richardson, film maker, David Puttnam, founder of Jones Engineering, Eric Kinsella and former Chief Nursing Officer with the Department of Health, Peta Taaffe, were awarded honorary doctorates at Trinity's winter commencements.

At the summer commencements in June 2017, rock star and humanitarian activist Bob Geldof, historian Professor Marianne Elliott, Australian medical researcher, Professor Terence Dwyer, scientist Professor James P Smith, and environmentalist Patricia Oliver received honorary degrees.

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

House 1, Trinity College Dublin
Dublin 2, Ireland

–

T + 353 1 896 4362

E provost@tcd.ie

W www.tcd.ie

→ [To read the full publication, please click here](#)

