

Update from the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities

School of Education, Trinity College Dublin

Spring 2022



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Dear Partners,

I hope that you are all well.

It is wonderful to have the restrictions lifted at last and to be back enjoying many things that we may have taken for granted before. Our Trinity campus is buzzing with the sound of students, staff and tourists once again.

I held this update until now so as to be able to include our latest graduation photos from last week. Since my last update, we have had two fabulous graduation days, one in August and one just now in March. We were lucky to be able to have both graduations on campus where we celebrated with our new TCPID graduates and their families.

I look forward to meeting you all again in person very soon. We will be having our next SciFest@TCPID student science exhibition in association with Abbott Ireland on Thursday June 2nd so please keep that date in your diary. It will be a real celebration for all of us and we look forward to welcoming you on campus once again for that. We will be sending invitations to you closer to the time but please save the date for now.

Thank you as always for your support,

Mace Deith

TCPID Pathways Coordinator - Email: devittma@tcd.ie / Tel: 087-6664548

Please follow all our latest news on our website at www.tcd.ie/tcpid as well as on Facebook @InclusionTCD, Twitter @IDTCD Instagram inclusiontcd as well as on Facebook @InclusionTCD, Twitter @IDTCD Instagram inclusiontcd as well as on Facebook @InclusionTCD, Twitter @IDTCD Instagram inclusiontcd as well as on Facebook inclusiontcd as well as on Facebook inclusiontcd as well as on Facebook inclusiontcd as well as on LinkedIn www.linkedin.com/school/inclusiontcd



Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice Graduation March 2022

Our most recent graduation took place on campus last week. Another six students were awarded a Level 5 **Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice** in the beautiful sunshine in Trinity College Dublin.

This time two years ago as young students, they were sent home from College for a temporary lockdown and they never had the opportunity to return. They had to continue the remainder of their first year and all of their second year online. Many of them did not own a laptop in March 2020 and had to attend classes on their phones, iPads or shared devices until we received the very generous donation of new laptops from **The Rory McDonagh Trust** in September 2020.

We are so proud of them for their incredible achievements over the past few years. They have shown true resilience and determination in the face of real adversity! This is only the beginning for all of them.....



Some of our new graduates celebrating with the TCPID team



Graduates receiving their official certificates in the TCD Exam Hall



Professor Michael Shevlin with Bruce Tully



Dúalta Callan



Barbara Ringwood, David Banfield and Marie Devitt



Marie Devitt with Bruce Tully



Bruce Tully and Brian Higgins with their certificates



David Banfield., Bruce Tully and Dúalta Callan



Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice Graduation August 2021

We are very grateful to the graduation team in Trinity College Dublin who gave us the opportunity in August to have one of the first on campus graduations since the Covid pandemic. It was such an incredibly special and proud day for all the new graduates, their families and all the TCPID, School of Education and Trinity College team. A huge thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this happen for us.

Our new Course Coordinator **Dr Donatella Camedda** who had just started in the job congratulated the new graduates on behalf of all the TCPID and School of Education team. The new **Trinity Provost Linda Doyle** took time out of her very busy schedule to be at the graduation ceremony and to congratulate each of the new graduates in person.



Our class of 2020 celebrating their graduation



Barry Olwill and Julie O'Brien



Aoife Cleary



Rose Marie Lynch, Liam Cummins, Barbara Ringwood and Benóg Brady Bates



Heather Marshall, Barry Olwill and Sadbh Feehan



Donatella Camedda, Liam Cummins, Heather Marshall, Benóg Brady Bates and Michael Shevlin



Marie Devitt, Julie O'Brien, Kai Tiernan and Aoife Cleary



Benóg Brady Bates speaking with Provost Dr. Donatella Camedda with Barry Olwill Linda Doyle





Julie O'Brien with Provost Linda Doyle



Student Life

We are so happy to have had all our students back on campus with us again since September. It is wonderful to have classes taking place in person. We really missed all the laughs and the smiles and we are so happy to have that back again.



Happy smiles at orientation in September 2021



Trinity College Sports Centre orientation in September 2021



Students enjoying some outdoor sports in Trinity College



Defining Disability Art Exhibition 2021

In December our students participated in the Art Exhibition **Defining Disability 2021**, organised by Trinity Student's Union, Disability Service and the Ability Co-Op for Disability Awareness Week.

The Exhibition was on show in the JCR Hamilton space (student common room) from the 29th November to the 3rd of December which marked the International Day of People with Disabilities.

The aim of the exhibition was to celebrate the work of Trinity students with disabilities, raising awareness of barriers that disabled students face every day it also revealed the immense contribution that they make to the Trinity community. The many definitions and meanings of disabilities are explored through artistic means in this student-based initiative.

TCPID students reflected on important themes such as disability and human rights as part of module assignment and created their artwork to convey their message to the world. The TCPID ran an art workshop to offer space and materials to students to complete their work which included paintings, poems, photography and mixed media.

Students had the opportunity to show their work, their ideas and help others understand universal issues of inclusion.

The participation in the art exhibition was a great opportunity for TCPID students to be actively involved in the several activities organised by Trinity during Disability Awareness Week.







Year 2 Student Work Placements

Our 2nd year students are all currently doing their work placements every Friday morning. We are so grateful to all of you who have offered placements this year.

A huge thank you as always to all the wonderful mentors and teams in each company who have worked so hard to help our students settle in.









McCann FitzGerald













Graduate Internships

After a very long, but unavoidable delay, we have managed to get internships for all of our remaining graduates. Five of these internships have either started or are starting in March. We are so grateful to all the companies who have agreed to take on our graduates for their 6 month internships.

In addition to the new internships, a number of our graduates have had their existing contracts extended further. We are constantly looking for new internships so if you feel that you might be able to offer something, please get in contact with me.

Here are a few quotes from the graduates who have started or are due to start their internships:



David Banfield

The reason that I'm looking forward to working in the Bank of Ireland is because it is a lovely place to work. I had a look around it. I met the staff there and they are really nice. The Bank of Ireland is also a nice building to work in. I want to learn new skills there. I am dying to meet new people there. I'm also dying to meet the customers.



Kai Tiernan

I'm looking forward to seeing my old mentor Colm.
I'm looking forward to learning new things and skills on the computer.

I enjoy working on the computer, but it can be stressful most of the time when working from home.

I enjoy attending meetings.



Heather Marshall

I am looking forward to:

...going into the office.

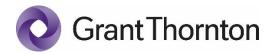
...working with people in the office.

...meeting new people.

...learning new skills.

...being part of a team.





Dúalta Callan

I am enjoying my time in Grant Thornton since I started last Monday. I like being independent and taking the bus in to Dublin on my own. I like getting the bus to Busáras because I can walk down to the office and get the fresh air before I go into the building, and it is opposite to Grant Thornton, so it is easy to get there.

This internship is a great opportunity for me to work in an office.

I have always liked office work and helping people out like my Auntie
Julie and my mom.

I like using my key card around my neck for the going in, at the lifts and doors.

For lunch we go to the Dockers on the 5th floor of the building where there is a canteen and a café where we can get a hot or cold drink. I am looking forward to being paid in my internship on the 25th day in each month,

I feel I would love to work full time after my internship in Grant Thornton and I think I would love to live in Dublin. I saw an accommodation not too far from Grant Thornton. It is a 3-bedroom apartment and costs €570 000.

I am very happy that I did a course in TCPID, and that Marie organised for me to get this internship.



Kai Tiernan

I'm looking forward to learning new things.
I'm looking forward to meeting my new colleagues though I'm shy.
I'm enjoying my new job at Grant Thornton.
I'm enjoying going on breaks.



Brian Higgins

Icon are a very welcoming company.

The staff are very helpful and supportive.

They make me feel part of the team.

I enjoy being part of a very professional and caring workforce.

They help me with any work problem that I have.

I enjoy meeting staff from different countries.

I have learned many new skills.

There is a great spirit among all the people that work in Icon.

The staff encourage me to do tasks on my own.





Bruce Tully

I am looking forward to working for Optum.
It has been hard getting through the COVID years and keeping safe.
The job in Optum and working with Gareth and Mick will really help me and I will enjoy working from home and with computers.
The new job will help my confidence and working from home will be good.

I will go to some meetings when invited.

My future will be better for me and talking with people and learning new skills will help me.

Thanks for all your support.



Cian Banahan

I began my Internship with RSA Insurance on Tuesday the 26th of October 2021. The first person I met was Mairead Mahoney and she introduced me to my mentor Sandra. Mairead and I met with the IT team to help me set up and they were a great help. On Wednesday I met with the RSA team on Teams and they were all very welcoming and friendly. After I met them, Sandra showed me how to do Liability Galway and I got Notes to help me for times when I got stuck, which was very helpful. Estephany is my other Mentor, and Sandra and Estephany are very helpful. They encouraged me to ask questions and told me to contact them at any time if I needed help. I was doing Liability Galway from October to December. I also did Horizon courses learning information about the company which I really enjoyed. From December to the present date I am doing SME and I am really enjoying this too. I am doing my Internship Online and on Tuesdays and Thursdays the Team and I meet for meetings. I really enjoyed my internship and very grateful doing it online. I want to thank Marie and the Trinity College team for getting me the Internship, and I would also like to thank RSA Insurance for taking me on, it is something I will remember forever.



Graduate Internship in the TCPID – Noelle Doran

TCPID graduate Noelle Doran started an internship working with us in the TCPID in March 2022. It is our very first intern and we all feel very lucky to have Noelle as part of our team.

Here is an interview with Noelle:

1) Can you tell us a little about yourself?

My name is Noelle Doran. I am adopted. I really love reading books writing my own poetry and watching educational documentaries. I am very social as I like meeting people.

2) Why did you decide to apply to study the Certificate in Contemporary Living (CCL) in Trinity College in 2010?

I decided to do the CCL in Trinity College because I always wanted to attend a university that had a course for people with intellectual disabilities and I found one in Trinity College Dublin. I really had the best two years of my life where I got excellent support and joined a social club where I made many friends.

3) Why did you decide to apply to return to Trinity College after 10 years to study the new Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice (ASIAP)?

I decided to go back to Trinity College because this time there was more subjects to do and I gained even more help and support from the staff.

4) How was your experience different when doing the Certificate in Contemporary Living and the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice (ASIAP)?

The Certificate in Contemporary Living (CCL) was not at any level and it was seen as a foundation level and the Arts, science and inclusive applied practice is a full QQI Level 5 major award.

5) What subjects did you enjoy the most in the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice?

I enjoyed Occupational Therapy, Human and Disability Rights, Drama, Poetry, Research, Information Technology and Emergency and Disaster Management.



6) Was there anything that you found difficult?

I found Marketing and Entrepreneurship hard as I never studied them. I also found Film Studies a bit hard to follow.

7) How was your experience of studying online when Trinity College had to close in 2020 because of the Covid pandemic?

I found studying online during lockdown very hard and stressful. I found that my mental health went downhill.

8) What helped you during your time in Trinity College?

Having the support and guidance from the staff and my classmates really helped me.

9) What would your advice be to other students who might be considering applying for the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice course?

My advice is to attend the Open Day at TCPID and find out more information about the course. You should also attend the Summer School as well. I recommend the course to anyone with an

intellectual disability as you learn a lot and you get excellent support over the two years.

10) What is your most special memory of your time in Trinity College?

Friendship and the best two years of my life I ever had.

11) How did you feel when you heard that you would be doing your graduate internship in the TCPID?

I always wanted to give a try and see how it will go. I will take it one day at a time.

12) What are you hoping to learn from the experience of working in the TCPID?

I would like to do some teaching assistant work and then look for a course after my internship.

13) What are your goals for the future?

I really want to do child care or get into politics or education as education is very important to me.



Permanent Roles

We are delighted that another TCPID graduate has received a permanent contract.

Benóg Brady Bates – EY Cork



Benóg Brady Bates on his graduation day in Trinity College Dublin in August 2021

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and your background?

I am from Cork I am really active and I like trying new things. I am youngest in the family I have one brother and one sister. I do rowing on a Saturday morning. I love photography and I also work with horses on a Monday. I also do some voluntary work. I am really social and I like meeting new people.

How did you enjoy your time studying in Trinity College?

I really enjoyed studying in Trinity College and learning more about myself.

What is your favourite memory from your time as a Trinity College student?

My favourite Memory was achieving new goals e.g. acting class and doing sports.

When did you start working in EY?

It was in March 2021.

Can you tell us a little about your role and about your team in EY?

I work with on my team Joe, James, Ali, Caroline, Ciara, Ellen and Jay. I also work with Tara and she is my buddy in EY. I help the team also working with IPS system and Notionals. I am also learning AIB banking.

How did you feel about working remotely during the COVID pandemic? I found it ok working remotely from the covid. It was challenge not socialising to meet people.

What do you enjoy the most about working for EY?

I like the environment and getting to meet new people and setting new goals.



How did you feel when you found out that you were going to be offered a permanent contract with EY?

I was over the moon and really delighted for myself.

What are your goals for the future?

My goals are to hopefully travel to see different places and to be involved in client calls with my team.

Here are some quotes from Benóg's EY colleagues

Tara comments

"Benóg is great to work with as he is always up for a challenge and trying new things. He is also very friendly and fits in with the team perfectly."

Ali Comments

"Benóg is a fast leaner and a great help to the team Benóg is always up for a chat and his calls always brighten my day."

Albert Hobbs, Director Turnaround and Restructuring Strategy

"Benóg has brought great enthusiasm to the Turnaround and Restructuring Strategy team in Cork. Benóg has provided important support particularly with Bank Reconciliations and Transactions Processing. This has contributed to the efficient administration of case management. Benóg is a very willing learner and is developing well in his role."



Benóg with his EY colleague Caroline Kavanagh



In conversation with fellow Corkonian Provost Linda Doyle



President Emmanuel Macron visit to Trinity College Dublin

French **President Emmanuel Macron** visited Ireland and Trinity College Dublin on Thursday August 26th2021. During his visit met with students to discuss topics that included post-COVID Europe, climate change and digital equality for all citizens.

Our new Course Coordinator Dr. Donatella Camedda and two of our students, Lia Gogarty and Sean Byrne were invited to take part in this exciting event. Our student Lia had the honour of asking President Macron the very last question of the day in relation to equal access to technology for all students.

Thank you to our **Trinity Provost Dr. Linda Doyle** for ensuring that all students were represented on the day.



President Macron's arrival to the Trinity College Dublin campus



President Macron speaking to students in the TCD Public Theatre



TCPID students Lia Gogarty, and Sean Byrne with Dr. Donatella Camedda



President Macron with some of the event attendees



Annual TCPID Business Partners Meeting

We held our annual Business Partners meeting on Friday December 10th 2021. Due to the ongoing COVID situation the meeting was held online once again. We were delighted to welcome so many of you to the meeting.

Particular thanks were expressed at the meeting for the work done by **Hugo MacNeill** in his role as TCPID Ambassador. Hugo has worked tirelessly to promote the TCPID to all of his contacts in both the professional and sporting world.

The breakout groups were a big success as partners were given the chance to share experiences and ideas for how to further develop work placement and internship opportunities within their own companies. The groups also discussed how to adapt the placements and internships to the new blended working environment over the coming months.

What does your job mean to you?

Social status mooning power impact using skills earning power impact using skills earning power impact using skills earning power induse creation possibilities of possibilities

During the meeting we also had a wonderful video presentation by one of our TCPID graduates, **Dairine O Rourke** entitled My Good Life. Dairine reflected on her time in secondary school, her experience as a student in Trinity College and her graduate internship and subsequent permanent role in Fidelity Investments.

You can view Dairine's video in full on our website at the following link: https://www.tcd.ie/tcpid/news/business-partner-meeting-dec-2021.php





Trinity College Inspiring Ideas Webinar

A webinar on **Transforming Disability: How Inclusion Benefits Everyone** took place on February 23rd 2022. The webinar was part of the Inspiring Ideas @ Trinity webinar series and was produced by **Trinity Development** and **Alumni** in partnership with the **Trinity Business Alumni**.



Improving diversity and inclusion in the classroom and the workplace is a priority for universities and wider society. This webinar explored the transformational impact of inclusion for both employers and employees and looked at changes that companies are making in their approach to this issue.

The panellists who included our TCPID Ambassador Hugo MacNeill, Tara Doyle (Matheson), David McRedmond (An Post) and myself discussed inclusion in their own organisations and offered advice to other companies on how to champion diversity and inclusion in the workplace and support Trinity's work in this area.



Marie Devitt, Hugo MacNeill, David McRedmond and Tara Doyle

You can view the webinar in full here:

https://www.tcd.ie/tcpid/news/transforming-disability-webinar.php



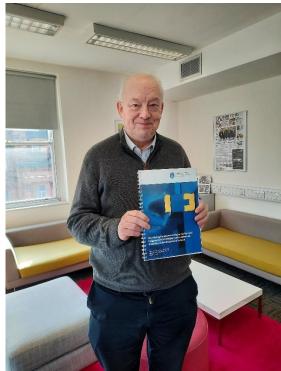
Employment Opportunities Report

The TCPID launched a new report in February on Identifying Employment Opportunities and Programmes for People with Intellectual Disability in the Republic of Ireland.

This report has been designed to document the current employment opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities and evaluates the success or otherwise of the many initiatives developed to enhance employment prospects for this marginalised cohort within Irish society. The report examines the challenges experienced by this cohort in accessing meaningful employment and how these barriers have been addressed through a series of Government and voluntary initiatives. Current Government management of facilitating employment opportunities for people who have an intellectual disability is reviewed. An analysis of the economic benefits to the State of enabling these people to be gainfully employed has also been prepared by Nick Davis, a contributor to the report. Based on the evidence gathered in this report, a series of recommendations have been proposed.

We would like to acknowledge the support of Rethink Ireland in the production of this report.

To read the full copy of the report you can download it from here: : http://www.tara.tcd.ie



Professor Michael Shevlin holding a copy of the Employment Opportunities Report



Trinity Student Managed Fund

The Trinity Student Managed Fund once again donated €3,000 to the TCPID this year. The generous donation means so much to us, particularly since it is from fellow Trinity College students.

In addition to the financial support, we were invited to present to their student members about the TCPID and we are hoping to encourage further close collaboration between our students and the Trinity SMF students in the coming years.



Members of the Trinity SMF handing a cheque to representatives of the TCPID and School of Education in Front Square

We are so grateful to the outgoing committee for all their support over the past year. A particular thanks goes to Michael O'Callaghan, Ciaran McKay, Jack Spain and Ranjana Singh and all the Trinity SMF Committee members, past and present.



Members of the Trinity SMF handing a cheque to representatives of the TCPID and School of Education in Front Square



Open Day and Course Applications

We held two virtual **Open Days** for our Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice course in November 2021 and January 2022.



You can view the full recording of the November 2021 Open Day at the following link:

https://www.tcd.ie/tcpid/courses/asiap/

The closing date for applications for September 2022 will be Friday April 22nd 2022 so please share the details with anyone who might be interested in applying to do our course.

Interviews will take place over the coming months.

For further information on how to apply please go to our website: https://www.tcd.ie/tcpid/courses/how-to-apply/

Alternatively, please email tcpid@tcd.ie



New Collaborations

We are delighted to announce that four new companies have signed up with us in the past few months as TCPID Business Partners. We are incredibly grateful to these new partners for their support and we look forward to working closely together over the coming years.

Coillte

Coillte is the custodian of more than 440,000 hectares of forest and land making it Ireland's largest forest manager. Coillte aims to balance and deliver the multiple benefits of its forests for climate, nature, wood and people. Coillte is the largest provider of outdoor recreation in Ireland with 260 forest recreational areas, twelve forest parks and six mountain bike centres nationwide. One fifth of all Coillte lands are managed for nature conservation and biodiversity and Coillte work with and respect nature across all of its lands. Coillte is the largest producer of sustainably grown wood in Ireland and produces over three million cubic metres of Irish wood products each year enabling a vibrant Irish forestry sector which employs over 12,000 people, located mostly in rural Ireland. Coillte's forest management is based on the principles of sustainable forest management and is certified to both Forest Stewardship Council (FSCC) and Programme for Endorsing Forest Certification (PEFC) standards.

Ruth D'Alton, Coillte Group HR Director, commenting on Coillte's partnership with the Trinity Centre, said: "We are delighted to announce our partnership with the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities in the School of Education. Giving everyone the chance to contribute and participate in society has so many benefits, particularly when someone is challenged with a disability as their participation enriches us by giving us their most valuable perspective while also giving them meaning and value. It fits perfectly with the Coillte values of inclusion and respect."





daa

daa is a global airports and travel retail group with businesses in 16 countries. They are owned by the Irish State and headquartered at Dublin Airport. They own and manage Dublin and Cork airports and have international airport operations and investments in Cyprus, Germany, and Saudi Arabia. ARI, their travel retail subsidiary, has outlets in Europe, North America, the Middle East, India, and Asia-Pacific. They also provide aviation advisory services with our daa International consultancy business. The Group's core purpose is to connect Ireland with the world and its vision is to be an airport industry leader. We grow our business with talented people by delivering great value for airlines, passengers, and our business partners.



Speaking about the partnership **Siobhan Winters, Head of Talent Acquisition in daa** said "We are delighted to commence our partnership with the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities in the School of Education. Hearing about the journey these students have been on, and how they have flourished when provided with the right opportunity and environment, is truly inspirational. By partnering with the Trinity Centre, we hope to be able to support these students as they embark on this fantastic programme."

Brian Drain, Chief People Officer in daa added "This programme is an intrinsic part of our D&I framework and is a wonderful example to be associated with. It is inspirational for anyone who has been touched by the programme and we are very proud to be associated with it."



National Lottery

The **National Lottery** was established by the Irish Government in 1987 with the purpose of raising funds for Good Causes in line with the National Lottery Act. Since 2014, the National Lottery is operated by Premier Lotteries Ireland (PLI), having been awarded a 20-year licence by the Irish Government. We are an Irish company, based at Lottery HQ in Abbey Street in Dublin 1. We are committed to running a responsible, world-class lottery for the people in Ireland, raising much-needed funding for Good Causes that benefit local communities throughout Ireland.

Speaking about the new partnership **Liz Shouldice, Chief People Officer in National Lottery** said, "We are delighted to come onboard as a sponsoring partner with the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities in the School of Education. TCPID is providing life-changing opportunities for talented young people with intellectual disabilities providing them with the life skills and experiences to take up roles in the workplace. Our ambition is to offer a supportive and fulfilling opportunity to TCPID students here in National Lottery and provide an enriching experience for our employees where we can learn more about creating an inclusive workplace for the future, one that recognises and values all abilities and potential."

Nikki Gallagher, Head of Corporate Affairs added "The National Lottery is proud to have a positive impact in every community throughout Ireland especially through the money that our players generate for over 4,000 Good Causes organisations each year. We can only achieve this by having a dedicated, talented, and diverse team working hard behind the scenes. We are really pleased to be partnering with TCPID and we look forward to welcoming students into our company on work placements. We hope that this will be as an enriching experience for them as we know it will be for us."





Viatris

Viatris is a global healthcare company, founded in November 2020 through the merger of two major pharmaceutical companies, and amid the COVID-19 pandemic during a time of evolving healthcare needs.

Although a recently formed company, they have long and strong legacy roots in Ireland where they have had a presence for more than four decades. Proud to be one of the largest pharmaceutical employers in the country, Viatris has significant scale and nearly 2,000 highly skilled people work across six sites in Cork, Dublin (4) and Galway. Not only do they produce medicines in Ireland, they also carry out crucial research and development and, collectively, everyone works to provide access to medicines, develop innovative solutions and improve healthcare for patients.

Speaking about the partnership with the TCPID, **David Delaney, Head of Policy and Health & Value** said: "We want to give people from all different backgrounds an opportunity to see what it's like to work at a healthcare company like Viatris, that empowers people worldwide to live healthier at every stage of life".





Thank you as always to all of our Business Patrons, Business Partners and other collaborators for your continued support





























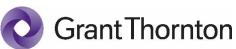














































Gníomhaireacht Bainistíochta an Chisteáin Náisiúnta **National Treasury Management Agency**

































