

CARL Database of Available Projects

Community - Academic Research Links, UCC, Cork

1. These projects are only available to registered students in University College Cork.
2. Please contact a.kingston@ucc.ie for more information on the projects or to make an application to undertake one of these projects for your final year thesis. **PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT ORGANISATIONS DIRECTLY.** Projects are allocated on basis of eligibility criteria, student demand, project match and suitability to your course.
3. See CARL website for student selection criteria, application form and completed research reports <http://carl.ucc.ie>.
4. Some of these projects may change slightly in focus and in the clarity of the research questions during the 3 way meeting and the early stage of the research design process.

	Organisation	Research Topic
1	<p><u>Aitheantas - Adoptee Identity Rights</u></p> <p>A group currently campaigning for open access for Adoptees to their own information</p>	<p>Idea for research projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various different themes, including medical & mental health issues
2	<p><u>Ballinora Community Association</u></p> <p>http://ballinora.com/</p>	<p>Idea for research projects:</p> <p>The community association has an action plan for 2020 covering a wide range of topics under the following headlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture & Heritage: For example: research the impact of West Cork Railway on life in Ballinora, research archeological sites in the area • Social inclusion: Investigate rural bus service, activities for elderly community members • Environment: retrofit buildings, community composting, reduce plastic etc • Safety & Security (including road safety)
3	<p><u>Coolmine Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centre</u></p> <p>Coolmine TC – Coolmine TC</p>	<p>Idea for research project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of their programme focusing on women. This research would assist in developing a practice for women presenting to services with problematic use and enhance engagement, reduce stigma and enhance recovery possibilities for women

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4	<p><u>Cope Foundation</u></p> <p>https://www.cope-foundation.ie/</p>	<p>Ideas for research project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of a job coach in supporting people with additional needs in getting and maintaining employment
5	<p><u>Cork Cycling Campaign</u></p> <p>Cork Cycling Campaign works with local councils, community groups, and other institutions to improve cycling infrastructure and to encourage people to cycle.</p>	<p>Ideas for research project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cork Cycling Campaign would like to understand people's attitudes to cycling in Cork. In particular, we would like to gain insight into the views of people who currently do not cycle, or who cycle very rarely. • We would like to understand what barriers exist that prevent these people cycling or what reasons they people have for choosing not to cycle (safety concerns, weather concerns, dislike of cycling, etc). • In particular, we would like to find out what types of road infrastructure would appeal to people and cause them to consider switching to cycling.
6	<p><u>Cork Nature Network</u></p> <p>Environmental association with main office in Castletownroche but covering all of Cork</p>	<p>Idea for research project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are seeking to understand the engagement on the value of trees in Ireland in terms of biodiversity and for climate change, in particular in relation to guidelines on hedgerow and tree cutting. Every year many cases of tree removal and hedge cutting (during the months when hedgerows are not to be cut) are reported to Cork Nature Network. We would like to investigate what the current level of knowledge is and what is the understanding of their value to us in terms of biodiversity and climate change. • What is the understanding of how these types of habitats should be managed? The research could include questionnaires for councillors and for land owners.
7	<p><u>Fairhill/Fairfield Community Association</u></p> <p><u>& Fairhill Youth Community Facility</u></p>	<p>Ideas for research project:</p> <p>1) Map the voices of various cohorts in the Fairhill community such as young people, parents, older people 65+, people with disabilities etc. (ie. Potential users of such facility) with youth and</p>

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	<p><u>Working Group</u> (Submitted by Cork City Partnership)</p>	<p>community participation being a key underpinning of the research.</p> <p>2) A mapping exercise to examine and establish the deficit and the gap in services to bolster a plan being drafted by a local Working Group who intend to develop a call for action to develop a Youth and Community Facility.</p> <p>3) Explore how the spatial status of ‘Disadvantaged’ could be challenged and improved by inputs such as Placemaking and Community Development. Also, how a Youth + Community facility would assist that process as well as enhancing community health and wellbeing.</p> <p>4) Further examine anti-social behaviour and juvenile crime amongst the youth population of Fairhill and how their needs can be met through the introduction of a youth and community facility.</p> <p>The suggested topics will build on a previous CARL project; ‘Spaces, Places and Young People: Exploring Youth Voices of Fair Hill’ https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/research/carl/JayneGroarkeCARLResearchReport2019.pdf)</p>
8	<p><u>Irish Bee Conservation Project (IBCP)</u></p> <p>The Irish Bee Conservation Project (IBCP) was established to provide information to communities regarding bee habitat requirements and to increase the survival of all species of native Irish bees through research, ecology support and biodiversity protection.</p>	<p>Ideas for research project:</p> <p>Our project research has been focused on the Varroa mite parasite which is the greatest threat to Ireland’s native honeybee. The study and breeding programme will be entering its 5th year at our dedicated research apiaries and laboratory during 2020. Results have been encouraging where selected colonies are now showing tolerance of the Varroa mite through the expression of natural traits contained within the bee’s genome. We would like the assistance of suitably educated/experienced personnel to further investigate the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bee lodge monitoring for honey and solitary bees. • Monitor breeder colonies for varroa tolerance. The impact of pollination. • Monitor bees in the wild and sample same for disease as the project progresses. • Monitor a number of lodges for honey bee occupancy and

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		<p>purity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-wild specific stocks and monitor survival. • Effects of climate change on native bees. • Compare Irelands native solitary bees to those in Europe and investigate whether their DNA composition is different.
9	<p><u>Leave No Trace Ireland</u></p> <p>Environmental educational group (offices in Blanchardstown and Westport)</p> <p>http://www.leavenotraceireland.org/</p>	<p>Ideas for research projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigating the impact of outdoor recreational activities in Irelands wetlands. • Examination of the effects of trampling in Ireland's meadowlands and the efficacy of signage as a deterrent to the creation of user created trails. • The influence of bins as a means to mitigate the amount of littering in the Irish countryside, a cost benefit analysis. • An examination of the environmental, social and economic cost of wildfires in Ireland. • Unleashed. An examination of non-compliance with leashing dogs in Nature Reserves across Ireland and the effects of the disturbance on wildlife.
10	<p><u>Magazine Road and Surrounding Area Residents Association</u></p> <p>The association represents the permanent residents who live in the immediate area of Magazine Road and adjacent streets. 70% of the houses in the area are occupied by students.</p> <p>The association works to improve the living standards of the remaining residents</p>	<p>Ideas for research projects:</p> <p>The permanent residential population in the area is in danger of dying out. Years of antisocial behaviour, filthy streets and gardens, difficult parking, the risk of buying a house in the neighbourhood has ensured that very few families buy into the area.</p> <p>The area is/should be an ideal area for children with fabulous schools and facilities around. The houses are large with big gardens and are perfect for families. Students are not hostile aliens from outer space, they are young adults.</p> <p>It should be possible for permanent residents and students to live peacefully together, without the student population destroying the permanent population. We are very familiar with the problems of the area. We need research help identifying possible solutions.</p> <p>1) Environmental themes (planning and parking policies at a local authority level which safeguard the long-term sustainability of residential areas).</p>

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	The association has established relationships with UCC, the Guards, Cork City Council, local political representatives and statutory bodies to further that aim.	2) Architectural themes (preservation of the substantial Victorian housing stock in the area from overly large extensions and bad conversions, the maintenance and promotion of green areas and gardens in the face of extensions and the removal of gardens for driveways).
11	<u>Presentation Ballyphehane Secondary School Cork</u>	<p>Ideas for research project:</p> <p>Presentation Ballyphehane Secondary School is a Deis school with just under 200 female students. They wish to explore how to make a difference to migrant women in their area by providing a sustainable transition between second level education to third level education. They have a high density of multicultural students in the school, that join at various stages of the academic year. This proves challenging for both teachers and students. The school hopes to offer a stand-alone class to female students who wish to complete a Leaving Certificate and transition to further education and hope to identify a gap in the market in terms of creating such a class.</p> <p>Their proposed research would entail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at second level opportunities available to migrant women and women aged 16-22 residing in direct provision in the Cork city area • Investigate a possible decline of numbers attending single sex schools in the city • Identify what policies are in place to support female migrant students attending second level education and transitioning to third level with limited accessibility to the Irish curriculum
12	<p><u>Social Care Ireland</u></p> <p>https://socialcareireland.ie/</p> <p>SCI provides Members with advocacy, representation, support in the practice of Social Care Workd</p>	<p>Ideas for research project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the role of voluntary service provision of residential services for vulnerable and marginalised children
13	<p><u>The Rainbow Club Cork Centre for Autism</u></p> <p>www.rainbowclub.ie</p> <p>The Rainbow Club Cork Centre for Autism (RCCCA)</p>	<p>Ideas for research projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey among the parents regarding what are their children's needs? Waiting time re assessments, pre-school placements, school placements, therapies • Mapping various autism services in Ireland. Where does the

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	<p>is trying to help build a bigger and brighter future for many children and young adults with Autism. We are a voluntary run charity currently at full capacity supporting 408 children and their families in areas of difficulty providing a place they can belong, be accepted, understood and offer support.</p>	<p>Rainbow Club fit in? Where are the gaps?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International comparative study: what is done elsewhere for children with autism? • Evaluate the various therapies contributed by professionals to the Rainbow children. What are these various therapies (speech therapy, occupational therapy) and what do they do?
14	<p><u>Tracton Biodiversity Group</u></p> <p>Group of 100 residents in Tracton (Co Cork) concerned with the loss of wild habitats associated with intensive agricultural and forestry practices with the resulting degradation and loss of biodiversity in the area.</p>	<p>Idea for research project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To survey the current habitats in the area and continue to catalogue the species that live in those habitats. • To inform public policy, legislators, decision-makers, planners, public representatives and the general public of the precious but extremely fragile ecosystems and habitats in the Tracton area. • In collaboration with stakeholders and public bodies, to work out ways to protect and where necessary enhance those habitats and ensure their continuing existence and sustainability for current and future generations. • To develop and implement experiential and interactive educational programmes within the local schools and the wider community, on why and how we need to protect the biodiversity in the area.
15	<p><u>We Care Collective</u></p> <p>Campaigning for disability rights and support for families of children and people with additional needs.</p> <p>We envision a modern Ireland which leads the world as a progressive model of 'universal care', of a society which is proud of its interdependency on one another, and where</p>	<p>Idea for research project:</p> <p>The objective is to unite all groups/stakeholders around disabilities/additional needs under one 'roof'. Disability services in Ireland are very fragmented and it is an extremely difficult jungle to navigate through.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first part of the proposal is to have a student/group of students who map existing support groups and service providers (local and national) and explore ways of uniting these. • Secondly, to identify gaps of service provision and how

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	<p>caring for others is supported, valued and celebrated.</p>	<p>these needs can be met within current policies/legislations.</p>
16	<p><u>Wellsprings</u></p> <p>A voluntary organisation which provides care and aftercare services for young women</p> <p>https://wellsprings.ie/</p>	<p>Idea for research project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document and evaluate staff approach to helping clients. • Different clients absorb different levels of resource. We are interested in understanding why these needs vary. Are their indicators in their individual histories? • There are economic factors that might be explored. How efficient is Wellsprings compared with other service providers in this sector/area? What costs are saved to society in general through the success of Wellsprings in preventing homelessness to its clients.
17	<p><u>YMCA Ballincollig</u></p> <p>https://www.ymca-ireland.net/locations/ballincollig/</p> <p>Provides support for young people and their families through various programmes such as PAKT (Parents and Kids Together) and the YouthSpace initiative which is a youth led space for young people which currently has a strong digital media focus.</p>	<p>Idea for research projects:</p> <p>Developing resilience in children and young people is a key objective within our PAKT programme.</p> <p>We would be particularly interested in co-operating on the question along the lines of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What interventions, attitudes and methodologies support the development of social competence in children and young people within a family youth work programme?