



**Trinity College Dublin**

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

**Update from the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities**

**School of Education, Trinity College Dublin**

**Summer 2023**



## Update from the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities, School of Education, Trinity College Dublin

### Summer 2023

Dear Partners,

I hope that you are all well and that you are enjoying the Summer so far.

Since our Spring Update, we have welcomed 3 new partners to our network – Falko, IPB Insurance and PHX Ireland.

I am thrilled to let you know that two more of our TCPID graduates have received permanent contracts. David Banfield is now permanently employed in Bank of Ireland and our very own Sadbh Feehan is now permanently employed with us here in Trinity College.

We ran a TCPID Summer School in June for the first time since 2019. This was a huge success, with 24 students taking part, including 4 visiting students from the USA.

We have had visits from international colleagues from the Netherlands, the USA and New Zealand over recent months who were all looking to learn from our TCPID programme and see how they could develop something similar in their own countries.

We will be having our next Zoom meeting in September for partners to chat with each other and plan for future work placements and internships. These sessions are a great way for our experienced partners to support our newer partners and to build connections.

Thank you so much as always for your ongoing support which means so much to us,

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

TCPID Pathways Coordinator - Email: [devittma@tcd.ie](mailto:devittma@tcd.ie) / Tel: 087-6664548

Please follow all our latest news on our website at [www.tcd.ie/tcpid](http://www.tcd.ie/tcpid) as well as on Facebook [@InclusionTCD](https://www.facebook.com/InclusionTCD), Twitter [@IDTCD](https://twitter.com/IDTCD) Instagram [inclusiontcd](https://www.instagram.com/inclusiontcd) as well as on LinkedIn [www.linkedin.com/school/inclusiontcd](https://www.linkedin.com/school/inclusiontcd)



## From our recent TCPID Graduates....What would you say to anyone considering coming to study in Trinity College Dublin?

“I would tell someone who is considering coming to study in Trinity College to work hard and enjoy the course. It is a privilege to study in Ireland’s leading university.”

“I will say this to the future students who are coming into Trinity is not to be stressed out and really focused hard on your studying and always be happy and thrilled to be attending Trinity College.”

“I would suggest them to attend Trinity College 100 percent! Trinity is such a great down to earth place to study. All areas of Trinity really do, do their best make it a great place for people to feel involved and valued.”

“Get familiar with the different routes to town and places where you will get lunch. If you live far away from the college, get the train or bus an hour earlier before your classes. Don’t be afraid to ask for help from the lecturers. Get to know your classmates.”

“I would recommend coming to Trinity College Dublin, because they have a great fun and it is in the middle the city.”

“I would say to any student who consider going to studying at trinity college to take the opportunity when it comes. It’s not every day you get a chance to go to university.”

“Studying at Trinity College Dublin means working hard to make sure to be on the ball. Take notes, ask questions make sure you 100% know what is being asked of you when dealing with the work ahead of you.”



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Reflections

Our latest group of 2<sup>nd</sup> year students have now completed the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice and are really looking forward to starting their internships. We recently interviewed them about their time as students in Trinity College Dublin, about their hopes for their graduate internships and about their goals for the future.

These interviews took place before the students knew which companies they would be doing their internships with.

### Your time in Trinity College Dublin

#### 1) What is your greatest memory of your time as a student in Trinity College Dublin?

“My greatest memory of Trinity College is all of the events, especially SciFest and the fun in the Buttery at lunchtime. “

“My greatest memory of my time as a student in Trinity College is the vast amount of different modules that were covered in the two years.”

“My greatest memory is walking into the buttery restaurant for the first time and seeing all the lovely food! It made me hungry. And meeting my lecturers for the first time as well.”

“On our first trip out as a class we when to Dundrum for a game of crazy golf and then going out for something to eat felt really great that time “

“I don’t have just one greatest memory but learning all the different modules, getting to experience different things on campus and attending the work placements have all been equally great experiences.”

“My greatest memory would have to be orientation day. It was a great memory mainly because I was excited about my time starting in Trinity. I also loved going around campus.”

“My greatest memory is meeting new friends and also having a great time with them and also meeting our lecturers. We are very, very happy and honoured to have you guys to be our lecturers hopefully we can see each other again in the future.”

“My greatest memory is doing the Disability Rights event.”



## 2) What will you miss the most about Trinity College Dublin?

“I will really miss my teammates. I will miss having good craic and laughing with each other. I will miss having fun with my lecturers.”

“I will miss the routine of going into Trinity to attend classes I will miss seeing my classmates and the lovely lunches in the Buttery.”

“Probably miss going over to the Arts blocks and seeing everybody.”

“The people from my class are a good group of people, so I will miss them. In classes we would always get on well helping each other out when needed.”

“Exploring all the different things Trinity has to offer. I will miss the society clubs, using the library and the people I met.”

“I will miss having classes on campus. I will also miss the lecturers that have helped me with both college and personal business.”

“My friends.”





### 3) What are your hopes for your graduate internship?

“I would like to work in an office, with people who have fun. I would like to learn new skills and improve my Excel and PowerPoint.  
I would like to feel part of a team.”

“My hopes for my graduate internship would be to gain experience, develop new skills and grow more confident. I would hope to get a full-time position in a company. Also making new friendships would be important.”

“What I would hope is to hopefully get a job from the internships with a bit of luck, but nothing is certain yet.”

“Using this experience to add to my CV and hopefully have more experiences helps me get used to my workplaces and have a better works mind.”

“I am hoping that I learn a lot of new skills that are needed to succeed in working in the corporate world.”

“That it gives me an idea of if I want a job with that company after the internship ends. They would help me branch out of what interests me and what doesn't.”

“My hope for my graduate internship is to get good job or maybe second graduate internship then maybe do teacher course in future.”

“My hopes are to get a job in hospitality, sports centres and musical theatre hopefully I get a job in one of them.”





#### 4) What are your goals for the future?

"I would like to get a permanent job.  
I would like to learn to drive a car and have full licence.  
I would like to have lots of friends and be able to go on holidays with them.  
I would like to have my own house."

"My first goal would be to get a job. Then I would like to be able to play more golf and lower my handicap."

"My goal is to reach my full potential and to be more independent and believe myself. And take on new challenges when they come."

"To be able to live independently, have a job so I can live happily and do the things I would like to do in my life."

"To do really well in the professional world and have a good career."

"To consider another course if I want to expand my college education.

To start driving and get my own car.  
To travel more."

"My goals for the future are to be able to drive, get a job, to be healthy and fit and to travel to another country independently."

"My goal for my graduate internship is to get good job or maybe second graduate internship then maybe do teacher course in future."







## Student laptops from the Rory McDonagh Trust

As always, we are so grateful to the Rory McDonagh Trust for their continued commitment to purchasing new laptops for all incoming 1<sup>st</sup> year students for the next 5 years. This gift makes such a huge difference to our students and allows them to develop key computer skills and to participate fully and equally throughout their Trinity College studies.

Read below the messages from some of the 1<sup>st</sup> year students about the impact of getting their own laptop when they started in Trinity.

### How did getting a new laptop in September help you with your studies?

“Getting a new laptop in September allowed to be able to complete all my assignments on time. It allowed me to receive my emails from my tutors and it allowed me to look up some information I needed to complete my studies. It was very beneficial for me as without it I would have to write everything and I am a very slow writer so having the laptop allowed me to complete my work a lot quicker than I would usually have it done.”

“It was really helpful to get the laptop before starting the course, because it connected to Trinity sites and it all software we needed for the course.”

“Getting a new laptop back in September has been very beneficial for me as I’m commuting from Cork to Dublin and this means I was able to do my college work on the train back and most of it would have been completed.”

“It has been a great help with research for assignments.”

“It helped me to get my assessments done and also getting my first act on my book done.”

“Getting a new laptop in September was very exciting as I did not have access to one at home, it was extremely useful for essays, PowerPoint, Word documents etc.”

“It has helped me so much in doing my assignments and for when we need to look things up for college. I don’t know what I would have done if I didn’t have these laptops, I was just happy that I was able to get through with all of my studies when I needed it.”

“Getting a new laptop really helped me because myself & my family didn’t have to worry about getting a new laptop for me for my assignments etc. The laptop is a lot easy to use and very easy to get around if you want to use voice dictation instead of typing your assignments using your hands etc.”





## Thank you messages from the students for the laptops

“I would like to say a big thank you and a huge debt of gratitude to the Rory McDonagh Trust as this has allowed me to complete my work. It has helped me continue my dream. I just want to say I hope to honour the memory of Rory by completing this course, getting my internship and fingers crossed getting my first ever full paid and I will be forever thankful for the trust for helping me on the road to my success. So finally, from the bottom of my heart thank you so much and I promise to honour the memory of Rory.”

“Thank you for the laptops, so that myself and others have something to work on to do our research stuff for assignments.”

“I would like to say a big thank you to The Rory McDonagh Trust I really appreciate your generosity. It was a really nice present to receive before starting the course.”

“I would like to sincerely thank The Rory McDonagh Trust and I am extremely grateful for the gift of the laptop as it has been an enormous help to me and my studies during the past year.”

“Thank you, Rory McDonagh Trust, for getting me this laptop so that I can finish this course on top.”

“Thank you so much for the laptops. They were extremely helpful. In my last college we couldn't afford iPads or proper laptops for students to do their homework assignments with etc., so providing these laptops for us here in Trinity College was extremely helpful. I could do my work to the best of my ability while using these laptops that you have provided for us. Again, thank you so very, very much. It was a huge benefit to have the laptop.”

“I just want to say a big thank you so much in giving me the laptop I am very grateful for receiving this and it has helped me out so much. When we needed the laptops for our class it came in handy and I just thought it was really nice to get the laptops. So thank you again for giving me the laptop.”

“Thanks so much for everything you do and the support you provide and give us. Myself and everyone in the TCPID, current students and new students that would participate in the course are really thankful for everything. I really appreciate it. It's all been a huge help for me and I'm so delighted with my laptop. I'm forever grateful and thankful.”



## Business Partner Workshops May 2023

We had our busiest ever month of workshops in May of this year. We had a workshop almost every day and sometimes two in the one day. In total we had 23 workshops – 8 for our 1<sup>st</sup> year students and an unbelievable 15 for our 2<sup>nd</sup> years, including the SciFest mentor workshops with Abbott Ireland.

We are so grateful to all the business partners who provided these fabulous workshops for us. Thank you to everyone in Abbott Ireland, Applegreen, EY, ICON, Intel, LinkedIn, RSA Insurance & 123.ie, Smurfit Kappa, Squarespace! We already can't wait to do it all again next year!

### **Abbott Ireland – Longford visit**

This year in addition to all the weekly SciFest workshops, Abbott invited us to their Longford offices to get a tour of the production plant and to give our students a real sense of what the company does. It was a really wonderful day which our students will never forget.

“Thank you so much for a brilliant day on Friday. I really enjoyed being shown all the different areas of the business. A special thanks to the people who organised the sandwiches and drinks for us, they were really tasty. Thanks to Paddy for his funny jokes.”

“Thanks to all the team at Abbott who gave us their time during our visit to Longford. It was great having a tour getting to know how the factory works.”

“Thank you so much for the organized visit yesterday to your plant in Longford. It was great to meet you all yesterday and for such a lovely welcome. Also giving up your time to show us around the factory and telling us about what you do in the factory.”

“Thank you very much for a great day visiting Abbott in Longford last Thursday. I found the tour of the laboratory very interesting and also the amount of pharmaceuticals produced. I think it is really important what Abbott do by providing high quality, safe and effective diagnostic products. Thank you also for the lovely goody bag.”



*TCPID students with the Abbott team in Longford*



## Abbott SciFest workshops



*Abbott SciFest workshop*



*Clíodhna O'Rourke with Kate Peters*



*Conor Dunne with Rosemary Clarke*

"I was very proud of being part of the SciFest project. It was great to see the final results. It is lovely to receive my Certificate and beautiful Award and it will hold pride of place at home. I really enjoyed working with Ronan on my SciFest project 'On the Ball'."

"Thank you for coming to Dublin every Thursday. We really appreciated you giving up your time to help us with our projects. And a very special thank you to my mentor Ciara who helped me with my project on the GAA."

"Thank you for working with us over the past month. We really enjoyed our time with you and we thank you for your help in our projects."



*Rachelle Waters with Clíodhna O'Rourke and Liam Foley*



*Diarmuid Owens with Ciara Timmons*



## Applegreen



*Applegreen workshop*

“Thank you so much for showing us around your office I had a really good time and the goody bags were fab!”

“Thank you for letting us come to visit you. I enjoyed your company visit and all the things you showed us and how you everyday work life goes to inspire us to have a successful job like that to better ourselves. “

“Dear Katie, Regina and Deborah, thank you so much for having us for our first official workshop as 1<sup>st</sup> years. You were so accommodating with all the lovely spread of food you had for us. I myself enjoyed learning all about the history of Applegreen and was pleasantly surprised to find out that there are even Applegreens in America. So finally, just thank you again and all going well we will see you again in the future.

P.S: The Mint Twirl was delicious. “

“Dear Katie, Regina and Deborah thank you so much for the lovely presentation and the food that you gave us and the prizes too.”

“Dear Katie, Regina and Deborah, thank you for the presentation on Applegreen. It was really interesting learning about the different Applegreen stores and what main headquarters does. Thank for all the lovely food.”

“I just want to say a big thank you to Katie, Regina and Deborah in having us on Wednesday for the Applegreen workshop, I actually enjoyed seeing what does happen if and when you do work with Applegreen and thank you so much for all of the free goodies that you gave us on the day I really appreciate it.”





## EY



*EY workshop*

“Dear Brenda, Gina and Colin, thank you very much for the great workshops. I really enjoyed them. I enjoyed looking at how to manage my day and working on a budget. It is also important to know that support is available. Thank you also for the Goody bag and gift card.”

“Thank you Brenda, Gina and Colin for a really amazing time in EY. It was very interesting learning about tax and doing the budget work.”

“Thank you very much for all the workshops. I really enjoyed learning about payslips and budgeting.”

“Dear Brenda Gina and Colin, thank you such for inviting us to Ernst and Young. You gave us such a warm lovely welcome. Thank you for everything that you have taught us over last few weeks and for all the tips and advice on a how everything works in the workplace. Thank you so much for that, as it really helps me.”

“Thank you so much for all the great workshops. I learnt a lot from you and enjoyed being in your office.”



*EY workshop*



## ICON



*ICON workshop*

“Dear Marilyn and Cathal, thank you so much for having us and explaining to us all about ICON and also thank you so much for showing us around all your labs it was very interesting. Thank you for the refreshments afterwards and for the gluten free cake thank you it was lovely.”

“Dear Marilyn and Cathal, thank you for letting us come to visit you. I really enjoyed seeing the lab and learning about what you do.”

“Dear, Marilyn and Cathal, thank you for the presentation on ICON and for the tour around the lab that was really interesting and for the delicious treats.”

“Dear Marilyn and Cathal, thank you for the great time in the ICON workshop. I enjoyed seeing the lab and all the nice treats that you gave us.”

“Dear Marilyn and Cathal, thank you so much for having us and for showing us around all of the different departments of the labs and thank you so much for the refreshments.”



*ICON workshop*



*ICON workshop*





## Intel



*Intel workshop*

“Dear Ann-Marie, Joe, Carmel, Pat, Gemma, Elaine, Aisling and Muhamed, thank you much for invitation to Intel on Wednesday. It was very nice to meet you all for the first time. Thank so much for such a lovely welcoming. I have never been to Intel before, so it was new experience for me. You have a wonderful setup in Leixlip, and I would like to come visit again in the future. “

“Thank you for the fantastic experience at Intel one of my favourite workshops to date! The experience of seeing the inside of Intel is amazing to me. Thank you very much.”

“Thank you very much for a fantastic workshop in Intel. I really enjoyed the tour and I was very impressed with the offices. It is fun dressing up in the white suits.”

“Thank you for a great day in Intel. I learned so much about computers and what you do and how big your company is. I really liked the virtual hologram game, simulator and dressing up in the bunny suit.”



*Intel workshop*



*Intel workshop*





## LinkedIn



*LinkedIn workshop*

“Katrina, Alannah and all the team in LinkedIn, thank you very much for the workshop last Tuesday week. I was very impressed with your offices. Thank you also for your help in completing my LinkedIn profile. I really enjoyed the workshop. “

“To Katrina, Alannah and all of LinkedIn, thank you for having us. We loved our time with you and it was very nice to meet all of you. Thank you for helping us on our LinkedIn profiles.”

“Thank you so much for inviting us to your LinkedIn office in Dublin. it was very nice to see you all for the first time and such a lovely welcome. And also giving up your time to show us around the LinkedIn offices. And helping us with are LinkedIn page with was helpful and manageable.”

“To all the LinkedIn team, thank you for a great day in your office and for your help in setting up my profile.”

“Dear Katrina, Alanna and the LinkedIn team, thank you for the great workshop and for helping me to set up my LinkedIn profile.”



*LinkedIn workshop*



*LinkedIn workshop*



## RSA Insurance and 123.ie



*RSA Insurance and 123.ie workshop*

“Dear Ian, Claude, Lisa and Laura, I just want to say Thank you so much for having us at the workshop, I really and truly did learn a lot from this workshop. Thank you so much for sharing all of the biscuit, bars and thank you for the RSA Insurance for the backpack, water bottles, hot cups, the two note books, pen and the lanyard. “

“Thank you all for the last few weeks, helping us with our us CVs and setting us up on LinkedIn and telling us more about RSA 123. Thanks for the goodie bags and treats.”

“Thank you for a look in the insurance industry and for teaching us all about CVs and LinkedIn profiles.”

“Dear Ian, Claude, Lisa and Laura, I would like to say thank you so much for having us over the last 3 weeks. I thoroughly enjoyed every moment. Thank you for sharing your knowledge and expertise with us and for being so helpful with any questions. Thank you for the refreshments and for me thank you so much for the gluten free buns and cakes they were very much appreciated. Also thank you for the goodie bag very much appreciated thank you.”

“Thank you for the great time in RSA Insurance and for the treats on the last day and the goodie bags full of nice stuff.”



*RSA Insurance and 123.ie workshop*





## Smurfit Kappa



*Smurfit Kappa workshop*

“Dear Adri, Paul and Elaine, thank you very much for the great workshops. I really enjoyed them and learnt a lot. I really enjoyed looking at what skills I have and doing my interviews with the team. Lunch was lovely. Thank you also for your gift. I will have fun building this.”

“To Adri, Paul and Elaine, thank you for having us in Smurfit Kappa, we enjoyed our time with you and we thank you for helping us learn more about interviews.”

“Dear Paul, Adri and Elaine, thank you for a great few weeks doing the workshops with you. I really enjoyed doing the mock interviews and the lovely lunch.”

“Thank you Paul, Elaine and Adri for a really exciting experience to go back to Smurfit Kappa where I did my work placement. It was great to back and see everyone that I worked with for eight weeks. Thank you for the mock interviews that really helped me to prepare for my six month internship.”



*Smurfit Kappa workshop*



*Smurfit Kappa workshop*



## Squarespace



*Squarespace workshop*

“Well, I just want to say thank you so much for having us, really have enjoyed every single bit of this workshop. Thank you for the lovely breakfast that you have done for us over the last three weeks. Thank you for giving us the free things like the hoodies, notebook, pen and the water bottles. So basically, thank you for the goodie bags that you have given us.”

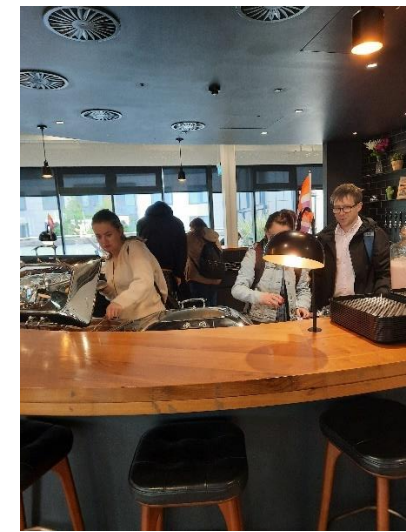
“Thank you so much for everything over the last 3 weeks. It went way too quick. We were only getting to know you and then we were finished. Thank you for helping us set up the website - this was favourite part. I enjoyed the designing part of it. Thank you so very much the lovely breakfast. I could definitely get used to having them. Thank you so much for the goodie bags they were very thoughtful of you.”

“Dear Colm, Zanda, Fahmy, Lais, Maunil, Tina, Weronika and Anna, thank you all for the last few weeks helping us to build our own websites. It was really good fun. Thanks for delicious breakfasts and treats. Thank you for goodie bags and the hoodies.”

“Thank you so much for the great time in Squarespace. We enjoyed the lovely morning breakfasts and the nice hoodies and goodie bags that you gave us.”



*Squarespace workshop*



*Squarespace workshop*



## Guest Lectures

A huge thank you to Bank of Ireland, Dynamic and Permanent TSB for providing guest lectures and class visits for our students as part of the following modules:

**Application of Numbers** – Matthew Brady-Grehan Bank of Ireland



**Application of Numbers** – Niamh Kenny and Norma Conway Permanent TSB



**Entrepreneurship and Disability** – Vicky Woolan, Gerry Walsh and Neville Verdon Dynamic



A huge thank you also to Jan Smullen from Mason Hayes and Curran who came in to do a series of interviews with our 2<sup>nd</sup> year students as part of the **Work Placement** module.



*Dynamic guest lecture*



*Permanent TSB class visit*





## Disability Rights event

Our second year students held their annual Disability Rights event on Tuesday April 11th. The event took place in the TCPID in 3 College Green. The students chose the theme of **Pathways from Education to Employment**. They invited guests **Dr. Tom Clonan**, Trinity College Dublin Senator and **Fintan Bray**, the first person with Down Syndrome to be elected to government in Ireland.

Additional guests included the first year TCPID students and the TCPID teaching team, including Disability Rights module coordinators, Dr. Vivian Rath, Dr. Patricia McCarthy, and Des Aston, as well as ASIAP course coordinator Dr. Donatella Camedda.

In their presentation, the students highlighted barriers and enablers in education and employment for people with intellectual disabilities. They demonstrated the value of their learning in the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice course and discussed their work experiences with the TCPID business partners.



Group photo with TCPID students, lecturers and invited guests

Students highlighted their core values as: **Inclusion, Respect, Patience, and Kindness**. Some of the class statements included:

***"We want to work! We love to learn!"***

***"We want the future to be better for people with disabilities in employment and education."***



Fintan Bray with some of the TCPID students and a visiting guest

Following their presentation, students engaged in a question-and-answer session with their invited guests.



Senator Tom Clonan with Clíodhna O'Rourke



Liam Foley, Fintan Bray and Senator Tom Clonan



## Inclusive Rugby coaching event



TCPID and TCD Sports Centre staff and Joe and Paddy McCarthy of Leinster Rugby, along with their younger brother

Thanks to everyone involved for their efforts in collaborating to organize this event, including Trinity Sport, Rugby Players Ireland, Trinity Business School, and TCPID.



TCPID students had the amazing opportunity to participate in an inclusive rugby workshop on April 12, 2023. The session was led by **Leinster Rugby players, Joe McCarthy and Paddy McCarthy**, recent winners of the Six Nations competition. This event was organized in collaboration with the Trinity Sports Centre and the Trinity Business School.

From Trinity Sport News: **Matthew Dossett, Deputy Director of Sport, and Physical Activity at Trinity College Dublin** commented, *“We were thrilled to partner with TCPID and Rugby Players Ireland to host this inclusive coaching session with Trinity student athletes Joe and Paddy McCarthy. At Trinity, we believe in promoting diversity and creating an inclusive environment for all members of our community, and this event was a great opportunity to showcase the impact of inclusion in sports.”*







## Photovoice exhibition by 1<sup>st</sup> year students

First year TCPID students in the Human Rights module, led by **Dr. Donatella Camedda**, launched their College Voices Photovoice exhibition on May 18, 2023. The exhibition was on display in the large pod in the Arts block for one month, showcasing our students hard work and their voices through photography.

As students learned about Human Rights this year, they were particularly interested in the right to education. To explore this further, students determined three major themes they related to as college students: **Making New Friends, Getting a Job, and Achieving Your Goals**. Each student photographed something that represented each of these themes to them and wrote beautiful captions that showed the message behind their photo.

Students also had the opportunity to learn about accessibility in their exhibition, ensuring that each photo had alt text - a description of each image for those who are blind or have low vision. In their exhibition, there were QR codes available to scan, where visitors could listen to the students read their captions and alt text.

Congratulations to all the first-year students on their exhibition!



*1<sup>st</sup> year students presenting their Photovoice exhibition to invited guests*



*Dr. Donatella Camedda with Clodhna O'Rourke*



## SciFest@TCPID 2023 in association with Abbott Ireland

On Thursday June 1st the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities hosted our **SciFest@TCPID 2023** student exhibition and awards in association with **Abbott Ireland**. The event took place for the second year running in the beautiful venue of Regent House in Trinity College Dublin. Seven students proudly displayed their projects at the event.

The event was well attended by TCPID Business Partners, guests from across Trinity College, graduates of the TCPID and the students' families and friends.

The **Provost of Trinity College Dublin, Dr. Linda Doyle** joined us for the event and gave a brief speech to welcome all invited guests to the event and spoke individually to every student about their projects.

Our student Clodhna O'Rourke also gave a brief speech to welcome people to the event.



*Clodhna O'Rourke giving a welcome speech at the SciFest@TCPID exhibition*



Many of our TCPID graduates joined us as guests for the exhibition. We were so delighted to see so many familiar faces, all of whom had previously completed SciFest projects with Abbott in previous years.



*Graduates Niamh Biddulph, Dairine O'Rourke and Stephen Ryan with Sheila Porter of SciFest*



*Graduates Dairine O'Rourke and Niamh Biddulph with Marie Devitt*

We were also delighted to have **Senator Tom Clonan** in attendance at this very special event.



*Senator Tom Clonan with Clodhna O'Rourke*





*Provost Linda Doyle with James Conlan*



*Conor Dunne with Provost Linda Doyle*



*TCPID students with the TCPID, Abbott and SciFest teams*

This is the seventh year of the Abbott Ireland TCPID partnership. We have developed such an incredibly strong partnership thanks to the incredible ongoing support of our Abbott colleagues for this programme every year. A huge thank you to all the wonderful **Abbott team** who supported the students with their projects throughout the month of May.

A huge thank you to all the mentors, **Rachelle, Kate, Kelly, Ronan, Rosemary, Erika, Ciara and Roseleen** who helped the students to come up with their project ideas and supported them with their research, their experiments, their surveys and preparing the project boards.

A particular thanks go to the amazing **Rachelle Waters** who has been working tirelessly to plan the 2023 programme since last year.



*Erika Dvorgalyte, Marie Devitt, Rachelle Waters, Kate Peters and Ciara Hayes*



Another huge thank you as always goes to the **SciFest founders Sheila and George Porter** who have always supported us in running this programme. We are so lucky to get to do this with them each year.



*George and Sheila Porter with the TCD Provost Linda Doyle*

We would also like to thank Smurfit Kappa who very kindly produced the project boards for us for this once again this year for this very special exhibition.

Our seven students, Conor, Oscar, Jodie, Diarmuid, James, Liam and Cliodhna learnt so much over the 5 weeks and had such an amazing time doing their projects. We were so incredibly proud of how they committed fully to the hard work each week and how they presented their projects so professionally at the final exhibition. They were all presented with awards by SciFest and Abbott Ireland.

At the end of the awards presentation, Oscar Daly, the 2nd year class rep, gave a wonderful speech to thank everyone involved in SciFest@TCPID on behalf of all his classmates.



*Sheila Porter, Oscar Daly and Rachele Waters*



*Sheila Porter, Jodie Daly and Rachele Waters*





Liam Foley



Liam Foley



Some of our participating students with their SciFest certificates



Sheila Porter, Clíodhna O'Rourke and Rachelle Waters



Conor Murphy, Kelly O'Sullivan, Rachelle Waters, Erika Dovgalyte, Ciara Timmons, Kate Peters and Ronan Macdonnell from Abbott Ireland

We already have a date for your diaries for SciFest@TCPID 2024. This will take place on **Thursday May 30<sup>th</sup> 2024**. Please hold the date in your diaries if you can.



## Graduate Internships

In addition to our graduates who have secured permanent roles, we currently have 14 internships in progress and more due to start within the next couple of months. We have internships currently underway in the following companies (some with more than one intern):

ARTHUR COX

Bank of Ireland

CAIRN

COILLTE  
GROW. SUSTAIN. TRANSFORM.

  
DYNAMIC

  
EY Building a better working world

Go-Ahead  
Ireland

 Grant Thornton

 KPMG

MCCANN FITZGERALD

RSA  INSURANCE

123.ie



We also have at least 7 new internships due to start in the next couple of months in:



globalpayments



Optum

WILLIAM FRY

As always, we are incredibly grateful for your support in providing these wonderful internship opportunities for our graduates.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Senator Tom Clonan who recently organised for one of our graduates to work with him in the Oireachtas. This graduate had a particular interest in politics, so this was an incredible learning opportunity for them.





## Permanent Roles

We are delighted to announce that two more of our graduates have received permanent contracts over the past few months

### David Banfield – Bank of Ireland



*David Banfield surrounded by his Bank of Ireland team*

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

I live in Leixlip with my parents. My interests are music, art and jogging. I play the piano and violin and I'm a member of the Celbridge Concert Orchestra.

#### **Can you tell us when you started working in Bank of Ireland and what work you do there?**

I started working in Bank of Ireland last year in May and I work in the office. I spend my day working on accounts on the computer.

#### **Can you tell us a little about your colleagues in Bank of Ireland and how they support you?**

Their names are Mark, Pamela, Catherine, Peter and Margaret. They are very friendly and they show me how to do my work.

#### **What do you enjoy the most about working for Bank of Ireland?**

I enjoy doing the account numbers. It is a lovely building to work in and all the people are very nice.

#### **How do you think you have changed since you started working in Bank of Ireland? Have you developed new skills etc?**

I think I have become more independent. I also have learned new computer skills.

#### **How did you feel when you were told that you would be getting a permanent contract with Bank of Ireland??**

I felt very happy. Also my parents and sisters were delighted.



## From David's Parents

**Is there any message you would like to share with your Bank of Ireland team?**

I am enjoying working with the team and learning new skills. I would like to thank them for all their support so far.

*When we were told that David was to be made permanent in the Bank of Ireland, it was the best news we had heard in a long time. We would like to thank Trinity College for all their support for David over the last few years. And sincere thanks to Bank of Ireland for giving David this opportunity.*



*David Banfield with his Bank of Ireland colleagues*



*David Banfield on his graduation day in Trinity College Dublin*



## From David's Bank of Ireland colleagues

### From Catherine Moore, Front Office, Bank of Ireland College Green

*Over the last number of months David has been working with us in the Business Support Unit. He has grown in confidence and is happy to take on new responsibilities. David has worked on a project with us diligently checking data and has developed in speed and is always happy to receive positive feedback taking great pride in his work.*

*He always arrives on time and is so polite and friendly. He is a smiler for sure. He mixes very well and enjoys joining the staff for his lunch after he has finished his work. He mixes well with all age groups and people from different areas of the branch.*

### From Stacey Lord, Customer Service and Cash, Bank of Ireland College Green

*I am quite new to Bank of Ireland myself and from my first day David was so welcoming! David is so bubbly and full of energy. David brings such joy to the working environment.*

### From Enda McDonagh, Head of Banking, Bank of Ireland College Green

*Although the TCPID Programme has had a relationship with College Green Branch in the past, David's placement was the first time we have participated fully in the programme. In deepening our commitment to more accurately reflect the society which we serve, the Bank could not have been more fortunate in working with David. Since arriving at College*

*Green he has embedded himself in the team and become a friend to everyone and a very effective support to his colleagues. It was my very great pleasure to offer David permanent employment following his placement here and I am delighted he has joined the staff.*

### TCPID and Bank of Ireland

Bank of Ireland have been providing placements and internships for students and graduates of the TCPID since 2013 and are one of our oldest business partners. We work very closely with the HR division and Rod Macmanus who works in Decision Science and has championed and supported the TCPID within Bank of Ireland throughout that time.

### From Rod Macmanus, Decision Science, Bank of Ireland

*Over the last 10 years we have provided 27 placement and internship opportunities to Trinity Students and Graduates but never managed to make one permanent. Against this backdrop I couldn't have been more delighted to hear the fantastic news about David Banfield's permanent appointment in College Green. A big call out to Enda McDonagh and team for making this happen. If any of my Bank of Ireland colleagues or anyone from other companies is interested in providing a placement or internship to a TCPID student, please reach out to me.*





## Sadbh Feehan – Trinity College Dublin



*Sadbh Feehan*

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

Hi my name is Sadbh Feehan.

I live in Carlow with my Mam Paula and my Dad Dan. I have two older sisters Etain and Sorcha, one younger brother Milo and our two-year-old Border Collie Dog Bear.

Some things that I enjoy to do are going to the theatre, shopping, going to the cinema with my friends, camping with the girl guides, horse-riding, traveling, listening to music, going out for coffee, learning Spanish on Duolingo.

I am an advocate for people who have disabilities, I am involved in the Carlow Special Olympics the sports that I do are Swimming, Athletics, Basketball and Bowling.

### **Why did you decide to come to Trinity College to complete the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice?**

My Mum and Dad had heard about the course before I left school – they actually heard Margaret Turley speaking at a talk they attended! They both thought that when I was ready it would be ideal for me! They would be right!!!

After I left school, I attended a Centre for adults with intellectual disabilities. I found it wasn't really challenging enough for me, although it did improve my independence by traveling a short distance by train every day.

I really wanted to learn more about so many different things! So, I applied for an animal care in our local college of further education. Some of the subjects were too difficult for me so I completed as many as I could and passed the exams that I took! I didn't feel I achieved as much as I was capable of.

I always dreamed of going to college just like my Dad and sisters. In fact, my Dad was one of the early students with a physical disability to attend Trinity College, so in some ways he inspired me and my sister. Sorcha was a student at Trinity at the time too, so I had lots of encouragement!! We





went to the information day and after hearing more about the course I was determined to apply.

I will never forget the absolute joy I felt when I got my place. I've loved every minute studying at Trinity College, and I am so proud to be a graduate of Ireland's oldest university.

### **How do you think you have changed since you first started as a student in Trinity College?**

My sense of direction has improved!!! I have become confident traveling on my own to Dublin and with my colleagues to Cork, Galway and more recently Austria.

My presentation and public speaking have improved, along with my confidence.

My organisational skills are so much better, but I am still working on my time keeping!!

### **Can you tell us about the work that you do in the TCPID in Trinity College Dublin?**

Some of the work that I do in TCPID includes:

- Presenting at conferences and taking part in panel discussions
- Facilitating a quiz for the TCPID Summer School
- Helping with the School of Education TY programme

- Meeting with different companies/business partners/potential business partners
- Making sure that the students are comfortable and showing them around the campus
- Linking in with the Trinity College clubs and societies to make them more inclusive to the students.

### **Can you tell us a little about your colleagues in the TCPID and how they support you?**

My colleagues are so supportive with all the work that I do. I really couldn't have asked for better people to work with. I feel like I can talk to them about anything. We are like a little work family.

We all support each other. I just feel incredibly grateful.

### **What do you enjoy the most about working in Trinity College Dublin?**

I really enjoy being able to come into the office.

I enjoy being able to interact with my colleagues.

I really like the environment that I work in, as it is easy going.

I enjoy being able to work at my own pace.

I love being in the college and the possibility of meeting new people.

I like talking to other students about what they are studying but also talking to them about TCPID.



### **How did you feel when you found out that you were being offered a permanent role in Trinity College Dublin?**

When I found out that I was being made permanent I was left speechless! I honestly didn't know what to say! The first person I called to tell my great news was of course my mam.

### **What are your goals for the future?**

My goals for the future are:

- to continue learning
- to help integrate the course more in the college
- to be able to promote the course
- to advocate for the students
- to be a role model for students who will come to college in the future
- to be still working in Trinity



## **From Sadbh's Parents and Sisters**

### **How did you feel when you heard the news that Sadbh was being offered a permanent contract in Trinity College Dublin?**

I felt immensely proud of Sadbh when I found out she was offered her permanent contract. I felt so overjoyed for her and proud that she has grown into a confident, smart and eager woman who will contribute hard work within her role in the TCPID.

Hearing Sadbh's wonderful news brought back the feelings we had when she got her place on the course – absolute joy, pride and a sense of immense gratitude that she was accepted and seen for the wonderful talented and unique person she is. Being made a permanent member of staff at the place she loves is like a dream come true. I've always known she has a love of learning – she knows so many facts about so many weird things- she's always an asset at any quiz!!! To see her determination, commitment, love of learning, sense of humour, Justice and her loyalty being appreciated by her work colleagues brings us great pleasure. To say that she is our "pride and joy" would not be an understatement!!!

Of course, we have a huge sense of relief too knowing that Sadbh has a job that she loves, and she can thrive and continue to learn but also inspire other students coming in the course, other students in the college who are lucky to meet and have a chat with her, business partners who support TCPID and other colleges who hope to set up similar courses.

As a person with an intellectual disability, she has never allowed labels define her – she has always dreamed – seeing her achieve her permanent position in Trinity has made every effort worthwhile.



### **Do you have any additional things that you would like to say about Sadbh's time as a student in Trinity and now as a permanent staff member?**

Since Sadbh began her journey with Trinity College, she has gained so much information and knowledge in many different aspects of life in general. She has become so much more confident and has developed a strong personality with the help of Trinity and those who worked with her as a student and now as a teammate.

I think the main source that contributed to how far along Sadbh has come, is the fact she has received encouragement and belief from Trinity. This has allowed her to understand and believe in herself that she is SO able to do whatever she wants to do and that nothing can stop her. I am and always will be so proud and grateful that Trinity have given Sadbh the chance to believe in herself and do amazing things in her life (along with shouting it from the rooftops that **nothing** can stop **anyone** chasing their dreams!!!)

### **Any additional things to say about Sadbh's time as a student in Trinity College and now as a permanent member of staff**

From the moment Sadbh was accepted on the ASIAP course there was a sparkle in her eyes and a sense that now she had arrived and was where she was always supposed to be!! Her educational journey was never straightforward or easy, but with support in each of her schools she achieved her very best. She had disappointments and frustrations on her journey but remained determined always. Her former teachers remember her well and her achievements since leaving school and in her life have been noticed and praised by many.

Before Sadbh left school I remember hearing Margaret Turley speak at an information day and we were blown away feeling that this course could be a goal for Sadbh when she was ready. After a year at a Centre for adults with intellectual disabilities and subsequent year at a college of further education Sadbh felt frustrated that she had not found somewhere where she could fully thrive.

This all changed at TCPID. She was able to manage all her subjects with minimal help from home because everything was at the right level and all the supports of educational and occupational therapy were integrated in the course. She was able to think for herself. Her opinions were valued. Her independence and leadership soared. She volunteered as a peer mentor for other students. The pandemic put a slight dampener on her college experience, but she fully engaged with the online experience - huge thanks to all staff for making that such a success.

The support that Sadbh got during her course and in her internships in A&L Goodbody solicitors and of course in Trinity College made it possible for her to achieve success. I know her personality helped too! Nothing is impossible!

While in college she dearly wanted to get involved in college life - particularly in societies but that was the most disappointing aspect of her time as a student as many of the activities were on too late and too difficult to engage with. This is something that she has set her mind to correcting!!! Her sense of justice and fairness that ALL students should be able to access societies and all aspects of college life.

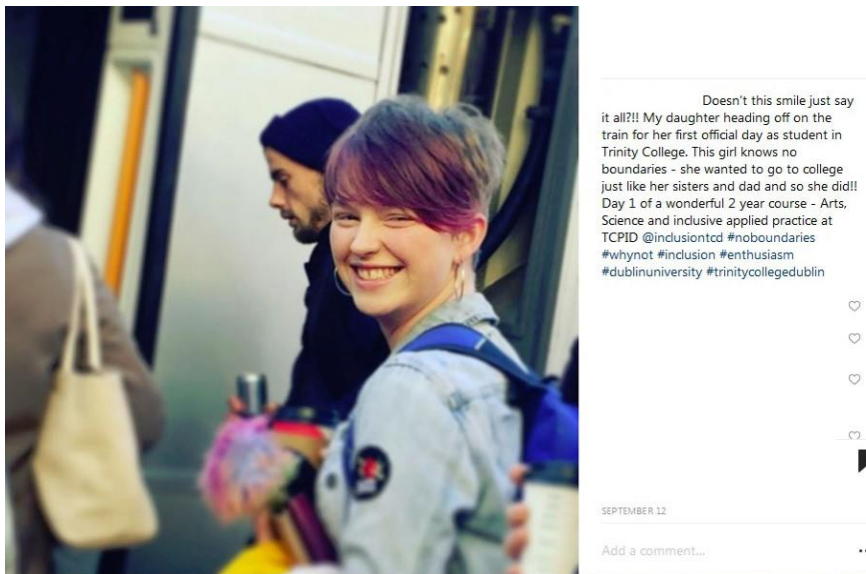
Sadbh loves to talk and engage with people - keen to learn what fellow students are studying but also wanting to tell them about her course - something that many of them would know nothing about! Now she is a





permanent member of staff I'm sure many more will know about her and about the TCPID!

Dan, Sadbh's Dad remarks that it's encouraging to see that 30 years since he studied at Trinity College as a disabled student the improvements to disability services have improved. It must however be said that 30 years ago there were no services for or indeed any students with intellectual disabilities so no matter how we look at it, the paradigm has changed for the better and is a credit to the present generation of the university staff and students.



An Instagram post from Sadbh's Mum on her first day as a student in Trinity College Dublin

## From Sadbh's TCPID colleagues

### From Professor Michael Shevlin, TCPID Director

*I am so delighted to have Sadbh as a valued member of the TCPID team. Sadbh is always enthusiastic about everything that she does and brings great knowledge and skills to our team. I am looking forward to seeing her develop her role in the TCPID even further over the coming years.*

### From Donatella Camedda, ASIAP Course Coordinator

*Sadbh brings a fresh and insightful perspective to the work in TCPID, her attitude and positive approach to what she does is very helpful in enhancing the learners' perspective.*

*It is a real pleasure to work with Sadbh.*

### From Des Aston, TCPID National and Schools Coordinator

*I am delighted to have worked with Sadbh Feehan, our exceptional Graduate Intern. Her constant self-challenge and willingness to step outside her comfort zone have been truly inspiring. It has been a joy to witness her remarkable growth. Sadbh's contributions have added immense value to our team, and I am thrilled that she has been made permanent in her role. I am grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with such a talented individual, and I eagerly anticipate her continued success.*



**From John Kubiak, TCPID Teaching and Learning Officer**

*Sadbh has proven to be an excellent team player in the TCPID. She is a naturally warm and friendly person who enriches the work environment. She has excellent communication skills, and the flexibility and dedication she brings to her role is impressive. Overall, Sadbh makes the TCPID environment a better place for both students and staff alike.*

**From Rose Marie Lynch, TCPID Office Manager**

*I'm delighted Sadbh is now a permanent member of staff in TCPID. She is highly skilled and talented, a fantastic work colleague and having her on the team makes a huge difference. It's been great getting to know Sadbh, I enjoy her company and the conversations we have over coffee. Looking forward to working together on future projects!*

**From Jenny Banks, TCPID Research Coordinator**

*Sadbh has been a fantastic addition to the TCPID team. She is enthusiastic about her work and brings a positivity and good humour to the office that is infectious! She has grown into the role during her internship and we see her as an integral and valued member of the team.*

**From Marie Devitt, TCPID Pathways Coordinator**

*Sadbh has been such a wonderful addition to the TCPID team. Since day one, she has brought incredible positivity, determination and professionalism to everything that she has been involved with. She is an absolute joy to work with. We are very lucky to have her as part of our team. I look forward to all the exciting projects that we will be working on together over the coming years.*



*Sadbh Feehan surrounded by her TCPID team*



## TCPID Summer School

The **TCPID Summer School 2023** took place from June 27th to 29<sup>th</sup>.

24 students with intellectual disabilities gathered on the beautiful Trinity College campus for a vibrant and enriching experience.

The TCPID Summer School offered a diverse range of workshops that sparked the curiosity and creativity of the participants. From poetry writing to health and fitness, the students had the opportunity to explore different subjects and engage in hands-on activities.



*Participants of the TCPID Summer School 2024*

### **The workshops included:**

**Poetry Writing:** Unleashing the power of words, students explored the beauty and expressiveness of poetry.

**Health and Fitness:** Promoting wellness and an active lifestyle, this workshop empowered students to prioritize their physical well-being.

**Social Media and Disability Rights:** Students delved into the intriguing world of social media, learning about its impact on disability rights advocacy and expression.

**Investigating the Trinity Locality:** Students embarked on a journey to discover the history, culture, and significance of the Trinity College Dublin locality.

**Introduction to Business:** This workshop provided valuable insights into the fundamentals of entrepreneurship, igniting the students' entrepreneurial spirit.

**Occupational Therapy Personal Self Development:** Through this class, students gained valuable life skills, fostering personal growth and self-development.

**Pizza Party and Quiz:** The Summer School also celebrated joyful moments with a pizza party, bringing students together to enjoy delicious food and friendly competition.





## Exciting International Collaborations

The TCPID Summer School embraced international collaboration by welcoming students from the **ClemsonLife programme at Clemson University in the United States**. These students participated in the Summer School as part of their study abroad programme, enriching the experience with their unique perspectives.

During the week a meeting took place between the President of Clemson University and the Provost of Trinity College Dublin, exploring potential partnerships between the two institutions and the TCPID and ClemsonLife programme.

You can read about the ClemsonLife programme here  
<https://www.clemson.edu/education/programs/programs/culife/index.html>

The TCPID Summer School 2023 provided a transformative experience for students with intellectual disabilities. From engaging workshops to thrilling activities and the forging of international connections, this event exemplified the spirit of inclusivity, education, and personal growth. We extend our gratitude to all the participants, facilitators, and collaborators who made this Summer School a tremendous success.





## Hugo MacNeill speaking to Miriam O'Callaghan

Listen back to a wonderful and inspiring interview by our TCPID Ambassador Hugo MacNeill on the work of the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities and the rewarding benefits for our students working with businesses and progressing their careers.

The interview took place on RTÉ Radio 1 'Sunday with Miriam' on June 25th 2023. [Timeline: 44.52](https://www.rte.ie/radio/radio1/sunday-with-miriam/programmes/2023/0625/1391036-sunday-with-miriam-sunday-25-june-2023//) for Hugo's segment.

<https://www.rte.ie/radio/radio1/sunday-with-miriam/programmes/2023/0625/1391036-sunday-with-miriam-sunday-25-june-2023//>



*TCPID Ambassador Hugo MacNeill*



*Miriam O'Callaghan*



## New Collaborations

We are delighted to announce that three new partners have joined our network over the past few months.

### Falko

**Falko Regional Aircraft Limited (Falko)** is the world's largest asset manager and aircraft lessor focused solely on the regional aircraft leasing segment. Falko is one of the longest standing and largest managers of regional aircraft globally. Falko's strategy is focused on growing its portfolio of funds and aircraft under management and the continued development of products and services in support of its aircraft lease management activity.

Falko was formed in July 2011 through the purchase of BAE Systems Asset Management and its associated aircraft portfolio. In May 2022, Chorus Aviation Inc. (TSX: CHR) completed the acquisition of Falko and equity interests in aircraft managed by Falko. Headquartered in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Chorus is an integrated provider of regional aviation solutions, including asset management services.

Speaking about the new partnership, **Ray Gorman, Falko's Chief Financial Officer** said, *"TCPID is an incredible initiative, opening doors to the workplace for students with intellectual disabilities who may not have had the confidence to pursue or been given the opportunity otherwise. We plan to welcome a graduate intern into our Dublin office later this year, providing a supportive environment where they will gain hands on experience, develop key employment skills and helping them recognise their existing talents all whilst learning about the regional aircraft leasing sector and wider aviation market. We look forward to this new collaboration with TCPID and its graduates."*







## IPB Insurance

**IPB Insurance** is proud of our close-knit family culture which welcomes people who share a passion for our values. Our employees are the foundation of our success, and we are lucky to have experienced, talented, and friendly colleagues who are the best in the business. We also take immense pride in our mutual ethos and our culture which comes from almost one hundred years of heritage, protecting our Local Authority, Educational and Training Board Members and Customers which makes IPB a unique organisation to be part of. We are headquartered in Dublin, located in one office in a vibrant Dockland community. Our people work on challenging and rewarding areas in an industry that has seen vast changes and are proud to be associated with a brand that has a strong iconic presence in the market.

**Alice Foley, Member Relationship Manager in IPB Insurance**, said about the partnership: *“We are committed to building an even more diverse and inclusive culture and our decision to partner with TCPID is one which we see will be of mutual benefit on this journey. We are very much looking forward to working with, and learning from, Marie, the TCPID team and other Business Partners.”*





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

## PHX Ireland

PHX Ireland is Ireland's leading fully integrated healthcare provider and comprises United Drug, Ireland's leading pharmaceutical wholesaler and distributor; Lloyds Pharmacy Ireland, a major community pharmacy chain; and TCP Homecare, innovators in clinical home nursing services and direct to patient delivery solutions. PHX Ireland employs over 1,800 people, operates 5 distribution centres and 88 pharmacies, and serves 500,000 patients each year.

Speaking about the new partnership, **Hillary Collins, Human Resources Director and People Leader of PHX Ireland** said, "*We are delighted to be partnering with the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities to provide meaningful opportunities to students and graduates, as we work towards creating a more inclusive work environment that reflects our diverse society. At PHX Ireland, the mission of our People function is to create rewarding, purposeful careers, in a friendly, caring environment that encourages people to be their best. We are excited to collaborate with TCPID to ensure we provide a workplace where all voices are heard, all ideas welcomed, and all colleagues feel supported, understood, and valued. We look forward to seeing the impact our collaboration has on both our organisation and TCPID.*"

**PHX**Ireland  
a PHOENIX company



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

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







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



McCANN FITZGERALD



Gníomhaireacht Bainistochta an Chisteáin Náisiúnta  
National Treasury Management Agency



THE HOME OF IRISH DAIRY



Your Professional Search Partner



a PHOENIX company



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



WILLIAM FRY