

# UCC eNewsletter

February 2021



## NAVIGATE STORIES

**UCC Undergraduate Prospectus Update**

**Nurturing Bright Futures**

**UCC A Leader in First Year Retention Rate of 94%**

**Changes to Existing Programmes**

**Campus Accommodation 2021/22**

**Introducing the new 'Your Graduate Attributes and Values Compass'**

**Virtual Postgraduate Expo - 23 February 2021**

**CV Review and Big Interview AI Tools**

## UCC Undergraduate Prospectus Update

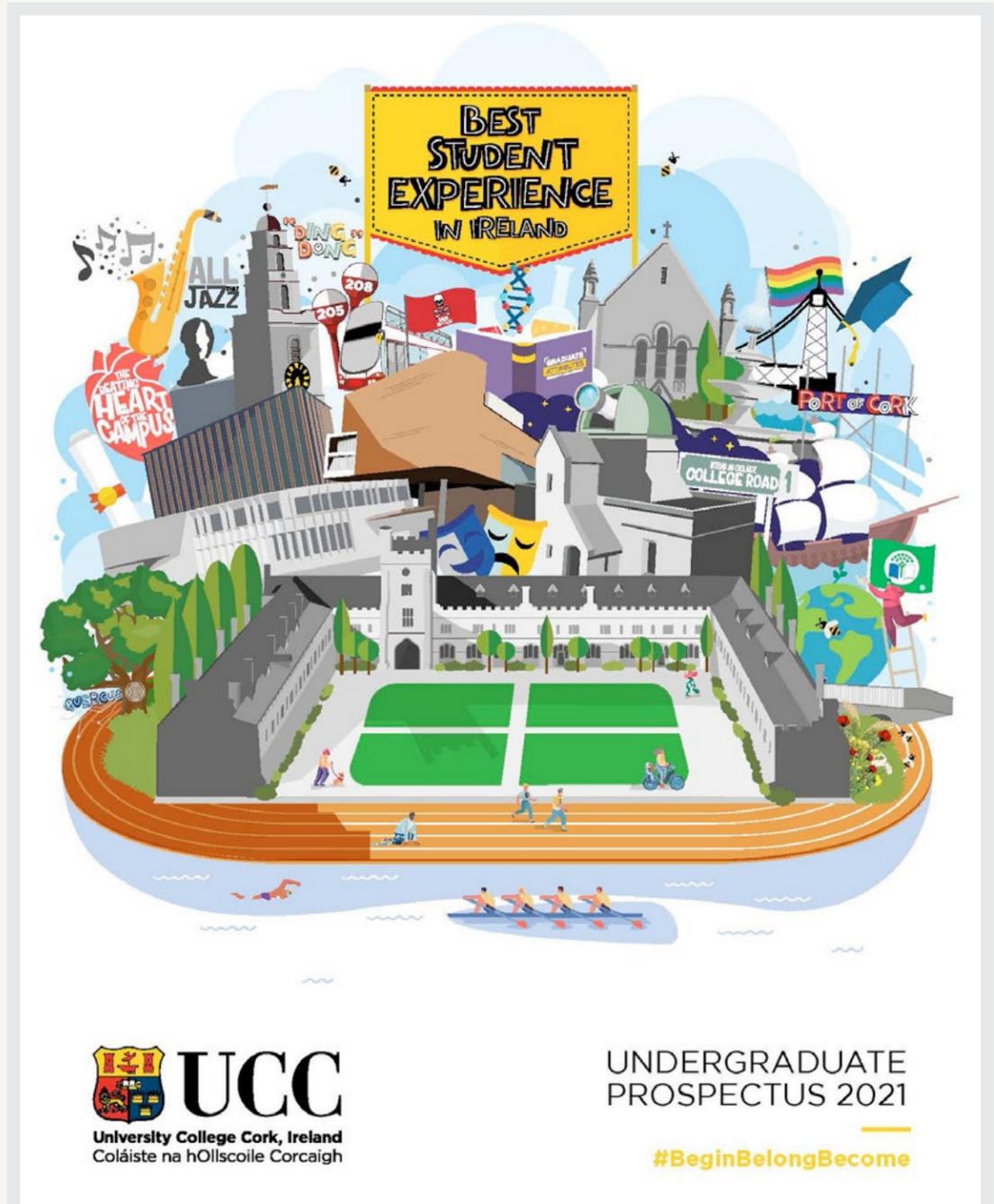
Many of you have already seen our digital copy of the UCC's latest Prospectus

[www.ucc.ie/prospectus](http://www.ucc.ie/prospectus)

Printed copies will be distributed to your schools together with a one-page fold out brochure in early March.

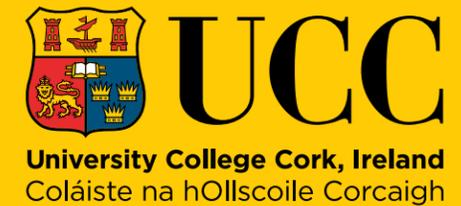
Hopefully your students will be back to school at some point during the month. While we understand many 6th years have already made their choices in the CAO system, when the Change of Mind facility opens up in May, there will be choice changes again.

Hopefully our Prospectus will affirm your students' choices and we will welcome many at UCC in the new academic year 2021/2022.



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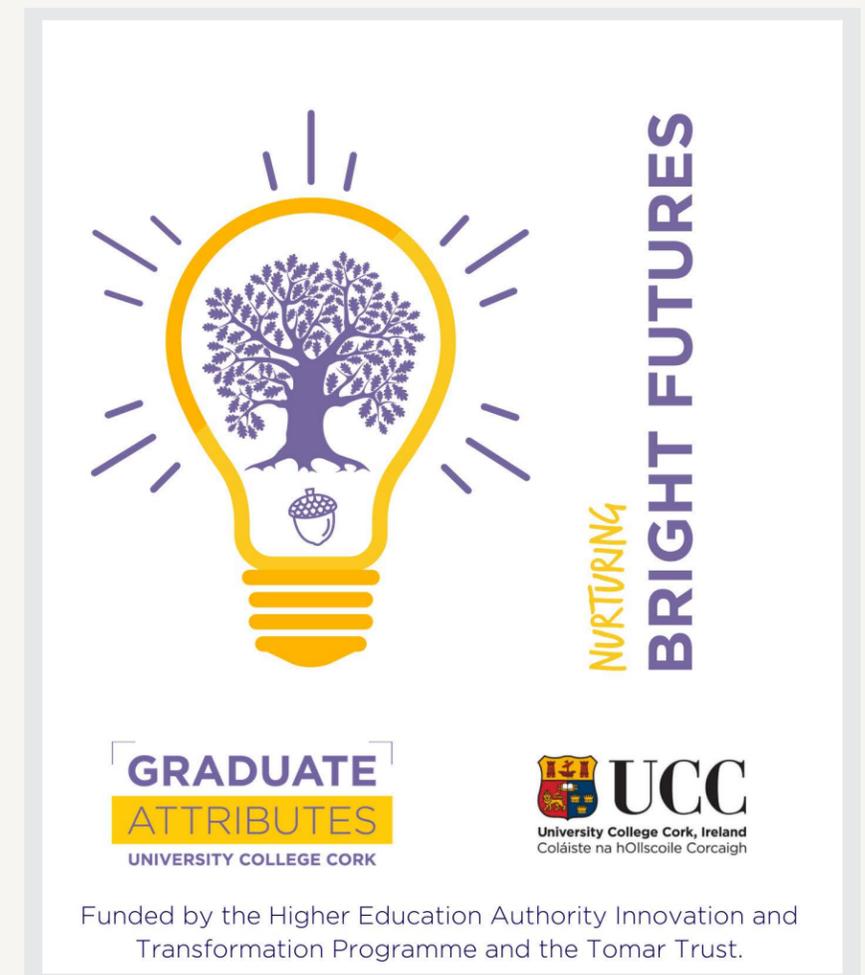
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## Nurturing Bright Futures

After many months of design and development, we are delighted to share the **Nurturing Bright Futures** programme with you! This unique online programme will be relevant for all Senior Cycle students, from Transition Year right up to Leaving Certificate, and has been designed with all pre-entry student cohorts in mind, from the domestic to the international student. It also features bespoke content for students who will access third level education as Mature Students and through the Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) scheme.

This open access programme is comprised of six modules and has been created as a one-stop-shop resource to equip prospective students with the information they need as they prepare to transition in to third level education. It will empower and enable them to make informed choices and decisions for their next step beyond secondary school. Designed to be taken over the course of a number of weeks, in bite-sized format, it will help students acquire the skills and tools they need to successfully make the transition to third level, through the use of multi-media including: video lessons, podcasts, articles, worksheet exercises, quizzes and other helpful resources. While it draws on examples from University College Cork, the content is transferable across the HEI landscape and applicable to students who are considering studying at any higher education institute.

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The six modules include:

**Module 1:** Picking a Course that is right for You

**Module 2:** Degree Choices and Future Careers

**Module 3:** Decision-Making Styles

**Module 4:** Transitioning to Higher Level Education

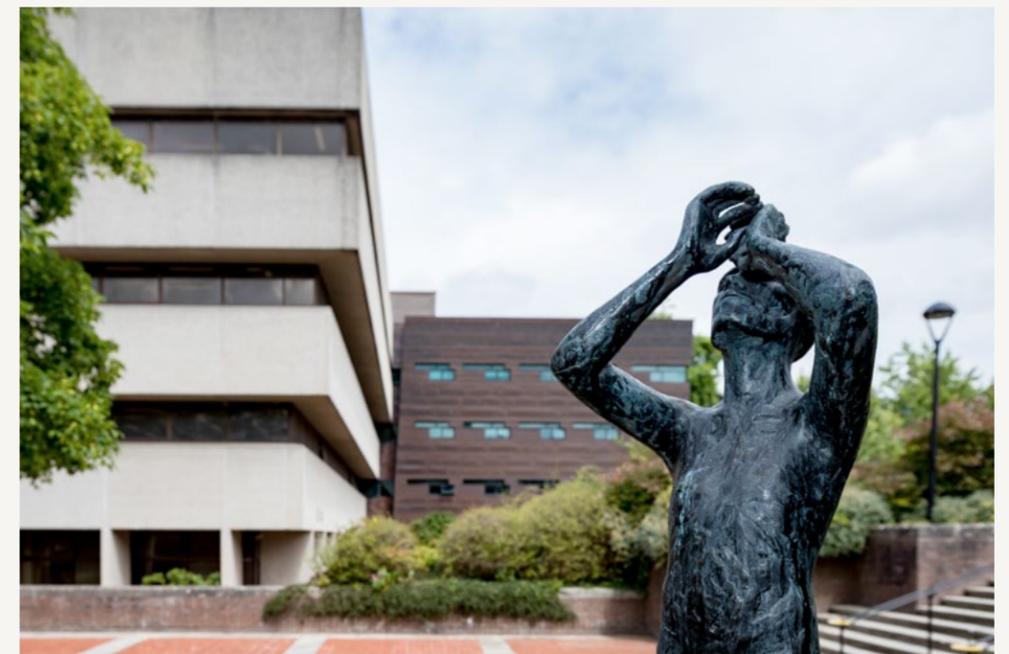
**Module 5:** Realities of University Life

**Module 6:** Graduate Attributes and Values

It is also resource for you, their Guidance Counsellors, to help you support your students to successfully navigate and negotiate this important transition. It can be used in a 1:1 or group setting, and the modules can be taken in whatever order works best for the student. We have also developed a bespoke Guidance Counsellor/Teacher Guide which you can access [HERE](#).

*Nurturing Bright Futures* will be formally launched in late March and full details will follow shortly! We look forward to receiving your feedback on this unique transition in programme. You are uniquely placed to advise us on the students' experience of *Nurturing Bright Futures* and we warmly welcome your expert insights and ideas to enhance and improve this resource for you and your students going forward.

**#BeginBelongBecome**



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## UCC A LEADER IN FIRST YEAR RETENTION RATE OF 94%

University College Cork continues to be a national and international leader with a first-year retention rate of 94%. This achievement in retention and progression signals the success of the numerous and various ways the university is committed to the first-year experience.

The university experience begins long before students arrive. A culmination of years of awareness-raising, and aspiration building activities help students to feel that they belong to the university community before they officially register.

Developing an identity as a university student, of engaging with peers and staff and the wider university community is an ongoing process. As a result, we plan orientation events carefully by drawing on the expertise of the whole learning community, including current students, academic and student support professionals and many other key stakeholders. The partnership between academic staff and student support professionals is a vital vehicle for supporting students in transition. We pay equal attention throughout the first year and that is why our progression rate from first year to second year is the best in Ireland and has been for the past five years.

When students perceive that they have been well advised academically and feel that they have chosen the right degree programme, they are academically engaged and thrive in their first year and feel that they **belong** in UCC.

If you have not seen our video featuring our First Year Experience Coordinator Nóirín Deady, you may like to watch it. It is featured in our Virtual Open Day platform in the Parents & Guardians booth and it showcases the work we do at UCC with our incoming cohorts:

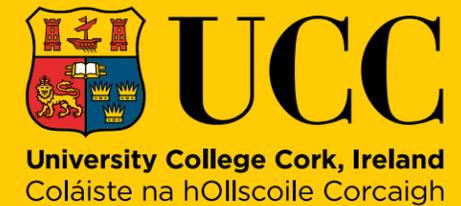
<https://youtu.be/x4KKwW3qeno>



**Above:** Nóirín Deady, First Year Experience Co-ordinator, UCC.

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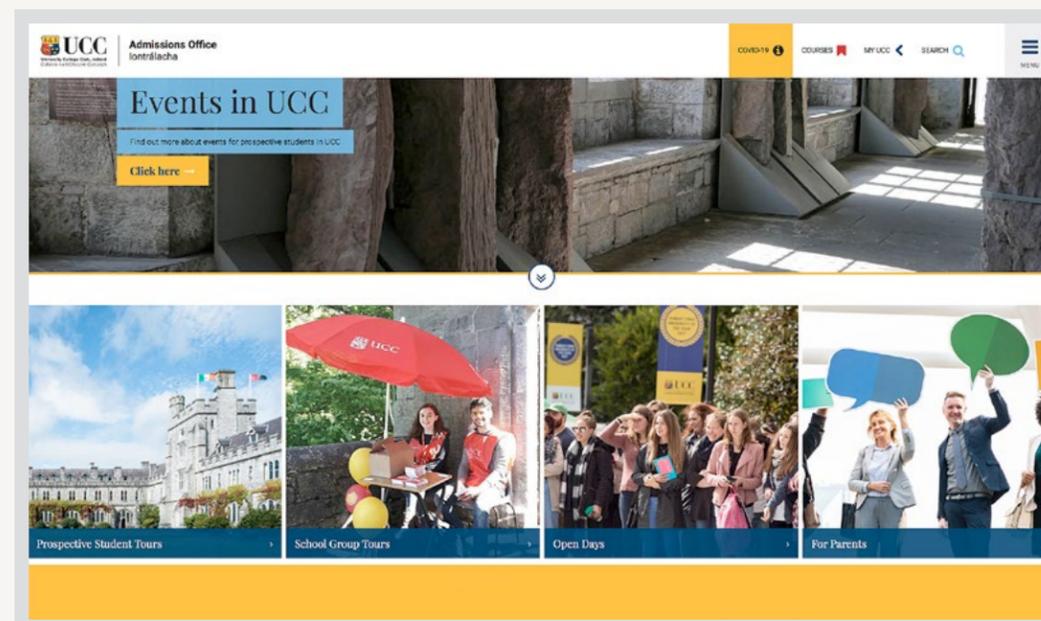
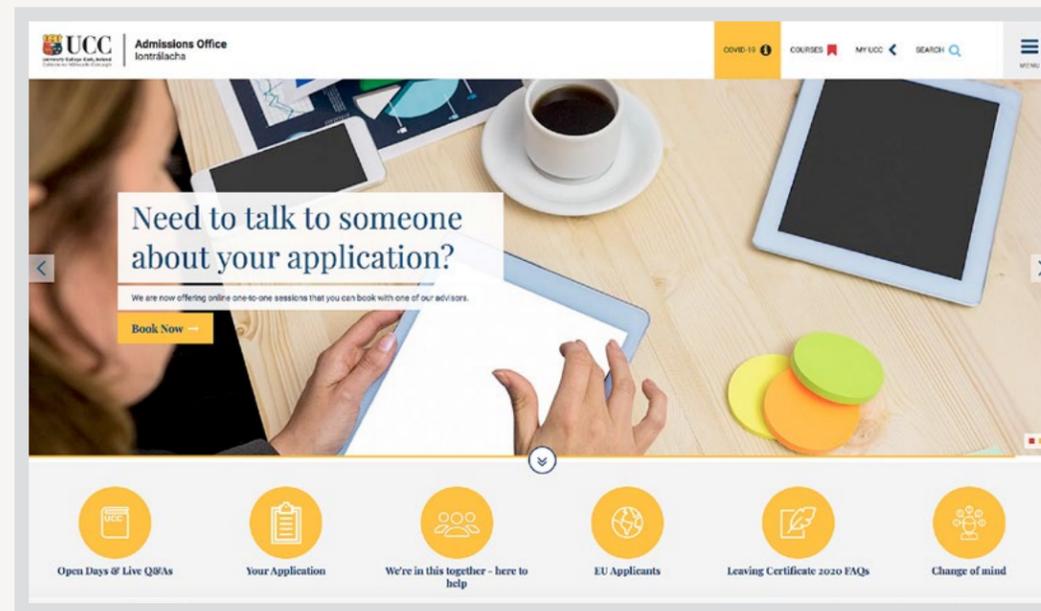
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## UCC CAO Portal

This year again, we are directing our prospective students to our one-stop-shop CAO Portal

[www.ucc.ie/cao](http://www.ucc.ie/cao)

Here, students can book one-to-one consultations with our staff, learn more about our courses, the CAO Change of Mind, upcoming events, etc.

## Virtual Open Days and Live Q&As

While the official Open Days of 4 and 5 December are over, you can still log onto the virtual platform at any time. There, you will find a rich wealth of material on our programmes, financial and support guidance and even a virtual tour of our amazing campus. To register, sign in and use the platform please visit [www.ucc.ie/opendays](http://www.ucc.ie/opendays). We will be live for chat on the platform on the following dates:

**Wednesday 5 May 2021**

**Wednesday 23 June 2021**

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## CHANGES TO EXISTING PROGRAMMES

### CK111 – BA Early Years and Childhood Studies

The BA (Hons) in Early Years and Childhood Studies will run as a 4 year degree programme for students entering from 2021. The extra year of the programme allows students to complete a research project, which will expand knowledge and understanding of their chosen field, and prepare them for employment or graduate-level study. This interdisciplinary degree attracts both school-leavers and mature students (male and female) and is designed for people working towards professional services with children, young people and their families. Hence, it caters for the demand for highly qualified early years and childhood professionals, while also developing future researchers in the field. For more information on the course, please see [www.ucc.ie/en/ck111/](http://www.ucc.ie/en/ck111/). For programme queries, please email the Early Years and Childhood Studies Administrator at [eycs@ucc.ie](mailto:eycs@ucc.ie)



### CK121 – BA Psychology & Computing

Great news! The BA in Psychology and Computing (CK121) at UCC has recently gained accreditation by the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI). The important consequence of accreditation is that graduates from this programme will now be able to join the PSI as a graduate member, as long as they achieve a second-class honours or above in their final degree classification. Graduates of CK121 will be eligible for entry to any Psychology MA programmes across Ireland that stipulate “graduate membership of PSI” as a requirement, without the need to take any graduate conversion programme first. Essentially, the course facilitates a similar education and career path for graduates as a standard Psychology or Applied Psychology degree. Accreditation also ensures improved recognition of the qualification internationally.



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## Campus Accommodation 2021/22

Timing and preparation are key for students and parents when considering booking student accommodation in Cork. We always recommend **UCC Campus Accommodation** to all incoming first year students. Application dates for the 2021/22 academic year have not yet been finalised, please keep an eye on our website at [www.ucc.ie/en/campusaccom/student-accom/](http://www.ucc.ie/en/campusaccom/student-accom/) where dates will be published, once confirmed. However, as students must apply for a lottery-based application system, there is no guarantee every student will receive a place. Therefore, we strongly urge all students to have a plan B with other private accommodation providers.

Check out our [website](#) for more details or contact us directly using the details below. You can also download our **Tips & Advice** accommodation leaflet.



**ACCOMMODATION AND COMMUNITY LIFE,**  
UCC, 6 Carrigside, College Road, Cork T12 KT27

Tel: 021 490 3849/2103/3091  
Email: [resservices@ucc.ie](mailto:resservices@ucc.ie)

You can find more information on all Accommodation options on our website at [www.ucc.ie/en/accommodation](http://www.ucc.ie/en/accommodation) or contact us directly for advice

**TIPS**

**KNOW YOUR BUDGET**

Consider your budget for accommodation at an early stage and research all options within that budget. How much will you need to secure your accommodation?

Find out more at [www.ucc.ie/en/accommodation](http://www.ucc.ie/en/accommodation)

**BE PREPARED**

Consider all accommodation options. Limited spaces are available in student accommodation throughout the city.

It is important to understand your rights and the landlord's obligations, in particular, any cancellation policy and other terms and conditions. Check out our website for more information.

Preparation is the key to success.

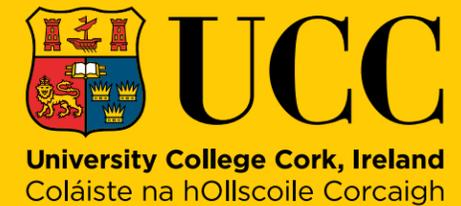
**TIMING**

**Start your accommodation search in January**

*WE ENCOURAGE ALL STUDENTS TO BE PROACTIVE AND PERSISTENT IN THEIR SEARCH*

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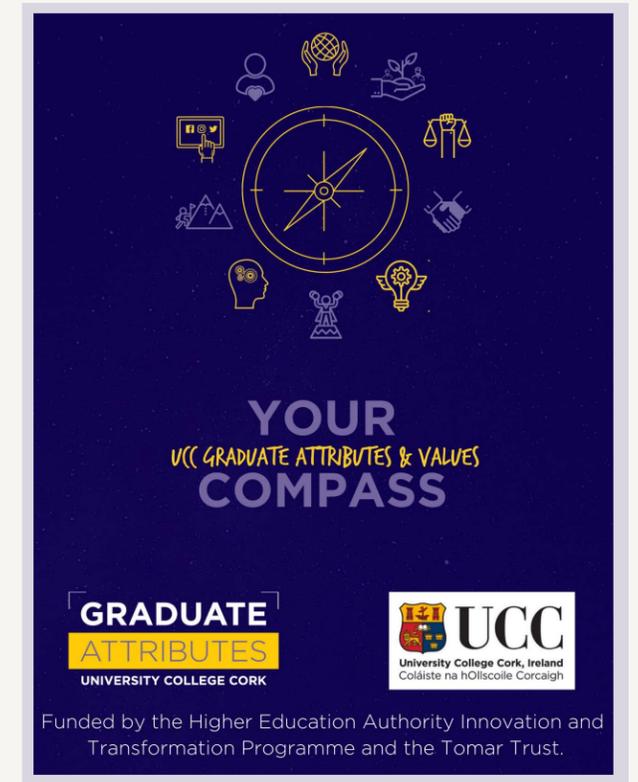
## Introducing the new 'Your Graduate Attributes and Values Compass'

Life is a learning journey. Depending on their life and learning experiences to date, all students develop their potential in different ways and along different timeframes. There is no right and wrong way to learn, no set timeline or map. For this reason, it is important for students to reflect on and evaluate their progress as they begin their individual learning journey and at regular intervals throughout. All students will have their own starting points and learning experiences before coming to university and while at UCC, which will shape them as individuals, influencing how their story unfolds and the direction they choose to take in learning and life. Our UCC students belong to a dynamic and diverse community where many, many people wish to support them on their learning journey.

The newly created **Your UCC Graduate Attributes and Values**

**Compass** is a custom designed tool to facilitate students' reflection, planning and growth on their learning journey as they **begin, belong and become** at UCC. It supports UCC students to consider their holistic development, through the formal curriculum and through the many ways that students can grow and develop at UCC. **Your UCC Graduate Attributes and Values Compass** provides a visual summary of where each UCC student see their development of attributes and values along the continuum from acorn to oak. **Your UCC Graduate Attributes and Values Compass** signposts students to related information, activities and experiences that will nurture the development of their attributes and values.

From Autumn 2021, all UCC students, at undergraduate or postgraduate level, will complete **Your Graduate Attributes and Values Compass**.



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## Virtual Postgraduate Expo – 23 February 2021

Our Virtual Postgraduate Expo takes place on Tuesday 23 February from 3-7pm. Learn about postgraduate courses and research opportunities. View courses [HERE](#).

On the day, enjoy our keynote talks and speak to our academics and staff in the **Live Q&A from 4-7pm**. Listen to talks from our Career Services consultants and get expert advice on the day.

Find out more about each course subject area and get your questions answered.

Hear from current students and alumni about what UCC is really like and their achievements. This is your chance to get to know more about student accommodation, finance and student support services on offer. You can register for the event by clicking [HERE](#).



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## VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCES

The UCC Graduate Attributes Programme has produced a series of Virtual 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 colleges' unique teaching and learning spaces, labs and facilities. We hope these VR experiences support prospective students to make UCC their university of choice in 2021.

Welcome to UCC's 360° VR Campus Experience

**College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences**

Welcome to UCC's 360° VR Campus Experience

**College of Business and Law**

Welcome to UCC's 360° VR Campus Experience

**College of Medicine and Health**

Welcome to UCC's 360° VR Campus Experience

**College of Science, Engineering and Food Science**

Click on red titles above to access each College VR Experience

## Virtual Reality Experiences



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



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## CV REVIEW AND BIG INTERVIEW AI TOOLS



**PRESENT**

**YOUR SKILLS IN THE BEST WAY POSSIBLE WITH HELP FROM OUR EXPERT TEAM**



UCC Career Services



With the support of the UCC Graduate Attributes Programme, UCC Career Services have recently launched the Career Set CV Review tool. Career Set's Artificial Intelligence algorithms have been configured to generate personalised CV feedback and the tool has been designed using recognised best practices, applicable across industries and academic disciplines. All current students and recent graduates of UCC can access the tool to score the impact, style and brevity of their CV. The tool can also help applicants target their CV to a specific job description.

This week the Career Services are also set to launch Big Interview, an AI-based Practice Interview Tool. Once registered on the platform,

students and recent graduates can use the 'Learn' option to undertake short courses to help them understand the interview process and STAR technique. Users will also get hands-on practice with interactive mock interviews tailored to specific industries, jobs, and experience level. If a student or graduate is called for interview and have not had a lot of time to prepare, they can use the Fast Track training course to learn the essentials and gain some experience through targeted practice interviews. The growing use of AI Careers tools is transforming the way Career Departments deliver their services, allowing us to support more students while we operate remotely.