



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

Update from the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities

February 2017



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Following a memorable Breakfast Briefing event at the end of October, kindly hosted by Bank of Ireland, the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities (TCPID) are delighted to have forged links with a number of new Business Partners. We are continuing contact with other companies who are exploring a potential involvement and hope to build our Business Partner network even further in 2017.

We are so grateful to our partners for all of your support, both financial and practical which plays a critical role in sustaining our innovative programme. The links we have developed with our Business Partners helps enable our students and graduates to contribute meaningfully to the workplace and to their local community, and to reach their full potential.

In the words of our new TCPID Students (pictured here):

“I wanted to come to Trinity College to get a proper education, because I never had this opportunity before.”

“The best thing about being in Trinity College is making new friends.”

“All my friends who I went to mainstream school with are in University and now I feel the same as them because I am in Trinity College.”



Our new students enjoying their first taste of life in Trinity College



The following is a brief update on what has been happening in the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities (TCPID) over the past few months.

Curriculum

Our new students have settled in well to Trinity College life and have successfully completed their first semester of the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice. The students took part in a brand new Sign Language lab as part of the Language and Society module. The students completed this weekly Sign Language lab alongside fellow Trinity College Occupational Therapy students. This peer-learning model allows both sets of undergraduate students to learn from each other.

The students have just started a very exciting module, which combines two modules of Italian and Exploring Art. The Exploring Art module is being taught, in part though Italian. This is a new teaching methodology which is being developed as a research project by the lecturers involved.

Technology

The students have started using their new laptops in some of their classes to enhance their learning. These laptops were generously donated by one of our Business Partners, GE Capital Aviation Services. The students have also completed beginners training in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint, as well as Assistive Technology training. We hope to have further training sessions scheduled for them throughout the year with the help of the IT Services team here in Trinity.

Media

The students have taken part in interviews about their experience on the course for RTE Radio One and The University Times. One of our students, Niamh Biddulph will be featured in an upcoming documentary “Autism and Me”, to be broadcast on RTE One on Monday February 20th at 9.35pm. The RTE TV crew came in before Christmas to film Niamh with the rest of her class, however unfortunately these scenes did not make the final cut. The students have been promised a DVD of the footage though, so they are not too disappointed.



Student Presentations

Our new TCPID students recently completed their very first presentations to the CEO of GE Capital Aviation Services, Alec Burger. They worked very hard on the presentations and even came in to practice during their Christmas holidays. The presentations were very professional and we look forward to many more similar opportunities for them to present in the future.



Our students flying high after their first ever presentation to GECAS



Students pictured with GECAS CEO Alec Burger, along with Rebecca Connolly and Michael Deeny

We look forward to working with our newest Business Partners, Total Produce, EY, CPL Resources and IrishJobs.ie to develop further opportunities for our students to learn and to develop their presentation and communication skills and business knowledge.



Class of 2016 Graduation

The TCPID Class of 2016 had their graduation ceremony on a beautiful sunny day in November. It was a fantastic and very proud day for all the new graduates and their families. Two students were presented with additional awards on the day:



Kelly McCabe (pictured here with her proud parents), was awarded the Margaret McLoughlin Student Art Prize



Claire Middleton was awarded the overall Student Achievement Award



Some of our Business Partners who worked with the students during their work placement module joined us for a graduation reception after the official ceremony. It was wonderful for the new graduates to have their support on the day to celebrate with them.



The Class of 2016 all smiles on their graduation day



Graduate Placements

We are currently working with a number of Business Partners (Bank of Ireland, CPL, EY and Ervia) who are looking into providing paid work placements for some of our graduate students within the next few months. Three of our graduates have already started a paid work placement in Bank of Ireland. This work experience is hugely beneficial for our graduates as it provides essential material for them to include on their CV, in addition to new skills and references which will help them in their quest to find permanent employment.

TCPID are very fortunate to have two of the most respected recruitment companies in Ireland, CPL Resources and IrishJobs.ie working with us as Business Partners. The support of these companies and their links to the wider business community will be a huge benefit to our graduates when they are looking to secure employment. We are currently working with IrishJobs.ie to develop career mentoring and training for our graduates to help them with their CV preparation and interview skills. In addition to this, we are very grateful to Accenture Ireland, who have provided us with a link to their online Skills to Succeed Academy to use with our students and graduates.

Upcoming Events

We will be contacting you soon regarding some of the events taking place in coming months, including:

- **TCPID Business Partners Meeting**
- **Trinity College Seminars**
- **2017 Open Day for new students on Wednesday March 29th**

I look forward to keeping in touch and I hope to meet you again soon.

With warmest thanks for your support and interest,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marie Devitt".

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