

Trinity Access Programmes (TAP)

Pathways to Law

The Trinity Access Programmes (TAP) are a key part of Trinity's social mission. TAP aims to increase participation in education by students from non-traditional backgrounds, to address educational disadvantage and to create a university campus that mirrors the diverse composition of Irish society.

Since 1993, TAP has worked in partnership across the education sector and with families, communities and businesses to widen educational access through a range of innovative, targeted educational programmes. TAP provides a continuum of support to primary, second-level, young adult and mature students, enabling them to overcome barriers and fulfil their educational potential.

Pathways to Law

Research within an Irish and a UK context has highlighted that access to the established graduate professions continues to be dominated by students from higher social classes, with little social mobility in the areas of Law and Medicine by students of under-represented groups.

The TAP **Pathways to Law** initiative has been developed in partnership with the School of Law in Trinity and aims to inspire students from under-represented groups who are interested in the law and to give them the confidence, knowledge and tools to maximize their potential.



The programme does this by:

- Encouraging and supporting students' interest in studying Law at third-level in Trinity College
- Enhancing their understanding of the legal profession through engagement in a range of activities throughout the senior school cycle and undergraduate experience
- Working in collaboration with the legal profession and other key stakeholders, to open doors and opportunities.



The Programme

The programme targets students from senior-cycle in school through to third-level and seeks to enhance their interest in theoretical as well as practical application of the study of law.

Pathways to Law includes the following components:

University Sessions, Summer School, Work Shadowing & Firm Placements, Mentoring, Graduation Ceremony.

TAP Pathways Partners

The practical and financial support of law firms, individuals and professional bodies in the legal profession is vital to the success of **Pathways to Law**.

The *TAP Pathways Partners* are a group of progressive companies and interested individuals who are committed to the values of inclusion and diversity and who strongly believe in harnessing potential and talent from all parts of society. The *TAP Pathways Partners* will join TAP in its groundbreaking work of promoting inclusion and diversity in the legal profession and in addressing issues contributing to the under-representation of some socio-economic groups.

By becoming a *TAP Pathways Partner* you will be providing practical supports and pathways to education for students with ability and potential who will in turn become role models in their schools and communities, inspiring others to follow in their footsteps. Your support will also contribute to the development and extension of the Pathways model and will help provide research evidence which can influence policy change in the education system.

Supporters have the option to get involved in practical aspects of TAP's work, for example, by providing work placements, becoming mentors and contributing to Pathways activities.

Support for TAP

TAP's mission has been strongly supported by a range of businesses, individuals and Trinity Alumni groups. We are extremely grateful for this invaluable support which has ensured that a transformative educational experience is available to people of all ages from disadvantaged areas of Dublin – one which will impact on their own families and communities for generations to come.

In addition to State funding, TAP endeavours to secure at least one third of the cost of all programmes from private philanthropic or corporate sources. This support has allowed TAP to continue to learn, grow and innovate. We are keen to ensure this support is sustained through these challenging times so that we can continue to offer hope and opportunity to those most at risk from adverse economic circumstances.

Why support the Trinity Access Programmes?



Support for TAP helps change lives, transform communities and is in a very real way an investment in Ireland's future. To sustain this pioneering work, TAP is seeking the imaginative support of partners in social responsibility. By supporting TAP you will be helping to:

- Create opportunities and eliminate barriers for bright students from under-represented backgrounds
- Prepare the role models and leaders of the future in their schools and communities
- Change negative expectations and make a real difference in communities affected by disadvantage
- Effect positive change in the Irish education system
- Make a direct and lasting impact on thousands of lives.

"I am very interested in law because it is the core of how each and every country runs. I am also fascinated by the way laws have changed over time, and the people who have changed them."

"I think it's essential to know what your rights are and I would love to defend people whose rights have been neglected."

"I also like the logical way you have to approach a problem and argue your case, and I believe in justice and fair play."

"I am interested in law because it protects people's rights. I am particularly interested in European Law as my parents were born in Latvia. I realise the importance of knowing the different laws in the different countries."

"Law interests me because I love to get my point across. I think it's something I would be good at."

"What interests me about law is how it is involved with politics and everyday life."

5th year school students - Pathways to Law

Acknowledgments:

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If you are interested in finding out more about TAP, or would like information on how to get involved as a supporter, please contact:

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