



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

Spring 2025



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

Spring 2025

Dear Partners,

There have been so many highlights over the past few months. Here is a brief summary:

- 12 new graduates from Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice
- 3 new TCPID Business Partners
- 8 student placements
- 10 current graduate internships
- 12 graduate internships completed within the last few months
- 5 new internships to start within the next month
- 5 permanent roles for TCPID graduates

None of this would be possible without you, our incredible business partners.

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

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

TCPID Business Partnerships Manager

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

Please follow all our latest news on our website at www.tcd.ie/tcpid as well as on Facebook [@InclusionTCD](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



Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice Graduation February 2025

On Wednesday February 5th 2025, we celebrated the graduation of another 12 amazing graduates of the **Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice**. The sun was shining for this very special event.

We are so proud of our graduates for everything that they have achieved over the past few years. This is only the beginning of an exciting journey for all of them.

We were thrilled that one of the photos from the graduation appeared in The Irish Times on Thursday February 6th!



The Irish Times February 6th 2025



Emma McGrath, Conor Lynch and Saoirse Keogh



Class of 2025



Lia Dowling, Shannon Brooker, Conor Barnwall and Dale O'Neill



Class of 2025



Emma McGrath



Saoirse Keogh and Dale O'Neill



TCPID staff with the new graduates



Annual TCPID Business Partners Meeting

Our annual TCPID Business Partners meeting took place in the **Trinity Long Room Hub in Trinity College Dublin** on Thursday November 28th.

Our Head of School, Dr. Ann Devitt welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all our partners for their support on behalf of the School of Education and Trinity College Dublin.

Our new TCPID Director Dr. Conor Mc. Guckin then also thanked everyone for their incredible continued support for the TCPID and for our students and graduates.



TCPID team and graduates with partners

TCPID Business Partnerships Manager Marie Devitt welcomed all our new business partners who have signed up with us over the past year. She also introduced everyone to the new TCPID team members who started in their roles in 2024. Marie then outlined the new developments and initiatives implemented by the TCPID this year based on partner

feedback. One of the new initiatives developed was our new TCPID Mentor Booklet which was given to everyone at the meeting.

Our **Senior Occupational Therapist Emer Murphy** then spoke about tasks and how to break down tasks for our students and graduates. Emer gave clear examples and advice on how to support the person in their learning of the workplace tasks.



TCPID graduates Benog Brady Bates, Saoirse Keogh, Seadna O'Hara, Emma McGrath and Bobby Dolan with Jenifer Tangney from Ornuia and Marie Devitt and Emer Murphy

Partners were then asked to work in groups to think of a list of tasks within their organisation. They then had to pick one task and work out how to break down the task into steps and teach it.



TCPID Business Partners working in groups



TCPID Business Partners working in groups



TCPID graduate discussion panel with Hugo MacNeill

Following a coffee break, five of our graduates joined us for a fantastic panel discussion on their graduate internships and permanent roles. We were joined by **Saoirse Keogh** who is doing her internship in **Ornua**, **Emma McGrath** spoke about her two internships in **Microsoft** and **Cairn**, **Seadna O Hara** who is doing his internship in **Mr. Price**, **Benog Brady Bates** who has a permanent contract in **EY** in **Cork** and **Bobby Dolan** who has a permanent contract in **Arthur Cox**. The graduates spoke with Marie and Emer about the types of work that they do, their experiences of feeling supported and included in work and their hopes for the future.

We are so grateful to everyone who joined us for the meeting and we look forward to continuing to build our wonderful partnerships in 2025.



TCPID graduate discussion panel



TCPID Business Partners working in groups



TCPID Scholarship Celebration with Provost Linda Doyle

On Tuesday January 14th, we were honoured to be hosted by **Provost Linda Doyle** in the **Senior Common Room in Trinity College Dublin** to celebrate the TCPID scholarship recipients for 2024. Our three TCPID scholarship programmes are:

The Margaret McLoughlin Scholarship

The Timothy Dimka Scholarship, sponsored by Smurfit Westrock

The Provost Scholarship

Guests included our 8 TCPID students, along with their parents, Joan, Tony, Kieran and Louise McLoughlin, Claire Coleman and Miriam O'Connor from Smurfit Westrock, as well as representatives from the TCPID and School of Education team.

The Provost welcomed everyone to the celebration event and thanked all the donors for their sponsorship of these generous scholarship programmes. She then called up each of the scholarship recipients for an individual handshake and photo.

Two of the students, **Makayla Bradley and Conor O'Donnell** said a few words about how much they are enjoying their time in Trinity College and thanked the scholarship donors for their generosity.

Joan McLoughlin then spoke about her daughter Margaret and how happy she would be to see the students benefitting from a scholarship in her memory.

Miriam O'Connor from Smurfit Westrock then spoke about their partnership with the TCPID and how happy they are to be sponsoring the scholarship in memory of Timothy Dimka.

Guests enjoyed some delicious food and had the opportunity to chat with each other in the beautiful surroundings of the Senior Common Room.

The event was a huge success and we are so incredibly grateful to our Provost and her team for putting it together for us.

More details about our three TCPID Scholarship programmes can be found at: <https://www.tcd.ie/tcpid/courses/scholarships/>



TCPID student scholars on the Dining Hall steps with Provost Linda Doyle, representatives from Smurfit Westrock and the McLoughlin family



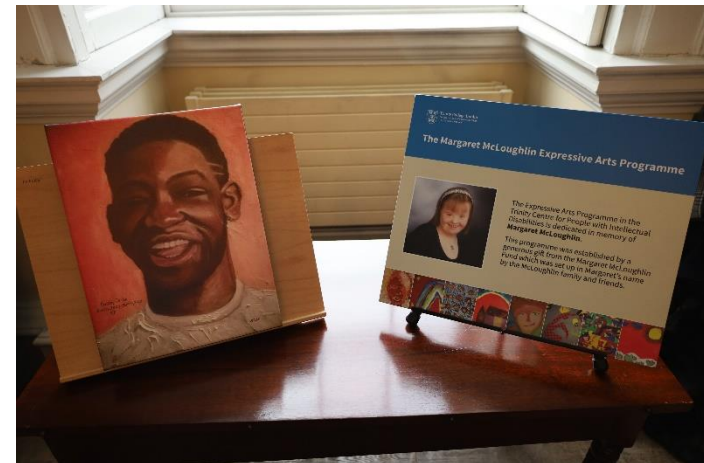
Recipients of the Margaret McLoughlin scholarship with Provost Linda Doyle, Hugo MacNeill and the McLoughlin family



Recipients of the Provost scholarship with Provost Linda Doyle



Recipients of the Timothy Dimka scholarship with Provost Linda Doyle and Miriam O'Connor and Claire Coleman from Smurfit Westrock



A painting of Timothy Dimka and a plaque with a photo of Margaret McLoughlin



Student Work Placements

Our 2nd year students have just finished their work placements with our TCPID Business Partners. The feedback from all the students has been universally positive with all of them already missing their colleagues from their placement companies.



Aer Lingus



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

WILLIAM FRY



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

Graduate Internships

In addition to our student placements, we also currently have 10 internships in progress and more due to start within the next couple of months. We have internships currently underway in the following companies (some with more than one intern):





We also have some internships that finished over the past few months with:

Bank of Ireland

CAIRN

cpl.

daa

DYNAMIC

EY Building a better working world

FBD
INSURANCE

ICON

intel

PHX Ireland
a PHOENIX company

BUILDERS
SISK
CONTRACTORS
Established 1859

VIATRIS

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



Permanent Roles

We are thrilled that five more of our graduates have received permanent contracts over the past few months.

Sophie Carragher -ICON

Our graduate Sophie Carragher was offered a permanent contract with ICON in December 2024 just before Christmas.

We sat down with Sophie to chat to her about her time in Trinity College, her role in ICON and about what getting a permanent contract in ICON means to her.



Sophie Carragher

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

My name is Sophie Carragher and I am from Sandymount in Dublin, Ireland. I attended Mount Anville National and Secondary Schools. When I left secondary School in 2015, I attended Roslyn Park College where I studied Business Administration. Having graduated from Roslyn Park College, I subsequently joined the TCPID course in 2020. As part of this course, in my second year, I completed an 8-week work placement at the legal firm McCann Fitzgerald, where I worked in their HR department, supporting administrative tasks and event preparation.

I achieved a distinction in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice from Trinity College and I graduated in 2023.

What did you enjoy the most about your time as a student in Trinity College Dublin?

I enjoyed being part of the Trinity Community and learning new things in all the different modules across the 2 years of the Course. I also enjoyed meeting new people, being part of the TCPID team and being part of student life in the College.

Part of my time in Trinity College was affected by the Covid Pandemic and this meant that we had to operate off site for most of our first year in college. Trinity College provided us with excellent support to make the programme work and we were able to continue our studies despite not being able to access the College.

During our second year of the Programme, we experienced workshops with several of the TCPID Business partners. These workshops gave us great insights as to how these businesses operate, they were very generous in sharing information with us and helping us build skills in



various aspects of business management. I found that these workshops and the Programme helped me to build my own confidence and ultimately led to my presenting to the Minister for Higher Education as part of our SciFest@TCPID exhibition as an end of year presentation.

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

I really enjoyed the Entrepreneurship and the Marketing modules. Both these modules gave me great insights into how business operate from initial concept, product development and design though to marketing and product launch. We were also given the opportunity to develop our own unique product and bring that concept through a business plan.



Sophie Carragher on her graduation day from Trinity College

Can you tell us about your first internship in KPMG?

I completed a 9-month placement with KPMG Dublin, Ireland, in 2023. I worked with their Finance, Transformation and Performance and Marketing departments. While there, I worked with their associates on creating and amending PowerPoint presentations, updating records across various systems and managing the merchandising inventory. In addition, I supported the coordination of internal employee initiatives, for example, International Women's Day events.

When did you start your internship in ICON?

I started in ICON January 2024. I was originally on a 6-month internship, developing my skills within Marketing. This internship was then further extended and I have now been offered a permanent role as a Marketing Assistant with the Company.

Can you tell us about the work that you do in ICON?

I work as Marketing Assistant and my work is very varied. The Marketing Department are responsible for many disciplines including, Public Relations, Copywriting, Digital Marketing/ Website management. I work on various projects in support of the team including research, data analysis and Insights.

What is your favourite thing about working in ICON?

I love being part of the workforce and having responsibility. I have a clearly defined role in Marketing which is great and I enjoy supporting



others on the team. I enjoy the variety of my work and being part of the Marketing team in ICON.

Can you tell us a little about your colleagues in ICON and how they support you?

There is a lot of diversity in the Marketing team, they are very inclusive and supportive. I have been supported in the onboarding process by being given a mentor and a clear job description. When I was transitioning from an Intern to a permanent role, I was given terrific support from HR and IT so that the change was managed.

What do you enjoy the most about working in ICON?

I enjoy the camaraderie in the group and being part of a team. I have a sense of belonging and its great to have a clear understanding of what I am responsible for in Marketing. I also like working for a company which has been recognised internationally with multiple awards.

How did you feel when you found out that you were being offered a permanent role in ICON?

I was ecstatic and thrilled that I was considered for a permanent role in the Company. I felt proud of my achievements during my internship and I am particularly delighted to be the first graduate from the TCPID programme to be offered a permanent position in ICON.

How do you think you have changed since you first started as a student in Trinity College in 2020?

My independence has changed massively and my confidence has grown immeasurably. I have developed my capabilities particularly in the areas of communication, technical skills and project management.

What are your goals for the future?

I would like to continue to develop my skillset.



David Green, Sophie Carragher and Claire Quinn



From Sophie's Parents

"We have seen Sophie grow in confidence so much since she graduated from TCPID and we are thrilled to see her achieve the goals that she set for herself."

How did you feel when you heard the news that Sophie was being offered a permanent contract in ICON?

"We were delighted for Sophie firstly, then for her extended family and the TCPID team all of whom have been tremendously supporting of her."

From Sophie's Colleagues in ICON

David Green, Vice President, Marketing, commented: *"Sophie has proved herself to be an invaluable member of the marketing team. Her enthusiasm and willingness to work on a wide range of projects across a very busy department has been of great benefit to the team. She is always looking for opportunities to learn and develop her marketing skills. We are thrilled that she will be continuing her career journey here with us at ICON."*

Claire Quinn, Senior Manager, Communications and Public Relations, said: *"Sophie is a hugely supportive colleague – always willing to help and support her teammates. She is an absolute pleasure to work with – conscientious and consistently looks for feedback on projects she has completed. She is also great fun and really adds to our team dynamic!"*

All of us in the TCPID, the School of Education and Trinity College Dublin are so incredibly proud of you Sophie and we are looking forward to watching you develop your career in ICON over the coming years.





Conor Dunne – McCann FitzGerald

Our graduate Conor Dunne was offered a permanent contract with McCann FitzGerald this month. Conor has been working in McCann FitzGerald since July 2023 and has made a fantastic impression on all the team since he started. Getting this permanent contract is a dream come true.



Conor Dunne

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

My name is Conor Dunne. I am 23. I live in Artane with my Mam and Dad. I have one older brother Sean. I enjoy doing indoor cycling and do about one hour a day. I love golf. I am a member in the Royal Dublin Golf Club. I am also a member of Elm Eagles Special Olympics Club. I won a Gold medal in the Special Olympics All Ireland Final.

Why did you decide to apply to come and study in Trinity College Dublin?

I applied for the TCIPD course, even though I knew it would be challenging, it would give me more opportunities for my future. The course has many modules which are very interesting and I learnt all a lot.

What did you enjoy the most about your time as a student in Trinity College Dublin?

I loved learning new subjects especially the Art module. Making friends was also important. I always felt included and comfortable during the course. Even though the course finished, it is nice to have contact and support from the staff at TCPID.

Can you tell us about your internship in McCann FitzGerald?

I have been working in McCann FitzGerald since July 2023. I work on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays each week. I work with the Facilities Department and the HR Department.



Can you tell us about the work that you do in McCann FitzGerald?

I help my colleagues in the Facilities Department with office moves, desk locations, and I also help with getting rid of old files.

I do computer work with my colleagues in the HR department. I work on recording employee details and archiving files.

Can you tell us a little about your colleagues in McCann FitzGerald and how they support you?

My Colleagues show me how to do something and answer any questions I have.

What do you enjoy the most about working in McCann FitzGerald?

I enjoy the work I do. All the staff are very friendly and supportive. I also enjoy going for a coffee with my work colleagues. I am very happy working in McCann Fitzgerald.

How did you feel when you found out that you were being offered a permanent role in McCann FitzGerald?

I felt very happy and proud to get a permanent position in McCann Fitzgerald. I am very grateful that they gave me this opportunity.



Conor Dunne

What are your goals for the future?

I want to continue working for McCann Fitzgerald. I will always do my best. I want to have the ambition to better myself in all ways. And of course play more Golf and lower my Handicap.



From Conor's Colleagues

“Conor has become an integral part of our department and the office since he began his internship with McCann FitzGerald. We look forward to hearing him arrive onto the floor and love his sense of humour and his willingness and enthusiasm to help. Conor treats everyone equally, with respect and kindness, but equally with a commitment to getting his work done as efficiently and diligently as possible!

Conor has brought something special to our Firm and we have benefitted, in so many ways, from having him as part of our team. “

“Conor is extremely diligent in ensuring the various tasks I’ve asked him to complete are done quickly, and he will always report back to me when the job is finished! He also challenges me to make sure that if a task requires my input, I complete my part so as not to delay completing the overall job, which keeps me on my toes and is a great trait to have! Conor is a pleasure to work with and I’m delighted he is part of our team.”

“Conor brings great qualities to our workplace. His willingness to get involved and help with tasks is wonderful to see. He is continuously looking to learn and help with solving problems.

We are lucky to have him in McCann FitzGerald.”



Tara Sleightholme, Amy Cummins, Stephen Holst (Managing Partner), Conor Dunne, Alan Lynch, Sarah Begley & Ciaran Dempsey

McCANN FITZGERALD



Brian Higgins – Bank of Ireland

In November 2024, our graduate Brian Higgins was offered a permanent contract with Bank of Ireland. Brian works in the Naas Branch and has been a fantastic addition to the team since he started there.



Brian Higgins

Brian is so happy and so proud to now be a permanent member of the Bank of Ireland team. He has a wonderful quote which he has allowed us to share:

“I have a disability, but I have all the Ability!”

Bank of Ireland have been a partner of the TCPID since since 2013 and have provided almost 30 student work placements and graduate internships over that time.

In November 2024, John Neville, Cathy O'Neill and the team in the Bank of Ireland Naas branch were delighted to offer a permanent role to Brian, who originally joined as a TCPID intern in early 2023.

Huge congratulations to Brian and his family on this fantastic and hard-earned achievement. We wish him all the very best with his career in Bank of Ireland!



Brian Higgins surrounded by his Bank of Ireland Naas team



From Brian's Colleagues

John Neville, Cluster Bank Manager – Naas and Rathcoole Area,

“Brian has become an integral part of the team in Naas since he joined in 2023. His amazing can-do attitude and cheerful demeanour has created a very positive impact on all colleagues and customers he interacts with on a daily basis”.

From Eimear Moore, Emerging Careers Lead:

“We are absolutely delighted with this fantastic news for Brian and the team in Naas Branch, particularly as Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities is one of our core accessibility partnerships within Emerging Careers. It great to see the programme going from strength to strength and to see the impact it is having. Thanks so much to Marie Devitt, Emer Murphy and all the team at TCPID for your ongoing guidance and expertise, and congratulations again to Brian!”

From Cathy O'Neill Customer and Service Manager Naas

“Huge Congratulations to Brian. So delighted to have him as part of the team in Naas.”



Marie Devitt, Brian Higgins, John Neville and Eimear Moore

Bank of Ireland 



Seadna O'Hara – Mr. Price

At the start of this year our graduate Seadna O Hara was offered a permanent role working with Mr. PRICE Branded Bargains in Blanchardstown.

A huge thank you to the incredible Mr. Price team who have supported Seadna so well since day one. Particular thanks go to Emma, Alison and Timmy who have so warmly welcomed Seadna as part of their team. Thank you also to the amazing Edel McSorley who is the reason behind our partnership and who continues to champion true inclusion every single day.



Seadna O'Hara on his graduation day from Trinity College Dublin

From Seadna

"I'm happy to share that 2 days ago in my internship in Mr Price Blanchardstown I've had a meeting with my 2 managers and Emer Murphy and Marie Devitt on zoom call offering me a permanent member and continuing working with Mr Price and I said yes!

I felt so so so happy that I'm now a member in Mr Price and a big thank to Marie Devitt for finding me a great internship in Mr Price it was great working there and I've worked so hard and did such a good brilliant job there and I would also like to thank Mr. PRICE Branded Bargains in Blanchardstown for the great help and support you have given me. I've felt so happy and grateful to work with you and I'm so excited to keep up the good work and help customers."

From Seadna's Colleagues

From Edel McSorley - Operations Director Mr. Price Branded Bargains:

"Congratulations Seadna O Hara on all your hard work earning a permanent contract—we are so lucky to have you! Your dedication and effort have truly paid off, and we're thrilled to see you continue your journey with MrPRICE. Wishing you every success in your new role!"



From the Mr Price Branded Bargains team:

“Woohoo! 🎉 Huge congrats Seadna O Hara! You’ve worked so hard for this, and we’re absolutely buzzing to have you on board! Big shoutout to Marie Devitt and Emer Murphy for making it all happen. Exciting times ahead! 🚀 🙌 #DreamTeam”

From Emma Flynn - Store Manager Mr. Price Blanchardstown

“So well deserved Seadna”



Seadna O'Hara



Dale O'Neill – Falko

Our graduate Dale O'Neill was offered a permanent contract with Falko in March. Dale completed his year 2 work placement with Falko and was then invited back there to complete an internship, before being offered a permanent contract.

We asked Dale to tell us about his time in Trinity College, his role in Falko and about what getting a permanent contract means to him.



Dale O'Neill

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

My name is Dale O'Neill, I am from Tullow, Co. Carlow. I have 1 brother and 1 sister and I have 3 nieces and 2 nephews. I went to Primary School in the Boys National School and went to Tullow Community School where I completed my Junior Certificate. I attended a Day Service in Tullow called the Cairdeas Centre. I am also a proud member of Carlow Special Olympics Club.

Can you tell me about your sports interests and in particular your recent Soccer Team Success?

Yes of course, I enjoy going to the gym but the main 2 sports I compete in they are Athletics which I have qualified for the Leinster Games for Special Olympics and I also play Soccer. So about my Soccer back in May 2024 I got the great news that I was chosen to represent my Country in a big International Tournament in Reus in Spain putting on that Jersey was one of the proudest moments of my life. We battled and we fought and a few heart stopping moments and come home with a Bronze Medal for our country.

Why did you decide to apply to come and study in Trinity College?

The main reason I applied to Trinity is that I aspired to be like my brother and sister who had both gone to College and when I seen this opportunity I took it both hands. Another reason I applied was some of my friends have completed the course and I seen what a positive effect it had on



their life's and I said to myself this is the course for me and I'm going to go for it.

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

There are so many to choose from but I would have to say my favourite modules were Language and Society, Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Poetry and Learning Theory and Practice. The main reasons why I loved these modules was because of the way they were taught, as you could hear the passion in the lecturers voice and this really helped me get a better understanding of the modules.

Can you tell us about your 2nd year placement in Falko? What did you learn about yourself while you were there?

I will when I first started I was a bit nervous and will admit, I knew very little about airplanes. This didn't last for long through as I was made so welcome and part of the team nearly straight away. I know he won't admit but this is mainly down to my amazing mentor Alex who has been so supportive and helpful since Day 1. What I learned was that actually was able to work under pressure which I normally can't do with my condition Dyspraxia this was down to the relaxed nature and how well everything was explained to me.

You were invited back to do a paid Internship in Falko after you finished your course. How did that make you feel?

It made me feel a few emotions such as happy, excited but I will have to say the biggest one was proud. I say this because this meant that I was going to be paid for a job for the first time in my life something I could have only ever dreamed of a few years ago and proud that a company was willing to take a chance on me because of my ability not my disability.



Dale O'Neill



Can you tell us about the work that you do in Falko?

I do lots of different jobs in Falko but I suppose the main ones are on a weekly basis, I am in charge of the company Newsletter in which I look up the latest news for Falko's main customers and then I send it to the Marketing Team in Ireland, England, France and Singapore another job I do is update the companies bank accounts of all their main customers also on this we were having problems with the bank file and with help I recreated the bank file myself I am also in charge of ordering all the stationary for the office.

Can you tell us a little about your Colleagues in Falko and how they support you?

I have to say they have been absolutely amazing, no matter what I ask is never too much trouble and even if I don't get it the first time they don't mind explaining it to me again and it has been like this since Day 1 which is another reason I think I have settled in so quickly.

What do you enjoy most about working in Falko?

What I enjoyed the most about working in Falko is that I am part of a team and I feel like my contribution is appreciated. I also love the atmosphere in the office it's relaxed but yet you get your work done. I just love the people as well as everyone is friendly and welcoming which puts me at ease and allows me to do my work stress free.

How did you feel when you found out that you were offered a permanent role in Falko?

Wow what a moment that was. I will have to admit I was in shock as I actually couldn't believe it when I was offered a full time role. I will admit when I went outside I had a bit of an emotional moment to myself it was like I have finally been accepted and finally I felt like a normal human being not someone with a Disability.

How did you think you have changed since you first started as a Student in Trinity College in 2022?

I think I have changed in a few ways. Firstly, I think I have gained in confidence this come from doing a lot of presentations in College in which improved my Public Speaking beyond recognition I have gone from struggling to do a 5 minute presentation to by the end of my time in College to be told sorry you have no more time you have to finish up now. It has also helped me become more Independent from getting my train in the morning, my bus to work and back again.

What are my goals for the future?

My goals for the future are to continue to work hard in my new job, to live Independently in my own home, to marry my fiancée Saoirse and just to live a happy and healthy life for as long as I can.



From Dale's Colleagues

From Alex Vining, Falko Vice President of Marketing:

"We are absolutely delighted to have Dale join the Falko team on a permanent basis. Since Dale first joined the Falko team back in February 2024 on his work placement, he has shown a fantastic willingness to learn and has been such a strong contributor to the various teams he has worked with. Not only has the work Dale produces had a meaningful impact, but his positive can-do attitude has been a great addition to our office environment. It's been fantastic to see how far Dale has come both personally and professionally since joining the team. We're excited about the future and the further contributions he'll bring to the team".

From Shirley Kwurue Quinn, Falko Financial Controller:

"Dale's contribution to the Finance team has been invaluable during a time of change in our team and systems. He has taken full ownership of tasks assigned to him. Dale applies himself to every task with a smile, positive attitude, and willingness to help. We look forward to his continued involvement in our team."



Dale with his manager and mentor Alex Vining





TCPID Graduate Stephen Ryan appointed to National Council for Special Education

Huge congratulations to our graduate Stephen Ryan who has just been appointed to the National Council for Special Education. Another amazing achievement to add to an already long list!

From Stephen:

I have a bit of news to share I am so proud and happy to be appointed onto the NCSE council (National Council for Special Education in Ireland) this council overlooks kids with disabilities and what primary and secondary schools in the whole of Ireland can do to help them transition into society and give them the best start in life.

As a person with a disability, I can't tell you now just how hard it was for me to be part of a mainstream school because technically people with disabilities are slower at learning. We do learn but just at a slower pace. I am so happy to give my voice and opinions to help as much kids with disabilities I can possibly help. This would not be possible without the wonderful staff at the TCPID (Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities) who nominated me for this role.

Thanks a million.



Stephen Ryan



TCPID Workshop for INCLUDE-ID Network

Collaboration and knowledge sharing are so powerful for expanding educational and professional opportunities for individuals with ID nationwide.

We were absolutely delighted to host the INCLUDE-ID Network Employment Workshop at TCPID on March 4th with Marie Devitt and Emer Murphy, facilitated by INCLUDE-ID Coordinator Jill Woodnutt.

Designed for higher education institutions offering courses for students with intellectual disabilities under PATH 4 Phase 2 this workshop brought together practitioners from Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Dundalk Institute of Technology, South East Technological University, University College Cork, Mary Immaculate College, Atlantic Technological University, Munster Technological University, Technological University Dublin and University of Galway.

It was amazing to have so many HEIs from all across Ireland within PATH 4 Phase 2 attend this employment training session to learn more about building pathways and employment support for students and graduates with intellectual disabilities.

This workshop featured insightful sessions and activities, alongside a fantastic panel discussion with Emer Murphy and TCPID graduates Dúalta Callan, Emma McGrath and Stephen Ryan.

Marie Devitt and Hugo MacNeill also led a panel discussion with TCPID business partners Abbott, An Post, Mr. PRICE Branded Bargains, EY, and Bank of Ireland.

Many thanks also to the entire TCPID and School of Education team and the Higher Education Authority for supporting this endeavour through PATH 4 Phase 2.



Participants at the TCPID INCLUDE-ID Network employment workshop



Dúalta Callan Marie Devitt, Stephen Ryan and Emer Murphy



Business Partners discussion panel



Graduate discussion panel



LinkedIn TCPID Staff Workshop

In January we were lucky enough to be invited to the beautiful LinkedIn Dublin office for a workshop for our TCPID and School of Education team. Here are some of the main takeaways from a brilliant workshop:

The importance of authenticity.

The power of thought leadership to gain trust and make your brand unique.

Trust is at the heart of everything.

How to build a strong community.

A massive thank you to Sue Duke, Ronan Hayes, Ross Gill, Linda Thomas and Aoife Macken for delivering a wonderful session for us.

On March 4th the TCPID were also incredibly honoured to be invited to meet with LinkedIn CEO, Ryan Roslansky who was visiting Dublin. This meeting offered an opportunity for Mr. Roslansky to meet with nonprofit organisations who are using LinkedIn in interesting and innovative ways. We were honoured to be one of only 4 organisations who were invited to this meeting. The session focused on highlighting how each of the organisations is using the LinkedIn platform to create economic opportunity for every member of the global workforce.



The TCPID and School of Education team with LinkedIn colleagues



Marie Devitt with Sue Duke, Country Manager of LinkedIn Ireland





Guest Lectures

Ornua November 2024

A huge thank you to Ornua who delivered a fantastic guest lecture on our 2nd year Marketing module in November. Our graduate Saoirse Keogh who is currently doing her internship in Ornua brilliantly delivered part of the lecture and spoke about everything that she has learnt so far in her role.

Thank you to Karen Johnson, Neil Rogers and of course the amazing Jenifer Tangney who all taught the students so much about Ornua and about the marketing of their products.



TCPID students and staff with guests from Ornua



Marie Devitt, Jenifer Tangney, Karen Johnson, Neil Rogers and Saoirse Keogh

Microsoft Guest lecture March 2025

A huge thank you to Catherine Doyle, General Manager of Microsoft Ireland who delivered a wonderful guest lecture as part of the 1st year Introduction to Business module. The students learnt so much from the lecture and can't wait to visit Microsoft in the near future.



Hugo MacNeill, Catherine Doyle, Dave Cormack and Marie Devitt



TCPID Team News

John Kubiak Retirement

In October we marked the retirement of our amazing colleague John Kubiak who has been a core part of the TCPID for over 20 years. John has helped to transform the lives of so many students and graduates, many of whom joined us for a very special celebration yesterday.

The graduates spoke about how John always helped them to develop their confidence and to believe in themselves, as well as giving them a lifelong love of poetry and art.

Michael Shevlin and Carmel O Sullivan both spoke about how John has been a wonderful colleague and friend and how he has helped to make the TCPID what it is today!

He will be so missed by all of us in the TCPID, the School of Education and Trinity College Dublin.



John Kubiak with his wife Bernie

New TCPID Team Members

Since our last Update, we have welcomed 3 more amazing colleagues into our TCPID team:



Dr. Conor Mc Guckin

TCPID Director



Dr. Owen Barden

TCPID Academic Coordinator



Jill Woodnutt

INCLUDE-ID Coordinator

In addition to that, in September 2024 we elected a new Head of School



Dr. Ann Devitt

Head of the School of Education



TCPID Collaboration with Stranmillis University

We were delighted to host a delegation from Stranmillis University College, Belfast at Trinity College Dublin in February for a collaborative research project. The visit to TCPID sparked insightful discussions with academic and professional staff on expanding inclusive education in Ireland. The visit luckily coincided with the graduation ceremony of our exceptional students— showcasing the profound impact of inclusive education!

We look forward to the promising future of inclusive higher education through this partnership.



Visiting delegation from Stranmillis University with Dr. Conor Mc Guckin



Professor Noel Purdy, Hugo MacNeill and Dr. Conor Mc Guckin

TCPID represented at multiple conferences

We are very proud that our team have been invited to present at a number of high-profile conferences over the past few months.

Trinity Inclusive Curriculum Symposium, Trinity Business School December 2024



Emma McGrath, Clíodhna O'Rourke, Jenny Banks and Emer Murphy at Trinity Inclusive Curriculum Symposium



TCPID team at Trinity Inclusive Curriculum Symposium

Inclusion in Action Conference, UCC December 2024



TCPID team at Inclusion in Action Conference in UCC December 2024

AIPCO Conference, the Galmont Hotel, Galway February 2025



Nicky McGrane and Conor Meany of Conference Partners International with Marie Devitt at AIPCO Conference



Marie Devitt presenting at AIPCO Conference



AHEAD Conference, The Convention Centre, Dublin March 2025



Emer Murphy, Marie Devitt and Barbara Ringwood at AHEAD Conference



Marie Devitt, Barbara Ringwood and Emer Murphy presenting at AHEAD Conference

National Platform of Self Advocates Conference March 2025



Brenda Kealy (EY), Derval McDonagh (Inclusion Ireland), Brian Hayes (National Platform of Self Advocates), Margaret Turley (EY), Marie Devitt and Dualta Callan (Grant Thornton)



TCPID graduates Dualta Callan and Margaret Turley with Minister Hildegard Naughton



New Collaborations

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

Conference Partners International

Conference Partners International (CPI) are one of Ireland's leading Professional Conference Organisers (PCO). Established in 1998 by Nicky McGrane, CPI helps bring the world's top minds together for shared cultural and educational experiences. Through international academic Conferences. With over 40 members of staff, CPI delivers Conferences throughout the world, with a core focus on the UK and Ireland markets. CPI's vision is to support clients in creating conference platforms that foster interactive communication networks for global knowledge and experience sharing. With a mission to craft 'live' and creative conference experiences that align with each client's strategic goals, CPI are dedicated to ensuring quality in every detail.

Nicky McGrane, Owner and CEO, CPI: said, *"I am thrilled to announce our partnership with the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities. Since first learning about the programme and meeting Marie Devitt, I have been taken by the power of the programme and the opportunities that exist, not only for CPI but also for the wider Business Events Sector. I am excited for our team in CPI to learn more about the Centre and to explore the opportunities for inclusion that we can help create. One of our core beliefs is in the power of growth through human experience. We have lived that for 26 years, and we are excited to take a fresh look at what that growth through human experience could look like, alongside TCPID."*

On February 7th, in advance of the official partnership launch announcement, Marie Devitt, TCPID Business Partnerships Manager was invited to present on behalf of the TCPID at the **AIPCO - Association of Irish Professional Conference Organisers conference** in the Galmont Hotel and Spa, Galway. The presentation was entitled Beyond Inclusion: Building a culture of inclusion and belonging in the business events sector.





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

Jones Engineering

Jones Engineering is a global leader in mechanical, electrical and fire protection engineering, project management, and technical solutions. The company employs over 4,000 people from over 50 different nationalities across 19 countries and has a history of over 130 years. With operations in Ireland, the UK, the Nordics, Central Europe and the Middle East, the company's primary areas of activity are in the data centre sector, semi-conductor, pharma and life sciences, energy as well as healthcare and commercial office projects.



Jones Engineering

Speaking about the partnership **Carmel Walsh, Chief People Officer at Jones Engineering**, remarked *"Our involvement in this partnership underscores our commitment to fostering inclusivity while supporting educational initiatives for individuals with different backgrounds and intellectual disabilities. Through this partnership the company will offer participants an initial insight into the exciting and rewarding world of engineering."*

We are delighted to say that one of our TCPID graduates will be starting an internship with Jones Engineering in April.



Kefron

Kefron Group is a collection of industry leading solutions that help business and communities grow. Their brands are a combination of self storage, cloud automation, business intelligence and record management supported by cutting edge technology. Their core strength is supporting their customers and colleagues and their success is built on their people, their technology and their client relationships. As an Irish family business operating for over 30 years, they are incredibly proud that, as they have grown, their family culture has remained steadfast. They offer flexibility, inclusivity and an investment in all their people to give them every opportunity to develop their career to it's fullest.



Speaking about the new partnership, **Sarah Arthurs, Head of People and Performance in Kefron** said, *“We are excited to announce our new partnership with the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities. This collaboration aims to foster inclusive education and career development opportunities for Trinity students with intellectual disabilities by providing hands-on training, in-house mentoring and an opportunity for students to kick-start their career with us while they continue their 3rd level education with Trinity. Together, we are working to create a more accessible and supportive pathway for these incredible students, empowering them to achieve their personal and professional goals while continuing to promote diversity and inclusion within our own company and broader community.”*

We are in the final planning stages for one of our TCPID graduates to hopefully start an internship with Kefron within the next month.



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

The TCPID programme is funded under the
Programme for Access to Higher Education (PATH)
Strand 4 (or PATH 4)



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



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





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

globalpayments



Grant Thornton



iNIZIO



if irish funds



Jones Engineering



LinkedIn



McCANN FITZGERALD



Gníomhaireacht Bainistíochta an Chisteáin Náisiúnta
National Treasury Management Agency

Optum

Ornua
THE HOME OF IRISH DAIRY

PHX Ireland
a PHOENIX company

ptsb



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

**RETHINK
IRELAND**

RSA  INSURANCE

123.ie

 **RYANAIR**

 **SciFest**



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



WILLIAM FRY