In 2018 Trinity celebrated its most significant and wide-reaching university partnership to date with the launch, in February, of a dual degree programme with top Ivy League college, Columbia University in New York.

Academics in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences worked with colleagues in Columbia over 18 months to develop undergraduate programmes of study to lead to dual degrees in four humanities disciplines (see page 18). The response from prospective students was immediate, with applications received from over 20 countries. Trinity welcomed the first cohort of 40 students this September.

The dual degree programme with Columbia brings to the next level Trinity’s global engagement which focuses on:

— Building global collaborations and partnerships;
— Ensuring a global student community with a truly diverse profile;
— Leveraging the global reach and impact of Trinity’s research, education and innovation; and
— Supporting the continued delivery of a high-quality student experience.
The increase of students from around the world is thanks to sustained engagement by the Global Relations Team and academics from all schools on recruitment and partnerships activity.
Global partnerships

As well as the ground-breaking agreement with Columbia University, Trinity signed a new strategic partnership with the University of Science and Technology Beijing. The UG 2+2 will allow students reading Physics to transfer into Junior Sophister year at Trinity. On successful completion of the programme, students will graduate with a University of Dublin award. The first intake of students is anticipated for September 2019.

In October 2017 the Provost led a delegation to the Middle East and Gulf states and visited Lebanon, Egypt, Kuwait, Oman and UAE. One of the objectives of this trip was to cultivate strategic relationships with the most prominent universities in the region including the American University of Beirut in Lebanon, Sultan Qaboos University in Oman, and the University of Kuwait. In addition to discussions on general academic collaboration there was particular focus on developing exchange agreements for students on the new undergraduate programme in Middle Eastern and European Languages and Culture (MEELC). The trips included engagement with alumni in all countries visited.

A diverse and global student community

The student body continues to grow in terms of diversity and last year students from 124 countries registered in Trinity. In 2017/18, 4,632 students came from outside of Ireland and 2,874 students came from outside of Europe (approximately 26% and 16% respectively).

The increase of students from around the world is thanks to sustained engagement by the Global Relations Team and academics from all schools on recruitment and partnerships activity. The focus of direct recruitment continues to be US, Canada, Asia and the Middle East; however the success and reputation of the International Foundation Programme has led to students from Tanzania, Armenia, Russia, Ukraine and Swaziland. Though only in its second year, the Foundation Programme - a pre-university one-year programme to enable international students to prepare for university admission - is globally recognised and the number of students has exceeded initial expectations.

The US open days continue to be an important part of the annual schedule and last year saw a record number of potential students and parents attend. The open days also provide an opportunity for further engagement with alumni who assist in panel sessions and in advising parents and potential students. Trinity Development and Alumni also organised alumni events in Chicago and Boston where graduates were updated on recent developments including E3, the Trinity Business School and the Trinity Education Project.

Impactive global research, education & innovation

Trinity has enjoyed particular success in securing European research funding over recent years - winning 35 European Research Council PI grants since 2007, worth nearly €64 million in funding. Trinity is currently 28th in Europe out of over 900 higher education institutions in terms of numbers of ERC awards secured during Horizon 2020. The university recognises the particular importance of engaging with European partners as the UK prepares to exit the EU. The Provost led a number of high level visits to European universities over the last year, including to the universities of Copenhagen, Barcelona and Paris-Sorbonne, and Trinity is currently advancing plans and approaching partner institutes to develop a European Universities Network, as envisaged by the European Council in 2017 to be part of FP9.
The Trinity Access Programme (TAP) is collaborating with the Oxford University college, Lady Margaret Hall, to bring the TAP Foundation Year to Oxford in a four-year pilot scheme. The second cohort of students started in September 2017; two other Oxford colleges are now interested in joining the scheme.

The new Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation (TCLCT) launched in April. The first Centre of its kind in Ireland and only the second in UK and Ireland, it showcases the university’s proficiency in modern languages and is building relationships with other cultural institutions in Dublin to host events that place translation and global languages centre-stage.

A high-quality student experience
Trinity aims for students to gain international experience, where possible, and on campus, to enjoy an enriching cosmopolitan experience through curricular and extracurricular activities, organised by the Global Room and student societies.

During the academic year 2017/18, over 830 undergraduate students studied abroad as part of mobility programmes, research placements or clinical placements – this represents approximately 30% of all third-year undergraduates.

The next stage of the Trinity Education Project – involving semesterisation and elective modules - widens opportunities for students to spend a term or year in a university abroad, doing a combination of core and approved modules.

In 2017/18, 4,632 students came from outside of Ireland and 2,874 students came from outside of Europe

Trinity continues to expand college-wide student exchange programmes through signing new agreements with peer universities, and also plans to increase such exchanges with a number of key partners. There are currently eight new student exchange agreements being mapped with universities in US, Brazil, Middle East, Japan, Singapore and Vietnam.

The Global Engagement Awards
Every year since 2015, the Provost has hosted annual Global Engagement awards in recognition of outstanding contributions by academic and professional staff.

The recipients of the 2018 Global Engagement Awards are: Professor Zuleika Rodgers as Programme Director for the Dual Degree programme with Columbia University and a joint award for Professor Charles Patterson and Prof Hongzhou Zhang to recognise their work in the development of a partnership with University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB).
The Dual BA Programmes between Trinity and Columbia offer students the opportunity to immerse themselves in two elite research universities whose academic, social and cultural environments allow students to take advantage of the best that both Dublin and New York have to offer.

The newly launched programmes are unique in that students will graduate from the two leading universities with two degrees over the course of four years. The inaugural cohort of 40 students started in September 2018 at Trinity, studying one of four areas—English Studies, European Studies, History, or Middle Eastern and European Languages and Cultures – and they will go on to study at Columbia for their final two years, completing a core curriculum and several majors.

During their time in the programme, Dual BA students will be part of two vibrant academic communities with access to abundant extracurricular options on campus and beyond, as well as internship and entrepreneurial opportunities in both Dublin and New York City. In year four, the research project, co-supervised by academics in Trinity and Columbia, will give students the opportunity to develop their interests.

The programme proved a winner from the outset, with high competition for places. Over 150 applications were received from Belgium, Bulgaria, Ireland, France, Sweden, UK, Australia, China, India, Philippines, Russia, Turkey and the US.

The initiative is a first for Trinity but builds on the success of two other dual degrees that Columbia University has with the prestigious Paris Institute of Political Sciences (Sciences Po) and City University of Hong Kong.

There is a rich shared heritage between Dublin and New York and between Trinity and Columbia that the Dual Programme can draw on: both universities were founded centuries ago by royal charter from British monarchs – Trinity in 1592 by Elizabeth I and Columbia in 1754 by George II – and both are multidisciplinary, urban universities, committed to academic freedom and progressive values and proud to serve their regions culturally, socially and economically.

The Dual BA Programme is Trinity and Columbia’s way of giving students the international experience they will need to take advantage of opportunities in an ever more globalised, adaptive and flexible world. And both universities recognise the importance, in the world today, of making common cause with peer institutes, developing a sense of interrelated international intellectual life and a sense of togetherness and solidarity for shared values.