

# 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](mailto: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.
5. If you are interested in any of these projects, or have topics suitable for community-based research in collaboration with a community group, please do contact us for more information. The list here is constantly changing and new topics are always coming from community groups.

	Organisation	Research Topic
1	<b><u>AMDIE (ANAHUAC MEXICAN DANCE IRELAND)</u></b>  <a href="#">AMDIE (Anahuac Mexican Dance Ireland) – Hispanic Folk Dance Association in Cork Ireland</a>	<b>Idea for research project:</b>  A community dance group for adults running for nearly 10 years. This group aims to integrate newcomers into Irish life, to build bridges between people that love dance. This group is formed by people with diverse backgrounds and nationalities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring participants' experiences of joining the group</li> <li>• To find out what is exactly the motivation to continue learning and improving in the choreographed dances</li> <li>• How can we encourage Irish members to join the group?</li> </ul>
2	<b><u>Aitheantas - Adoptee Identity Rights</u></b>  <a href="#">Aitheantas – Adoptee Identity Rights</a>	<b>Idea for research projects:</b>  A group currently campaigning for open access for Adoptees to their own information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various different themes, including medical &amp; mental health issues</li> </ul>
3	<b><u>Ballinora Community Association</u></b>  <a href="http://ballinora.com/">http://ballinora.com/</a>	<b>Idea for research projects:</b>  The community association has an action plan for 2020 covering a wide range of topics under the following headlines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Culture &amp; Heritage:</b> For example: research the impact of West Cork Railway on life in Ballinora, research archeological sites in the area</li> <li>• <b>Social inclusion:</b> Investigate rural bus service, activities for</li> </ul>

# CARL Database of Available Projects

Community - Academic Research Links, UCC, Cork

		<p>elderly community members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Environment:</b> retrofit buildings, community composting, reduce plastic etc</li> <li>• <b>Safety &amp; Security</b> (including road safety)</li> </ul>
4	<p><b><u>Cope Foundation</u></b></p> <p><a href="https://www.cope-foundation.ie/">https://www.cope-foundation.ie/</a></p>	<p><b>Ideas for research project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of a job coach in supporting people with additional needs in getting and maintaining employment</li> </ul>
5	<p><b><u>Cork Central Children's Disability Network Team</u></b></p> <p><a href="https://www.cope-foundation.ie/">https://www.cope-foundation.ie/</a></p>	<p><b>Ideas for research project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We would like to explore 'Sibshops : exploring the benefits of attending sibshops as a sibling of a child with additional needs</li> </ul> <p>By researching the benefits of sibshops for families, there may be more uptake on attending sibshops, securing funding to run sibshops more frequently and it may offer more insight into supports that are needed for siblings. Siblings often face the same emotions as their parents when a child has complex additional needs, these may be loss, shame, confusion, loneliness and frustration. Siblings are the future advocates and lifelong support system for their sibling and they deserve to have the support as they grow into adults. There is some research to suggest that having a sibling or family member with additional needs may inspire a career in supporting additional needs as adults.</p>
6	<p><b><u>Cork Nature Network</u></b></p> <p><a href="#">Cork Nature Network - Wildlife Protection, Conservation, Education, Awareness</a></p>	<p><b>Idea for research project:</b></p> <p>Environmental association with main office in Castletownroche but covering all of Cork</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

# CARL Database of Available Projects

Community - Academic Research Links, UCC, Cork

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the understanding of how these types of habitats should be managed? The research could include questionnaires for councillors and for land owners.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b><u>Fairhill/Fairfield Community Association</u></b></p> <p><b><u>&amp; Fairhill Youth Community Facility Working Group</u></b></p> <p><u>(Submitted by Cork City Partnership)</u></p>	<p><b>Ideas for research project:</b></p> <p>1) Map the voices of various cohorts in the Fairhill community such as young people, older people 65+, people with disabilities etc. (ie. Potential users of such facility) with youth and 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'</p> <p><a href="https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/research/carl/JayneGroarkeCARLResearchReport2019.pdf">https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/research/carl/JayneGroarkeCARLResearchReport2019.pdf</a> )</p>
8	<p><b><u>Irish Bee Conservation Project (IBCP)</u></b></p> <p>The Irish Bee Conservation Project (IBCP) was established to provide information to communities regarding bee habitat</p>	<p><b>Ideas for research project:</b></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</p>

# CARL Database of Available Projects

Community - Academic Research Links, UCC, Cork

	requirements and to increase the survival of all species of native Irish bees through research, ecology support and biodiversity protection.	<p>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"> <li>• Bee lodge monitoring for honey and solitary bees.</li> <li>• Monitor breeder colonies for varroa tolerance. The impact of pollination.</li> <li>• Monitor bees in the wild and sample same for disease as the project progresses.</li> <li>• Monitor a number of lodges for honey bee occupancy and purity.</li> <li>• Re-wild specific stocks and monitor survival.</li> <li>• Effects of climate change on native bees.</li> <li>• Compare Irelands native solitary bees to those in Europe and investigate whether their DNA composition is different.</li> </ul>
9	<p><b><u>Leave No Trace Ireland</u></b></p> <p>Environmental educational group (offices in Blanchardstown and Westport)</p> <p><a href="http://www.leavenotraceireland.org/">http://www.leavenotraceireland.org/</a></p>	<p><b>Ideas for research projects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigating the impact of outdoor recreational activities in Irelands wetlands.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The influence of bins as a means to mitigate the amount of littering in the Irish countryside, a cost benefit analysis.</li> <li>• An examination of the environmental, social and economic cost of wildfires in Ireland.</li> <li>• Unleashed. An examination of non-compliance with leashing dogs in Nature Reserves across Ireland and the effects of the disturbance on wildlife.</li> </ul>
10	<p><b><u>Magazine Road and Surrounding Area Residents Association</u></b></p> <p>The association represents</p>	<p><b>Ideas for research projects:</b></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</p>

# CARL Database of Available Projects

Community - Academic Research Links, UCC, Cork

	<p>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>The association has established relationships with UCC, the Guards, Cork City Council, local political representatives and statutory bodies to further that aim.</p>	<p>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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>Environmental themes</b> (planning and parking policies at a local authority level which safeguard the long-term sustainability of residential areas).</li> <li>2) <b>Architectural themes</b> (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).</li> </ol>
11	<p><b><u>PAKT YMCA Ballincollig</u></b></p> <p><a href="https://www.ymca-ireland.net/locations/ballincollig/">https://www.ymca-ireland.net/locations/ballincollig/</a></p> <p>The Parents And Kids Together (PAKT) is a community-based program that supports the whole family that has been running for over 20 years in Cork. We run weekly after school groups for 5-17-year olds as well as individual sessions for children and young people with more specific needs.</p>	<p><b>Idea for research project:</b></p> <p>PAKT works in close collaboration with TUSLA to support families in our communities. We have a designated Parent Worker in each centre who's available to families who may need a listening ear or extra practical support.</p> <p>We aim to strengthen the relationships between the children and adults within their family unit, in all its shapes and forms. We are a low cost, inclusive program and welcome children and families from all backgrounds, in all circumstances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring how our work with parents alongside our youth programs supports families</li> <li>• Examining our needs-led approach to youth work aiming to create an inclusive environment that encourages a high level of participation amongst neurodivergent children and young people and help them build positive relationships with each other</li> </ul>
12	<p><b><u>Skibbereen and District Lions Club</u></b></p>	<p><b>Ideas for research project:</b></p> <p>Our Lions Club would like to support young people as they try and navigate life. Anecdotally we hear of the problems faced by young people with a rise in mental health problems, drugs and alcohol abuse, social media, bullying etc.</p>

# CARL Database of Available Projects

Community - Academic Research Links, UCC, Cork

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We would like to get some hard data on what's happening in our community in relation to these issues. We would like to find out what supports are currently on offer and find out if and where the shortfall is.</li> </ul>
13	<p><b><u>Social Care Ireland</u></b></p> <p><a href="https://socialcareireland.ie/">https://socialcareireland.ie/</a></p> <p>SCI provides Members with advocacy, representation, and support in the practice of Social Care Work</p>	<p><b>Ideas for research project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the role of voluntary service provision of residential services for vulnerable and marginalised children, through interviews with managers of voluntary children's residential centres (<b>transcripts from focus group done in 2023 is available to use for further analysis and discussion</b>)</li> <li>These interviews could investigate the barriers and facilitators that voluntary providers confront and explore managers' and funders' (Tusla / HSE) perspectives around the sustainability of the voluntary providers within the care ecosystem.</li> </ul>
14	<p><b><u>Tabor Group</u></b></p> <p><a href="#">Tabor Group   Addiction Treatment   Rehabilitation in Cork  </a></p>	<p><b>Ideas for research project:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Relapse rates</b> are high and this contributes to the continued stigmatizing of people with addictions. This research will throw light on the difficulties involved in achieving sustained recovery and help explain relapse</li> <li>A growing number of clients have <b>literacy challenges</b>. The research would explore how to best help these people engage with the treatment programmes</li> </ol>
15	<p><b><u>The Rainbow Club Cork Centre for Autism</u></b></p> <p><a href="http://www.rainbowclub.ie">www.rainbowclub.ie</a></p> <p>The Rainbow Club Cork Centre for Autism (RCCCA) 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><b>Ideas for research projects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey among the parents regarding what are their children's needs? Waiting time re assessments, pre-school placements, school placements, therapies</li> <li>Mapping various autism services in Ireland. Where does the Rainbow Club fit in? Where are the gaps?</li> <li>International comparative study: what is done elsewhere for children with autism?</li> <li>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?</li> </ul>

# CARL Database of Available Projects

Community - Academic Research Links, UCC, Cork

16	<p><b><u>Tracton Biodiversity Group</u></b></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><b>Idea for research project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To survey the current habitats in the area and continue to catalogue the species that live in those habitats.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
17	<p><b><u>We Care Collective</u></b></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 caring for others is supported, valued and celebrated.</p>	<p><b>Idea for research project:</b></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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Secondly, to identify gaps of service provision and how these needs can be met within current policies/legislations.</li> </ul>

# CARL Database of Available Projects

Community - Academic Research Links, UCC, Cork