In a rapidly transforming world – where technology is continually evolving, workplace practices and career models are in flux and the planet confronts global challenges like climate change and biodiversity loss – universities must evolve in the way that they educate students and prepare them for successful careers and lives of active citizenship.

In Trinity we are conscious of our responsibility to educate students of the future and we are putting in place initiatives and programmes to develop the skills, approach and mindset that graduates will need to flourish in the 21st century.

E3
The new Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies development, E3, is a ground-breaking initiative which equips the university to do three things simultaneously: create new curricula in engineering and the sciences; enable new research around areas of global challenge, and build new infrastructure that attracts more students to come to Trinity.

E3 will expand education and research across three of Trinity’s schools: Engineering, Natural Sciences, and Computer Sciences & Statistics. It will facilitate an increase of 1,800 students leading to a total of 4,800 in these three schools and respond to the national and international demand for highly-skilled scientists and engineers.

E3 will position Ireland at the forefront of fields of research in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (the STEM disciplines), that are crucial for future economic competitiveness. It will educate engineers and scientists for employment in existing and new technology sectors, equip them with the skills and attributes to lead in the creation of new businesses, and place Ireland in a leadership role globally for the quality of graduates in the STEM disciplines.
We are putting in place initiatives and programmes to develop the skills, approach and mindset that graduates will need to flourish in the 21st century...
The span of E3 research will encompass six research themes: Environment, Resources, Production, Data, Well-being, and Cities. New postgraduate courses will be created in these areas.

Plans for the first phase of E3 – the E3 Learning Institute – were unveiled in May. The initiative is made possible through a major private philanthropic donation by the Naughton family together with Government funding from the Department of Education and Skills.

Tangent

In spring 2019 the Trinity Business School (TBS) will move into its new €80 million building beside Science Gallery, facing out to Pearse Street.

Co-located with TBS in this state-of-the-art building will be Tangent, Trinity’s Ideas Workspace, offering students, staff, and the wider innovation ecosystem a place to come together to collaborate, build and innovate.

As a European leader in student entrepreneurship, Trinity launched Tangent this year as a new initiative for the college, supported by the Bank of Ireland. Providing cutting-edge innovation and entrepreneurship education, Tangent offers a suite of certified and professional education programmes that aims to motivate and inspire students, academics and industry professionals. It specialises in idea generation, translation and validation; creative problem solving (including design thinking); storytelling and communications; lean business methodologies; new venture planning and leadership development.

Adapting tools from design, theatre, psychology, business and the arts, the Tangent education experience is both interactive and immersive. Its programmes aim to produce graduates equipped with an entrepreneurial mindset, well positioned to succeed in creative and commercial endeavours.

Trinity Education Project

A university-wide initiative to renew the undergraduate curriculum, known as The Trinity Education Project, is at the implementation phase. It’s due to complete in September 2020. The most ambitious renewal of our undergraduate curriculum in a century, the Trinity Education Project will ensure that students are prepared appropriately for global changes in the workplace and in society, including more flexible job practices and the growth of the digital workplace.

Some of the changes being made include:

- more diverse styles of assessment – moving away from exams to other means of appraisal, such as peer-to-peer assessment;
- all students will complete an independent “capstone” research project in their final year;
- a more flexible programme structure
- more opportunity for students to take modules outside their core discipline – the ‘Trinity Electives’ mean that science students can now take modules in arts and humanities, and vice versa and
- continued emphasis on extra-curricular learning through participation in clubs and societies.
These changes aim to prepare graduates for a world that is ever more global, entrepreneurial, and technological, and more flexible in terms of jobs and career-building. The Trinity Education Project is about encouraging students to develop a mindset premised on four Graduate Attributes:

— To think independently
— To communicate effectively
— To develop continuously
— To act responsibly

These attributes encompass the qualities, skills and abilities that our students have the opportunity to develop throughout their entire university experience – both in and outside the classroom in activities such as internships and volunteering.

Provost’s PhD Project awards

The inaugural Provost’s PhD Project Awards, providing 40 fully funded PhD positions across a wide variety of disciplines, were launched this year. These doctoral awards are generously funded through unrestricted alumni donations and profits derived from Trinity’s Commercial Revenue Unit.

Open to all Assistant/Associate Professors, there were nearly 200 applications from PIs across the university. The 40 chosen projects showcase the range, depth and quality of research in Trinity including areas such as: ‘China, Ireland and Empire’, ‘Modularity in Quantum Gravity and String Theory’, ‘Calcium supplementation and its effects on the pathogenesis of cardiovascular disease’, ‘ExStream: Freshwater Ecosystems under Global Change’, and ‘Improving the Psychological Treatment of Refugees and Asylum Seekers who have experienced torture and other forms of extreme trauma’.

The awards signal the college-wide commitment to Trinity’s PhD students who will be given the opportunity to work with and learn from global leaders in research, to benefit from their experience and networks.

The inaugural Provost’s PhD Project Awards providing 40 fully funded PhD positions across a wide variety of disciplines, were launched this year. These doctoral awards are generously funded through unrestricted alumni donations and profits derived from Trinity’s Commercial Revenue Unit.
→ To read the full publication, please click here