

UCC CUBS INSIDER

Your Monthly Guide to Thriving at CUBS



UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh
University College Cork, Ireland

Editor's Note

Welcome to the First Edition of UCC CUBS Insider! This February issue focuses on careers, deadlines, society events, and two CUBS success stories that show what's possible with early preparation and persistence.

Tips & Insights

Consistency beats intensity. Small, regular effort across this semester will make deadlines and exam periods more manageable.

Health Tip:

If one resolution survives January, let it be this one: just keep moving! A walk between study sessions goes a long way.

Closing Applications this month

This edition brings together key deadlines, internships, and opportunities relevant to CUBS students this February. Best of luck to everyone preparing applications, interviews, and HireVues – momentum is built one step at a time. See more on p. 6

CUBS Success Stories

This month, we speak to two CUBS students who have secured Summer Investment Banking internships in London, sharing honest insights on preparation, rejection, and what really makes a difference during applications.

Read the full interviews on pg. 2-4



Members of the BIS Society Committee at the successful Ball.



Professor Anthony McDonnell, Dean of Cork University Business School, with students at the Quad.

Past Events – Catch-Up

BIS Society Ball

Held on 15 January, the BIS Society's annual Ball brought students together for a well-organised social event to kick off the new semester.

Winter Careers Fair

On 21 January, students engaged with employers to explore part-time, seasonal, and early-career opportunities.

Cork University Business School joins top 1% of global business schools

As of January Cork University Business School (CUBS) has achieved EQUIS accreditation, placing it among the top 1% of business schools worldwide. This internationally recognised award secures CUBS the prestigious "triple crown" of accreditation – EQUIS, AACSB, and AMBA – held by fewer than 150 business schools globally.

Careers & Skills Highlights

February brings a strong line-up of career-focused workshops and events designed to help students articulate their strengths, prepare for interviews, and build confidence throughout the application process. Key sessions include interview skills workshops, employer-focused training, and one of Cork's largest careers fairs. See full listings on p. 5

Stay Connected

Have an opportunity, event, or success story to share?

CUBSmedia@ucc.ie

Interviews with our CUBS Success Stories

Investment Banking Summer Internship – London



Mark Newell
Finance 3rd year

Who are you, and what success have you achieved?

My name is Mark Newell and I have secured an Investment Banking Summer internship in Nomura's London office for Summer 2026

When did you first start thinking seriously about applications, and what prompted that?

I first started thinking seriously about applications in September 2024 during Spring Weeks in my second year. After that, I spent the year building my CV, taking relevant courses, and pursuing extracurriculars so that by August 2025, I could focus full-time on summer internship applications when they opened in early September. My unsuccessful Spring Week applications showed me the level of preparation needed, from cover letters and HireVue responses to technical knowledge, interview preparation, and networking, so I wanted to take control of the controllables as early as possible. I was also motivated by a clear goal: to secure a summer internship in London, which would significantly increase my chances of a graduate role in investment banking.

What was one decision or action you took that you think made the biggest difference to your application?

One decision that made the biggest difference to my application was investing time in preparation well before the application season opened. Once applications begin, the majority of your time is spent completing the applications themselves, psychometric tests, and HireVues, and you can often be called in for a first-round interview with less than 48 hours' notice. By preparing early, including practising technical questions and CV-related interview questions, I was able to focus on firm-specific preparation once interviews were scheduled, which made my applications much more competitive and reduced stress during the process.

What was the biggest challenge you faced during the application process, and how did you deal with it?

One of the biggest challenges during the application process was facing rejection late in the rounds after putting in so much time and effort. It's especially hard when you get a rejection the night before another big interview or even a three-hour assessment centre. I dealt with it by reminding myself that getting that far often meant I was in the last 1% of the process, which in itself was something to be proud of. I also realised that sometimes an interview just doesn't go your way and that's out of your control. That mindset helped me reset quickly and stay focused on the next opportunity.



For CUBS students who may be feeling unsure or under pressure right now about their futures, what advice would you give?

Firstly, students should remember that there is plenty of time. One of the best ways to use that time is to speak with UCC alumni and current students who are in fields or firms you're interested in. These conversations will either motivate you to pursue that path or help you realise your interests lie elsewhere.

Applications can be extremely competitive and often involve an element of luck. With so many candidates across banking, consulting, and accounting, it is difficult for firms to efficiently screen everyone, but opportunities do arise, and being prepared means you can make the most of them when they do.

It's also important to focus not only on academics but on extracurriculars, societies, entrepreneurship, charity work, or anything that will make you stand out in an interview. Interviewers hear the same academic stories repeatedly and know that anyone reaching an internship already has strong grades. The key is to find experiences that make you unique, because in a 30-minute interview, you want to be talking about something you know better than the interviewer. UCC provides incredible opportunities through lectures, staff, and fellow students, and many are more than happy to get involved and help you develop these experiences.

Finally, filling in applications and doing preparation can be a very lonely process, so having someone who is aiming for a similar role after college to work alongside you can be extremely beneficial. It helps you see more opportunities, get over the interview learning curve more quickly, and stay motivated, because you're going through the process together.

Interviews with our CUBS Success Stories

Investment Banking Summer Internship – London



Dylan Haugh
Finance 3rd year

Who are you, and what success have you achieved?

My name is Dylan Haugh I have secured a role as a Summer Analyst at Morgan Stanley, working in the Investment Banking Division in their London office.

When did you first start thinking about applying for high-finance roles, and how did you begin preparing?

Going into first year of the BSc Finance programme, I always knew that I wanted to apply to these types of high-finance roles at some point, so I'd say the preparation started pretty early. That mainly meant trying to get good grades, securing a summer internship after first year to build some relevant skills, and getting involved in as much as possible in college to build up my CV. Over time, all of that helped put me in a position to apply to firms like Morgan Stanley.

What did you learn or find most surprising during the application and interview process?

What surprised me most was how far enthusiasm and being personable actually gets you. Of course, the technical side matters, but from my experience, interviewers are ultimately looking for someone they'd actually enjoy working with for long periods of time and someone who genuinely wants to be there. I think this is an area where Irish students can have a real advantage, as a lot of Irish people are very good at talking to and getting along well with people. So, if an interviewer likes you and can see your interest, it really does go a long way.

Looking back now, is there anything you would approach differently if you were starting again?

Of course, I would probably do a lot of things differently if I was starting again, but without the mistakes and failures I made, I wouldn't be where I am today. The main thing I've learned is the importance of reflecting on what you're doing. When something doesn't go to plan or you make a mistake, it's important to look at what went wrong and think about how you can improve next time.

What advice would you give to CUBS students who are starting applications and trying to balance ambition with enjoying college life?

I would give three pieces of advice.

1. Firstly, work hard. At the end of the day, that is the great separator between those who do make it and those who don't.
2. Secondly, reach out to people who already work in the industry you're applying to, especially Irish people, as they are almost always willing to help where they can.
3. And finally, enjoy yourself. You're usually only in college for three to four years and, to be honest, there is no guarantee of success no matter how hard you work. So make sure to spend time with family and friends, say yes to that trip your friends are going on even if it's slightly inconvenient, and spend an extra hour each week doing something you enjoy, because at the end of the day, those are the most important things in life.



Free Courses to Boost Your CV

Building practical skills alongside your degree can strengthen your CV and boost confidence when applying for internships or graduate roles.

Certifications in areas like data, finance, and digital skills show initiative and help demonstrate readiness for today's workplace. Even one relevant course can give you a valuable edge.

Check some out via [Google Skillshop](#)

Upcoming Events

Next Steps: Choosing and Using Database (Online)

Thursday 12th February

Struggling to find reliable sources for assignments? This workshop introduces scholarly databases, helping you access journals, archives, statistics, and other academic resources, with opportunities to practise using them through interactive exercises.

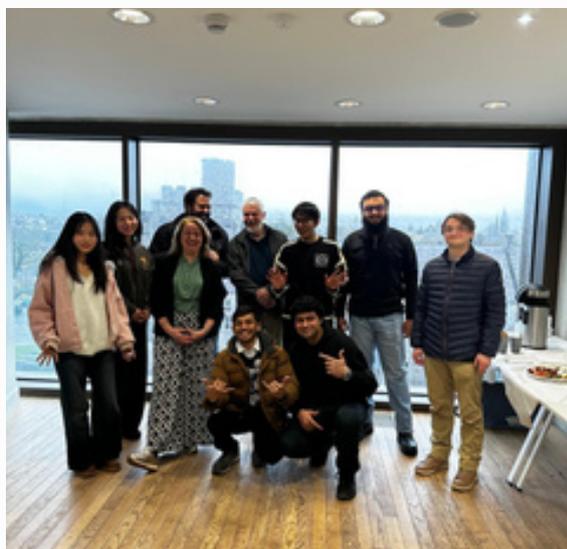
Register [here](#)

Upcoming Careers Events

February is jam packed with career, skills-focused and engagement events aimed at helping students prepare for applications, interviews, and future opportunities. Make sure to make the most of them!



CUBS Brick & Mingle Event



CUBS Mature Students Coffee

Verbalise Your Strengths at the Job Interview

Thursday, 12th February

13:00-14:00

Shtepps, The Hub

Learn how to verbalise your strengths confidently in job interviews and support your claims with clear, real-life STAR examples. This session will help you describe your strengths in your own words, tailor them to specific job requirements, and structure your examples effectively using the STAR technique. You'll also have the opportunity to practise your responses out loud through peer feedback.

Avoiding Plagiarism: Quoting, Paraphrasing and Creating References (Online)

Monday 16th February

Struggling with citations for assignments? This workshop shows how to find and use scholarly databases effectively, helping you access reliable sources and improve your research skills. Register [here](#).

Jobs Expo Cork by Careers Unlimited

Saturday 21st February

Clayton Hotel Silver Springs, Tivoli, Cork (T23 E244)

Looking to gain some extra experience or explore new career opportunities? Jobs Expo Cork is a major careers and recruitment fair where students can meet employers and recruiters face-to-face and learn more about a wide range of roles and career paths. The event also features career-focused seminars and a Career Clinic, offering one-to-one advice on CVs and job-seeking skills.

An excellent opportunity for students at all stages to explore career paths, make connections, and access practical career advice.

Competitions & Academic Opportunities

PRME Student Writing & Alternative Media Competition 2025–26

Deadline: Saturday 28th February

The 10th annual PRME Responsible Business and Management Student Writing Competition invites undergraduate and postgraduate students to submit work on responsible business, sustainability, business ethics, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

There are three entry categories – Undergraduate, Postgraduate, and Alternative Media – with prizes of £500, £300, and £100 available in each category. Find out more information [here](#).

International Internship Opportunities

OECD Internship Programme

Deadline: Saturday 28th February 2026

Interested in international policy and economics? The OECD Internship Programme offers paid placements providing hands-on experience in research, policy analysis, and global economic issues.

Find out more [here](#).

Erasmus+ Traineeships

Deadline: Saturday 28th February 2026

Looking to gain professional experience abroad? Erasmus+ Traineeships allow students to work internationally while developing skills and expanding their professional network.

Check out the available opportunities [here](#).

Careers Connect

Be sure to regularly check [Career Connect](#) to stay up to date on opportunities and to find out more.

Summer 2026 Opportunities

Accenture Ireland Summer Internship

Design | Consulting | Tech, Data & AI | Cyber Security

Deadline: Thursday 12th February

Interested in gaining hands-on experience with a global professional services firm? Accenture Ireland is offering Summer Internship opportunities across multiple business areas, providing real project exposure and the chance to build practical, industry-relevant skills.

Open to penultimate-year students who demonstrate strong communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills, with a willingness to learn and adapt in a fast-paced environment.

Apply [here](#)

Vodafone Ireland Summer Internship Programme

Deadline: Thursday 28th February 2026

Interested in gaining hands-on experience with a global technology leader? Vodafone's Summer Internship Programme offers students the opportunity to explore roles across technology, finance, strategy, HR, commercial operations, and digital teams.

A fantastic opportunity for those looking to gain a broad work experience

Apply [here](#)

Forvis Mazars Summer Internship

Deadline: Thursday 26th February

The Forvis Mazars Ireland Summer Internship offers students the opportunity to work alongside experienced professionals across areas such as audit, tax, advisory, and consulting, while developing practical skills in a real business environment. The programme is ideal for students looking to explore a career in professional services, build commercial awareness, and gain valuable workplace experience ahead of graduate applications.

Apply [here](#)

UCC E&S Society

24th - 26th February

UCC Campus

Entrepreneur Week will feature a series of talks, workshops, and events focused on entrepreneurship, innovation, and consulting. The week aims to give students practical insight into startup culture, problem-solving, and career paths within consulting and business.

Keep up to date on their [socials](#)

UCC Economics Society – The Future of Cork’s Economy: Growth, Innovation & Opportunity Speaker Event

Tuesday 24th February

West Wing 6

panel discussion that explores where Cork’s economy is heading, focusing on growth, innovation, and regional opportunity. With speakers from Goodbody and Cork Chamber of Commerce, the event offers valuable insights for students interested in economic policy, business, and regional development.

Find out more [here](#)

UCC Big SIS WIBL Conference 2026

Wednesday 25th February

Hayfield Manor Hotel

This conference will bring together influential women from across business and leadership roles to share insights on career progression, leadership, and navigating professional environments. The event offers students the chance to hear from inspiring speakers, gain practical advice, and engage with role models across a range of industries.

Find out more [here](#)

UCC Accounting and Finance Society Conference

26th February 2026

The River Lee Hotel

The Accounting & Finance Society will host its 2026 A&F Conference, bringing together students and industry professionals for insights into careers, trends, and developments in accounting, finance, and related sectors.

Follow along on their [socials](#)

Make sure to stay up to date with society events by following [UCC Societies](#) on Instagram

Editors Note

Firstly, thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

I started this with a simple aim: to help bring together the key information that CUBS students are expected to keep on top of every day. Between lectures, societies, applications, emails, and deadlines, it’s easy to miss opportunities or feel overwhelmed by how much there is to sift through.

My hope is that this newsletter makes things a little clearer – pulling careers events, opportunities, society activity, and success stories into one place, and making complex or scattered information easier to access.

Ultimately, this is about supporting everyone across CUBS and helping to ensure that no opportunities go unnoticed.

Eoin Quirke

2nd year Applied Economics

Have an opportunity, event, or success story to share?

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