

UCC Information Sheet

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Overview

Established in 1845, University College Cork, (UCC) is one of the premier research institutions in Ireland. As Ireland's first five-star university (with internationally-recognised research in science, food, engineering, medicine, business, law, social sciences and the humanities), UCC boasts a vibrant, modern, environmentally-sustainable campus and a top-ranked student experience, second to none in Ireland. Supporting approx. 20,000 students pursuing undergraduate and postgraduate studies, the University provides the full range of academic disciplines and plays a crucial role in the development of Ireland's knowledge-based society.

The institution is ranked in the top 2% of universities worldwide based on the quality of its research outputs and peer esteem indicators, and was the first university to be named The Sunday Times University of the Year for two consecutive years – 2016 and 2017 – in the 15-year history of the award. UCC was ranked in the top 100 in Reuters Ranking of innovative universities 2017. Our researchers collaborate with over 2400 organisations of the world's top universities across 130 countries.

UCC is [University of Sanctuary](#) and offers Sanctuary Scholarships and other Educational Opportunities to asylum seekers or refugees.

UCC Research Strategy

UCC's strategy for research is aligned with key Government policies including the *Strategy for Science Technology and Innovation (SSTI)* and *Building Ireland's Smart Economy* and the University has made strategic investments in key research areas, including life sciences, health, nanotechnology, energy and the environment, all of which are crucial to Ireland's economic future.

Central to this are Centres of Excellence in nationally prioritised thematic areas including Nanotechnology, and Photonics (Tyndall National Institute), Food and Health, Pharmaceuticals, and the Environment (ERI). The impact of this strategy and its implementation is reflected in UCC's success in winning competitive internationally peer-reviewed research contracts and its track record as one of the top universities in Ireland in terms of success under EU Framework Programmes. As of November 2019, UCC researchers have secured **162** Horizon 2020 awards (**53** as coordinator and **110** as partner). The total financial drawdown amounts to **€84.2 million**

Research Support Services (RSS)

The Research Support Services in the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation (OVPRI), provide guidance to new researchers on all aspects of **research policy** (including campus companies, contract research, intellectual property, consultancy, conflicts of interest, research overhead and financial procedures), and **research support** (including promotion of research opportunities, administrative support in preparing grant applications and coordination of institutional research submissions).

RSS also offers a comprehensive Research Skills Training Programme to academic and research staff including:

- Information sessions on National and International Funding Opportunities
- Targeted Proposal Writing Workshops focused on specific funding calls
- Grantmanship Workshops
- Scientific Publishing Workshops
- H2020 Strategy Workshops
- Project Costing Workshops
- New Researcher Mentoring

Sessions are offered throughout the year and by special request of schools/departments/research groups.

Technology Transfer Office (TTO)

The Office of Technology Transfer provides advice and practical assistance in the capture, management, and exploitation of intellectual property as well as interactions with industry. It works to encourage the disclosure of new inventions from the university research community. The decision to obtain patents and work to commercialise the university intellectual property is made based on the OTT's assessment of the commercial opportunity. The OTT, working with the researchers, will manage the patents and determine the best approaches for successful commercialisation.

Researchers within the bio/life sciences also have the support of the Biotransfer Unit (BTU), which is integrated with, and supports the functions of the OTT. More specifically, the BTU is responsible for promotion of technology transfer and commercialisation of research across the Bio/Life Sciences sectors of the university. The BTU is also responsible for the management of the BioInnovation Centre at UCC which provides incubation wet labs and other appropriate supports for start-up Biotech companies.

GatewayUCC

The *gatewayUCC* Centre, a business incubation centre, was officially launched in 2011 to support the creation of new and knowledge-intensive businesses. The University is also working closely with the local authorities and other regional stakeholders to develop Ireland's first Science Park. The provision of support for Ireland's next generation of entrepreneurs has also been enhanced with the launch of IGNITE, a new Centre designed to give graduates professional help with business start-ups. The 12-month programme delivered by UCC in partnership with Cork County and City Enterprise Boards provides an environment for graduates to turn innovative ideas into new products and services.

UCC Impact on Local Economy

Cork has a long industrial tradition based on heavy industries centred around its deep-water harbour. In recent decades, these industries have been replaced by high tech enterprises including the pharmaceutical/medical technology sectors and the information and communications technology (ICT) sector. More recently, foreign direct investment (FDI), supported by the IDA, has expanded with the addition of software, customer support and shared services activities.

UCC has played a significant role in the transformation of Cork's industrial base, facilitated by the R&D expertise of its researchers and the training of a highly skilled, flexible workforce to meet the requirements of regional employers. Harnessing funding provided by the exchequer and the European Union, UCC also contributes directly to the local economy through the creation of spin-out companies. UCC campus companies have been particularly successful in developing new products, in creating significant employment opportunities and, in the case of four enterprises (Luxcel Biosciences, SensL Technologies, ThinkSmart Technologies, and Biosensia), in securing research funds direct from the European Union for additional R&D and job creation.

Departments

Department of Human Resources

The Mission of the Department of Human Resources is to 'contribute to the development of the University as a high-quality institution through the development and implementation of human resource policies and programmes aimed at enhancing individual and organisational effectiveness. Each School within the University has a dedicated HR Manager who provides support to members of that School. There is also a dedicated HR Research Manager to assist our PI's and researchers with HR research related issues.

The Department maintains the [Orientation Web Portal](#), which was designed to provide new staff with an introduction to the University, its structures, procedures and community. The Staff Orientation Booklet, the UCC Staff Handbook and information on relocating to Cork can all be found on these webpages. The portal is

one contribution to the induction process with local orientation provided by schools/departments and a formal orientation programme organised monthly by the Department.

[HR Excellence in Research](#)



UCC has received the European Commission's award of HR Excellence in Research*. The award recognises the progress which has been made in support of researchers in the University, including the introduction of structured PhD programmes, the implementation of the University Research Employment and Career Management Structure and the on-going commitment to supporting the principles of the [European Charter and Code for Researchers](#).

So that everyone is aware of our procedures UCC has developed the [HR Research website](#). The website is a well-structured, informative and easy to use site for busy researchers. It is also an excellent gateway for researchers viewing UCC from abroad showcasing the opportunities available here in UCC and the development initiatives we have in place for our Researchers. To add to this the University has designed and delivered a new researcher induction process, focussing on the career framework with an emphasis on personal and career development.

[HR Researcher Training](#)

In UCC we value the contribution our Researchers make to our research, our innovation, the intellectual community and to the University as a whole. We also know how demanding this role can be. To address this, UCC provides programmes of professional development and transferrable skills training that will enable the personal and professional development of our Researchers here, in UCC.

According to the [Researchers Report 2014](#) demand in Europe for highly qualified people is predicted to rise by almost 16 million in the period up to 2020. To prepare our post-doctoral and senior post-doctoral researchers for this, UCC offers training and development opportunities within the [Post Doc Development Hub](#). To further assist our researchers we have introduced a programme called [Professional Skills for Research Leaders](#), which is an online programme with blended workshops designed to help individual researchers enhance their approach to leadership, management and engagement. UCC has attained Institute of Leadership Management (ILM) endorsement for the programme and UCC is now an ILM approved provider – a leader in the area of researcher development.

These programmes comprise a range of supports including, workshops, on-line learning, personal and professional development plans and bespoke training programmes. It brings together the training and support available for all aspects of a researchers' career, enabling our researchers to improve their transferable skills and discover new talents and areas of expertise.

Our Aims:

- To deliver high quality programmes of maximum relevance to the needs of our researchers at UCC
- To increase the skills and employability of Researchers thus benefiting the Irish economy and contributing to the research output of UCC
- To develop research leaders of the future
- To work in partnership and collaborate with the many research support facilities available here in UCC
- To provide innovative transferable skills training and professional development support through bespoke and tailored programmes

HR Researcher Policy

The University has developed a comprehensive skills and career development framework for research staff as part of the [Employment and Career Management Structure for Researchers](#) introduced in 2011.

EURAXESS @UCC

[EURAXESS - Researchers in Motion](#) is a unique pan-European initiative delivering information and support services to professional researchers. Backed by the European Union and its Member States, it supports researcher mobility and career development, while enhancing scientific collaboration between Europe and the world.

[EURAXESS Ireland Service Centre](#), together with the EURAXESS local contact points, offers assistance to incoming, outgoing and returning researchers and their families, and research organisations by email, telephone or face-to-face. The UCC EURAXESS local contact point is located in [HR Central Services – Research](#)

Other internal providers of Development Opportunities

The University also offers training on a suite of programmes related to computer skills, teaching and learning and learning technologies, Irish, English and international languages, and Health and Safety respectively. These courses are advertised directly to staff by the host departments/units.

Finance Office

The Finance Office provides support on all financial aspects of the university. The office is organised in different sections which cover different areas of responsibility:

- *Accounts Office* (includes Employee Expense Procedures, Subsistence Allowances, Tax Clearance Cert information, Foreign Payments)
- *Fees Office* - (Schedule of Fee Charges)
- *Management Accounting* - (includes Costing of New Courses, On-line Management Reporting, Disposal of Assets Procedures)
- *Payroll* - (includes Payment Authorisation Forms, Timesheets, Revenue Information)
- *Procurement* - (includes details on University Contracts)
- *Research Grants and Contracts Office* - (includes information on costing of research projects, VAT on Research)
- *Financial Assistance for Students*

Office of Corporate & Legal Affairs (OCLA)

The OCLA is responsible for the University's Corporate, Governing Body, Secretarial, Insurance, Risk Management, Compliance and Legal functions. Support is provided in the areas of:

- Legal Affairs (contract negotiations, Inter-institutional agreements, ...)
- Statutes and Regulations
- Insurance
- Risk Management
- Health and Safety
- Compliance

Facilities

UCC Library

The UCC Library actively supports scholarship, teaching and research at University College Cork. The Library consists of the Boole Library and two branch libraries, Boston Health Sciences Library and the Cork University Hospital Library. The library provides access to a wide array of scholarly publications and information

resources, ranging from access to over 30,000 electronic journals via the [IReL](#) (Irish Research eLibrary), to [unique and distinct collections](#) of research interest in the Munster area and beyond.

A team of [Liaison Librarians](#) is available to discuss issues relating to your subject area, and online [subject guides](#) and [tutorials](#) are also available for staff and students. Academic staff may also arrange for a range of [Information and Digital Literacy classes](#) to be given to their students.

The library operates the [Cork Open Research Archive](#) (CORA), UCC's institutional repository for research publications. Library staff are at hand to help facilitate deposit of your research papers, in keeping with copyright and publisher requirements, in support of UCC's Open Access to Publications policy. [Doctoral Theses](#) are also deposited, preserved and made available through CORA.

In addition, the library provides a number of additional support services which may be useful for your research, including advice on bibliometrics and the use of the Sci-Val research intelligence tool, advice on Research Data Management and Data Stewardship, and individual reviews of funder-mandated Data Management Plans (DMPs).