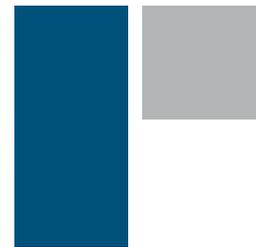
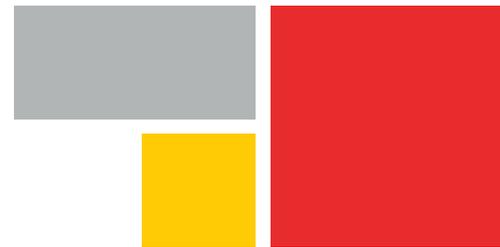




President's Report 2014-15



**A TRADITION OF
INDEPENDENT
THINKING**



UCC

University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

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Welcome

2014/15 was the year that UCC marked the life, work and legacy of our most famous teacher and independent thinker, George Boole (1815-1849). Boole was the first professor of mathematics at the newly founded Queen's College, Cork (as UCC was then known) and the forefather of the digital age.

George Boole 200 constituted a year-long programme of events, exhibitions, publications and lectures and included a feature-length documentary and academic conferences intended to raise awareness of Boole's fascinating story and his connection to UCC. The programme culminated in George Boole Day on 2 November 2015, when the story of Boole's influence became international news thanks to the digital communications technologies that his work enabled. The resulting coverage enhanced the global reputation of UCC and Ireland as a leader in STEM subjects.

UCC saw continuing growth. The total number of students studying one of UCC's offering of undergraduate, postgraduate, continuing professional development, part-time/short or online courses increased to 20,742. In line with UCC's *Strategic Plan 2013-2017*, international enrolment reached 15.4%, with applications from more than 90 countries.

Some 6,648 talented school-leavers chose UCC as their first preference on their college application forms for CAO 2015, representing an increase of 6% on CAO 2014. UCC continues to buck national downward trends in areas like arts and the humanities. The academic year also saw the introduction of a semester-based system for all programmes.

UCC has always prided itself on its beautiful riverside environment and 'green' campus. Capital projects designed to enhance the campus as a place to teach, learn and work included the €11.5m Beaufort Building in Ringaskiddy which will house UCC's National Ocean Testing Facility and up to 125 researchers, including the Hydraulics and Maritime Research Centre, Coastal Marine and Resource Centre and the Sustainable Energy Research Group. The final phase of the Western Gateway Building was also completed.

We continue to pursue excellence in the quality of the holistic student experience. One of the most tangible expressions of this commitment is a Student Hub at the heart of campus in the recently vacated Windle Building. The hub will include five linked 'zones': The Welcome Zone, Learning and Teaching, The Student Success Centre, The Employability Zone and The Student Life Zone. This ambitious, university-wide project, led by the newly established Student Experience Office, is due for completion in 2017.

UCC was officially recognised as a Health Promoting University by the HSE, the first university in Ireland to be awarded this accolade, in February 2015. This milestone celebrated UCC's commitment to supporting the health and wellbeing of its students and staff and was the culmination of a four-year project by the UCC Health Matters team.

It remains critically important to provide a robust, sustainable funding model for our university by increasing non-Exchequer income. UCC's annual research income remains on a positive trajectory. UCC continues to be one of the best-funded research universities in Ireland with an R&D investment exceeding €90m, a 15% (€11.5m) increase over the last five years despite a challenging economic environment.

I am proud to report that UCC has sustained its position in the top two per cent of universities in the world in 2014/15. This position has been achieved through the hard work and commitment of UCC's entire community of students, teaching and professional staff, researchers and alumni. Our collective effort makes UCC a top European destination in which to learn, teach, research, discover and innovate.

Michael B. Murphy
President, University College Cork



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UCC at a Glance

Student Numbers 2014/15

Total Students Enrolled	20,742
Full-time Undergraduate	12,361
Part-time Undergraduate	244
Distance Learning	158
Postgraduate	4,024
Research PhD	1,119
Research Master's	164
Full-time Mature Students	1,130
International Students	3,765
Students Registered with Disabilities	1,102

CAO Preferences

+6%

6,648

placed UCC as their first preference on their college application for CAO 2015, an increase of 6% on CAO 2014.

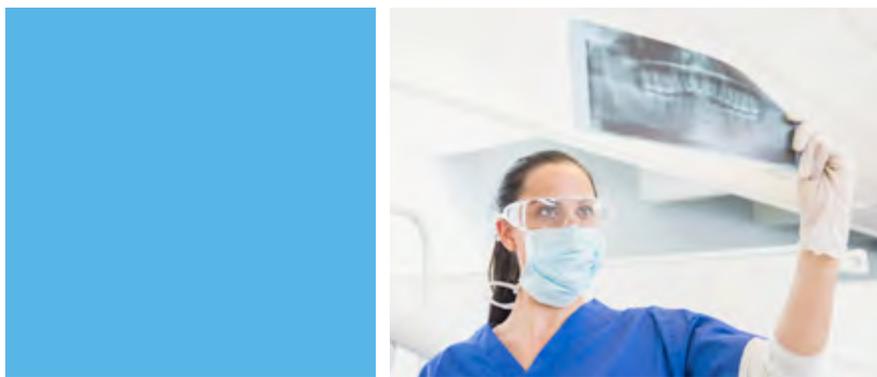
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Graduations

UNDERGRADUATE	
Degrees	2,811
Certificates and Diplomas	203
ACE Certificates and Diplomas	1,185
Total	4,199
POSTGRADUATE	
Doctorates	225
Master's - Research and Taught	1,310
Certificates, Diplomas and Higher Diplomas	443
ACE Master's	25
ACE Diplomas and Higher Diplomas	143
IMI Master's	97
IMI Certificates and Diplomas	325
Total	2,568
TOTAL	6,767

UCC Graduate Destinations Survey 2014

- **92%** of all UCC graduates were in employment or further study;
- **94%** of undergraduate degree recipients were in employment or further study;
- **89%** of postgraduate degree and higher diploma graduates were in employment or further study;
- **95%** of all graduates in employment were working in Ireland and the UK.

World Rankings

WORLD RANKINGS	2014/15
QS World Ranking	233
Shanghai Jiao Tong	401-500
Times Higher Education Ranking	351-400
Leiden Ranking	188
Sunday Times Irish University Ranking	2
UI Green Metric	2

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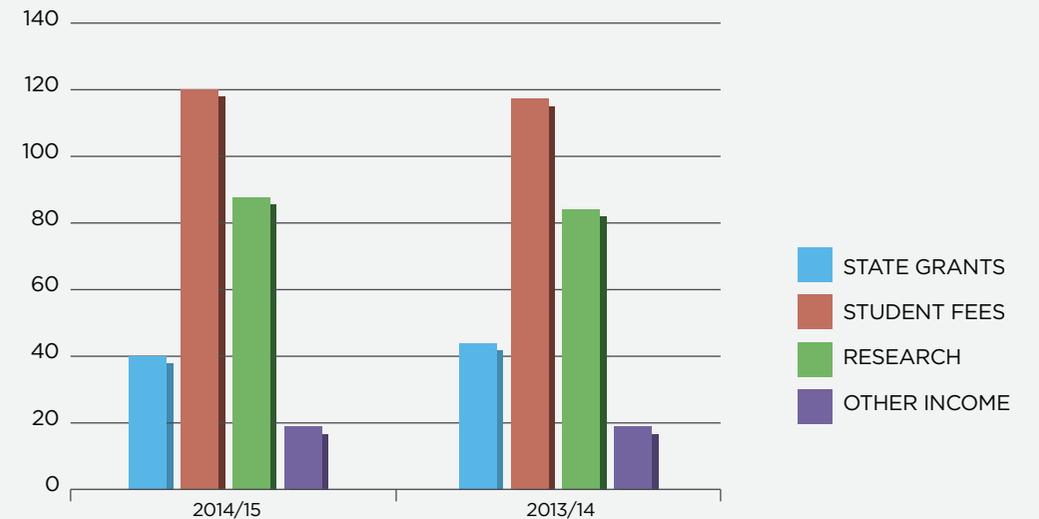


Financial Overview

INCOME SUMMARY 2014/15

€m	2014/15	2013/14	Movement
State Grants	41.7	46.6	(4.9)
Student Fees	122.6	119.6	3.0
Research	89.9	83.9	6.0
Other Income	19.9	20.7	(0.8)
Total Income	274.1	270.8	3.3

INCOME SUMMARY



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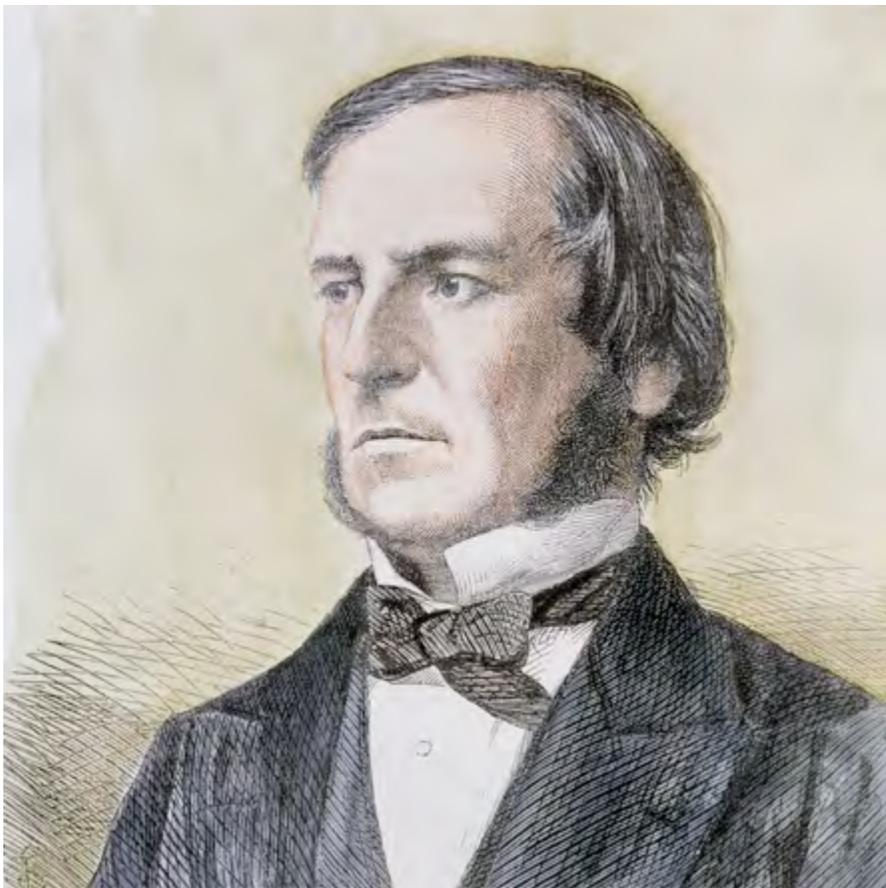
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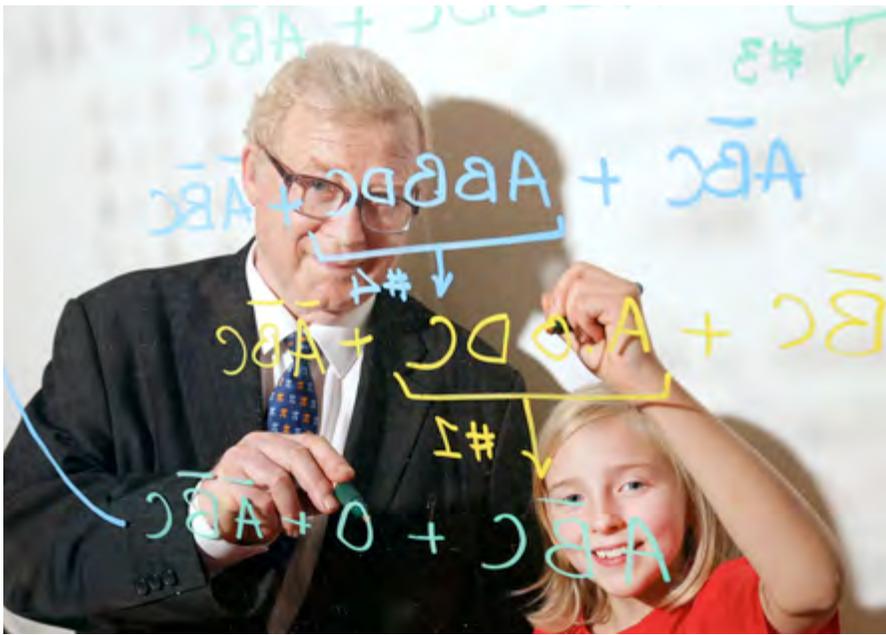
Honouring George Boole

UCC's original independent thinker

In 2015, UCC celebrated the life and legacy of George Boole (1815-1849), forefather of the digital age and first professor of mathematics at UCC (formerly Queen's College, Cork). A major programme of events raised local, national and global recognition and awareness of George Boole and the impact of his work across the field of information technology.

The purpose of the George Boole 200 project was to commemorate the 200th birthday of George Boole. Boole the man has been largely forgotten by history and yet Boolean logic is a fundamental part of modern mathematics and is taught to students across the world. A contemporary of Charles Darwin, Michael Faraday and Charles Babbage, Boole is a pivotal figure in the history of science and one of the most important 'independent thinkers' to come from UCC.

Boole's ideas have been used by successive generations of mathematicians, computer scientists and engineers to develop technologies that are at the heart of our daily lives; the way we work, do business, communicate and spend our leisure time all have their roots in Boole's pioneering ideas.



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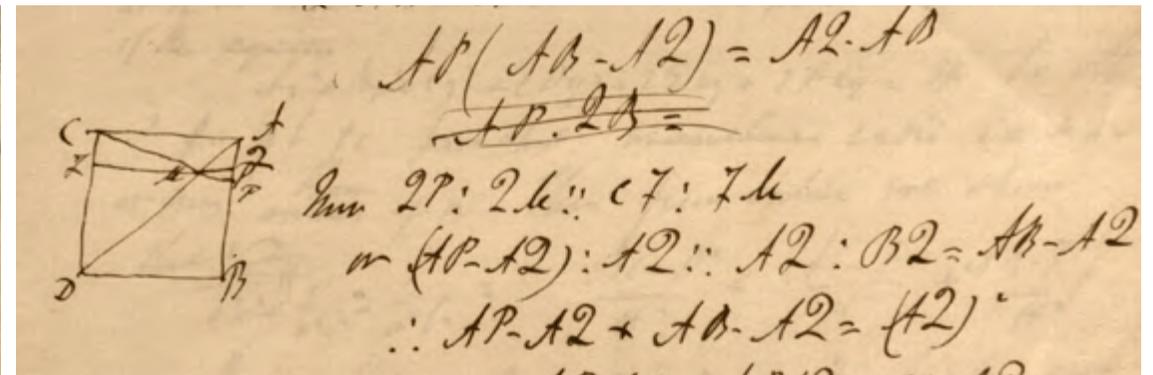
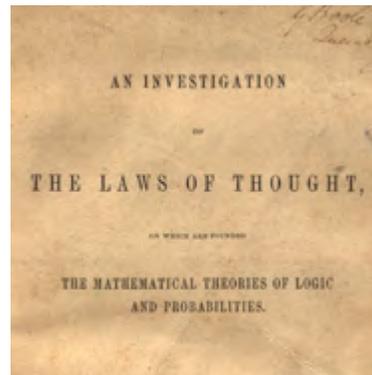
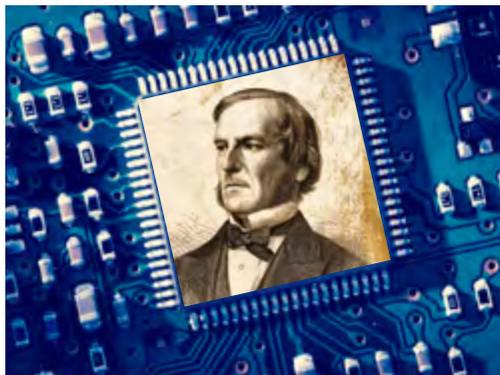
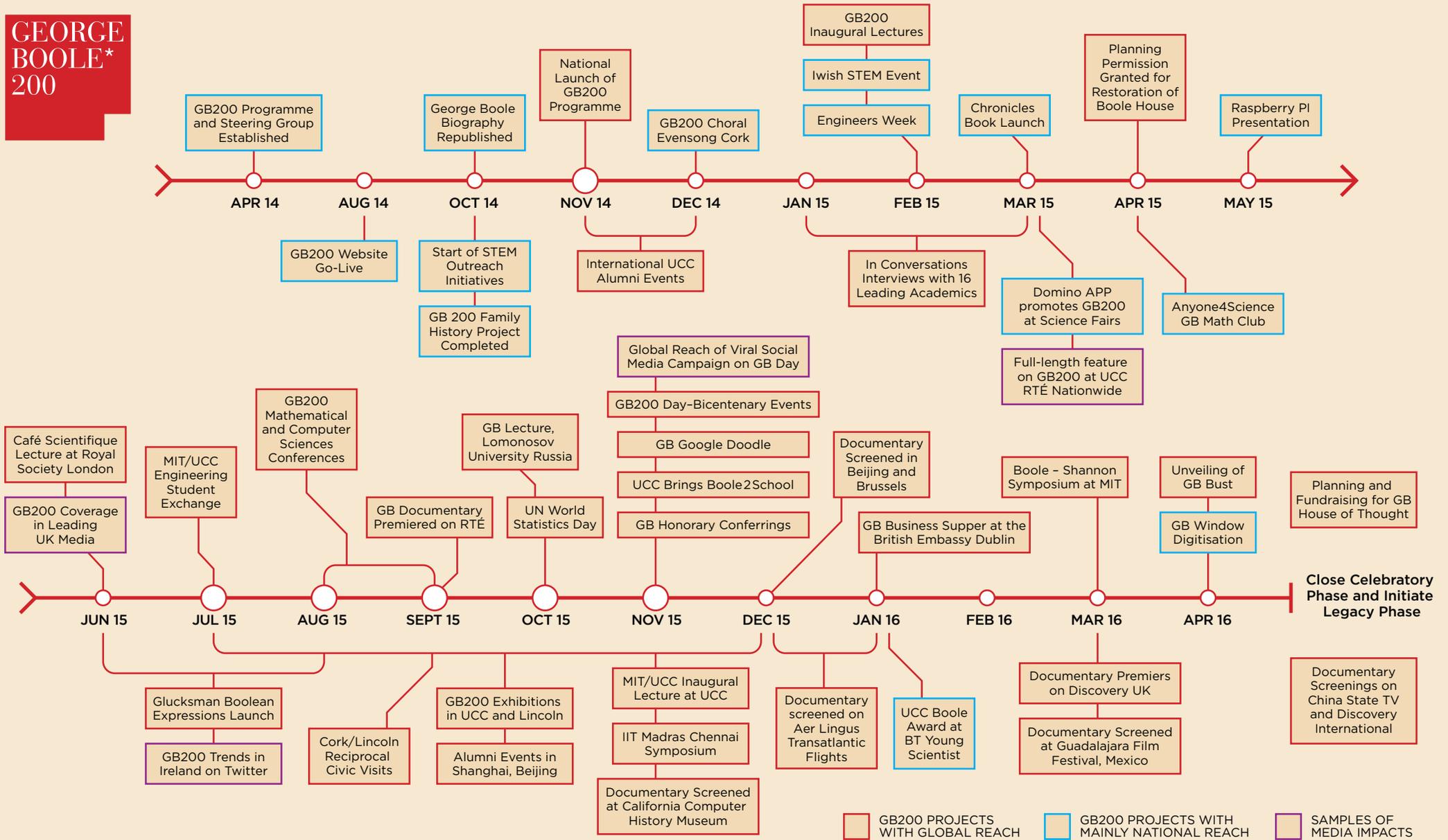
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GEORGE BOOLE* 200



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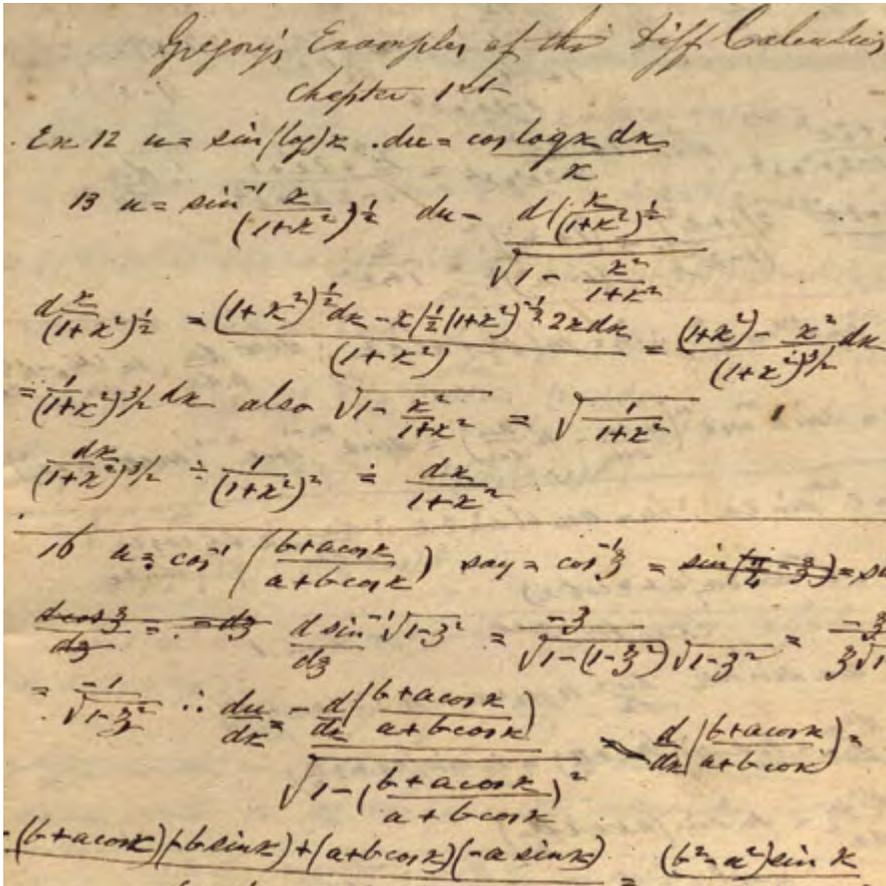
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George Boole 200 Programme Highlights

The George Boole 200 (GB200) Programme delivered over 40 projects and other associated events including: ten international events, five academic conferences, three leading exhibitions, over 30 public lectures and local events, as well as outreach initiatives and digital media campaigns.

The delivery of the GB200 Programme could not have been achieved without the enthusiastic commitment of UCC academic, administrative and technical staff, many of whom contributed substantially with their time and expertise, beyond their normal activities, including by sponsoring or leading projects, as well as many, many others who supported the events throughout the year.

The following highlights provide an insight into the breadth of activities elaborated by the GB 200 Programme.

'The Genius of George Boole' Documentary Film

Narrated by Oscar-winning actor Jeremy Irons and produced by multi award-winning Oxford Film and Television Co., with guidance from Oscar-winning film producer Lord David Puttnam, 'The Genius of George Boole' is a one-hour documentary film that explores the life of George Boole and the significance of his research, with interviews from a range of academic and industry leaders.

George Boole Google Doodle

The GB200 Programme and UCC received worldwide media attention on George Boole Day, 2 November 2015. Google created a Google Doodle to mark the celebration, which prompted over 26 million searches for George Boole and visits to the UCC George Boole website equivalent to a full year's traffic in one day. "George Boole" went viral and was the top Google search in 31 countries.

George Boole trended worldwide on Twitter, potentially reaching over 590 million people and establishing global recognition of UCC's connection to George Boole's legacy. Over 320 digital news stories internationally from Asia to North America covered George Boole, with a potential reach of 1 billion readers.

UCC Brings Boole2School

The 'UCC Brings Boole2School' outreach initiative took place on 2 November 2015 to mark the bicentenary of George Boole. This introduced Boolean mathematics using logic including puzzles and the computer games Minecraft and Candy Crush, to over 100,000 children aged 8 to 18, in 52 countries worldwide.

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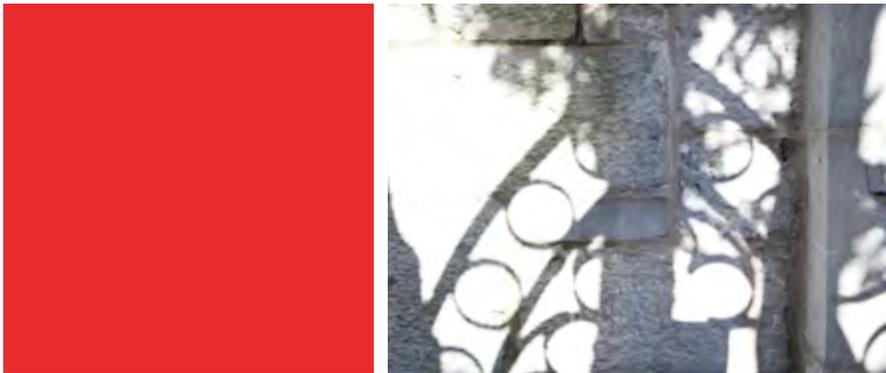
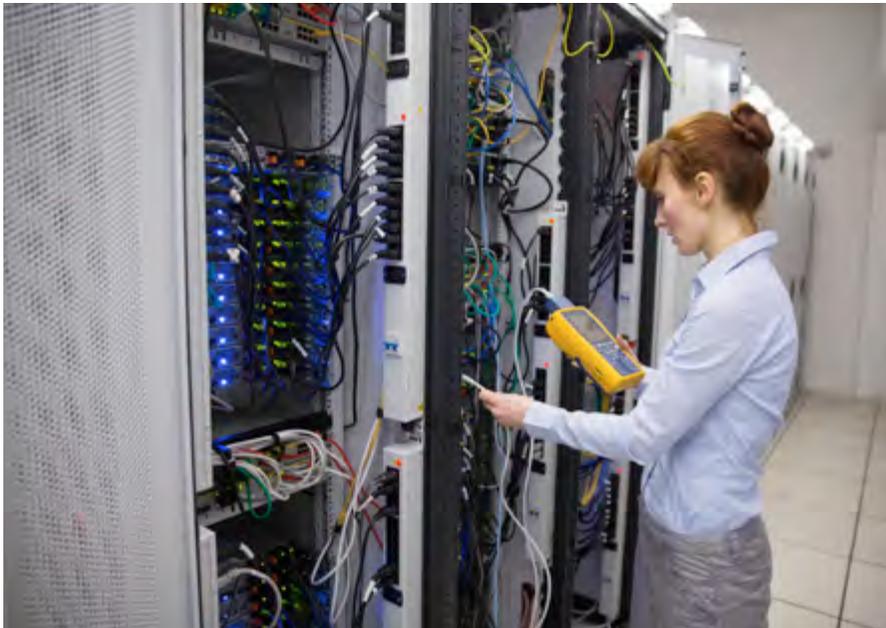
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George Boole Mathematical and Computer Sciences Conferences

UCC hosted five international conferences on computer science, mathematics, logic and electrical engineering. These included prestigious conferences, such as the 31st International Conference on Logic Programming (ICLP 2015), and the 21st International Conference on Principles and Practice of Constraint Programming (CP 2015), for which the proceedings have been published. The conferences attracted over 600 leading scientists from around the world.

World Statistics Day, October 20 2015 - The United Nations Honour George Boole

In June 2015, the United Nations General Assembly honoured George Boole's work by passing a resolution, introduced by Hungary and co-sponsored by Ireland to include a reference honouring Boole's legacy in mathematics, into the protocol establishing World Statistics Day on 20 October 2015. UCC President, Dr Michael Murphy was an invited guest speaker on the day and delivered a speech on George Boole to the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Celebration of George Boole at the All-Russian Science Festival

UCC President Dr Michael Murphy was invited by Lomonosov Moscow State University to deliver a lecture on George Boole's legacy at the annual All-Russian Science Festival in October 2015, an event which attracts over two million visitors. His lecture also highlighted the connections between UCC and George Boole's daughter, Ethel Lillian Boole-Voynich, author of "The Gadfly" which is a standard textbook in Russian schools, thus further engaging the Russian audience in George Boole's story and connection to UCC.

"In Conversations on George Boole, the Legacy Interviews"

"In Conversations on George Boole" presents a sequence of in-depth interviews with 16 eminent scientists, logicians and electrical engineers who have applied Boolean algebra to their work. The interviews create a unique record of George Boole's legacy to modern mathematics and technology, which will be available globally as both a teaching and learning archive and awareness raising tool.

MIT/UCC - Compute and Communicate Collaboration

The Compute and Communicate collaboration between UCC and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) celebrates the bicentenary of George Boole in 2015 and the centenary of Claude Shannon in 2016, highlighting the connections between their respective seminal contributions to mathematics, computer science and engineering.

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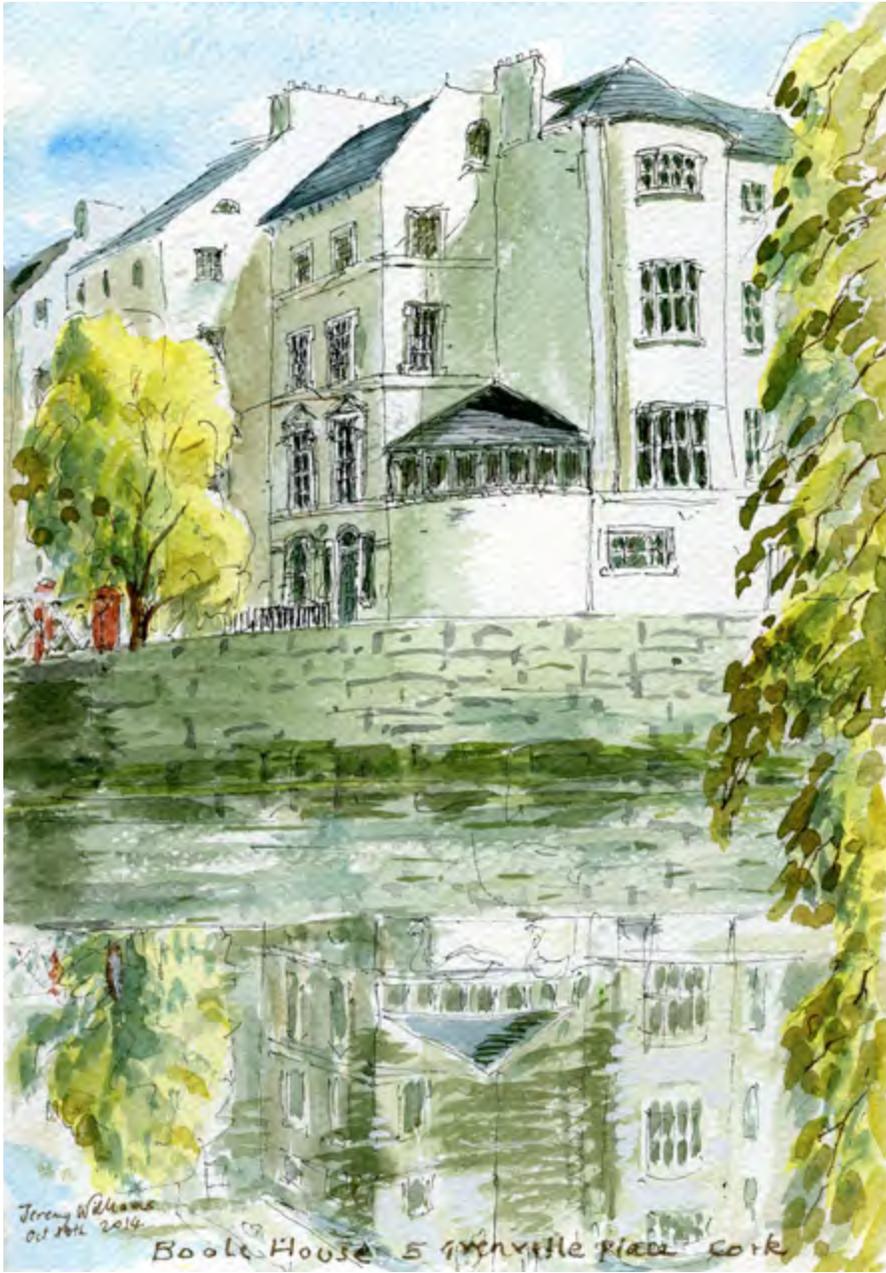
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The joint initiative was launched on George Boole Day, with an inaugural lecture by Professor Anant Agarwal (MIT, EdX) as part of the lecture series in UCC and MIT. Events in 2016 include a Boole - Shannon Symposium hosted in MIT on 18 March 2016 and a year-long lecture series at MIT on the theme of Compute and Communicate, as well as student exchanges between MIT and UCC.

Restoration of 5 Grenville Place as the 'Boole House of Thought'

In partnership with Cork City Council, UCC has initiated the restoration of No. 5 Grenville Place, a Georgian house on Cork's North Mall where George Boole lived when he wrote his seminal work, "An Investigation into the Laws of Thought". This restored heritage site will provide a tangible connection to George Boole's life at UCC and his legacy in the digital age. In 2016 UCC plans to convene together key thought leaders and philanthropists to develop and refine the concept for the "Boole House of Thought".

The George Boole Bust

The George Boole Commemorative Bust is a permanent artistic representation of George Boole within the iconic Quadrangle of the UCC campus, facing the Boole Library. The George Boole Bust commemorates the bicentenary of the birth of George Boole and highlights the importance of George Boole and his legacy in the history and development of UCC.

Boolean Expressions Exhibition: Art and Mathematical Data" - Lewis Glucksman Gallery

The Boolean Expressions exhibition examined themes relevant to the legacy of George Boole and explored the ways in which artists use mathematical ideas in their work. The exhibition, opened by Lord Puttnam in July 2015, engaged the public in discourse on the influence of mathematics on art, and demonstrated how UCC makes the history of science relevant in today's world.

George Boole Legacy Projects

UCC will continue to celebrate its lasting connection to George Boole. The George Boole legacy will continue to be recognised annually as UCC's Honorary Conferring ceremony will be held every year on 2 November, George Boole Day.

Find out more about George Boole 200 legacy projects and the Boole House of Thought at georgeboole.com

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Academic Developments

Semesterisation 2014/15

UCC adopted a semester-based system for all programmes this year following an intensive period of planning and preparation which commenced in January 2013. Changes brought about by semesterisation included an earlier start date in September, the introduction of a formal examination period before the Christmas break and significant changes to the curriculum.

The transition to the new system was a major challenge for students and staff but has been generally positive for several university key performance indicators (KPIs). First-year student retention and progression rates improved, and formal withdrawals decreased. Overall, student examination performance is on par with 2013/14.

Monitoring of the effects of the semester-based system will continue, with some refinements and adjustments being introduced in the coming years. The university is also planning to develop suitable models of credit accumulation for UCC and to simplify marks and standards.



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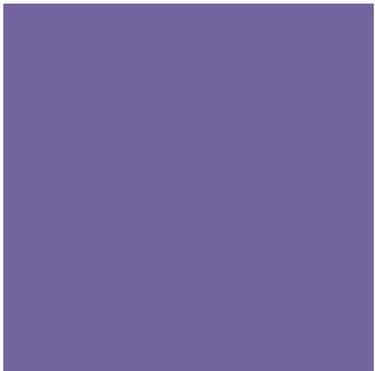
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Graduate Studies

Lisa Brett was appointed as UCC's first Postgraduate Recruitment and Support Officer. During 2014/15, Lisa led a successful project on search engine optimisation (SEO), which is now a model of best practice for the university and has significantly improved UCC's postgraduate social media presence. A postgraduate café to encourage networking among PhD students was also introduced.

An agreement was signed with one of the French grandes écoles, EFREI, formalising an arrangement where EFREI master's students take a one-year UCC master's programme in lieu of their second postgraduate year at home. These are fee-paying students and the Graduate Studies Office will continue to build relationships with grandes écoles in France to increase this type of partner for UCC postgraduate studies. Joint PhD agreements were established with Université du Littoral Côte D'Opale, University of Naples Federico II, and Montpellier SupAgro.

Admissions Office

6,648 placed UCC as their first preference on their college application for CAO 2015, representing an increase of 6% on CAO 2014 after the change of mind period closed. UCC continues to buck national downward trends in areas like Arts and the Humanities, and also continues to attract high-achieving Leaving Cert students.

Admissions Office recruitment activities included two campus-wide open days, welcoming more than 14,000 prospective students. The **Undergraduate Prospectus** was redesigned. Recruitment activities such as the online Q&A sessions were embedded into the recruitment cycle.

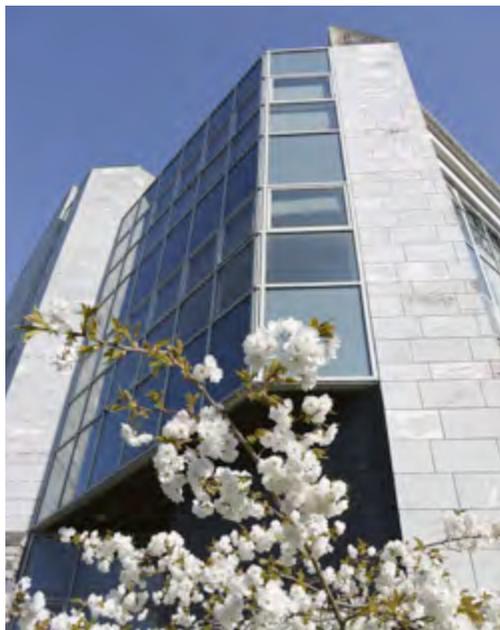
The Admissions Office continues to prioritise the first-year student experience, and activities in this area have contributed to an enhanced retention rate, which is now higher than average for the sector.

To view 2016 UCC Undergraduate Prospectus click

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Teaching and Learning

Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning – UCC’S Teaching and Learning Centre

The Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL) was established to combine the approaches of the National Academy for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (NAIRTL) with those of Ionad Bairre, the Teaching and Learning Centre at UCC.

The new centre will provide a range of staff development events and support the professional needs of staff to give students the very best learning experiences. The director of the centre is Dr Marian McCarthy and its manager is Dr Catherine O’Mahony, who was formerly manager of NAIRTL. Catherine will act as custodian of the NAIRTL archive and develop its potential as an international network.

2014/15 saw the retirement of Dr Bettie Higgs, senior lecturer in geology, co-director of Ionad Bairre and acting vice president for teaching and learning. Bettie made a huge contribution to the development of the centre and to the profile of teaching and learning and research nationally and internationally. We wish her well in her current role as vice president for the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSoTL) in Europe.

Accredited Programme in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

The online Postgraduate Programme in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education – the first fully online programme for university staff in the NUI constituency – was developed over the 2014/15 academic year and is now available for staff of UCC and other third-level institutions nationally and internationally. Details of the programme can be found at: www.ucc.ie/en/ckb02

Programme for Chinese Scholars at UCC

CIRTL’s Programme for Visiting Scholars welcomed 21 international scholars participating in programmes during the academic year and a further 10 scholars attending the inaugural summer school.

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Adult Continuing Education (ACE)

In 2014/15, ACE enrolled over 400 students in part-time, continuing education programmes (NFQ level 7-level 9) aimed at working professionals and accredited by a number of professional bodies including the Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH), Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) and Irish Institute of Training & Development (IITD).

Over 100 students from companies including Allianz Worldwide Care, DePuy Synthes, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals and the Barry Group also registered for part-time ACE enterprise engagement programmes (NFQ level 7/8), delivered to staff onsite within their organisation in an effort to up-skill and grow each organisation's talent base.

ACE once again led the university's response to the HEA's Springboard scheme for jobseekers for 2014/15 and succeeded in securing funding of approximately €500,000 to register almost 100 students across nine programmes (NFQ level 7-level 9).

Adult and Community Education

ACE extended its adult and community education offerings with a number of new programmes, outreach venues and partnerships with community bodies. For example, the Diploma in Autism Studies ran in Letterkenny, Waterford, Limerick, Killarney, Bantry and UCC. In March 2015, ACE launched a new Certificate in Mental Health in the Community in partnership with Mental Health Ireland. ACE also launched a Diploma in Leadership in the Community in a joint initiative with the Traveller Visibility Group and Community Action Network to facilitate greater engagement with students from the Traveller community, which is seriously under-represented at present.

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2014/15 Quercus Scholars at the Quercus Awards Gala, 26 November 2014

Summer Schools and Short Courses

The short course programme at ACE enjoyed another buoyant academic year with a total number of 914 students registered for the spring 2015 and autumn/winter 2015 programmes. With course topics, content and lecturing staff drawn from all the university colleges, the ACE short course programme maintained its position as the country's leading provider of short courses at this level. This year ACE also partnered with the Glucksman Gallery, joining the Crawford Art Gallery, Cork Arts Theatre, the City Libraries and Fota House and Gardens as stimulating, non-traditional sites for learning.

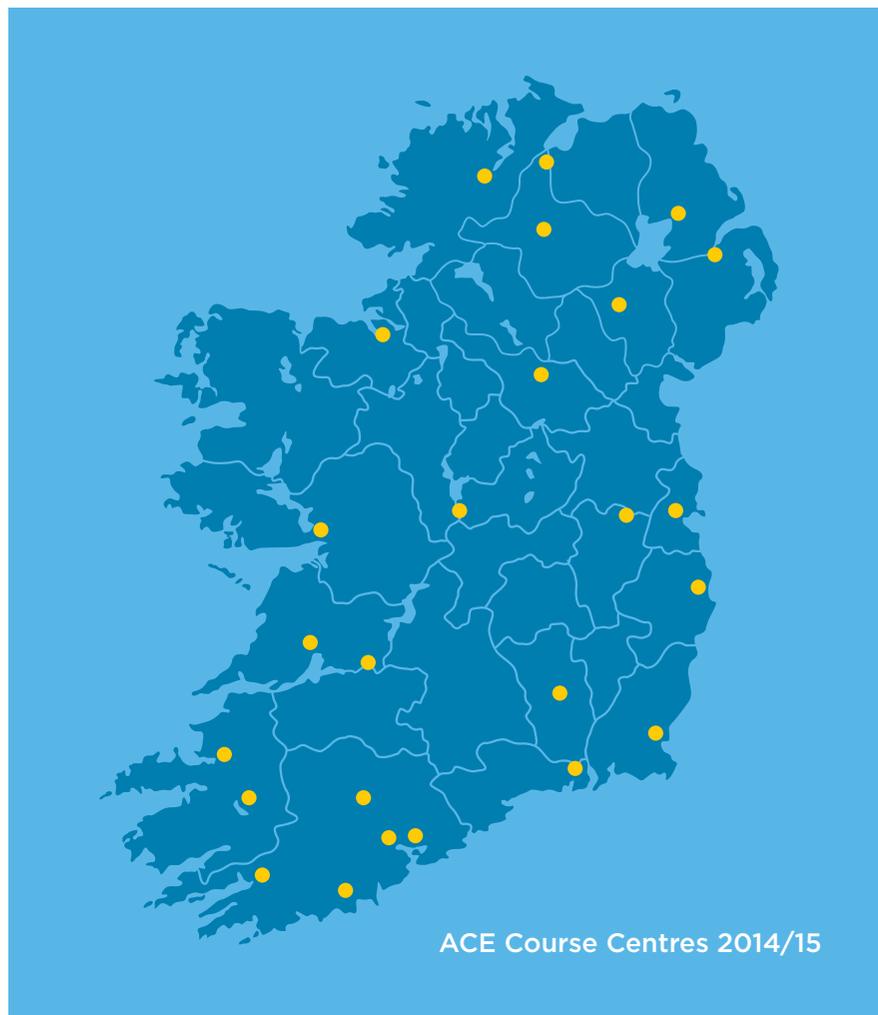
ACE National Presence

For 2014/15, 2,859 students were registered on 190 ACE part-time programmes at venues across the country.

Quercus Talented Students' Programme 2014/15

The programme supported 22 Quercus Scholars, 125 Quercus College Scholars and 62 Quercus Entrance Scholars. Quercus Scholars spoke and performed at a range of UCC events including the launch of George Boole 200, UCC Open Days, and the Department of Justice Irish Citizenship Ceremony.

The Quercus Awards Gala took place in November 2014 in the Aula Maxima, UCC. Throughout the year Quercus received much media exposure through the achievements of the individual scholars across all of the domains. A six-part Quercus Lecture Series began in January 2015.



ACE Course Centres 2014/15

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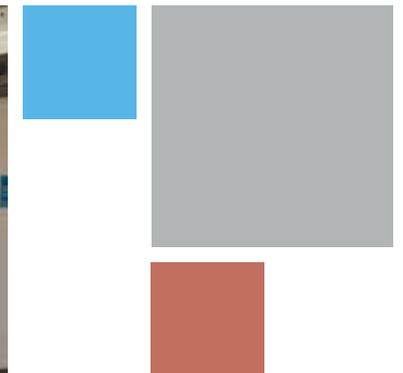
Student Life and The Student Experience

Student Experience Projects Office

A key recommendation of a quality review of the Student Experience area in 2014 was the establishment of a **Student Experience Projects Office**, which opened in February 2015. The office will support units under the Student Experience remit to facilitate a world-class student experience. A number of thematic and cross-service projects were identified which are designed to improve outcomes for students in a number of areas including: communicating the student experience; developing staff expertise; enhancing students' personal and professional development and technologically enhancing the student experience.

Student Hub

The Student Experience Office is leading a major university-wide project to design a campus-based Student Hub in the newly vacated Windle Building, UCC. The hub will include five linked 'zones': The Welcome Zone, Learning and Teaching, The Student Success Centre, The Employability Zone and The Student Life Zone. The project team are currently working closely with architects O'Donnell + Tuomey on the plans, which are to be submitted for planning permission in 2015/16.



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Contributing to Outreach and Transition into University

Disability Support Service (DSS)

In 2014/15, 1,102 students registered with the DSS, an increase of 7% on 2013/14. The number of first-time entrants with disabilities totalled 257, which surpassed the target of 5% set in the UCC Access Strategic Plan. The total number of DARE reduced points entrants for 2014/15 was 79.

DSS developed a holistic programme to support independent learning, wellbeing, academic success and employability of all students registered with the service. Training in the use of assistive technologies is central to the development and success of all service users.

The service is most appreciative of the support of the Foundation Office in securing ongoing funding for the development of support for students with disabilities.

Mature Student Programme

There was an intake of 358 full-time undergraduate mature students, bringing the total registered in the university in 2014/15 to 1,130.

90% of 2014/15 mature student graduates achieved honours degrees, with 32% achieving first-class honours.

UCC PLUS+ Programme

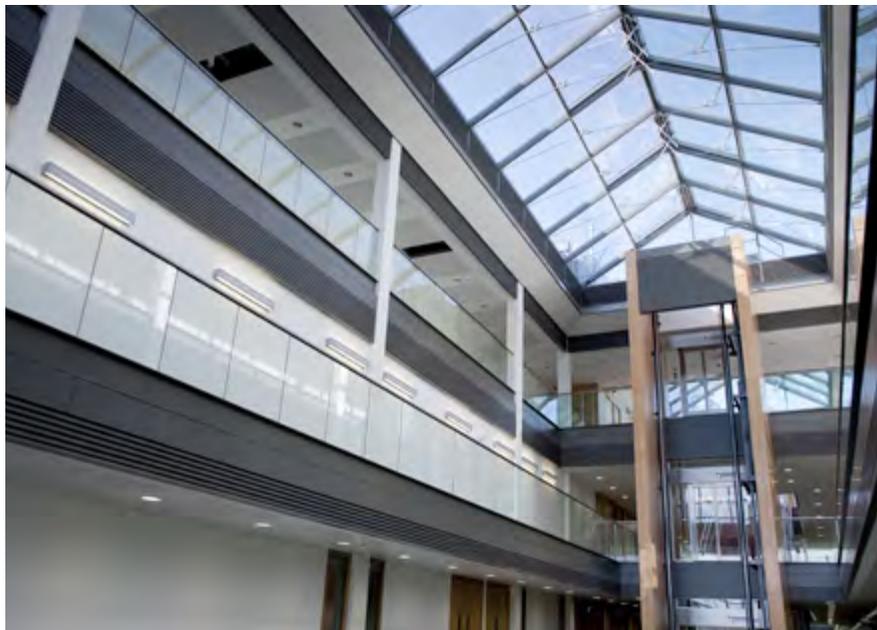
The intake in 2014/15 of 219 students under the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) represented almost 6% of the overall UCC student intake.

674 students received post-entry supports totalling more than €550,000. The funding for such bursaries comes from philanthropic support sourced by the Development Office, the Student Assistance Fund and the Honan Trust Fund.

962 students benefited from Student Assistance Funding (SAF); 702 of these students were from the general student population while a further 260 were UCC PLUS+ students. The average disbursement has fallen over the last number of years as the national allocation of SAF monies by the Higher Education Authority has decreased. The amounts are relatively modest and range from €200 to €800.

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Facilitating Engagement in Student Life

UCC Accommodation Service

The past 12 months have seen changes in the provision of accommodation services in UCC due to the continued reduction in available student accommodation and restructuring of the operational detail of the service. It is now a stand-alone service where previously it sat under the grouping of the Accommodation, Societies and Conferencing Office.

The appointment of a project officer in February 2015 saw a change in direction which resulted in an analysis and overhaul of all aspects of service. Recommendations made included: the acquisition of a new web-based platform Studentpad, a larger and more targeted placement of international students, and the introduction of a clear action plan which acknowledged the ongoing shortage of accommodation.

The purchase of 417 beds in Victoria Mills brought the number of UCC-owned beds to 1,230 (Victoria Mills 417; Victoria Lodge 335; Castlewhite Apartments 298 and University Hall 180).

Sport and Physical Activity

Alan Quirke, former Cork intercounty Gaelic football goalkeeper, took up the position of sports officer in January 2015.

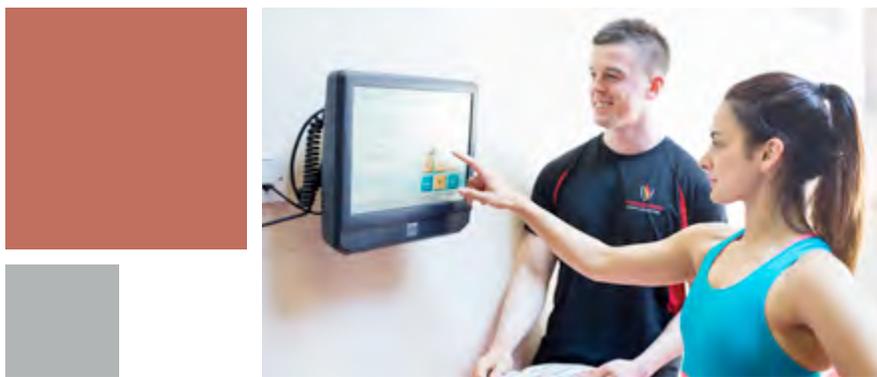
60 sports clubs were active on campus for the academic year, providing sport and physical activity at all levels to the students.

Work is progressing on the design plans for the 'New Farm', to enhance UCC's sports facilities in Curraheen in Bishopstown, with regular meetings between the Department of Sport and Physical Activity, the Office of Buildings and Estates and relevant authorities.

The department developed an app for use by the public, students, staff and clubs to promote sporting activities in UCC. You can download the app for your iOS or Android at sport.ucc.ie/download-our-app/

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The High Performance Athlete Entry Sports Scholarships (HPAE) were replaced by the Quercus Sports Scholarships. However, those awarded a HPAE in 2013/14 remain on this scholarship for the duration of their studies once they continue to perform at a high level in their sport. Seven students representing six sports were awarded Quercus Sports Scholarships for 2014/15.

UCC sports clubs were very successful throughout the year. In particular, UCC Soccer Club had a tremendous year in the three intervarsity competitions, winning the Collingwood, Crowley and Harding Cups. In addition, the senior team were beaten EA Sports Cup quarter-finalists. The team narrowly lost to current League of Ireland champions, Dundalk. They also competed in the FAI Intermediate Cup.

World Student Games

Ciara O'Connell, a Quercus sports scholar, represented UCC and Ireland in women's soccer at the World Student Games in Korea in July 2015.

Special Olympics

Colm Monahan (soccer), Sean Coleman (swimming) and Aoife O'Sullivan (gymnastics) represented Ireland in the Special Olympics in Los Angeles. Colm was a member of the Irish soccer squad. Sean won a silver medal in the 25m backstroke event. Aoife won three medals - one gold and two bronze - in gymnastics.

Annual Sports Star Awards

Adrian O'Sullivan	Basketball
Katrina Mackey	Camogie
Paul Geaney	Gaelic football
Roisin Phelan	Ladies Gaelic football
Jean O'Driscoll	Golf
Paul Kiernan	Rugby
Alison Miller	Women's rugby
Sean O'Mahony	Soccer
Jason Abbott	Soccer
Chris Mintern	Triathlon

Kieran Dowd Special Achievement Award: **Liam Corbett**, UCC Soccer Club

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At the annual Clubs and Societies Ball the following awards were presented:

CLUB OF THE YEAR:	Sailing
MOST IMPROVED CLUB OF THE YEAR:	Judo
TEAM OF THE YEAR:	Senior Soccer
CLUB PERSON OF THE YEAR:	Niamh O'Mahony - Rowing
FRESHER OF THE YEAR:	Lauren Mealy - Ladies hockey
WEBSITE OF THE YEAR:	Cricket
COMPETITIVE EVENT OF THE YEAR:	Equestrian intervarsities
NON COMPETITIVE EVENT OF THE YEAR:	UCC Goes Dancing
<i>BENE MERENTI:</i>	Niamh O'Mahony - Rowing Alison Murphy - Dance Annie Walsh - Ladies soccer Emma Geary - Sailing Finbarr Nyhan - Gaelic football Kayrin Ong - Table tennis Niamh O'Neill - Ladies hockey

Granary Theatre

The Granary Theatre co-produced over 50 public events in 2014/15. Over 5,000 students, staff and the wider community attended productions in the theatre, with more than 300 students participating in activities as performers, directors and writers, in production and technical areas and in the box office. The Granary produced a New Directors Festival in September, where it supported four new stage directors in their first professional productions and recruited 10 student performers as part of the UCC Works Programme in the new 'Performance Initiative'.

Student Societies

1,085 students held committee positions in UCC's 107 student-led societies. Student societies ran an average of 45 events per week, which contributed to a vibrant and thriving campus.

In 2014/15 over €170,000 was raised for national and international charities. UCC Societies also continued their work in outreach programmes to enrich the experience of the wider community through engagement programmes such as schools mentoring, homework clubs, Traveller literacy, schools debating, and art classes for people with intellectual disabilities. UCC Societies are committed to enhancing the student experience for all UCC students.

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Supporting Student Health and Wellbeing

Health Promoting University

UCC was officially recognised as a Health Promoting University by the HSE, the first university in Ireland to be awarded this accolade, in February 2015. This important milestone recognises UCC's commitment to supporting the health and wellbeing of its students and staff and is the culmination of a four-year project by the UCC Health Matters team.

Student Health

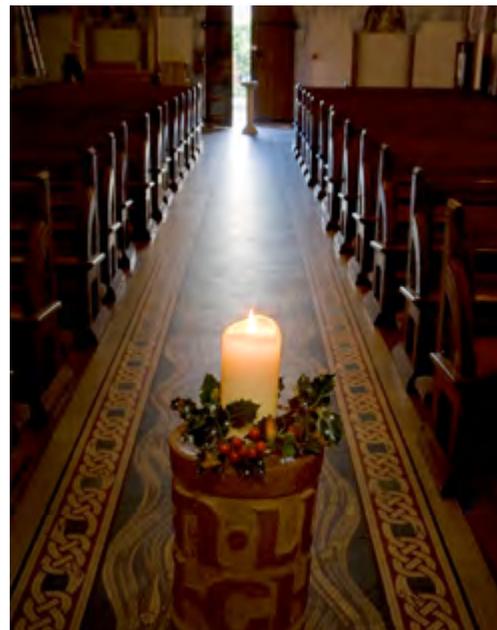
More than 23,000 appointments were offered by the Student Health Department in 2014/15, with services including: female health and contraception, mental health and consultant psychiatry services, travel vaccinations, course-related health screening and a new sports injury treatment service. The new International Charter for Health Promoting Universities was signed on behalf of UCC at a ceremony in Kelowna, British Columbia in June 2015.

Student Counselling and Development

1,200 students used the service for individual counselling. A survey of students attending for counselling showed that 88% found counselling to be effective/very effective and that 81% of students who were considering leaving university found counselling to be important/very important in their decision to remain in UCC. 180 staff members attended various workshops given by the service.

Chaplaincy

The Chaplaincy provided pastoral and spiritual support to UCC students, staff, alumni and retired staff. Based in Iona House, on College Road, a ready-made welcoming community for all is to be found - a home away from home. The Chaplaincy offered many services and events throughout the year.



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Supporting Transition to Work and Further Study

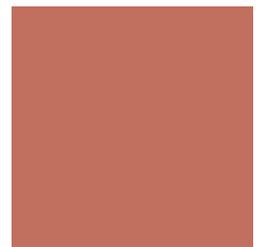
Student Development and Employability

Paul Moriarty was appointed director of Student Development and Employability in August 2015.

The key results of the 2014 UCC graduate destinations survey were:

- 92% of all UCC graduates were in employment or further study;
- 94% of undergraduate degree recipients were in employment or further study;
- 89% of postgraduate degree and higher diploma graduates were in employment or further study;
- 95% of all graduates in employment were working in Ireland and the UK.

The seeking employment rate for undergraduates fell to below 5%, the lowest level since 2007. Postgraduates seeking employment has fallen to a new low of 9%.



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Research and Innovation

UCC is an internationally competitive, globally focused institution with internationally recognised research activity in science, food, engineering, medicine, business, law, social sciences and the humanities. UCC is ranked in the top 2% of universities worldwide based on the quality of its research outputs and peer esteem indicators.

Focusing on 2014/15, key indicators of research performance remain on a positive trajectory. UCC continues to be one of the best-funded research universities in Ireland with an R&D investment exceeding €90m, a 15% (€11.5m) increase over the last five years despite a challenging economic environment (Figure 1).

Reflecting the pressures on government funding, €26.4m (29%) of 2014/15 research income was generated from non-Exchequer sources. This represents a 48% increase over the same five-year period, and was primarily driven by a 78% increase in funding from EU programmes (to €14.8m) and 22% increase in funding from industrial sources (to €6.2m) (Figures 2 & 3). New award income secured from non-Exchequer sources increased dramatically in 2014/15 (Figures 2 & 3).

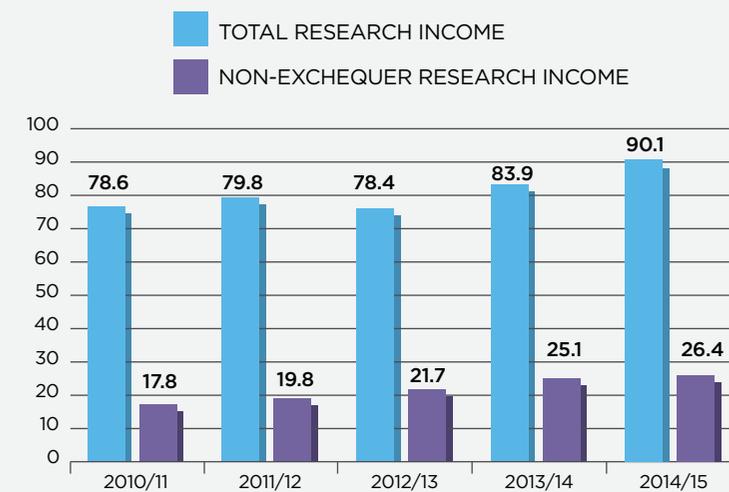


Figure 1: Overall Research Income (Expenditure): 5-Year Profile (€/million)

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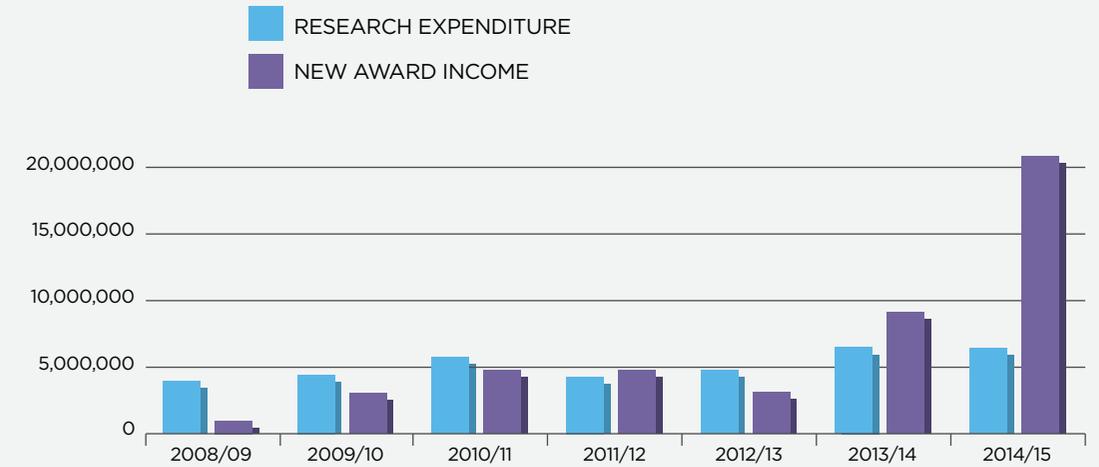


Figure 2: Industry Research Income: New Award Income & Expenditure (€)

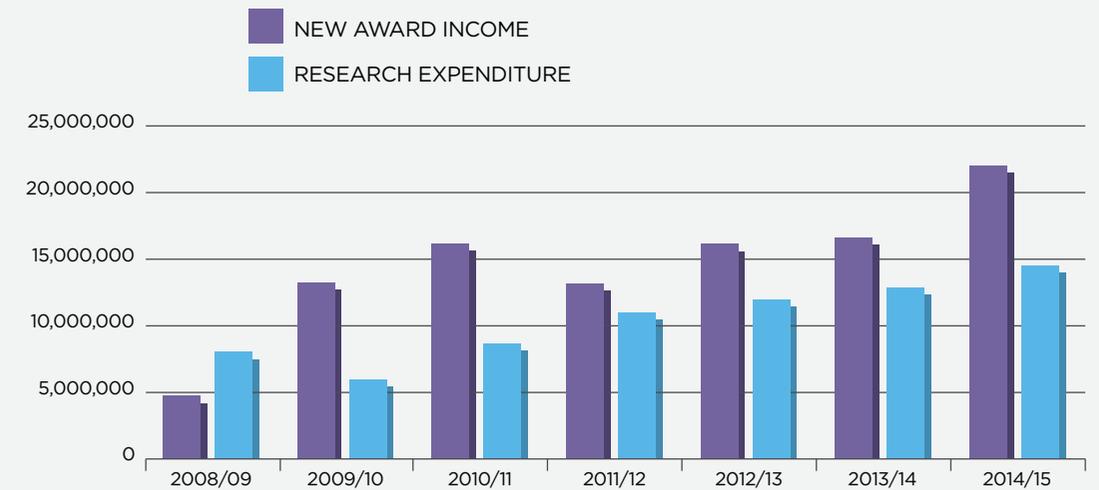


Figure 3: EU Research Income: New Award Income & Expenditure (€)

Research Outputs

Analysis of one of the key research outputs – peer-reviewed research publications – reveals significant growth over the last 10 years. The number of publications, the number of citations to these publications, and the average number of citations per individual publication (a standard measure of bibliometric impact) all demonstrate a positive growth trajectory in recent years (Figures 4(a)-(c)). This positive growth aligns closely with the significant investment in UCC research activity over the same period.

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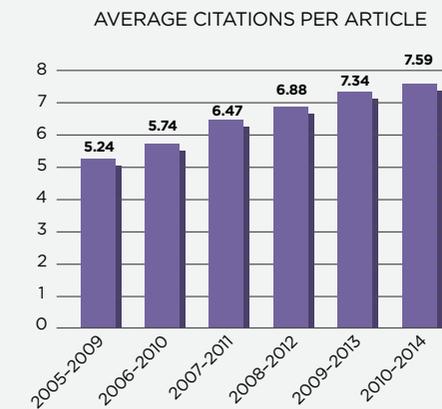
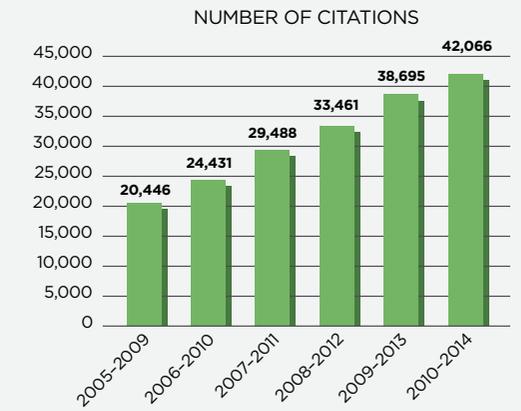
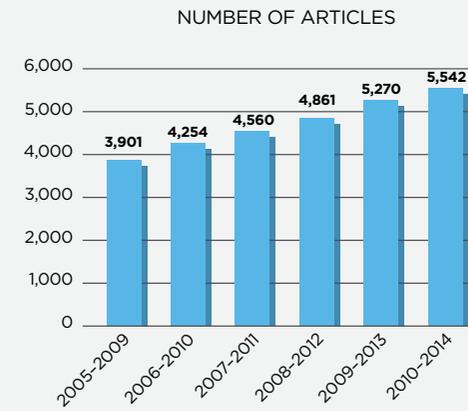


Figure 4: Publication Analysis (Cumulative 5-year intervals):

- A. Number of Articles**
- B. Number of Citations**
- C. Average Citations per Article**

Source: Thomson Reuters Essential Science Indicators (ESI): Cumulative 5-year intervals
*As of September 2015

Further analysis of the impact of UCC research publication outputs, as assessed via a number of different university ranking exercises, reveals a similar theme – a significant increase in the impact of UCC publications as measured by their citation frequency (i.e. the number of times a publication is cited by other researchers in the field).

For example, in the recently published CWTS Leiden Ranking Exercise (2015), which ranks 750 universities worldwide focusing on the top 1% most frequently cited publications, UCC was recognised as one of the leading universities worldwide for research. UCC topped the ranking in Ireland, and now holds the 16th position in Europe and 52nd worldwide.

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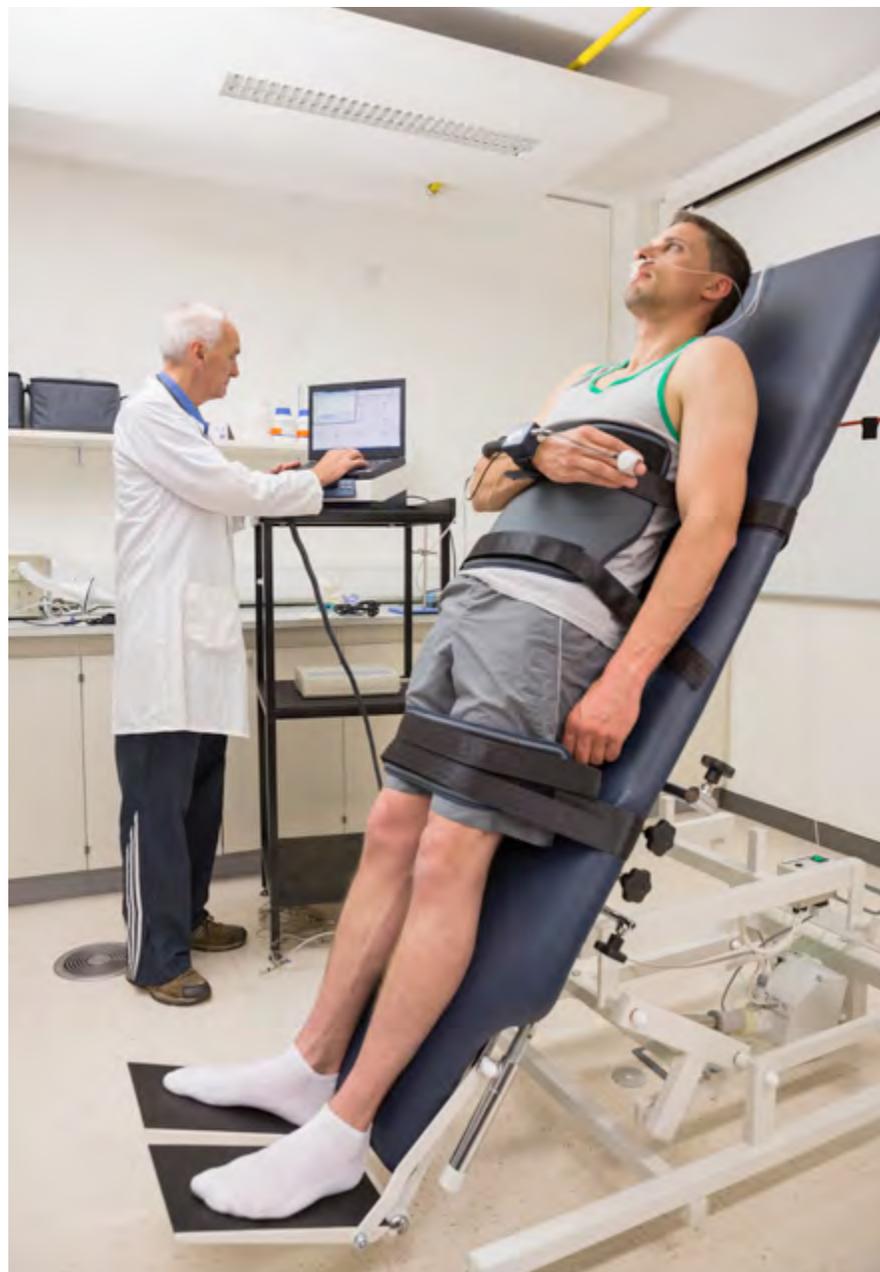
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This excellent outcome is consistent with recent performances in other university-ranking exercises:

- In the U-Multirank Exercise (2015), which surveyed 1,200 higher education institutions from 83 countries, UCC was the top-performing university internationally, based on obtaining the highest number of 'A' scores – 21 out of 28.
- In the QS World University Rankings by Subject (2015), UCC featured in the top tier globally for 13 subject areas, with Pharmacy & Pharmacology listed in the top 50 worldwide.
- In The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2015, UCC was ranked number 1 in the 'Research Income per Academic' category for the 5th year running (Table 1). The guide also noted that the number of research awards secured by UCC researchers had risen by 43%, returning to similar levels achieved prior to the economic downturn.

Table 1: Research Income/FTE Analysis (2014/15)

HEI	Research Income/ Academic FTE (€)
UCC	121,736
TCD	114,328
DCU	101,838
UCD	96,826
NUIG	89,665
UL	82,263
NUIM	76,548

Source: Sunday Times Good University Guide 2016 (4 October 2015)

Looking to the future, UCC researchers now collaborate with over 700 of the world's top universities across 120 countries and are ideally placed to leverage these collaborations for success in future exchequer and non-exchequer funding programmes.



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Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 is the current EU framework programme for research and innovation. Launched in December 2013, this €80 billion programme represents a major opportunity for UCC across all disciplines of research. At a national level, the Government has set an ambitious financial drawdown target for the programme of €1.25 billion.

To address these challenges, and to ensure that UCC was positioned appropriately to maximise success, UCC Research Support Services developed the Horizon 2020 Action Plan that set out a strategy to augment and improve existing research supports and develop and implement new targeted supports, with the ambition of providing our researchers with a significant competitive advantage in Horizon 2020.

As of September 2015, UCC researchers had secured 48 Horizon 2020 awards (13 as coordinator and 35 as partner) from an overall total of 368 applications submitted to the Commission. Awards secured to date equate to 21% of UCC's institutional target for the Horizon 2020 programme - €110.3m over the seven years of the programme.

UCC is ranked second in Ireland for both the number of successful participations and financial drawdown, marginally behind NUIG on both metrics. In the wider EU context, for the first time, four Irish universities, including UCC, are ranked in the top 50 performing institutions with regard to financial drawdown from Horizon 2020 programmes.

Innovation

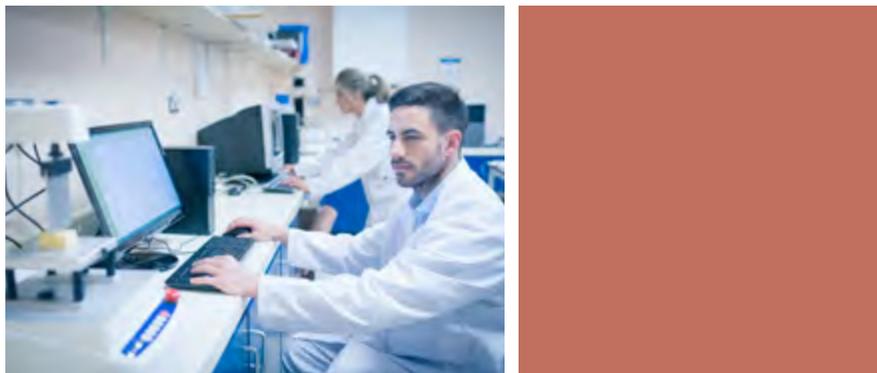
In 2014/15, UCC continued to have strong innovation and knowledge transfer activity across the university. UCC is committed to working with industry as an important partner and contributor as part of our overall research effort. This year UCC established over 120 new research projects fully or part-funded by industry, ranging in scale from €5,000 Innovation Vouchers in collaboration with local enterprises to multi-million, multi-annual collaborative programmes with indigenous and multinational companies. The overall value of the industry contributions alone from these projects exceeds €20 million. A consequence of this industry partnership focus is a continued high level of technology transfer to industry, with 20 agreements between UCC and industry to provide these businesses with the benefit of our intellectual property.

UCC has a track record of establishing spinout companies to capture the economic potential of the university's intellectual property and expertise. In the previous five years, ten companies have been established specifically based on UCC technologies. This year we established another three companies: Respiro R&D Limited, arising from technology developed in the School of Medicine; Exceedence Limited, which is commercialising software based on work from the Hydraulics and Maritime Research Centre; and BARDS Acoustic Science Labs Limited, which is being established based on technology from the Department of Chemistry.

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IGNITE

IGNITE is a 9-month programme that supports recent graduates from any third-level institution in Ireland to turn an innovative product or service idea into a sustainable, scalable business. The programme combines workshops, seminars and guest speakers, and the support of mentors and industry contacts, with office space and early seed funding, tailored to the specific needs of each start-up.

To date, the programme has supported 50 start-ups involving almost 70 founders. 11 start-ups have progressed to become clients of Enterprise Ireland and many have successfully raised private investment, among them Anabio Technologies Ltd, Vconnecta Ltd and PunditArena. Total employment across the start-ups now exceeds 100 and continues to grow.

The programme is funded by Cork City Council, Cork County Council, the Local Enterprise Offices of Cork City and County, Bank of Ireland and University College Cork.

GATEWAY UCC

GATEWAY UCC is UCC's flagship 21-unit business incubator. It supports entrepreneurship in the region and provides entrepreneurs and knowledge-based start-up companies with a comprehensive business support programme and access to UCC's research expertise.

GATEWAY UCC provides an environment and ecosystem to support entrepreneurs and researchers to start up and scale their businesses into commercially viable export-focussed high potential start-ups. The impact of these jobs to the region is estimated at €13m in wages and €4m in tax revenue per annum to the economy.

It has supported 30 fledgling start-up companies including spinouts using IP generated in globally recognised research centres such as INFANT, APC and Tyndall. These companies have gone on to create 180 jobs.

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Internationalisation

Internationalisation continues to expand, guided by the *UCC Strategic Plan 2013-2017*. During the academic year 2014/15 international enrolment at UCC reached 15.4%, on track to reach 17% by the end of 2017. In spite of significant tuition increases for non-EU students, UCC received more than 3,000 applications (all categories) from more than 90 nations.

The composition of non-EU students for 2014/15 was: 169 undergraduates, 181 postgraduates, 781 non-EU visiting, 733 Erasmus+ and EU visiting.

The International Office (IO) has implemented a three-pronged strategy to increase UCC's global ambitions:

- Expanding penetration in existing major markets (USA, China, India, Brazil and Malaysia)
- Cultivating selected new markets (Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Thailand and Nigeria)
- Building global brand awareness and encouraging applications from minor markets.

The International Office has made considerable progress in unifying as a single unit and creating a structure that enables easy transition through the cycle of market development, recruitment, application, enrolment, orientation, and non-EU student support.

Field offices in Delhi, New York and Shanghai are fully operational and have begun to produce results. Regional Working Groups continue to support development of major markets. UCC also participated in recruitment fairs in India, China, the USA, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines and Brazil.

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The International Office has contributed to the development of the University Relationship Management (URM). The software is scheduled for implementation in autumn 2015. This system is expected to further integrate the process of recruiting-application-admission. In addition, a new online module registration system for non-EU visiting Erasmus+ students has been developed with major input from IO admissions staff.

Beyond international recruiting, the International Office continues to identify and develop new institutional partnerships with highly ranked universities, and to engage foreign governments to participate in training and funding schemes.

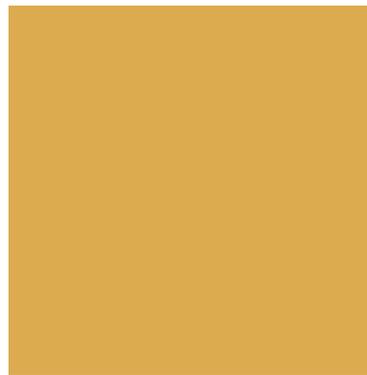
Highlights of the year include:

- Formal inclusion in the Vietnamese VIED scholarship programme
- Increased participation in Erasmus+ and derivative programmes
- Increased involvement with the Brazilian Science Without Borders programme
- Engagement (MoU signed or imminent) with top-ranked Chinese universities Dalian University of Technology, Zhejiang University, and Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- MoUs signed with: UMass Lowell (USA), University of Kentucky (USA), College of Charleston (USA), Kindai University (Japan), Okayama University (Japan), King Mongkut University of Technology (Thailand), UCSI (Malaysia), FTP University (Vietnam), Yonsei University (Korea)
- In principle agreement with King Saud University (Saudi Arabia) to build a pathway to UCC for government-sponsored PG students
- Renewal of MoU with Nigerian Universities Commission.

Overall, 2014/15 was a year of transition and foundation-building for future successes. Led by the International Office, UCC has strategies, structures, staff and processes in place to continue to compete in many aspects of institutional internationalisation.

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Capital Development

The university's capital programme with active projects valued at over €150m continued during 2014/15.

Beaufort Building

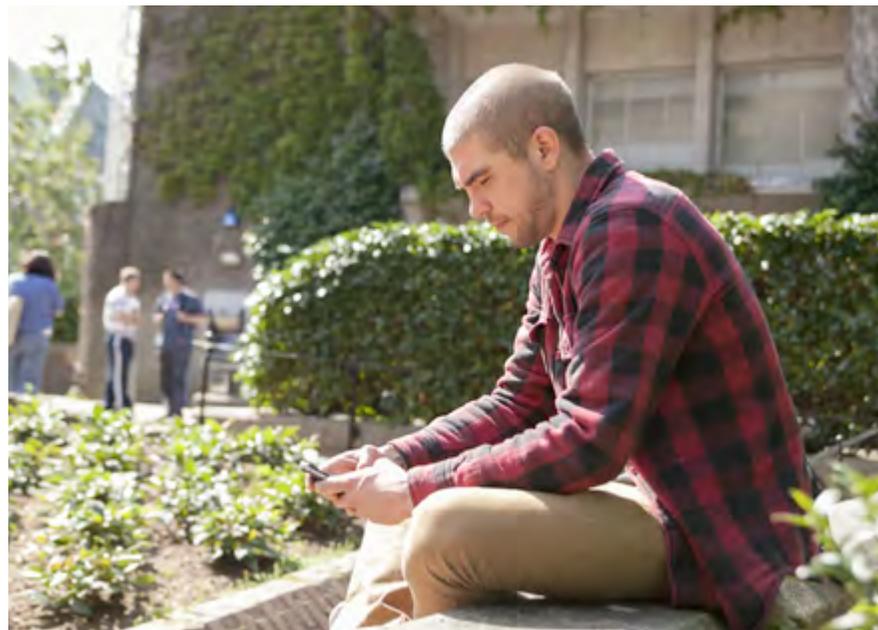
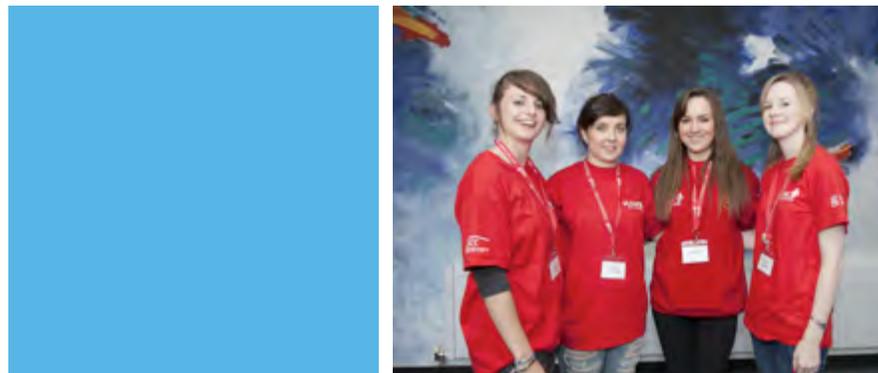
A major highlight this year was the successful completion of the €11.5m Beaufort Building in Ringaskiddy. The building will house UCC's National Ocean Testing Facility and up to 125 researchers, including the Hydraulics and Maritime Research Centre, Coastal Marine and Resource Centre and the Sustainable Energy Research Group. The SFI-funded MarEi project will also be based in the Beaufort. The Beaufort is an integrated part of the Irish Marine and Energy Research Cluster (IMERC) campus, a collaboration between UCC, Cork Institute of Technology and the Irish Naval Services. The site was provided by the IDA following a land swap with Port of Cork. A master plan for the future development of the IMERC campus on lands adjacent to Beaufort was also completed and infrastructure to support the future development put in place. An Taoiseach opened the Beaufort building on 11 July 2014.

Western Gateway Building

The final phase of the €110m Western Gateway Building went under construction during 2014/15. Work on the fit-out of the final phase of the upper floor commenced on site in late 2014 and will be completed in early 2016. The project includes biosciences research laboratories and associated facilities funded through PRTL15. Additional office accommodation on the fourth floor is also incorporated in the project.

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ASSERT

Construction also commenced this year on the ASSERT project in the Brookfield Health Sciences complex. This €6m project provides a suite of medical simulation laboratories for undergraduate, postgraduate and CPD training. The project will be completed in autumn 2015.

Student Hub

UCC has ambitious plans to develop and extend the vacated Windle Building for a new Student Hub project. The project will bring together many student services to provide an integrated facility to support the student journey through UCC and beyond. It will also incorporate new innovative learning spaces. A design team led by Architects O'Donnell + Tuomey commenced on 15 December 2014 and it is hoped to apply for planning approval by the end of 2015.

Cork Science and Innovation Park

UCC plays a lead role in the proposed development of the Cork Science and Innovation Park (CSAIP) at Curraheen. The CSAIP offers an opportunity for the region to grow knowledge-based employment through the communication of research, high-potential start-ups and grow-on facilities through to full high-end manufacturing.

A framework master plan for the Park, prepared by Cork County Council, was adopted by an advisory board made up of all the key institutional players. UCC has prepared a precinct master plan, and a design team for the initial incubation and innovation building has been appointed. The design of the first building is nearing completion and planning will be submitted in November 2015. The project offers significant job creation and economic development for the region.

The university also plans to develop a new centre of excellence for sport at the lands recently acquired at Curraheen. A design team to prepare a feasibility study was appointed in 2014 and the feasibility report will be completed in early 2016. This project will allow UCC to vacate the new sports facilities to assist the phased development of CSAIP.

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Student Accommodation

The development of purpose-built student accommodation close to the campus is an objective for the university. It is essential that an adequate supply of accommodation is available to support the needs of undergraduates and the growing international cohort of students. We continue to seek appropriate development/acquisition opportunities. UCC reached agreement on the acquisition of 418 beds at Victoria Mills this year and a number of other opportunities are being explored. We also completed a major €3m upgrade of Victoria Lodge in 2014.

Ongoing Projects

UCC is working in conjunction with the HSE on a number of health-related projects (e.g. Paediatrics at CUH) and on other clinical training sites to improve student facilities.

Planning approval has been secured for a new pedestrian bridge at Perrott's Inch as part of the university's privately funded environmental plan. It is anticipated that construction will start in 2016.

A long-term annual programme is required to address the issue of backlog maintenance of the older buildings in the university estate. We will continue to pursue the necessary funding for this programme.

We were also successful in achieving support for a number of energy improvement projects through the SEAI's Better Energy Workplaces scheme. UCC remains on target to achieve our Public Sector 2020 Energy Reduction of 33%. Replacement of the district heating system under an Energy Performance Contract is proposed and the tender process has commenced.

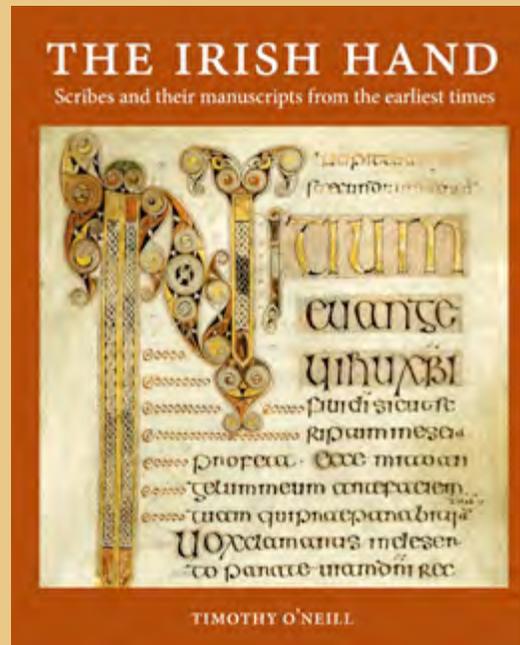
Flood mitigation works in response to the Lee Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management process are also progressing in vulnerable parts of campus in conjunction with our insurers.

The support of Cork University Foundation for the university's physical development plan is crucial to our capital programme. UCC has a relatively small land bank compared to other Irish universities. This creates significant pressure in accommodating the future development needs of the university. UCC continues to work with both the HEA and the local authorities to ensure the university is well positioned to meet its future development needs in a sustainable way.



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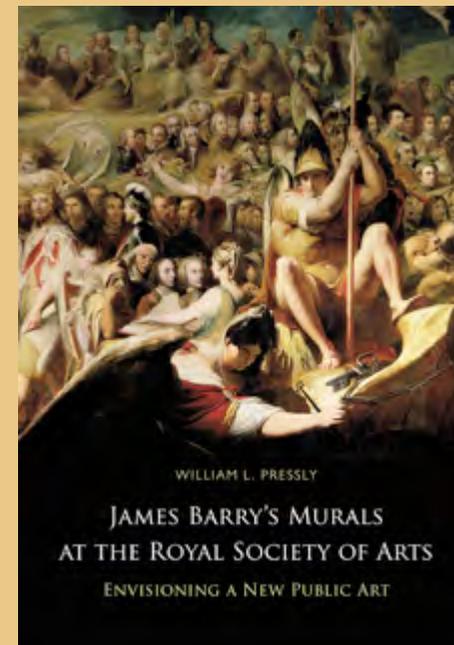
Cork University Press



The Irish Hand: Scribes and their Manuscripts from the Earliest Times, by Timothy O'Neill

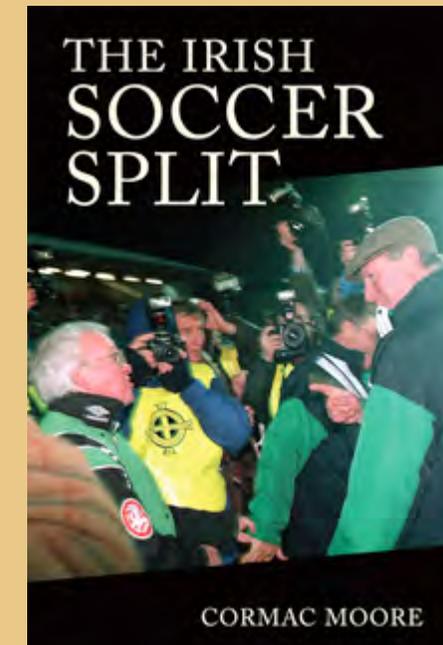
This is a revised and expanded edition of what has long been regarded as the standard work on Irish manuscripts. The new book incorporates high-quality digital images of the works of Irish scribes through the centuries. The extraordinary stories of the survival of these volumes provide a commentary on the cultural history of Ireland, its language, scholars and scribes.

Listed in *The Irish Times* top 10 books of 2014.



James Barry's Murals at the Royal Society of Arts: Envisioning a New Public Art, by William L. Pressly

Between 1777 and 1784, the Irish artist James Barry (1741-1806) executed six murals for the Great Room of the Royal Society of Arts in London. Although his works form the most impressive series of history paintings in Great Britain, they remain one of the British art world's best-kept secrets, having attracted little attention from critics or the general public.



The Irish Soccer Split, by Cormac Moore

Making use of extensive primary sources from the IFA, FAI, the English FA and the Leinster Football Association as well as contemporary newspaper sources, *The Irish Soccer Split* details the events and causes that led to the split in soccer in Ireland. It compares soccer to other sports that remained or became united after partition. *The Irish Soccer Split* recounts the early years of the FAI and its attempts to gain international recognition. Many efforts were made to heal the division throughout the 1920s and the early 1930s. Efforts were renewed during the Troubles in the 1970s and 1980s to bring about an all-Ireland international team. Some came very close, all ultimately failed, leaving soccer in Ireland today, as it is politically, divided North and South.

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Finance

Overview

The continuing deterioration in public finances resulted in a further reduction in Exchequer funding to the university, with a reduction of 7.4% per cent in core funding from the previous year to €35.1m. Since 2008, the core grant has fallen by €47m.

Greater focus was once again put on the generation of non-Exchequer sources of income to compensate, particularly non-EU students and postgraduate student recruitment. However, while successful in these activities and ongoing commercial activity, the scale of the reduction in Exchequer funding was not compensated fully by growth in other non-Exchequer sources of income.

Capital Development

While the deterioration in overall public finances has seen a reduction in teaching-related Exchequer-funded development over recent years, only projects supported by previously approved PRTL15 research funding and the university's own resources were developed during 2015. These include the Beaufort development as well as acquisition of additional student accommodation to facilitate the growing internal demand for places at UCC.

The university, with support from industry, completed the development of the ASSERT centre in the College of Medicine and Health. Given the lack of State infrastructural support for the sector, the university has finalised a borrowing facility with EIB to support the growing needs of the university over the next five years.



Research

Continuing the trend of recent years, research income increased by just over €46m to €90m in 2015. Research income now represents almost 33% of UCC's total income.

The significant growth in research funding takes place in an environment which is increasingly competitive and where the availability of national funding has been reduced in recent years. UCC has been highly successful in repositioning its sources of research funding away from national funders to the EU and industry.

We continue to be grateful for the support offered by the programmes sponsored by Science Foundation Ireland, the Higher Education Authority in its Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL1), the Irish Research Council for Sciences, Engineering and Technology, the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences and other State and international agencies.

The Future

Given the eight years of reductions to Exchequer funding for higher education, 2016 will be yet another financially challenging year. Minimal funding has been set aside for the infrastructural needs of the campus - putting further pressure on operational funding.

No improvement in national finances, at least from a higher education funding perspective, is anticipated while we await the report of the Expert Group on HE funding, due in early 2016.

Despite national funding pressures, it is vital, if our university system is to remain internationally competitive and a driver of regional and national development, that an appropriate stable predictable funding model for the sector is agreed, to avoid any further deterioration in the quality of services to our students.



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Chairperson

Dr Catherine Day

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Senior Vice President
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Students' Union
Joe Kennedy, Education Officer,
Students' Union

Postgraduate Student

Eileen O'Donovan, Postgraduate Officer,
Students' Union

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Gillian Keating (Cork Chamber of Commerce)
Maureen Kennelly (Poetry Ireland)
Ted Owens (Cork Education & Training Board)

Nominees of the Minister for Education and Skills

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Professor Adrian Dixon
Dr Beatrice Doran
Professor Suzanne Quin

Graduates

Owen Dinneen
Dr Rosarii Griffin
Dr Valerie Mannix

Lord Mayor of Cork

ClIr Chris O'Leary

Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Waterford

ClIr Eamon Quinlan

Nominees of the National University of Ireland

Nuala O'Connor
Dermot O'Mahoney

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Waterford: ClIr John Cummins
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Kerry: ClIr Jim Finucane
Limerick: ClIr Eddie Ryan
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