



**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 2024**



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

### Summer 2024

Dear Partners,

I hope that you are all enjoying a wonderful Summer, despite the weather!

We have had an incredibly busy few months in the TCPID with many collaborations with all of you.

Thank you to all of you who have provided workshops, placements and internships for our students and graduates. Your support means so much to all of us and we absolutely love working with you,

This Update includes an interview with our graduate Ciaran Moran who has recently received a permanent contract with the Library of Trinity College Dublin.

We are thrilled to welcome another four new TCPID Business Partners / Patrons to join our incredible network. Thank you to AerCap, Aer Lingus, LinkedIn and Mr. Price Branded Bargains for signing up with us. We are really looking forward to working with you over the coming years.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script 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?

“Have a tour around the collage so you know where the classes are.”

“What I would say to anyone considering coming to study in Trinity is come with an open mind. You might look at some of the modules and say ‘oh I don’t like those or I have no interest in this module’, but take this from me, I was in that boat, but some of the modules I thought I wouldn’t like actually became some of my favourite modules. So, I would say don’t knock it until you try it, because you might discover a talent for something that you never knew you had.”

“Make the most of it for yourself and do want you want to do. It is an amazing course. Try to keep up with your work and not fall behind.”

“It’s not a walk in the park. I really had thought the course would be so easy but it’s not. You will have to prioritise college in most situations and go to bed early as you will be so tired.”

“So, I would say to anyone considering going for this course I would tell them to just enjoy every single bit of this course because it will go so quickly for you, all you can do is give it your best shot.

For me it has changed me so much and I have enjoyed it, so what I am saying never just give up try your best and you will succeed. “

“Come to Trinity it’s a great college you will make great friends and study with them and have fun with them there is lots to see in Trinity college you will have the best time there.”



## 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?

“Meeting new people and having new experiences to try out to help us in life.”

“For me that’s a good question but I just enjoy the ride that I had throughout of two years of this program.”

“My greatest memory of my time as a student is being elected as Class Rep for the 2 years of the course. I chose this because I hadn’t ever seen myself as a leader but the fact that my fellow classmates voted for me for 2 years in a row made me feel so proud and shown me how far I have come this something I will remember for the rest of my life.”

“I really enjoyed meeting new friends and having experiences as a student for example learning new subject and being in trinity and around town.”

“I really liked going on all the group trips e.g. the class trips with John, the workshop trips with Marie and the geography trips with Susan.”

“For me it would have to be getting to meet new friends that are in my class. Definitely gonna try and meet up with some of them when College is all done so it would be nice to have a catch up with them.

Another one of my memories would have to be getting up in front of my class and doing the presentations for our assignments.

Another one would be how I was able to help people out when they were stuck and I have done that throughout my College experience.”

“Meeting friends having good chats with them and doing the sports class and doing my presentations to the class.”



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

“The friends I made while in Trinity.”

“I will miss the group I hanged with over two years and most of stuff that I worked with.”

“What I will miss is actually just going to classes learning about so many different topics and I will really miss interacting with all the lecturers as I have grown fond of them over the last couple of years. I will also miss my classmates as I have got so used to seeing the same faces everyday and it will be so strange not seeing them. I know it’s a part of life but it’s a tough one but hopefully we will all keep in touch in the future.”

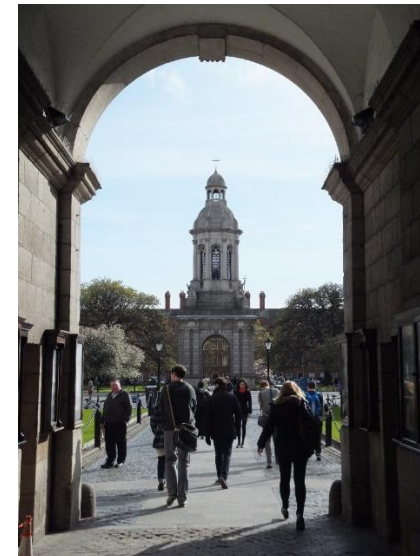
“I will miss my friends and the TCPID staff and the people I met along the way. I will miss how we all helped each out with work. I will miss going out for lunch together.”

“Going to room 4 in TCPID as it was my favourite classroom and also the sensory room/meeting room next to it. I will also miss my morning walk that I did every day before college in the city.”

“I thought being in a class again was nice so I would totally miss that but I will be honest the assignments were the hardest thing to do so I definitely won’t miss that.”

For me is just having like a routine on going into just the College bit because I had gotten so used to it now, but I know sometimes things have to change.”

“I’ll miss the drama class and my lectures and my students and Ill defiantly miss my fun presentation I did on Cadburys chocolate by giving my classmates a bar of chocolate.”





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

“To get more experience in finding a job I would be good at.”

“My hope is I will do well in my internship.”

“I will keep this very simple what I want from the internship is to do my best give it my all and to gain a full time role and to earn my own money and to repay back my family for all the love and support and encouragement over the years and for always believing and I just hope to make them proud.”

“Hopefully get a job in an office on the admin side, work my way up to becoming permanent. Make friends in the office.”

“That I will get a permanent job. An office job has been something I longed for so I hope I will do well in my internship. Also the freedom of working from home would be amazing.”

“I am just looking forward to being able to say that I got an internship and I am basically working and for me this would be a big step for me. But I am just so looking forward to starting and to be able to meet some more new people that I am hoping to be working with and I am looking forward to do it too.”

“My hope is to help me get a real job after my internship.”

“My hope is to have confidence when I finish my internship.”





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

“To get a good job with easy to work hours so I don’t overwork myself.”

“For me, my goal is to finally release my book.”

“My goals for the future for is to gain full time employment to make enough money to buy my own home and to live independently and to live happily ever after and just live a happy healthy life. I will say that a big part of this was my time in Trinity it was something I will never ever forget for as long as I live. I just want to say thank you to Trinity for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime and thank you for changing my life and I will always be forever grateful.”

“To be healthy and happy to work hard and get where I what to be.  
I don’t really have goals just trying not to overthink things and not looking so far further. I want to enjoy my life and not be worried about what is to come.”

“I would like to do an online nutrition course. I have heard it’s difficult so I’m not so sure If I will be able to do it.”

“For me it would be having an internship at the end of this and to be able to say that I have a job, and to say that I will be graduating especially from Trinity. “

“To work in the cinema.  
To meet new people.  
To learn how to drive a car.”







## 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.

We were delighted to welcome the McDonagh family to the TCPID last month to meet with some of our students and graduates who wanted to thank them in person for everything that they have done for them.



*Brendan, Kenane and Alison McDonagh with TCPID staff and students*

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

“This laptop has been very helpful to me as it made all my work easier to manage. It has been very useful to keep in touch with all my lecturers when I ran into a problem. I would have been lost without it. “

“Getting a new laptop in September made me feel very blessed to have a laptop to work on, it is such a big part of my college life I couldn't imagine doing this course without it! It is my everything from Blackboard to Word, emails and PowerPoint. I can easily organize myself and feel in control of everything once I have my laptop in front of me anything is possible.”

“I was very glad to have this computer. It really helps me to type and search for my work. I learned lots with it like presentations and posters.”

“I used my laptop to save and do work. It helped me to type quickly and it saved me time because writing take too long. I can do my homework on my laptop. I send emails to my teachers. I am able to change the font and make nice and pretty. It is easy to save my work and finish later. There is special live caption to help me if I can't hear the teacher.”

“Getting the laptop helped me to organise the work that I had been given to do throughout my first semester in college.”





“I really enjoyed having a laptop. It helped me a lot in my studies.”

“Getting the laptop provided me with my effective and efficient ways to study certain subjects in the course. With it I was able to create my own student profile on Teams, make my own OneDrive account to store folders created for subjects.”

### Thank you messages from the students

“I just want to thank The Rory McDonagh Trust for giving me this laptop. It has really helped me with all my studies in Trinity College and I don’t think I would have done as well without it. I have learned so much on this laptop and I will continue to use it in the future. I really appreciate it. “

“I would like to send huge thank you to the Rory McDonagh Trust for providing me with this amazing laptop. It has helped me in so many ways completing my course work and staying organized where I can easily follow my assignments and emails.

I think that it is sad that Rory passed away so young. This connection is a lovely gesture in keeping his memory alive. I am very grateful to his Trust for this gift.”

“Thank you for this laptop that I am using right now. It really helps me a lot to do my course work. I learned how to use PowerPoint and Word for

Film Studies and Business research. Thank you again. It has made a big difference.”

“Thank you for a great laptop. My family thought it is cool laptop. I bought very nice case to protect it and keep it safe as well.”

“I would like to thank The Rory McDonagh Trust for giving me this laptop. It was a big help for me throughout the semester. I could do research on it. I could also store my files and I could look back at all the work I did in my classes. So, I am saying thank you for that.”

“Thank you to the Rory McDonagh Trust for giving us a laptop. It was so useful for me. I am happy to be part of this course.”

To the Rory McDonagh Trust, I would like to say thank you so very much for providing me and my classmates with the laptops we received in September.

They have such a great help with our college experience and have had a great impact on how we operate as students.

I know that Rory would be happy knowing that he has become such a symbol of inspiration for so many aspiring college students, whether they have disabilities or not.

Overall, thank you so much for helping us in Trinity and I know you will continue to provide the same chance you gave us for others.

Thank you all!



## Business Partner Workshops May 2024

See the full list of workshops here with photos and messages from our TCPID students to the people who organised and ran the workshops in each of the businesses:

### Abbott – Longford visit



*Abbott Longford workshop*

“Thank you all so much for the workshop in Longford. I really enjoyed it. It was great fun. The tour was so interesting. Thank you so much for the lunch treats and the goodie bags. The game was great fun.”

“Thank you so much for having me at your manufacturing site last Monday. I thoroughly enjoyed learning how things were made and distributed to hospitals.”

“I just want to say a big thank you all at Abbott for having us at Longford. It was a really lovely place to be in and it’s so big too. Looking forward to having you all doing the Sci-Fest with us.”

“I want to say thank you to everybody in Abbott for making us feel so welcome from the moment we stepped inside the building in Longford. I would have to say one of the best welcomes we have received. We were treated like VIPs the whole time we were there and I know myself definitely really appreciated and look forward to continue working with some of you on SciFest projects.”



*Abbott Longford workshop*



*Abbott Longford workshop*



## Abbott SciFest workshops

For five Thursdays in the month of May, a team of 17 mentors from Abbott came to the TCPID to work with their assigned student on their SciFest@TCPID project. The work involved researching project topics, developing project ideas, designing and producing an experiment or a survey, producing project boards with all the content and project findings, practicing how to present each project and finally presenting them projects to invited guests at the annual SciFest@TCPID exhibition in Trinity College Dublin.



*Abbott SciFest workshop*



*Abbott SciFest workshop*



*Abbott SciFest workshop*

“Thank you for the workshops because they really helped us develop some of the skills we might need for the future. I for one had a great time doing the project with you all. I hope future students have as good if not better of an experience as I did.

To Kelly, thank you so much for all your help on getting our project ready for exhibition day. And because of this I didn't feel as much pressure on me since I wasn't doing the work alone. So in the end we worked very well together and I really enjoyed it.”

“To the whole Abbott team thank you so, so much for helping us doing our projects over the past 5 weeks you all made us so, so happy! We really loved the doughnuts you brought us every Thursday. Thank you for helping us to get ready for the exhibition. We really appreciated it. Thank you so 100% much for everything”





“Thank you so much for coming to Trinity every week to help us with our projects, It was so much fun!”

“Thank you all so, so much for the workshops every Thursday. It was the greatest experience ever and I really enjoyed it. I believe that the next second year students of 2025 will enjoy the workshops as much as I did. I really loved meeting you all. It was such a pleasure.”

“Thank you so much for coming to work with us in Trinity every Thursday. Dear Rachelle, thanks for helping me with my project. I couldn't have done it without you.”



*Abbott SciFest workshop*

What can I say about the amazing Abbott team? What an absolute pleasure to work with and to get to know you over the last 5 weeks. Thank you so much for supporting TCPID for so long and for giving people like me a chance because if we didn't have people like you supporting me, I don't where I would be in life.

A very special thank you has to go to my two mentors Roseleen and Jack. It was an absolute pleasure working with you. It was really great fun every week and I think that we put together a pretty amazing project. I couldn't have done it without you! From the bottom of my heart I will actually miss you both. I really looked forward to every Thursday to get to work with you.”



*Abbott SciFest workshop*



## AerCap



*AerCap workshop*

“Dear Selene, Joseph, Jennifer, Niamh, Sibel, Eibhlin and Alan,  
Thank for telling us what you do in your workplace and for answering our  
questions.”

“Thank you for the gifts. I really appreciate it. I learned lots about the  
airplanes and helicopters. It’s really cool to learn about the air vehicles.  
Thank you so much. “

“Thank you for lovely workshop and lovely gift bag. I did enjoy working  
with you. It is very interesting about planes and how they work and the  
different types of planes and helicopters. “

“Thank you all so much for a super day at AerCap. I really enjoyed  
learning about everything that you do. Thank you so much for the gift  
too.”

“I had an excellent time at AerCap thank you for the amazing opportunity  
to come visit you guys and thank you for the gifts also.”

“Thank you so much for showing us around AerCap.

It fascinating to learn that AerCap have such an influence on airports and  
the military around the world. It was very nice to meet you all.”



*AerCap workshop*



*AerCap workshop*





## Bank of Ireland



*Bank of Ireland workshop*

“Thank you so much for showing us around Bank of Ireland last Thursday.

It was so amazing to learn so many things about the bank’s history and those involved in it. It was very good to meet you all.”

“Thank you all so much for the amazing workshop today. I really enjoyed meeting you all and the stunning beautiful House of Lords.”

“Thank you, Aileen, John, Enda and Peter, for showing and giving us a tour around the bank and telling us all kinds of interesting thing of knowing how the banks works and telling us of the bank’s history.”

“Thank you Aileen, John, Enda and Peter for explaining all about Bank of Ireland. It is a big building and I was so happy to see all the famous pictures. It was very kind of you all to take the time to share what you do at the bank. Thank you again for the treats you gave us.”

“Thank you very much for the workshop last week. It was very interesting to be in bank and to learn new things. I enjoy the day. And tour it is very beautiful building.”



*Bank of Ireland workshop*



## Coillte



*Coillte workshop*

“Dear Ciara, Oscar, and Paul, thank you so much for showing us around Coillte. We all had a great time, especially with the treetop walk and the slide at the end of it.”

“Thank you for taking the time to walk around and show us what you do in Coillte. It was great fun and I am glad I know about Coillte as I had never heard of it before so I’m so happy you took the time to explain what it was all about.”

“Thank you all so much! I really enjoyed myself in Avondale. Between learning how you all work around Coillte and going on that wonderful walk around the tree top walk and the delicious lunch after our briefing.

It was so lovely to meet you all today and can’t wait until my next visit to your beautiful forest.”

“Thank you very much for the interesting workshop and lovely walk around Avondale. I did enjoy the day and learning new things. It was very interesting.”



*Coillte workshop*





## Cpl



*Cpl workshop*

“Dear Niamh and all the team at Cpl, thank you so much for a great and fun workshop. Thank you so food, drinks and goodie bags. I found workshop very interesting.

Mary Sarah, thank you for helping me with my CV. I really appreciated the advice and the tips.

Thank you!”

“Dear Niamh and all the Cpl team,

Thank you so much for the workshop. It was a really great experience to meet you all.”

“Thank you for the great time in Cpl. I enjoyed the pizzas and drinks and I enjoyed the feedback from the CVs.”

“I just want to say a big thank you to Niamh and everyone at CPL. Everyone was so lovely. Thank you for helping me with my CV and the mock interviews. They were fun and Niamh was so kind in helping me. It was really lovely to meet you.”



*Cpl workshop*



*Cpl workshop*



## EY



*EY workshop*

“Thank you Brenda, Colin and Gina for having me in EY. I learned loads and I really enjoyed the snakes and ladders game especially made for TCPID.”

“Thank you to Brenda, Colin and Gina for all the help over the last couple of weeks. It was so nice to meet you all. I have learned so much about the tax and about our Disability Allowance to help know what to expect for when we are working.”

“A big thank you to you all for very informative workshops over the past 4 weeks. What I learned from this I will definitely take forward with me to my internship and beyond.”

“Thank you for the workshops because they really helped us develop some of the skills we might need for the future. I for one had a great time doing the workshops and learning more about EY.”

“Thank you all so, so much for the workshops. It was the greatest experience ever and I really enjoyed it.”



*EY workshop*



*EY workshop*





## ICON



*ICON workshop*

“Thank you Mary -Anne, Sophie and Leona for showing me around your building and explaining what careers you can have in ICON. It seems a very interesting place to work in and appreciate all the time you gave us.”

“Thank you for the tour of the lab. It’s amazing to see the researched of the cells and the bacteria to create a cure for the people who are ill around the world. I really liked the hard work of the brilliant scientist.”

“Thank you all for such a super day at ICON.  
I really enjoyed myself exploring the Labs and how you all work in different departments. I also found the presentation really good and learning what they do with the drugs/medicine and how to know if it is safe or not.

Thank you all so much for putting all of your effort into this for us and being generous with your time for us.  
I was also really delighted with the fabulous gift bag you gave me!”

“Thank you for lovely workshop and the tour of your Lab. I did enjoy working with you and learning about what you do in your lab and company. I did enjoy the day.”



*ICON workshop*



## Intel



*Intel workshop*

“Dear Ann-Marie, Jack, Joe, Aisling, Joanna, Carmel, Gemma, Elaine, Muhamed and Terry, thank you all so much for a really fun workshop. I was really interested to learn about what Intel does. I really enjoyed it!  
Thank you so much for coffees, teas and the pastries.”

“Thank you to everyone that we had met in Intel. You were all so lovely. I had a great day. It was nice to see what way you do the little chips for what goes in all the electronics. Thank you for all of the teas and coffees and hot chocolate.”

“Thank you for the great workshop in Intel. I really enjoyed the VR headset and information about Intel and the white suits. I really enjoyed everything!”

“Thank you so much for an absolutely amazing workshop. It was great to get to know all about what Intel does. A big thank you to Jack for changing his days to come in and give us a really great presentation about what he does. You can really see that he loves what he does. It is very clear to see.

Putting on the bunny suits was very fun, but very warm! I admire the people that can work in them all day. The absolute highlight was using the VR headsets that was so cool I didn't want to take it off. It was an absolutely brilliant workshop all round..”



*Intel workshop*

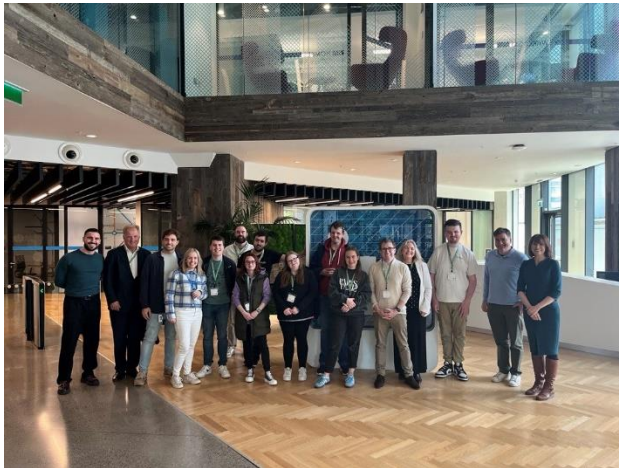


*Intel workshop*





## LinkedIn



*LinkedIn workshop*

“To everybody in LinkedIn, thank you so much for a really fun workshop. Thanks to Daragh for the tour of the building. It was amazing! I especially loved the view on the roof. It was spectacular.

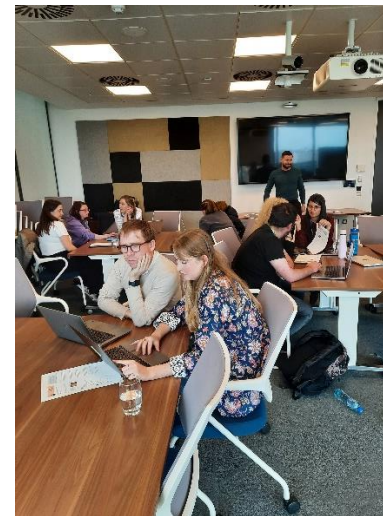
Thank you to Gustavo for doing the fun presentation on the fake Taylor Swift LinkedIn. It was really enjoyable, but yet educational at the same time. It was really good fun.”

“I just wanted to thank you all at LinkedIn for having us with you for our workshop. You were all so lovely and it was great to meet you all. The tour of the office was great. It was so big in the building and the view was absolutely amazing. I got some nice pictures of the view. Thank you to all our coaches and for helping us set up our LinkedIn Profiles it was so nice of you all to that. It was lovely meeting everyone there.”

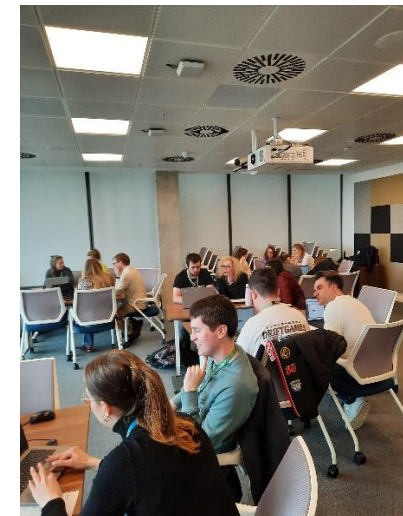
“Thank you for showing us around the building of LinkedIn. Thanks to Gustavo who gave us the presentation of what a LinkedIn profile should look like. Thanks to all the coaches who helped create our LinkedIn profiles to help get us started in applying for jobs.”

“A big thank you to my coach Julia for helping me making changes and improvements to my own LinkedIn Page and for showing me some things that will really help me to boost my profile and make it look the best it can be.”

“Thank you all so much for lovely workshop. I really enjoyed it. The tour was so nice of the office. I found making Taylor Swift’s LinkedIn profile really fun. I enjoyed making my own LinkedIn profile with Amy. Thank you so much for the pizza and the drinks.”



*LinkedIn workshop*



*LinkedIn workshop*



## Microsoft



*Microsoft workshop*

“Where do I start with Microsoft? From start to finish it was amazing! Starting with Indie the robot car and having the coloured squares and making the track and getting it to go the right way. That was so much fun! i could have done that for hours.

The tour was absolutely amazing! Wow! It was like it was being in a movie. It was absolutely amazing and mind blowing.

Thank you so much to all the team for making us feel so welcome and for such a fun filled day. It’s definitely a workshop that I won’t forget for a while.”

“Thank you all so much for the really fun workshop. It so much fun being in Dream Space. Thank you so much for the pastries and coffee, lunch and the tour. Thank you so much for the goodie bags.”

“Thank you for giving us a tour of Microsoft. I really enjoyed all the colours of the office building on the inside. I really liked the coded car Indi and hearing about how Microsoft works on a day-to-day basis.”

“I just wanted to say Thank You to the people who work in Microsoft. It was absolutely lovely to meet you and to look around the building. It was amazing! The games that we did were so much fun. I will have to say I really enjoyed being in Microsoft.”

“Dear Sinead, Corey and Lorraine, thank you for the great workshop in Microsoft and for showing us how to test Indi cars to move to colour and for the lovely food and giving a tour around the Microsoft building.”



*Microsoft workshop*





## National Lottery



*National Lottery workshop*

“Dear Liam, Audrey and Caitlin I appreciate the opportunity to come visit the National Lottery and seeing how everything operates.”

“Thank you so much for showing us around The National Lottery. It was amazing to see how the National Lottery worked. It was very nice to meet you all.”

“Dear Liam, Audrey, and Caitlin,

Thank you for the tour of the office. It has been a pleasure to visit and meet a lot of nice folks. I am very glad to have enjoyed the experience of the National Lottery.”

“Thank you all for a great day at the National Lottery. I had a great day exploring where you all work and planning things for your new office.”

“Thank you Liam, Audrey and Caitlin for showing us around the National Lottery building. It was a great experience and I really appreciate all the time you gave us.”



*National Lottery workshop*





## RSA Insurance and 123.ie



*RSA Insurance and 123.ie workshop*

“To Shane, Laura, Lynn, Damilola, Melissa and Hazel,  
Thank you all so much for the amazing workshop today. I really enjoyed myself. Getting my CV done up and presenting it in front of the class and then doing the interviews. Honestly, I have to say I had a blast of a time.  
Thank you all so much for putting all of your effort into this for us.”

“Thank you for the amazing workshop and showing us around hope you all enjoy summer and thanks again for everything.”

“Thank you for sharing your knowledge of the best CVs and interviews. I really enjoyed it and thank you for the tour of the office.”

“Thank you for lovely workshop and showing us around your office. I did enjoy working with you. And thanks for helping me with my CV and preparing for interviews. And thank you for showing me shortcuts for Bold and Italic.”

“Thank you to Shane, Laura, Lynn, Hazel, Melissa and Damilola for giving up your time and showing us around your building and what you do there. I really appreciate all the Information you gave us.”



*RSA Insurance and 123.ie workshop*



*RSA Insurance and 123.ie workshop*



## SISK



*SISK workshop*

“Dear Seán Sinead, Michelle, Tomás, Richie, Tom, Barry, Alan, Niamh,  
Richie, Joe, Donal, Wayne, Marian,

Thank you all so much for a great day at SISK. I had a great time exploring  
your machinery and how it all works.

Thank you for the refreshments that you provided for us and thank you  
for the genius bag of treats.”

“Thank you for the amazing workshop and the laughs I enjoyed watching  
everything you do the gifts are appreciated.”

“Thank you so much for showing us around SISK on Wednesday.  
It was so cool to see an actual construction company worksite in action. It  
was very nice to meet you all.”

“Thank you for the tour of the construction site, I really enjoyed the  
operation of the construction of the building, I like to thank you for  
everything for the gifts and the tour I really appreciated.

I really enjoyed the commanding of the crane. It was really fun!”

“Thank you for showing us the work that’s done in Sisk.

It was very interesting and really appreciated all the time you gave us and  
of course the lovely gifts.”



*SISK workshop*



*SISK workshop*





## Smurfit Kappa



*Smurfit Kappa workshop*

“Dear Elaine, Miriam and all the team at Smurfit Kappa,

A big thank you to you for organising a very fun and informative workshops in May. It was really great learning about competencies and getting to practice them was great fun. I will have to say the mock interviews were so much fun. I had great time. I actually didn't want them to stop, as I was just getting into it. It was great to practice what we had learned over the last few weeks.

Also a big thank you to all the team who took time out of their busy schedules to interview us I really appreciated it.”

“Thank you for the online workshops that were really interesting and great fun. I really enjoyed each session. Thank you so much for all the team for mock interviews they were really fun and good practice to do. Thank you so much for the coffees and pastries. Lunch was so nice thank you.”

“Thank you so much for all the Zoom calls that we had over the last couple of weeks. It was so nice to meet everyone. On the last day it was great fun because we got to do like a speed dating thing but with interviews. The interviewers were asking what we were into and It was so nice to be able for me to have a chat. I have never talked so much in my life! It just shows me how much I have changed.”

“Thank you very much for the great workshop in Smurfit Kappa. I really enjoyed drawing our superpower, the video about what not to do in an interview, the interview talks with the team and the lovely food.”



*Smurfit Kappa workshop*



*Smurfit Kappa workshop*



## Squarespace



*Squarespace workshop*

“Dear Colm, Zanda, Weronika, Michael, David, Maciej, Graham, Gabriel, Conor, Ileana and Keira,

Thank you all so much for such super weeks at Squarespace. I really liked listening how you all work. I really enjoyed making our own websites and exploring all of the different formats and colours that you can chose from.

Thanks also for the drinks and lovely treats provided for us too.”

“Thank you for the amazing workshops. I really enjoyed building the website and presenting them to everyone. I loved the delicious breakfast too.”

“Thank you so much for doing the Squarespace workshops for us. It was fun creating the website with your help. It was great to get such a happy reaction from the presentations we create together. It was so very nice to meet you all.”

“Thank you for letting us to create our very own websites base around famous people. It was great to create all sorts of things in Squarespace.”

“Thank you for lovely workshop. I really enjoyed making my own website and showing how it worked. I did have a lovely visit to your office on Fridays.”



*Squarespace workshop*





## SciFest@TCPID Event on May 30<sup>th</sup> 2024

On Thursday May 30<sup>th</sup> the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities hosted our annual **SciFest@TCPID 2024** student exhibition and awards in association with the incredible team from **Abbott**. The event once again took place in Regent House in Trinity College Dublin. Nine TCPID students displayed their projects at the event.



*TCPID students and staff with the team from Abbott*

We were delighted to welcome our TCPID Business Partners, guests from across Trinity College, graduates of the TCPID and the students' families and friends to join us for this very special event.

This is our 8<sup>th</sup> year of working with Abbott and our 6<sup>th</sup> year of doing the SciFest@TCPID programme together. This year we had the largest number of Abbott volunteers ever, with 17 amazing Abbott colleagues taking part and supporting our students. Our Thursday mornings working on the projects together in the TCPID were the highlight of every week.

A huge thank you to the 17 Abbott mentors who gave up their time to work with our students every week - **Rachelle Waters, Kelly O'Sullivan, Kate Peters, Ronan Mac Donell, Patrick O'Rourke, Roseleen Murphy, Kinga Wilczynska, Brid Burns, Erika Dovgalyte, Emmanuella Afolabi, Upama Ghosh, Cian Quigley, Eoin Doherty, Jack Gorman, Rosemary Clarke and Denise Hannigan**. Particular thanks goes to **Amy Jayne Shrahan**, who managed and coordinated everything within Abbott over the past few months. We are all so, so grateful to you AJ!



*TCPID students and staff with the team from SciFest*

Thank you as always to the **SciFest founders Sheila and George Porter** who we love doing this with every year.

During the event, the students were all presented with awards by SciFest and Abbott Ireland.

We already have a date for your diaries for SciFest@TCPID 2025. This will take place on **Thursday May 29<sup>th</sup> 2025**. Please hold the date in your diaries if you can.



At the end of the awards presentation, **Dale O'Neill, the 2nd year class rep**, gave a wonderful speech to thank everyone involved in SciFest@TCPID on behalf of all his classmates. He had a particular mention for **Dr. John Kubiak** who is retiring later this year from the TCPID. Dale thanked John on behalf of all his class for everything that he has taught them and for all the help that he has given them over the past 2 years. Dale then read a poem that he had composed himself about John.

TCPID student **Gillian Cronin** then read out her own poem, entitled 'Fond Farewell' which she had written for John. The poem included this brilliant piece of text: **"Goodbye to tension and hello to your pension."**

We are so proud of all the students, Dale, Saoirse, Conor, Emma, Shannon, Gillian, Rebecca, Seadna, Darragh and of course Conor Lynch who produced a beautiful SciFest@TCPID brochure with the help of TCPID Research Coordinator Jenny Banks.



Dale O'Neill with Sheila Porter from SciFest



AJ Shrahan from Abbott with Conor Lynch



Conor Lynch



Rachelle Waters from Abbott with Emer Murphy



Emma McGrath with Marie Devitt

You can read the SciFest@TCPID brochure written by our graduate Conor Lynch here:  
<https://www.tcd.ie/tcpid/assets/docs/2024/scifest-2024-brochure.pdf>





**TCPID Student, Dale O'Neill** said: *“What can I say about the amazing Abbott team what an absolute pleasure to work with and to get to know you over the last 5 weeks. Thank you so much for supporting TCPID for so long and for giving people like me a chance because if we didn’t have people like you supporting me I don’t where I would be in life. A very special thank you has to go to my 2 mentors Roseleen and Jack. It was an absolute pleasure working with you it was really great fun every week. I think we put together a pretty amazing project! I couldn’t have done it without you.”*

**TCPID Student, Emma McGrath** said: *“To all the Abbott team thank you so much for the last few weeks I really enjoyed the Thursday mornings. They were great fun. Thanks for all the treats in each of the sessions. Eoin and Erika thank you both so much for helping with my project over the last few weeks it been really nice and fun working with you guys. I really appreciated your help on the project. I really enjoyed Scifest. It was a great day.”*

**TCPID Student, Saoirse Keogh** said: *“It was so nice to meet all of the Abbott people that came down to TCPID to come and help all of my classmates. Everyone was so lovely to speak to and asking everyone on what they have done with their projects. I just want to say a big thank you for all of the help that you have given us and especially for bringing the donuts and treats every week. It was just so nice to have met everyone. I just wanted to say a big Thank You to Ronan and Kinga for all the help that they have given me for my SciFest project. It was so lovely to have met them and to have the laughs with them.”*



Seadna O Hara, Dale O Neill and Emma McGrath



Saoirse Keogh, Marie Devitt and Dale O Neill



AJ Shrahan from Abbott with Saoirse Keogh



Emma McGrath with Sheila Porter from SciFest





As always, we were thrilled that many of our TCPID graduates and business partners joined us for this very special event.



*Clíodhna O'Rourke, Conor Dunne and Luke Campion*



*Professor Michael Shevlin, Dairine O'Rourke, Niamh Biddulph, Hugh O'Callaghan and Marie Devitt*



*Jennifer Tangney from Ornuu with Conor Dunne*



*Kevin Doolan and Nicole Steeples from Ryanair with Darragh Finn*



*Sábh Feehan, Mei Lin Yap, Luke Campion, Stephen Ryan, Barry O'llwill, Marie Devitt, Heather Marshall and Bobby Dolan*

We were thrilled that our SciFest@TCPID exhibition made it into The Irish Times. You can read the article here: <https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/education/2024/05/30/the-science-behind-taking-the-perfect-penalty-tackled-by-students-at-trinitys-scifest/>

**THE IRISH TIMES**



## Graduate Internships

We have 16 new internships starting over the next few months, with more to be announced very soon. We also have internships currently underway in the following companies (some with more than one intern).

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





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



McCANN FITZGERALD



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





## PATH 4 Government Announcement

We were very proud to have been invited to a photo call on Wednesday July 3rd with Taoiseach Simon Harris, Minister Patrick O'Donovan and Minister Hildegard Naughton for an exciting announcement about the third level programmes for students with intellectual disabilities being supported through the PATH 4 Phase 2 funding.



*TCPID graduates Conor Dunne, Clodhna O'Rourke, Sadbh Feehan and Dale O'Neill with Taoiseach Simon Harris, Minister Hildegard Naughton and Minister Patrick O'Donovan*

### **Issued by the Government Press Office on 3 July 2024**

Taoiseach and Minister O'Donovan announce expansion of transformational third level courses for students with intellectual disabilities.

- **From September, eight courses will be rolled out for students with intellectual disabilities**
- **Three courses will commence from January 2025 including an additional course in TUS which has been approved**
- **All courses will be free**

**Taoiseach Simon Harris and Minister for Further and Higher Education Patrick O'Donovan** have announced additional investment and the roll-out of courses for students with intellectual disabilities under the Programme for Access to Higher Education (PATH 4).

The courses, which will be available across the country, will be free of charge to students.

In addition to the ten courses already approved under PATH 4 Phase 2 funding, a new course at the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) will be made available for students.





Speaking today, **Taoiseach Simon Harris** said:

*“This is a particularly proud day for me. When I was Minister for Further and Higher Education, we announced the successful courses and today we confirm their start dates.*

*“As Taoiseach, I want to create an education system is equal for everyone. This announcement ensures a person with an intellectual disability is afforded the same opportunities as any of their peers.*

*“I want to thank the Higher Education Authority, the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, university leaders and Minister O’Donovan for their leadership in bringing these plans to fruition.*

*“Most of all, I want to thank the young men and women in the Trinity Centre for Intellectual Disabilities who inspired us to deliver this change across third level. Today is for them.”*

**Minister O’Donovan** said:

*“These students had achieved so much to get to Higher Level and are a credit to their families and communities for doing so. It was really important to me that we didn’t put any further challenges in their way, when they have faced and cleared so many hurdles to get to this point in their lives.*

*“These courses have been designed with the learner at heart. They can transform the lives of students and their families, helping them thrive, leading to further education and employment.*

*“The new course in TUS supports further opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities.*

*“Earlier this year, my Department announced the first 10 higher education institutions across the country who are providing courses funded under the PATH 4 programme.*

*“This extra investment of over €1 million brings the total investment in PATH 4 Phase 2 to over €11m over three years. I look forward to the feedback on these courses during this initial three-year pilot scheme.”*



*TCPID graduates and staff with Taoiseach Simon Harris, Minister Hildegard Naughton and Minister Patrick O’Donovan*

PATH is a dedicated fund which supports the delivery of equity of access objectives under the NAP and has been provided to increase participation by under-represented groups in higher education. PATH 4 Phase 2 is the funding programme which has been made available by the Department for the provision of courses in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) for students with intellectual disabilities.



**Louise Callinan, Head of Access Policy at the Higher Education Authority, said:**

*“Improving opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities to engage in higher education is a core commitment in the National Access Plan 2022-2028.*

*“The investment of over €11m in this pilot under PATH 4 Phase 2 will support the enhancement of provision for students with intellectual disabilities across 11 higher education institutions and will inform future policy.*

*“I would like to acknowledge the considerable ongoing work by the 11 higher education institutions to develop these programmes and to support meaningful pathways for students with intellectual disabilities.”*



*TCPID graduates and staff with Taoiseach Simon Harris, Minister Hildegard Naughton  
Minister Patrick O'Donovan and Louise Callinan of the HEA*

**The courses that will be provided from September are at:**

- Atlantic Technical University (ATU)
- Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT)
- Mary Immaculate College (MIC)
- South East Technological University (SETU)
- Trinity College Dublin (TCD)
- Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin)
- University College Cork (UCC)
- University of Galway (UG)

**The courses that will be available from January will be at:**

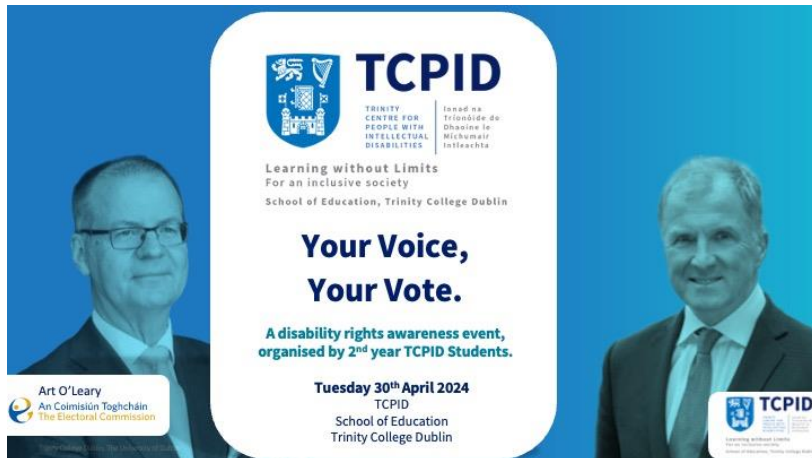
- Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IADT)
- Munster Technological University (MTU)
- Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) (New course)



## Disability Rights Event

The 2nd Year ASIAP Students at Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities (TCPID) hosted a remarkable **Disability Rights Awareness Event** on Tuesday April 30th 2024, featuring distinguished guest speakers who brought valuable insights to the discussion.

The event was called **Your Voice, Your Vote**.



The invited speakers were:

**Art O'Leary - Chief Executive of the Electoral Commission (An Coimisiún Toghcháin)**

**Hugo MacNeill - TCPID Ambassador**

Students engaged in discussions with the guest speakers surrounding the significance of voting and its role in creating positive change within society. Despite acknowledging the importance of voting, several challenges were identified:

1. Confusing Instructions: Some individuals found the voting instructions unclear.
2. Identification of Voting Papers: Difficulty in distinguishing between different voting papers.
3. Simplification of Language: Requests for simpler language to facilitate better understanding.
4. Accessibility of Help: Awareness needed regarding available assistance for voting.
5. Limited Support Hours: Concerns raised about the limited support available during specific hours.
6. Rushed Voting Experience: Some felt rushed due to queues and time constraints.
7. Accessibility of Polling Stations: Issues with accessibility and barriers at certain polling stations.

Despite these challenges, the event highlighted positive aspects, including the friendly and helpful attitude of staff at polling stations and the accessibility of some stations.





Moving forward, students proposed several recommendations to improve the voting experience for individuals with disabilities:

Creation of easily understandable and accessible ballot papers.

Utilisation of technology for translations and easy-to-read formats.

Provision of support throughout the day, well-advertised and accessible to all.

Ensuring all election materials are accessible, including support for homeless individuals.

Increased representation of disabled people in elections.



*TCPID students and staff with Art O'Leary and Hugo MacNeill*

The guest speakers addressed questions from students regarding voting, barriers to voting, and the political landscape for disabled individuals. The collaboration between TCPID and the Electoral Commission proved fruitful, with plans to address barriers to voting in the future.

**Dr Vivian Rath**, who co-ordinates the Disability Rights module, remarked there was a few potential future politicians or senators from the student planning group that would be brilliant public representatives with lived experience of disability, to which the guest speakers both agreed.

As students continue their journey in advocating for disability rights, they draw inspiration from the valuable contributions of Art O'Leary and Hugo MacNeill, whose dedication to fostering inclusive communities is truly commendable.

Overall, the event was a resounding success, raising awareness about disability rights and the importance of inclusive participation in the democratic process.



## Exploring Co-Learning: Collaboration between the School of English and the TCPID, School of Education

Trinity College Dublin has launched a collaborative educational initiative, the Co-Learning pilot project, bringing together students from the TCPID and undergraduate students from the School of English.

During the Hilary Teaching Term 2024, TCPID students voluntarily participated in an Irish Writing Module offered by the School of English. These sessions, which occurred weekly, included bridging lectures alongside academic staff and Co-Learning Champions. The aim was to prepare TCPID students for subsequent tutorials with their undergraduate peers.



*TCPID students Al Martin and Conor Quinn with Méabh Ní Choileáin and Dr. Paul Delaney from the School of English*

The Co-Learning Module is designed to promote inclusive education by fostering collaboration and mutual learning among students from diverse academic backgrounds. By providing a platform for interaction and shared learning experiences, the initiative aims to enrich the educational journey for all participants.

A video featuring testimonials from TCPID students, academic staff from the School of English, and Co-Learning Champions offers insights into the implementation and impact of the Co-Learning Module.

**You can watch the video at this link:**  
<https://www.tcd.ie/tcpid/videos/exploring-co-learning.php>

Funding for this project was secured through PATH 4 from the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and the Department of Further and Higher Education Research Innovation and Science (DFHERIS). Our Provost, Dr. Linda Doyle provided endorsement and support for this collaborative endeavour.

We would like to thank our colleagues in the School of English for their continued dedication and passion in facilitating the Co-Learning Project. Specific thanks go to our colleagues in the School of English, Dr Paul Delaney and Dr Rosie Lavan, as well as our Co-learning Champions Méabh Ní Choileáin and Reb Easler. Lastly, thanks to our students Al Martin and Conor Quinn for sharing their experience. TCPID is now collaborating with the School of Law, the School of Social Work and Social Policy, and the School of Nursing and Midwifery to develop new Co-Learning options for TCPID students.



## Visit of Japanese delegation to TCPID

The TCPID were delighted to welcome a visiting delegation from **Yutaka College in Japan** on June 25th and 26th. The members of the visiting team from Yutaka College included **Mr Masato Hasegawa, Mrs Mie Hasegawa, Ms Yukiko Kamiya, Ms Miwa Miyairi and Dr Rieko Fry** who acted as interpreter throughout the visit.



Professor Michael Shevlin and Dr. John Kubiak with visitors from Yutaka College in Japan

Mr and Mrs Hasegawa set up Yutaka College in 2015 and since then have provided educational programmes for students with intellectual disabilities in over eight campuses in Tokyo, Kanagawa, Fukuoka and Nagasaki.

The four-year programme currently running covers 10 subjects in the first and second years (health care / culture and arts / economics / work / academic skills / assessment / independence etc.), with a focus on employment on the third and fourth years.

The visit was coordinated by **Dr. John Kubiak** who had previously met with Mr. and Mrs Hasegawa in 2017 when they were in the process of visiting several countries worldwide (US / Canada / Australia / Korea / Europe). At that time, they visited 20 programmes in nine countries to build on their knowledge of current post-educational programmes and to network with others who are currently delivering inclusive programmes outside Japan.

During their visit to the TCPID Mr and Mrs Hasegawa wanted to learn more about the TCPID and how it has progressed since their last visit. They also shared with us what they had learned from their visits to other parts of the world, namely USA, Canada, Australia, Korea, Spain, Italy, Denmark and Sweden and also outlined the current situation in Japan.

**Following the visit the president of Yutaka College Mr. Masato Hasegawa sent the following message:**

*Thank you so much for sharing your valuable time with us. We've all found our meetings extremely helpful, positive and resourceful. We would like to take back everything we've learned at TCPID and help us improve the standard of education for people with ID back in Japan. We feel deeply grateful to you for arranging all the talks with so many wonderful people in your team at TCPID. We felt so honoured and privileged. Thank you very much. Thank you also for the tickets to the Books of Kells exhibition, too.*

*Thank you once again. Please kindly convey our sincere thanks to all the people who gave wonderful presentations.*





## TCPID graduate Liam Foley in The Irish Times

TCPID graduate Liam Foley featured in The Irish Times on Tuesday March 19th 2024. During an interview with **Irish Times journalist Emmet Malone**, Liam spoke about being a graduate of the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice in the **School of Education in Trinity College Dublin**. He also spoke about how proud he is to now be a permanent employee in **The National Lottery**, following a successful graduate internship there.



*TCPID graduate Liam Foley in the National Lottery*

Liam spoke of how he loves going to work and being with his colleagues. His role as People and Culture Champion is very varied and requires him to work on many different tasks which he absolutely loves.

A huge thank you to the team in the National Lottery for supporting Liam so incredibly well since he started his internship there in 2023. Particular thanks to **Audrey Chew, Employee Experience Manager** who has been the most amazing mentor to Liam. Huge thanks also to **Liz Shouldice, ex-Chief People Officer** in the National Lottery (now with Lakeland Dairies), who has championed the developed the partnership with the TCPID over many years.

**You can read the full Irish Times article here:**

**<https://www.tcd.ie/tcpid/news/irish-times-19-march-2024.pdf>**



## Permanent Roles

We are very proud of our graduate Ciaran Moran who recently received a permanent contract working with the Library of Trinity College Dublin.

### Ciaran Moran – The Library of Trinity College Dublin

Our graduate Ciaran Moran has recently received a permanent contract working with The Library of Trinity College Dublin. Ciaran completed the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice in June 2022. He then did a 6 month internship with the National Lottery, which finished in March 2023.

Ciaran had expressed a strong interest in working in a library, so the team in The Library of Trinity College Dublin agreed to offer Ciaran an internship there starting in June 2023. The internship was originally for 6 months, but this was then further extended. In February of this year, Ciaran applied for a permanent job as a Library Assistant and was thrilled to be offered the role.

We are all very proud of Ciaran and very grateful to the amazing team in the Library for everything that they have done to support him during his time working there. **Particular thanks go to Siobhan Dunne, Geraldine Fitzgerald, Peter Dudley, Dererca Nolan and Gerrard Garrahan.**



Here is an interview with Ciaran, along with some quotes from his family and from his colleagues in the Library.

You can listen to an audio recording of the interview at this link:  
<https://www.tcd.ie/tcpid/news/ciaran-moran-tcd-library.php>



Siobhan Dunne, Ciaran Moran and Geraldine Fitzgerald from the Library of Trinity College Dublin



Siobhan Dunne, Ciaran Moran and Geraldine Fitzgerald from the Library of Trinity College Dublin



## Interview with Ciaran

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

My name is Ciaran Moran. I live with my parents in Co. Meath. I have two older brothers. My interests are cycling, walking, hiking. I love meeting new people. I love hanging out with my friends. I like going to the cinema. I'm also a big soccer fan.

### Can you tell us about Trinity College, and your time here as a student and what the experience was like.?

I started the course in September 2020. It was during Covid. It was all completely online for the first year. It was very difficult getting used to using the computer, using Zoom, Microsoft Teams. Trying to do lectures online, trying to concentrate, doing our presentations online as well, which was difficult enough and also trying to socialise with our classmates. That was very hard as we didn't get to know each other properly until second year.

### How did you get to know them actually?

In first year we didn't really because we were all in different locations but in second year we got to know each other because we were back on campus for two days a week so there was more socialising and mixing.

### And did you prefer being in person?

Oh absolutely. I much preferred being in person because there is nothing like the real in person contact.

### So your class was one of the hardest hit by Covid.

Yes, student orientation and everything were all online.



*Ciaran on his graduation day in 2023*





**I suppose being able to access everything online with the new laptops helped because everyone had what they needed – right?**

Yes, the laptops were a great help from the **Rory McDonagh Trust**. They really helped because we would have struggled without them. If we didn't have a laptop and we were trying to do everything on our phones, it just wouldn't have worked. We wouldn't have been able to do our assignments or anything.

**Actually, that's where it all started with the laptops, so your class are probably the most skilled at the online stuff. - Better than anyone.**

Yes definitely. We had to get used to it very quickly.

**But coming back in second year was definitely a highlight for you.**

Yes much, much better.

**What was your favourite thing about your time as a student in Trinity?**

I suppose getting to know my classmates. Having lunch with them. Doing sports in the Sports Centre was really good as well because it was a different place to go to and we were on the campus and we could try lots of different sports.

Also the graduation was really fantastic because all the hard work had paid off. It was a very special day.

**How did you feel going up and getting your parchment?**

It was unbelievable, really special.

**So you mentioned the Sports Centre, so what did you enjoy the most there? Did you join any clubs or was it just the classes that you loved in the Sports Centre?**

I just enjoyed the classes. They were fun and it was nice to kind of get away from studying and trying to concentrate in classes. It was nice to try new sports that I never did before.

**What type of things did you try?**

I tried tennis. I think we did handball as well. And we did soccer, basketball. I think we did kind of like a circuit thing as well. Learning how to do lots of different exercises for warm up and everything.

**And, given that you are now working in the Library, did you ever use the Library as a student?**

So when we were students, unfortunately Covid restrictions were still in place, so we did use it once or twice. We did the orientation there, but it was only a few of us. The second time we used it with Des for a research project. So Geraldine showed us how to kind of use the catalogue and how to find the books. She showed everybody, this is how you find your books etc.



### **So you couldn't just go in?**

No, but I do remember returning a book on a machine.

### **I think because people weren't able to use it for a while, they appreciate it so much more.**

Definitely. There are way more people in it now.

### **What were your favourite modules on the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice?**

So my favourite modules would have been Disability Rights because we learnt everything disability and our rights. Also we did a thing with the Minister where we asked him in for an event and asked him questions about employment for people with intellectual disabilities. That was really great. It was really special.

Also, Occupational Therapy. Having one-to-one sessions with Barbara.

Also, the Work Experience module with you and Barbara. That was really good as well.

Researching with Des.

Poetry with John.

And the Sports Centre.

### **That's everything. You loved everything.**

Basically yes.

### **That's great to hear that from you. And you mentioned the Work Placement module, so where did you do your work placement?**

So I did my work placement in the **National Lottery**. That was fun, really fun, getting to shadow in all of the departments to see what goes on in each department. It was really good. A good learning experience.

**And you did such a good job that they invited you back. Actually you were the first student ever to go into the National Lottery, so you set the bar very high. You did a really, really good job and all the team loved you so much so they invited you back which was a really great experience.**

Yeah it was really good.





**So you were invited back to the National Lottery to do your first internship, so do you want to tell us a little bit about that and the work that you did there?**

So, when I was doing my internship in the National Lottery I was working in the mailroom with Mya, Zagita and the manager Brian. So my duties were to open the post, check the post, write checklists for claim forms for customers who sent in their scratch cards who were a bit unsure if they won something or not. After that I would deliver the claim forms to the Claims department so that they could process them. I would collect post that the Claims department had to send them out to the people who won the money.

I also did the filing for the checklist for the Lotto draws that they did in the Lottery. I was responsible for making sure that they were all in order. I would have to write the Draw Manager's name on it so the Draw Manager would know to collect this checklist and file it for any auditing reasons.

**That is actually such a responsible role, because you are effectively handling money. These are tickets that often win people lots of money so for them to trust you that much with that role is a real credit to you.**

**So how long were you in the National Lottery?**

So, I was in there for 6 months, so from September 2022 to March 2023.

**And I remember you said to me that you had always thought that you might like to work in a library. So the minute you told me that I had plans for the Library here. So do you want to tell us a little bit about when you started your internship in the Library?**

So, it was last July actually. It was really great. Fantastic! So I suppose the duties that I was doing there were, first of all I was putting books back on shelves that had to be reshelved, checking for books that were marked as lost, seeing they were actually lost or not.

I also do weeding, so if they have old editions of books they have to go off the book shelves because there is not much room for them anymore, especially if they buy new editions of books. But the good thing is that when they do that, they send the old versions off to some charity so they are not gone to waste. It's a really good idea.

I also work on the counter. So, when I work on the counter I serve students and staff and I search for books for them as well. I also show them to see where the books are. So if they can't find a book I would go up to them and see if the book is on the shelf. I would bring them up and explain to them you know, this is the History section, this is the Law section and then check if the book is in the right place. If it's not, then I would check if it's in the sorting area. So they put them there before they actually put them back on the shelves. Student shelvees do that. And then if you can't find a book, I would just check in the records, see when it was last checked out. If it was checked out a long time ago, we would just mark it as lost. I would notify someone in the library and hopefully they might buy





a new copy of the book. It depends how many copies of the book there are.

Also, inclusion, I love doing inclusion videos with Siobhan and Geraldine.

**So tell me a little bit about that. What does that involve?**

So, it's for the TCPID students here, so it just was getting them to see where the different parts of the Library to make it as easy as possible for them. So, showing them like where the barrier is, how to use the barrier, where the toilets are,

**So you do the video of doing it?**

Yes, so showing them, like...*'on you left are the toilets, the barrier is straight ahead, here are the library guards, any problem you can go to the library guards. How to use the counter, if you want to collect a book, if you want to speak to someone, how to use the machines...'*

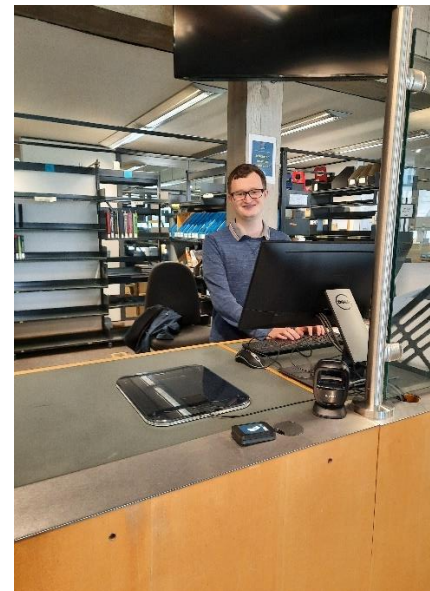
**And obviously it's like a full circle so you are supporting our new students coming in. So that's amazing for them to have you.**

**What is your absolute favourite thing about working in the Library?**

Socialising with my colleagues, my work colleagues. getting to know them really well.

Serving students and staff on the counter. Chatting to them and giving them a first-class customer experience.

Yes and also the inclusion as well. I love doing that as well.



Ciaran working at the desk in the Library



Ciaran working at the desk in the Library



### **And how do your colleagues support you in the Library?**

So my colleagues have supported me from the very beginning. They were really supportive. I felt very welcomed as part of a team. Straight away I could ask them any question. They were very approachable. I couldn't ask for a better team really.

### **So who do you work with mostly?**

So I work with my Line Manager Gerard and with Peter, but I also work with Siobhan and Geraldine on the inclusion projects. And also the other counter team as well.

They are all very easy to approach and they offer advice as well. If there are things coming up they say it to me.

**I think they can see such potential in you and they are encouraging you to go for things.**

**So can you tell me about the new role, how you heard about it and what you had to do to get it?**

The new role was a Twilghter role. It's a Library Assistant job. So I heard about it when they advertised it on the staff emails. So if you are interested in a job in the Library you have to express an interest in it and then depending on how many people go for it you do a chat or an interview.

So when you do the chit chat they say, *'okay thanks for expressing an interest in the job...'*

Depending on certain factors, but with mine, he just goes.....  
*'Congratulations you got the job. Now that you are a permanent member of the Library team , down the line you can apply for other jobs.'*

**And how did you feel when you found out that you were permanent?**

Unbelievable! It was a really proud moment because all the hard work paid off. And they know that you can definitely do this job and it shows that they really trust you.

**Congratulations! It's such a credit to you that you got it. Its nerve-racking to put yourself forward, but you did it and you got it!  
And the more you do that, the more confidence you'll get.**

They're very strange the interview chats. They're kind of formal but they're not too bad.

**Yeah, so they want to put you at ease, so it's not super formal and because they know you already, but you still have to prepare. So were you nervous going in to it?**



Oh yes. You're also nervous because you don't know how many people have applied for it.

**And you would have put a lot of work into getting ready for that and that is such a credit to you, so you earned it. So you are now a permanent member of staff in Trinity College Dublin which is unbelievable. And this is only the start of your career journey.**

**So what do you like most about Trinity and being a staff member of Trinity?**

There is so much vibrancy, so much energy. There is so much going on. There is never a dull moment I suppose.

**That's true. That's why I love it as well actually.**

There is so much going on. You meet so many different people, tourists, everything, asking you so many different things. And also there is so much to do in it. It's so big, you can walk around and get lost in it.

**Yeah exactly. It's lovely and especially in the Library you come out and there is greenery all around you**

Also it's really accessible to get to. It's right in the city centre. You don't have to worry about anything for transport because everything goes to the city centre. It's so easy to get to.

**So you get the bus from Navan. A direct bus right?**

Yes.

**So hopefully you see your future in Trinity long-term?**

Oh I'm definitely staying. I'm definitely staying.

In the Library there's always different jobs coming up in different sections.

**And the thing is you're in there now, you're doing a brilliant job and opportunities will present themselves as you go through.**

**So the new role that you're starting in September is great but aren't you going in next week to start another project as well.**

I am doing some project work with Siobhan and Geraldine, thinking about inclusion for the students here and also for disability students, trying to make the Library more accessible and to remove any barriers for students with disabilities because I, as a person with a disability, understand how difficult it can be to go into a big massive library. It can be a bit intimidating because it's so big and you can get lost so easily. You don't even know where you are going. It's not easy to find your way around.





**So you are going to help them to try and make it more accessible and inclusive.**

Yes, to remove as many barriers as possible.

**So, one thing I wanted to ask you was how do you think you've changed personally since you started way back in 2020?**

Well I've definitely got more confident. More belief I suppose. I've also learnt so many new skills, for example public speaking skills which I do not particularly like but it's part of any job really, unfortunately. It's a very, very important skills to have. Previously I never had to do it, so when something new comes along it can be a bit scary.

But also I want to thank all the TCPID team for all the support they have offered me – Marie, Barbara and all the tutors. The support was amazing, during the course and after the course. I really appreciate it.

**I do remember you and everyone who has ever done this course saying, 'I'll never be able to do presentations.'. They are terrified of them and in nearly every module you have to do something, don't you?**

And that's the good thing about it isn't it. Even though when you're a student you go...*'oh no..'* but you know long-term it's stands to you.

**And you know what I really admire about you and about all your classmates, is that even though something makes you nervous you do it anyway. And then isn't there such a feeling of achievement.**

Oh definitely, if you don't do it, you might regret it because you need to push yourself.

**And one thing that I might add in is that I remember your Entrepreneurship project with your lecturer Phil. I remember that Phil was so blown away by your project and your presentation that she just couldn't believe how good it was. Do you remember what your project was about?**

I think it was a Gaming Café. It was actually really fun because you had to come up with an idea that you were really interested in and I think if you're interested in something you really want to do more about it. It's not a pain to do it. You're doing it because you want to do it and because you're interested in it.

**So finally what are your goals for the future?**

My goals for the future are to live independently and to work full time. I suppose to promote inclusion in the Library, to keep working on inclusion in the Library to make it more accessible for students and staff with disabilities.



## Is there anything else that you want to say to the people in the Library?

Just to thank them for all the support that they have given me and making me feel so at home and from day one it has been such a positive experience. Also in the National Lottery as well. It really stands to you when you do the internships because the skills you get are so good.

You can't buy skills, you can't buy this experience. You can't beat this experience when you are going for a job because it stands so much to you.



Siobhan Dunne, Ciaran Moran and Geraldine Fitzgerald from the Library of Trinity College Dublin



Siobhan Dunne, Ciaran Moran and Geraldine Fitzgerald from the Library of Trinity College Dublin

## From Ciaran's Parents

*"We, Ciaran's parents are so proud of what he has achieved through his ASIAP course in Trinity College, He has worked hard over the 2 years and we are very appreciative of the support and mentoring he has received from Marie and all the team on the TCPID team, He has now gained permanent position in the Library, he is supported by the lovely staff there and is very happy in his employment."*

## From Ciaran's Colleagues

*"In the short time that he has been with us, Ciarán has become an important part of the library's Readers' Services team. He always goes out of his way to help a reader if they are experiencing difficulties."*

**Gerard Garrahan, The Library of Trinity College Dublin**

*"As well as being a willing and enthusiastic collaborator on library UDL initiatives for TCPID students, I find Ciaran very personable, reliable and both a role model and mentor on student experience."*

**Geraldine Fitzgerald, The Library of Trinity College Dublin**



## TCPID Summer School

The TCPID hosted its annual Summer School from the 18th to the 20th of June 2024 at Trinity College Dublin. This year, the programme welcomed 25 participants, including five students from the **Clemson LIFE programme at Clemson University, South Carolina** who were on a study abroad programme.



*Participants of the TCPID Summer School 2024*

Throughout the three-day event, students engaged in a variety of activities designed to be both educational and enjoyable. The programme began with a scavenger hunt that helped participants explore and become familiar with the historic Trinity College campus. This was followed by an acting and drama session, encouraging creativity and self-expression.

Students also took part in diverse taster classes, including personal development, knowing your rights, and fencing. These sessions aimed to equip them with valuable life skills and knowledge, while promoting physical fitness and fun through various sports activities.



*Participants of the TCPID Summer School 2024*



*Participants of the TCPID Summer School 2024*





The focus on wellness was highlighted with a yoga session, and participants had the chance to learn basic Italian in a language class. A special segment of the programme included a meet-and-greet with TCPID graduates, who shared their experiences and insights about the Arts, Science, and Inclusive Applied Practice (ASIAP) course.



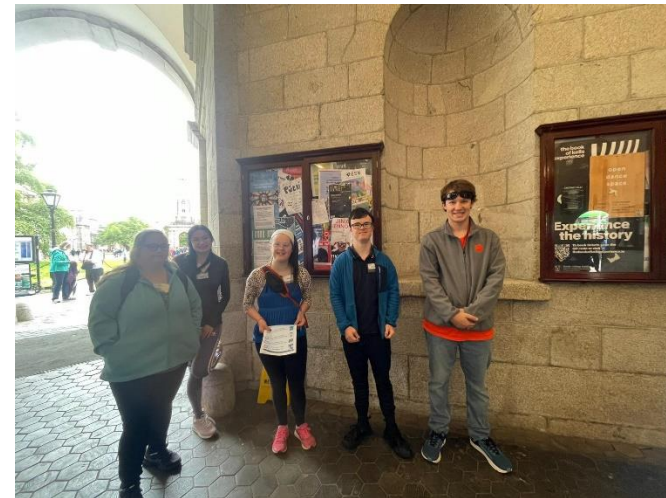
*Yoga class during the TCPID Summer School*



*Summer School participants doing fencing with the TCD Sports Centre team*

The Summer School concluded with a pizza party and a fun quiz, creating an enjoyable atmosphere that left everyone with fond memories and new friendships. The TCPID Summer School 2024 was a success, offering participants a well-rounded experience that combined education, recreation, and community building in the vibrant setting of Trinity College Dublin.

We look forward to June 2025 to do it all over again! Stay informed by signing up for the TCPID mailing list and be the first to hear about our plans for next year.



*Participants of the TCPID Summer School 2024*



## TCPID and School of Education Team News

### Professor Carmel O'Sullivan

Our Head of School Professor Carmel O'Sullivan was elected to Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and took up her new post in June. As well as being Head of School, Carmel also taught on our Expressive Arts module. She will be hugely missed by all of us in the TCPID but we are very lucky as a University to have Carmel in the role of Dean. She has brought so much to the School of Education and to the TCPID for many years and will now bring so much to the entire Faculty.

### Dr. John Kubiak

Our colleague Dr. John Kubiak will be retiring from Trinity College in September after 18 incredible years in the TCPID. John is a dedicated champion of inclusive education and has mentored and supported the entire TCPID team over many years. John will be a huge loss to the TCPID as he has been at the heart of everything that we do since the very start.



*Professor Carmel O'Sullivan and Dr. John Kubiak with our 2<sup>nd</sup> year students*

## Interview with Dr. John Kubiak

Our colleague **Sadbh Feehan** sat down with John recently to interview him about his time in Trinity College.



*Dr. John Kubiak*

### Q.1 What made you want to work in the TCPID?

I recall a moment in 2015 when I was watching the RTE 6 o'clock news. One of the featured pieces was of a group of individuals with intellectual disabilities who undertook and completed a 6 month pilot educational programme in Trinity. I remember listening to their experiences of participating in this innovative initiative and being blown away! In the following year when the opportunity arose for me to work with these trailblazing learners, I jumped at the opportunity.

My decision to work in this area of education was very much informed by my vision of inclusion, and how this aligned with the ethos of the TCPID, i.e. to enable people with an intellectual disability to develop their potential and to provide a solid foundation for students to enjoy



successful academic and social outcomes. I also wanted to work in an environment that meaningfully pushed the boundaries of inclusion, and where - in collaboration with many amazing professionals - I could be part of the ongoing creation of higher education opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities.

### **Q.2 When did you start working in the TCPID?**

I started to teach on the Certificate in Contemporary Living (the first full-time inclusive Irish Higher Educational programme) in 2006 and joined TCD as Teaching & Learning Officer in 2008.

### **Q.3 What is your role and what does it involve?**

My role is quite varied – it may involve curriculum development & design; module development & writing; student well-being; liaising with national / international colleagues, presenting at conferences / Open Days, as well as supervision of post-graduates on the School of Education Master in Education and Professional Master in Education programmes.

However, my first love is teaching - I teach on a variety of modules for the ASIAP course (Learning Theory & Practice / Personal a & Self-Development / Exploring Art: Renaissance to Modern / Poetry).

I'm also involved in research – my interests mainly focus on exploring how the voices of university students with intellectual disabilities can inform our understanding of effective inclusive pedagogical practices. I acknowledge that people with intellectual disabilities are experts of their own experiences and have a critical role to play in conveying their

subjective experiences which is crucial to our understanding of inclusive teaching and inclusive research.

### **Q.4 What are some of the biggest changes you noticed during your years working in inclusive education?**

Students are getting younger (or maybe I'm getting older!!).

On a more serious note, one major change I've noticed is that there is an increased awareness of meaningful inclusion present in Higher Educational environments; students with intellectual disabilities are welcomed on campuses across the country, to work, laugh and learn with their peers, just like everyone else. In addition, for the first time, there is now a dedicated fund entitled PATH 4 provided by the Government, which will increase opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities to access higher education. Such policies and practices will redress inequities in opportunities that have hitherto been denied this group of learners, and paradoxically, in the not-to-near future, I'm confident that students with intellectual disabilities will be seen as a 'typical' part of the diverse student body.

### **Q.5 What has been your proudest moment in work?**

There are many proud moments. There are times in the classroom when I witness a magical transformation process happening in a student in the form of academic and confidence growth. These moments are important for me (and for any educator) as enhancing such increased self-awareness in students allows learning to be a catalyst for transformation. When a student's pre-conceived notions about themselves have being transformed, or when a student has a moment of profound insight, this





increased awareness can help break through their habitual patterns of thought and behaviour.

Graduation ceremonies also make me proud and are always special for students, parents / family and staff. A key moment that sticks out for me is the first graduation of students with intellectual disabilities back in 2008. This was the first time in the history of TCD (since 1591!) that people with intellectual disabilities were able to graduate with their peers in the Trinity's Examination Hall. This event was covered by RTE and was featured on the 6pm news and on Nationwide.

On a more personal level there are other proud moments. For example, being recognised for both my teaching and scholarship by Trinity - in 2012 I received the prestigious Provost Teaching Award, and in 2014, I was awarded a Doctorate in Education.



*Dr. John Kubiak receiving the Provost Teaching Award from then Provost Patrick Prendergast*

#### **Q.6 What are your favourite memories since you have been in TCPID?**

So much of what we do in the TCPID is collaborative, and the memories of my accomplishments reflect the interdependence of many contributors. I have great memories of:

- Being inspired by some unique leaders and visionaries who have advanced my personal and professional growth.
- Working with and befriending wonderful and supportive colleagues – it was a privilege to be part of such a brilliant and dedicated team in which foolish humour and rigorous learning go hand in hand.
- Learning from inspiring students. I am indebted to the many students who thought they were learning from me!! However, without realising it, they were actually teaching me! It was a privilege to be invited into their life-world experiences.
- The day I received a Full-time TCD Parking permit after being on a waiting list for over 10 years!

#### **Sadbh Feehan on behalf of all the graduates of the TCPID:**

“John, on behalf of all the graduates of the TCPID we would like to thank you for everything you did for us and for what you taught each of us.

You taught us a lot of very memorable things but what really jumps out for me is the understanding of learning that we learn something new every day.

We have would never think of just going into an Art Gallery for fun, but as soon as we heard your passion for the arts and poetry something shifted in our hearts because not only did, but we also learned about the paintings/ poetry, but you taught us about the real people behind them.

You taught us all to appreciate the arts and poetry. So, thank you for reminding us to take a step back and enjoy.”



## New Collaborations

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

### AerCap

AerCap is the global leader in aviation leasing with one of the most attractive order books in the industry. AerCap serves approximately 300 customers around the world with comprehensive fleet solutions. AerCap is listed on the New York Stock Exchange (AER) and is based in Dublin with offices in Shannon, Miami, Singapore, Amsterdam, Shanghai, Dubai, Seattle, Toulouse and other locations around the world.

Speaking about the partnership, **Theresa Murray, Head of Human Resources** said *“We are delighted to become a Business Partner of the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities and support the TCPID’s vital work in creating greater career opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities.*

*At AerCap, we strive to create an inclusive workplace where everyone feels welcomed, supported and valued, irrespective of their circumstances. We look forward to supporting TCPID and their students.”*

The AerCap logo, featuring the word 'AERCAP' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, with a stylized blue outline of a corner bracket to the right of the text.



## Aer Lingus

Aer Lingus's mission is to be a bigger, better, future-focused airline, and their people are central to that ambition. Their DEI mission is to be an airline that has created a community where employees feel they belong, where they are supported by their colleagues to do their best work and where they achieve their career potential.



As the flagship carrier of Ireland, Aer Lingus take pride in their extensive team of over 5000 employees who are located in Ireland, the UK, across Europe and in North America. Their teams work in an extensive variety of roles, ranging from working in operations in the air and on the ground, below-the-wing activities on their aircraft, to ensuring their customers have a great experience, and ensuring the finance, people, technology and other supports are in place enabling it all to come together. The diversity of thinking, of knowledge and of backgrounds of all employees is important to achieving their ambitious mission.

**Anne Kiely, Chief People Officer, Aer Lingus:** said, *"I am thrilled to announce our partnership with the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities. We are eager to collaborate with and get to know the incredible students of this programme. At Aer Lingus, we prioritise providing a safe and supportive environment for our colleagues to be themselves and thrive in their roles. We believe this partnership will foster confidence among both the students and our Aer Lingus colleagues in supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities, creating a truly positive experience for all involved. One of our values is Stronger Together, and this collaboration will bring a new opportunity to achieve and celebrate new shared experiences and success."*





## LinkedIn

LinkedIn connects the world's professionals to make them more productive and successful and transforms the way companies hire, learn, market, and sell. LinkedIn has over 1 billion members, including 2 million in Ireland. Dublin is home to LinkedIn's EMEA and LATAM HQ with a team of over 2,000 people.

LinkedIn's vision is to create economic opportunity for every member of the global workforce – and believes that everyone deserves equal access to economic opportunity. To make that a reality, they are empowering their members, customers, and employees to join them in this cause and are building partnerships with community organisations around the world.

**Sue Duke, Country Manager for LinkedIn Ireland** said, *"At LinkedIn we're committed to building a fairer and more inclusive world of work that works for everyone. That means supporting members from diverse backgrounds and with diverse needs to advance in their careers, and we're always thinking of new ways to do this through our platform and our partnerships. I'm delighted and honoured that LinkedIn will be joining TCPID's programme to help students with intellectual disabilities achieve their career goals and make the most of LinkedIn to achieve them. A workforce where everyone can contribute fully is a stronger one, and we're excited to get to work with TCPID and their students."*





## Mr Price Branded Bargains

Mr. Price Branded Bargains is an 100% Irish owned, innovative and rapidly expanding discounted variety retailer with 65+ stores around Ireland. They sell branded products at unparalleled low prices and offer a value alternative to their customers.

Their inclusive culture empowers diverse talent to think differently while sharing their experiences and perspectives, which in turn is a key driver for their innovation, development and engagement.



Mr. Price Branded Bargains are proud winners of People's Choice - Charity Excellence Awards 2022 , Advancing Disability Equality - NDIA 2023 , Talent Acquisition - Irish HR Champion 2023 and Advancing Social Inclusion - NDIA 2024 Awards.

**Edel McSorley, Operations Director at Mr. Price Branded Bargains** said, *"With the appropriate supports, people can overcome barriers to thrive in the workplace. It's a privilege to lead such a talented, open-minded, and energetic group of individuals. We are eager to meet all potential candidates joining our growing team and look forward to welcoming TCPID graduates into our progression strategy in the years to come."*



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**PATH**  
Programme for Access  
to Higher Education



**TCPID**

TRINITY  
CENTRE FOR  
PEOPLE WITH  
INTELLECTUAL  
DISABILITIES

Ionad na  
Tríonóide do  
Dhaoine le  
Míchumair  
Intleachta

**Learning without Limits**  
For an inclusive society

School of Education, Trinity College Dublin





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