

## Trinity Access Programmes (TAP) *Student Support Initiative*

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.

### The TAP Post Entry Progression Programme

TAP provides a range of academic, financial, social and personal support to TAP undergraduates:

- Direct financial support to assist with the cost of academic texts, travel and other student expenses
- A supported childcare scheme for TAP students with young children
- Development of students' transferable skills through training and voluntary work as TAP Ambassadors
- Extra tuition pre and post examinations
- Personal guidance, peer mentoring and support services.



### TAP Student Support Initiative

In recent years, TAP students have benefited greatly from funding provided by corporate and individual sponsors to the TAP **Student Support Initiative**. In a period when government funding for students from lower income groups is being cut-back substantially, we are particularly keen to expand support from these sources for TAP students.



### Financial Support for TAP Students

TAP has over 500 undergraduate students currently studying degree courses in all areas of the College, including *Medicine, Business Studies, Law, Physiotherapy, Human Genetics, Engineering and Computer Science*.

Third-level maintenance grants are insufficient to support a low-income student through college. There are many hidden costs, such as medical and dental equipment and academic text books. Research shows that state financial support requires at least €3,000 supplementary funding per year to make full participation in college life feasible.

Even with additional financial support, TAP students generally undertake part-time work. TAP endeavours to work with students and parents to minimize this external work to 10-15 hours per week so that students can have the full Trinity experience.

### TAP Scholarships

The cost of funding a **TAP Scholarship** is €2,500 a year - €10,000 for a four year course of study. A great many TAP students are currently in need of financial support to continue their studies and privately funded TAP Scholarships enable us to provide vital additional support for these students, helping them to overcome the financial pressures they face and fulfill their educational goals.



## 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 so grateful for the TAP Scholarship I received and the opportunity it gave me to further my academic career. Without it I would hardly be able to get to college, let alone spend my days here! I come from a single parent family and this Scholarship has given me and my mother peace of mind about income. I am no longer constantly asking her for money for bus fare, food and other daily needs. Without the stress of bills or fear of unexpected payments I have found my mind free to focus on the topics of my course."*

*"The TAP Scholarship has improved the quality of my work as I have been able to afford to buy my own copies of some college books, allowing me to keep them at home for reference, study and making notes. The Scholarship has also given me some important skills like how to budget and spend wisely, the value of money and ultimately the power of education."*

*"The people behind the TAP programme have had a huge influence on me and my family's life in recent years. The TAP Scholarship has provided me with a level of extra financial assistance that allowed me to reduce the amount of time I was obliged to spend at part time work and thus place an added emphasis on my studies. The fact that I do not have to rush off to work every evening allowed me to become more involved in university life, in particular with the law society. Undoubtedly the qualities that I developed during my time at Trinity will stand to me as I move into my future professional life."*

### TAP Students

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

Cliona Hannon, Director, TAP  
T: 353 1 896 2752  
E: [channon@tcd.ie](mailto:channon@tcd.ie)  
W: [www.tcd.ie/Trinity\\_Access](http://www.tcd.ie/Trinity_Access)

Eileen Punch, Associate Director, Trinity Foundation  
T: 353 1 896 1714  
E: [eileen.punch@tcd.ie](mailto:eileen.punch@tcd.ie)  
W: [www.tcd.ie/trinityfoundation](http://www.tcd.ie/trinityfoundation)