

I AM...
AN INDEPENDENT
AND CREATIVE THINKER



GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK

Review of 2020

Hello and welcome to the **Graduate Attributes Programme** Review of 2020!



What a year 2020 has been! We have been adjusting to life through a global pandemic, seen devastating wildfires in Australia and the west coast of America, we have watched the election of a new US President, we have been hit with flooding throughout our city and we have seen an unprecedented change to the way we live, along with challenges that the university has never seen before! One thing is for certain, we will always stand together in University College Cork, even while remaining apart.

2020 has seen the university leap with gusto to digital learning and teaching and digital ways of communicating that we never thought possible in January.

Successful outcomes within the Graduate Attributes Programme are a testament to a dedicated and talented team around us but with radical and transformative collaboration campus-wide. The successful integration of the initiatives has been bolstered university-wide with more than 30 teams collaborating on projects which will support and equip students and graduates with the necessary attributes, skills and values throughout the entire student life-cycle.

Some of those initiatives were never thought possible in January, but with determination and energy and a little foresight we have managed to transform how visitors to UCC will get to fully immerse themselves in our campus before ever arriving! We hope you enjoy our snapshot of what was achieved in 2020.

Happy Christmas to you all,
Eleanor Donoghue and Carol Veiga

#BeginBelongBecome



Warm Regards

ELEANOR DONOGHUE

Graduate Attributes Programme Manager





EMPOWERING AND INSPIRING STUDENTS



CONTENTS

A reminder of UCC Graduate Attributes and Values	4
Launch of our Virtual Reality Experiences	6
Launch of the 'Nurturing Bright Futures' Programme	7
Bringing the attributes and values to life through Irish	8
GAP - Building more connections!	9
Transition to Arts and Humanities Campaign	10
Proudly supporting the Postgraduate Showcase/Challenge	11
Student Self Assessment goes live in 2021	12
Supports to enhance the 'Transition Through' UCC journey	13
Co-Creation with Students and Staff in UCC	14
Awards and Recognition in 2020	15
Supporting students to 'Transition Out' of UCC	16

A Reminder of University College Cork's Graduate Attributes Programme

As a socially-minded, civically-engaged institution, our core values and graduate attributes are the bedrock of our student experience.

A successful application to support our Graduate Attributes Programme was made to the **HEA Innovation and Transformation Programme 201**, and a successful financial commitment from the **Tomar Trust in 2020** has widely developed this programme.



**TRANSITION
IN**



**TRANSITION
THROUGH**



**TRANSITION
OUT**

The overarching objective of our programme is to enable a successful student journey, which will prepare students for their future through three main projects:

1

Transition In initiatives are guiding students into the right programme of study for them, whilst simultaneously widening access of under-represented cohorts and improving first year retention rates.

2

Transition Through initiatives are providing targeted supports, delivering skills training and developing graduate attributes that go beyond disciplinary content knowledge and can be applied in life-wide contexts.

3

Transition Out initiatives are preparing final year students to transition into professional environments, delivering on the ambitions of UCC's Institutional Employability and Employment Guide.

ATTRIBUTES



Creators, evaluators
and communicators
of knowledge



Independent and
creative thinkers



Digitally fluent



Socially responsible



Effective, global
citizens who recognise
and challenge inequality

VALUES



RESPECT:
For self, others and
the environment



AMBITION:
Aims high, displays
exemplary work
ethic and strives
to succeed



COMPASSION:
Empathetic,
demonstrates
care for self
and others



RESILIENCE:
Perseveres, shows
capacity for problem-
solving and personal
well-being



INTEGRITY:
Trustworthy, ethical
and dependable

Virtual Reality Experiences



Transitions In

As a consequence of Covid-19, the Graduate Attributes Programme has produced a series of Virtual Reality/Augmented Reality Campus Experiences. You can now explore the university's beautiful grounds and first-class facilities from anywhere in the world, on your phone or desktop, offering visitors from all over the world the opportunity to explore UCC's campus online. The immersive, 360-degree experience walks you through the university's world-renowned grounds and facilities, offering interesting facts at each step. There is a bespoke virtual reality tour for each of the university's four colleges which provide an immersive experience of the college's unique teaching and learning spaces, labs and facilities. These VR experiences were also integrated into the Virtual Open Day in December 2020, supporting prospective students to make UCC their university of choice in 2021.

Explore University College Cork, main campus and surrounding areas in the first image:

Also - click on the boxes below to access each College VR/AR Experience



Launch of a new support programme 'Nurturing Bright Futures'

A six-module online course has been designed on Canvas to equip prospective students with the information they need as they prepare to transition into third level education. "Nurturing Bright Futures" is the result of an eight-month collaborative project with 27 UCC teams. The programme will help students acquire the skills and tools they need to make the transition, through the use of video lessons, podcasts, articles, exercises, quizzes and other helpful resources.



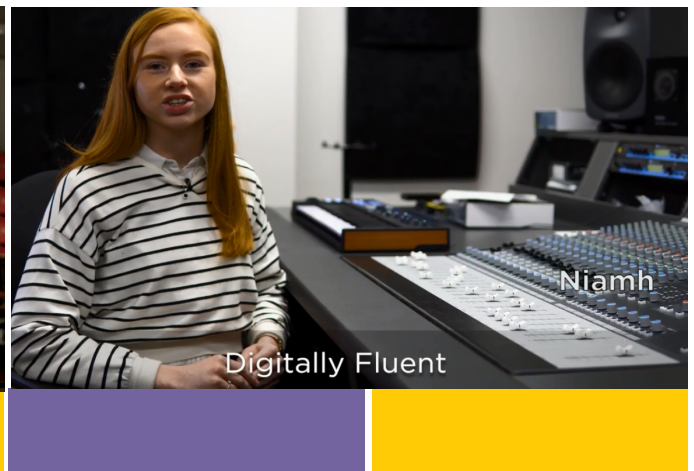
<https://ucc.instructure.com/courses/32168>

This course is for all students who are transitioning in to university, whether that is via the CAO, through access routes such as HEAR and DARE, QQI or as a mature or international student. This course will give prospective students the opportunity to understand more about themselves and to get to know more about higher education and UCC. It will also provide a forum for them to engage with UCC on a variety of levels, and will help prepare them for the journey ahead.

This course is also a resource for the Guidance Counsellors and parents/guardians, to help them to help students with this transition. It is designed to provide information and stimulate conversations with these key people in students' lives, and to get them thinking in a structured way so that they can consult and make informed decisions about their post-secondary school options.



Bringing the attributes and values to life through Irish



Táimid ag cur lenár gcuid eolais agus scileanna agus tá forás ag teacht ar ár gcuid deiseanna pearsanta. Tá forbairt á déanamh againn ar na tréithe agus na luachanna a bhaineann linn. Cinnteoidh siad seo go mbeimid ullamh don am atá le teacht agus beimid in ann cur leis an tsochaí. Seasaimid do Meas, Uaillmhian, Báúlacht, Seasmhacht agus Ionracas.

We are gaining knowledge and skills, broadening our personal and professional horizons and developing attributes and core values which will make us future-ready and better able to contribute to society. Our community of learners and staff are truly embodying respect, ambition, compassion, resilience and integrity.

As part of the St. Patrick's Day festivities, the Graduate Attributes Programme worked with 12 UCC students who were ambassadors delivering the messages of the Graduate Attributes Programme through the Irish language. A huge thanks to all our students who participated.



Watch our Irish video here!

<https://youtu.be/jPyARlm>



...and building more connections!



We have been collaborating with many staff throughout UCC on initiatives which will span the entire student life cycle to help every student to....

#BeginBelongBecome

The Graduate Attributes Programme was delighted to support the work of Student Recruitment as well during 2020! Click on the image above to view the new UCC Prospectus - This was an amazing project led by *Lenka Forrest, Head of Student Recruitment* in UCC.



Below, two other beautiful videos coordinated by Lenka Forrest as part of the UCC Virtual Open Day -

Check them out.... you won't be disappointed!



Transition to **Arts Campaign**

The Graduate Attributes Programme, the College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences (CACSSS) with the support of Marketing and Communications have been working on the “**#MadeInUCC Campaign**” to showcase the myriad of career pathways of alumni from CACSSS.

Graduates from UCC are articulating their own unique stories and sharing career trajectories through a new suite of videos aimed at prospective audiences, both national and international.

.....

"I've had an amazing journey in terms of the people and places and things that I've managed to work with and for".

Music Video and Commercial Director, Lochlainn McKenna outlines how his love for acting and film led him to pursuing his passion of studying Theatre and Creative Practices at UCC.



Keep an eye out for the full campaign launching soon!



College of Arts
Celtic Studies &
Social Sciences

Proud to support the Postgraduate Showcase and Challenge



TRANSITION
THROUGH



CREATORS
EVALUATORS
COMMUNICATORS
OF KNOWLEDGE



TRANSITION
THROUGH

In January, just before Covid-19 arrived to Ireland, postgraduate students from across all four colleges embarked on a journey of solving some of our UCC and grand societal challenges. Hosted by Blackstone LaunchPad at UCC, we were proud to support our colleagues in the Graduate Studies Office and the Postgraduate community with this initiative - the first ever UCC Postgraduate Showcase and Challenge!

60 postgraduate students, 7 challenges, 5 industry experts, 4 colleges, 2 days!

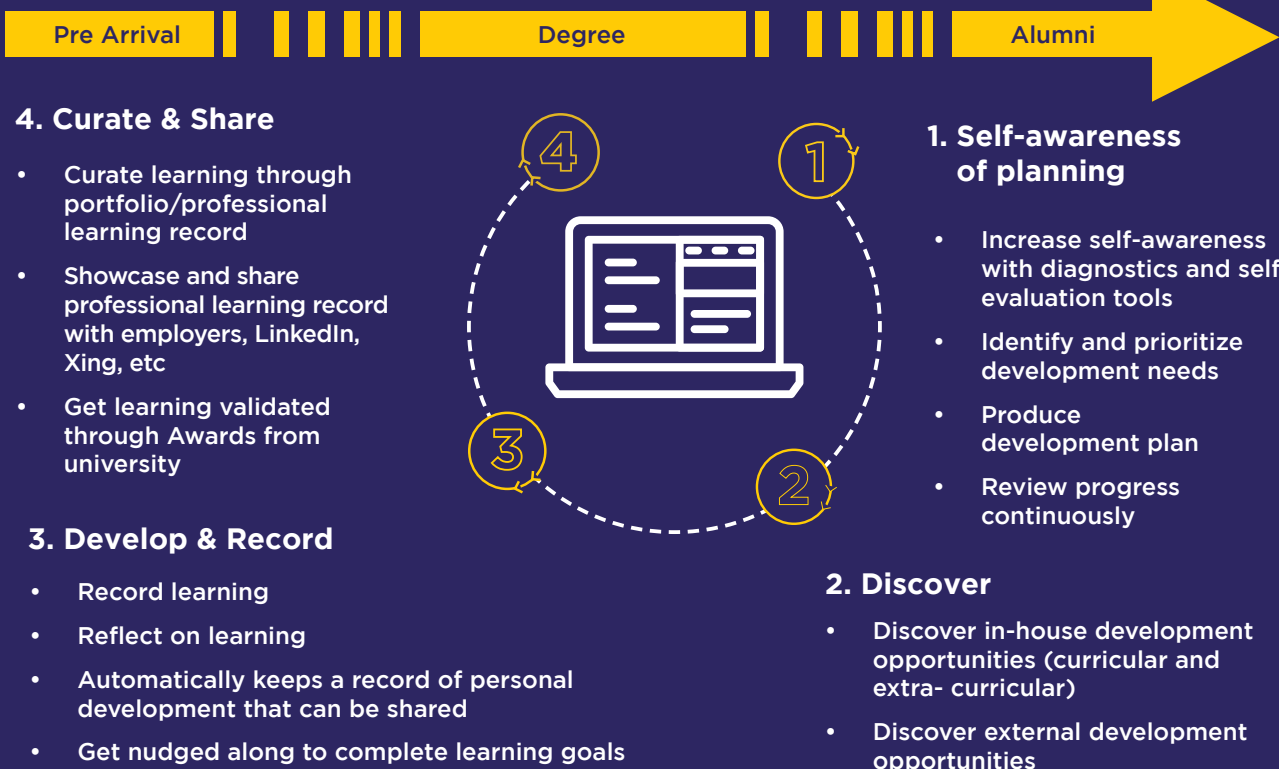
Michael B. Vaughan, a PhD student in the College of Medicine and Health at UCC came to Blackstone LaunchPad and the Graduate Studies Office with an idea to launch a multidisciplinary event for all postgraduate students. The Graduate Attributes Programme was proud to support the idea. This video below is a culmination of a fantastic two days in January. Check it out!.....



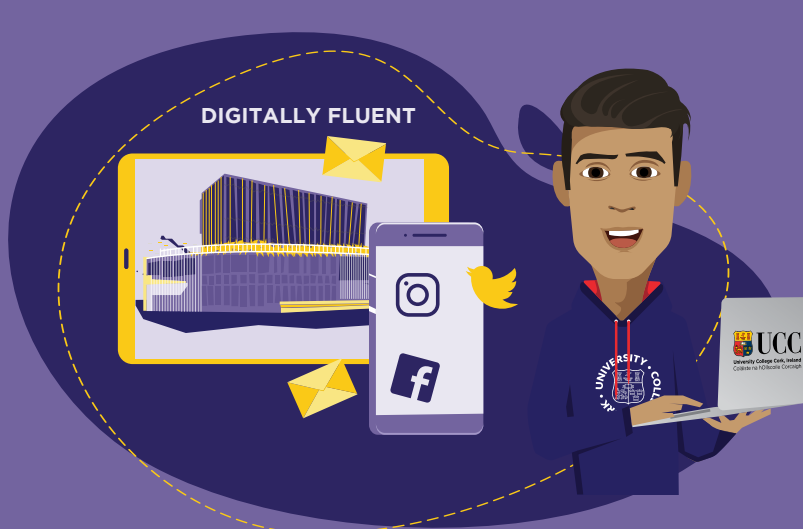
Student Self Assessment in 2021!

The team have been really busy all year preparing a new initiative which will support students to self assess their own skills, attributes and values. "Potential.ly" will launch in January 2021 as a pilot before being embedded into registration in September 2021.

SUPPORTS THE FULL LEARNER CYCLE



Dr. Mike Murphy, School of Applied Psychology has been instrumental in designing a student survey to support students in their self assessment. A bespoke diagrammatic representation of each student's attributes and values will then form a baseline for students to see progress and hopeful gains in their attributes and values as they progress through the student lifecycle.



Students will be pointed in the direction of further ways to develop their core values and attributes, as relevant to their performance in the self assessment.

Dr. Eithne Hunt, Academic Advisor to the Graduate Attributes Programme is working with the academic community on Action 17 of Academic Strategy - the Student Self Assessment.

Supporting Students as they *TRANSITION THROUGH*.....



We are delighted to support the Skills Centre with the design, development and launch of the new UCC ***Student Success Zone***. The ***Success Zone*** is a virtual learning space designed to offer academic strategies to help students succeed at UCC. Each student is automatically enrolled in the ***Success Zone*** and can access all the engaging and user-friendly courses, material and information they may need ***to transition to and through*** college. All students are encouraged to dive into this new learning and studying experience at UCC from any place, at any time and from any device. Click on the image above to dive in!

The Graduate Attributes Programme was delighted to support the work of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Implementation Group, Student Health and Student Counselling and Development, and the Students' Union in the procurement of SilverCloud Health.



Students can sign up to SilverCloud unsupported model by clicking on the image above.

Co-Creation with Staff and Students throughout Campus in 2020

13 Mar 2020



In March we met Roisin, Raj, Ciara and Joe from UCC.

Each student tells us more about each attribute and value and how these are enabling them to develop life wide and life long skills in our first animated GAP video.

Collaborating with Dr. Eithne Hunt, School of Occupational Health and Occupational Therapy, we delivered the second animated video on developing a Growth Mindset.

12 Aug 2020



01 Sep 2020



Maintaining good mental health is just as important as good physical health.

Our third animated video was delivered in partnership with Student Counselling and Development.

Awards and Recognition during 2020

In May we received great news that our "Graduate Attributes" visual identity had been accepted into the 100Archive!

The **100Archive** is an annual commemoration of Irish design, recognising the 100 best designs created in the calendar year from thousands of applicants.



The underlying vision inspiring our direction is that of a 'Connected University', with enhanced synergy between teaching, research and innovation, that offers a distinctive educational experience, promoting life long and life wide learning and an inspiring student experience through a unique Graduate Attributes Programme which is transformational and innovative, transdisciplinary, inter-disciplinary and embedded into the culture and ethos of the Student Experience.

With this vision in mind, UCC went on to win the university offering the **Best Student Experience** in February at the Education Awards!



The recent success at the **Cork Chamber Digital Marketing Awards** in October for Best Content Creation was an acknowledgement of all the work our little team has put in over the past year on behalf of the university. In the Graduate Attributes Programme, we provide supports to navigate all aspects of the student journey, so we are lucky enough to engage almost every UCC department or unit in some way.

Supporting students to Transition Out

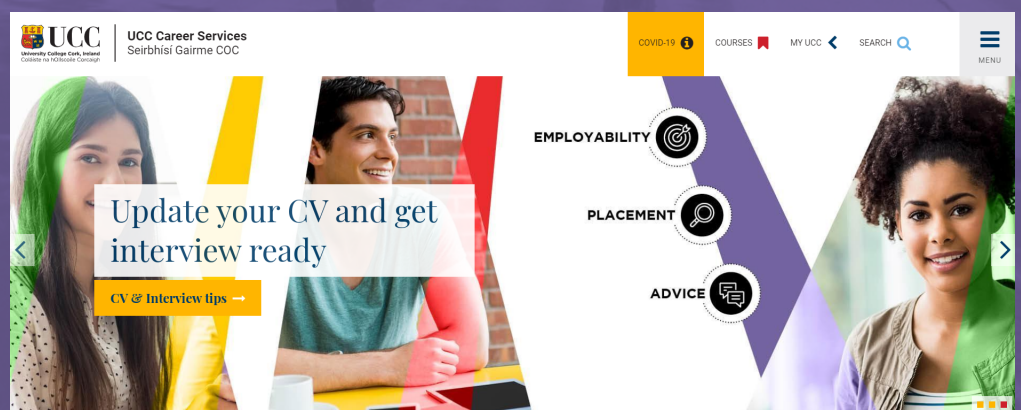


Since September we have been working on a partnership project with Microsoft. This project is harnessing the power of Microsoft Teams and LinkedIn Learning to support final year/penultimate year students build up work-ready skills and attributes.

The project was launched to 1000 UCC students in November by Interim President, Professor John O'Halloran, and the Managing Director of Microsoft Ireland Cathriona Hallahan. This project demonstrates the value we can achieve when Higher Education and technology companies work together to support our students and the future of work, where emerging technologies including A.I. offer the ability to improve student employability. Many teams worked towards the successful implementation of this Teams App, so huge thanks to IT Services, Student Records and Exams and Career Services for their great support with this project.



Throughout the year, the Graduate Attributes Programme also had the opportunity to support our colleagues in Career Services to develop a new visual identity and support the development of a new suite of videos which will assist students to navigate the transition out phase to professional environments. More information on www.ucc.ie/careers



GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK

FOR MORE INFO



www.ucc.ie/graduateattributes



graduateattributes@ucc.ie



+353 21 490 3127

FOLLOW US



#BeginBelongBecome





graduateattributes@ucc.ie

www.ucc.ie/graduateattributes

Funded by the Higher Education Authority Innovation and
Transformation Programme and the Tomar Trust



UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

**Graduate
Attributes**