



Dublin City University
Educational Trust



Supporter Impact Report

2019/20



At DCU Educational Trust, we are passionate about the power of higher education to transform lives and societies, and we believe great things are possible when philanthropy combines with a young, dynamic and ambitious university like DCU.

Through our fundraising work, we build meaningful partnerships with DCU's supporters to further DCU's mission to transform lives and societies through education, research, innovation and engagement.



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An Unprecedented Year



To borrow from sporting parlance, the 2019/20 academic year was certainly a 'game of two halves' for DCU Educational Trust. The first part unfolded in a world that was yet to hear of Covid-19, where we enjoyed full events such as our Leadership Circle Dinner to celebrate and thank DCU's leading supporters in October 2019. Our Access to the Workplace Programme continued to go from strength to strength, with many new supporters joining, and the programme taking the top prize in the Best Business and Third Level Institution Collaboration category at the Education Awards for 2020.

The advent of Covid-19 and subsequent lockdown of Irish and global society, changed both everything and nothing. Despite the indisputable challenges it has created, our mission remains unchanged: to develop philanthropic relationships to support DCU in its mission to transform lives and societies.

If anything, the adversity created by Covid-19 has reinforced the importance of this mission and the critical role our partners play in transforming the lives of the students who pass through DCU's doors, and in enabling universities to respond to the greatest challenges facing global society. The pivotal role of philanthropy was evident as we supported the establishment of the DCU Covid-19 Research and Innovation Hub, which leverages DCU's research strengths to address key questions facing the healthcare sector and wider society due to the pandemic.

The significance of philanthropy was also clear as we launched the DCU Covid-19 Student Emergency Fund in response to a 183% increase in students seeking help from DCU's Student Assistance Fund. The reaction from DCU friends and alumni was resounding, raising €75,000 to support students in need in just one month. Yet, despite this impressive display of solidarity and generosity towards DCU students, the coming years will present ongoing challenges to maintain scholarship supports for DCU Access students from low-income families, who have seen their incomes decimated by this crisis.

Although our supporters are undoubtedly also feeling the economic impact of Covid-19, their determination to continue supporting DCU's Access Programme has been uplifting. We have also been heartened to see donors committing to major new initiatives such as The Naughton Family Chair in STEM Education, which look beyond this crisis and are concerned with developing the skills and knowledge required for the future of Irish society. In total, our supporters pledged €4.5 million to support transformative projects in 2019/20, an incredible result in such challenging times.

I would like to conclude by most firmly thanking our supporters once again for their steadfast support in what has been an unprecedented year for all.

Eamonn Quinn,
Chair, DCU Educational Trust



A Global Effort to Transform Lives and Societies



The misery of the Covid-19 pandemic has established the mission of Dublin City University, to 'transform lives and societies,' as a global imperative amongst people determined not to return to the old order, but to shape a new world as it could be, and as it should be.

Muhammad Yunus, Nobel laureate and honorary alumnus of DCU, famously remarked: "We need to imagine things to make them happen. If you don't imagine, it will never happen." At our university we work to make things happen, and through your support of the DCU Educational Trust we make them happen together.

This dream of a better world is encapsulated in the ambition and idealism of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which seek to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere by 2030. We share these goals at DCU and work tirelessly towards their delivery.

In 2020, the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings placed DCU 84th amongst the world's universities for its positive impact on society, and its success in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals. As you read this report, you will see how our supporters' generosity fuels the actions that deliver this impact. These range from providing an inclusive and quality education for all and reducing inequality in our society, to promoting health and well-being, driving innovation that changes society and addressing major environmental challenges. I am particularly impressed by the achievements of our Covid-19 Research and Innovation Hub, and the work of colleagues to alleviate the impact of the pandemic.

The longstanding support of our donors demonstrates not just their generosity but also their imagination, and belief in DCU's purpose to 'transform lives and societies through education, research, innovation and engagement.'

I would like to sincerely thank each and every one of DCU's supporters for your commitment to DCU's mission. You are not patrons, but partners, and I know you will enjoy reading about the student lives you have changed, and the many groundbreaking projects you made possible.

Professor Daire Keogh,
President, DCU



Making an Impact in Extraordinary Times



2019/20 was a year like no other for DCU Educational Trust



We faced

1

global pandemic that changed everything



We saw a

183%

increase in requests to DCU's Student Assistance Fund



Student counselling registrations increased by

100%

during the Covid-19 lockdown from March to May 2020



Yet despite significant adversity, our supporters pledged

€4.5 million

for projects to transform lives and societies.



Quality Education for All



- 85 teachers supported to improve literacy outcomes in disadvantaged schools through Write to Read online summer courses
- 1,158 Access students from low-income families enrolled at DCU
- 83% of 5th year students who reported increased confidence in Irish, English or Maths after JumpAGrade online tuition

More Inclusive Societies



- 26 University of Sanctuary scholarships now awarded to enable asylum seekers to access higher education
- 4 students supported to become Ireland's first Deaf primary school teachers using Irish Sign Language
- 440 weeks of work placement provided by DCU Access to the Workplace partner companies for students from disadvantaged backgrounds

Health and Well-being



- 15 projects in DCU's Covid-19 Research & Innovation Hub tackling challenges related to health and well-being in society
- €75,000 committed to DCU Covid-19 Student Emergency Fund to help students affected by financial hardship or mental health issues
- 531 Exoskeleton walking sessions for 38 individuals affected by paralysis

Smarter Futures



- The Naughton Family Chair in STEM Education is the 1st in Ireland to focus on STEM education at primary level and in early childhood education
- 73% of final year student teachers who plan to use game-based learning in the classroom following the Microsoft Student Teacher Digital Skills initiative
- 4 research projects by the AIB Chair in Data Analytics using machine learning to understand human decision making and behaviour

Climate Action and Safe Sustainable Societies



- 600 citizen science volunteers took part in DCU Water Institute's WaterBlitz
- 2 future climate change leaders received NTR Foundation scholarships to undertake MSc in Climate Change: Policy, Media and Society



A Quality Education for All



Education enables upward socio-economic mobility and is the foundation to improving people's lives, delivering equality in society and sustainable development.

Our philanthropic partners help DCU to deliver on its commitment to ensure that more people can access and benefit from high-quality education and training, both in Ireland and around the world.

Access: Addressing the Educational Divide

In Ireland there is a significant educational divide that sees 99% of students from Dublin 6 progress to higher education, compared with less than 8% from some disadvantaged north Dublin communities close to DCU.

To bridge this gap, our Access Outreach Programme works with local schools and communities to raise student aspirations and awareness of higher education opportunities. DCU is also committed to providing real opportunities for students from socio-economically disadvantaged communities to progress to university, with 10% of places on all undergraduate courses reserved for Access students.

Focus on: Archdiocese of Dublin & JumpAGrade

Support from the Archdiocese of Dublin enabled a new initiative to provide 33 UFirst participants in fifth year with an average of 13 weeks online tuition in Maths, Irish or English. The pilot began in January 2020, and thanks to its online format continued to run smoothly following school closures in March. Student grades increased by 17% and 83% reported increased confidence in their chosen subject. The students will continue to receive this support in 2020/21 as they prepare for their Leaving Certificate in a Covid-19 world.



63

linked primary and post-primary DEIS schools in disadvantaged north Dublin communities



225

Junior Cycle students received campus tours and talks



200

second year students took part in Verizon Maths Quiz



1,100

Transition Year students engaged through 110 multimedia workshops, a 'Women in STEM' inspirational event for girls and a 'Raising Aspirations' event for boys



1,200

attendees at annual Access Achievement Awards



125

5th and 6th year students received intensive support through the UFirst Programme to prepare for university, including study skills, online tuition and career advice

Equal Opportunities to Excel



Receiving an offer to study at DCU marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the lives of DCU Access students. Many will be the first in their family to attend university and know that their success can inspire others and be the foundation for upward socio-economic mobility in their families and communities.

DCU's Access Programme is behind them on every step of this journey, providing a comprehensive range of financial, personal and academic supports to ensure they will thrive in their studies and realise their full potential.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, this package includes a privately funded scholarship to help these students from low-income families to cope with daily expenses and the additional financial burden which entering university presents. As Covid-19 continues to limit part-time work opportunities in sectors such as hospitality and retail, which many Access students traditionally rely on to support themselves during college, they will need their scholarship income more than ever in 2020/21.

Access Students in 2019/20

1,158

Access students enrolled at DCU in 2019/20



308

new first year Access entrants



€989,000

pledged to support Access scholarships in 2019/20



97%

of Access graduates achieved an honours degree in 2020, outperforming the general student population



Access students were born in

55

different countries

Chloe's Story



DCU Access students embody DCU's mission to transform lives and societies. Chloe Fowler is just one of these students, who, as a final year student teacher at DCU, became the first past pupil to return to her former school in Dublin's inner city as a teacher.

"Growing up, I always knew I wanted to be a primary school teacher. When I was in school, I had some amazing teachers who really inspired me but I wondered why I never had a teacher who was from the same area, or who spoke like me.

By becoming a teacher, I want to show children from areas that are seen as disadvantaged that they can do anything they want in the future. I have done a lot of my teaching placements in my old primary school, where I was the first past pupil to ever return as a teacher.

In my secondary school, less than half of my year went on to college. I worked hard but unfortunately, I just missed out on the points

for my course. I was devastated, really at a loss for what to do next. When the DCU Access Service emailed me with a place for my course, I cried with relief.

When I started at DCU, I was worried that college wasn't for me and I felt like I didn't belong at the start. It felt like everybody else had a connection like a parent who was a teacher, and it felt like a different world to me. My Access Officer really got me through this and convinced me I could do it.

There are a lot of hidden costs when you're studying to become a teacher, like going to the Gaeltacht, or printing and preparing your materials for class when you're on placement. The Access scholarship has really helped take away some of that financial pressure.

DCU's Access Programme has given me the chance to realise my dream and now I can give back as a teacher, to the children who need to see they can achieve their dreams as well."

"When I was in school, I had some amazing teachers who really inspired me but I wondered why I never had a teacher who was from the same area, or who spoke like me."

Empowering Teachers

The quality of an education system cannot surpass that of its teachers. As the home of the first Faculty of Education in an Irish university, which graduates over 500 teachers each year, we know the fundamental importance of quality teachers to society.

Together with our philanthropic partners, we are working to address the major challenges in our education system and to recognise the outstanding work of teachers who work every day to improve lives and communities.



Write to Read

In Ireland, almost 1 in 5 children leave disadvantaged schools reading at or below the 10th percentile on standardised tests of reading achievement, meaning they would struggle with simple everyday tasks. With support from the Quinn Family Foundation, Rethink Ireland and Deutsche Bank, DCU's Write to Read project is working to address this literacy achievement gap.

Write to Read enables children to develop as readers, writers and thinkers by providing professional development that supports their teachers to deliver quality literacy programmes. In 2020, the project developed a new website and toolkit to make its professional development available to teachers in over 680 DEIS schools across Ireland. It will directly support at least 170 teachers and 2,730 children in disadvantaged schools from September 2020 to 2022.

Teachers Inspire

With support from businessman and philanthropist Dermot Desmond, DCU created the Teachers Inspire platform to recognise the transformative role of teachers and the enormous contribution they make to learning and Irish society. Four inspiring teachers, Séamas Cassidy, Nora Duffy, Sinéad O'Mahony and Kelly Loughran, were announced as the inaugural winners of the Teachers Inspire Ireland Desmond Awards in October 2019.

"With Covid-19 school closures having a disproportionate impact on children in DEIS schools, Write to Read will be more important than ever to support schools to address the adverse impact of six months out of the classroom on these children."

— Dr Eithne Kennedy, Director, Write to Read

Setting Standards in Education

Two academic Chair positions at DCU's Institute of Education are informing and shaping the future of education globally thanks to the generous support of Dermot Desmond, and leading testing solutions provider, Prometric.

Desmond Chair in Early Childhood Education

As the Desmond Chair in Early Childhood Education, Professor Mathias Urban leads DCU's Early Childhood Research Centre (ECRC). In 2019/20, Professor Urban and the Centre's work continued to put Ireland at the centre of the global map of early childhood research.

For the third consecutive year, Professor Urban led the development of two early childhood policy briefs for the Think20 (T20) engagement group, providing research-based policy recommendations included in the final communiqué presented to G20 leaders in advance of the G20 Summit in Riyadh in November 2020.

In 2020, Professor Urban's work focused on social cohesion, sustainability and the resilience of early childhood education and care systems disrupted by Covid-19. In a joint statement, the T20 group emphasised early childhood education as an essential element of a country's ability to respond to the pandemic, on a par with health and social welfare systems.



Prometric Chair in Assessment

As Covid-19 rendered it impossible to host state examinations in their traditional written formats, governments everywhere struggled to find fair alternatives to assess student performance. In Ireland, the Government opted to replace its Leaving Certificate exams with a system of Calculated Grades for 2020.

Seeking expertise in the field of assessment practice, the Minister for Education appointed Prometric Chair in Assessment, Professor Michael O'Leary, to sit on an Independent Steering Committee to provide advice on the process.

Covid-19 has also resulted in a move to remote proctoring of tests worldwide, leading Professor O'Leary and colleagues in DCU's Centre for Assessment, Research, Policy and Practice in Education (CARPE) to expand and intensify existing research programmes in this area in 2020.



More Inclusive Societies



Achieving fairer and more inclusive societies will lay the foundation for a more peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, DCU is delivering important initiatives to ensure disadvantaged and marginalised groups can fully participate in education, employment and wider society.

Finding Sanctuary – Anne's Story



Since becoming Ireland's first University of Sanctuary in 2016, DCU has demonstrated national leadership in its commitment to welcome refugees and asylum seekers into the university community and to fostering a culture of inclusion for all. Our University of Sanctuary programme has since supported 26 asylum seekers to overcome financial and logistical obstacles to enrolling in higher education.

Below, Anne describes the impact of her University of Sanctuary scholarship.

"Moving alone to a country with a different culture can be quite daunting. I thought Ireland would be a safe place for me, but beyond that, I didn't know what to expect.

Adapting to life in direct provision did pose some challenges. I had left a good job in Nigeria, so adjusting to not working was very difficult. With the asylum process taking so long and limited options to take part in society, it can be hard to engage and improve yourself.

After discovering DCU's University of Sanctuary, I began my MSc in Management of Operations in September 2017, studying remotely through DCU Connected. Just four months later, I gave birth to a beautiful little baby girl. DCU were very supportive after she was born and I was determined to power through and get on with my course. In this regard, the flexibility of the distance learning worked very well as I did classes online at night when my daughter was sleeping.

Although I am still in the direct provision system, I try my best to focus and be positive. I am keen to move on, to get into the workplace and to find a home for my daughter. I am looking forward to putting my knowledge to good use and to fully participating in Irish society. I want my daughter to grow up seeing me be able to provide for her. Right now, I cannot even get her a simple present, everything we have is second hand.

I would like to say thank you to DCU's University of Sanctuary supporters. The opportunity of education is a lifelong gift. It goes beyond one person and changes an entire community around them. When I got my scholarship, it encouraged many of my friends to work hard and not to give up on themselves. A gift through the University of Sanctuary is a gift that lifts everyone."

"I am looking forward to putting my knowledge to good use and to fully participating in Irish society. I want my daughter to grow up seeing me be able to provide for her."

Inclusive Practices in Education



Supporting Students on the Autism Spectrum

DCU's Institute of Education is committed to empowering teachers to build inclusive classrooms and schools, which will in turn lead to a more inclusive and socially just society for all.

With philanthropic support from Paul Kerley and KPMG, doctoral researchers Finbar Horgan and Christina O'Keeffe are exploring the challenges facing students on the autism spectrum to provide insights into the best approaches to support these young people in the Irish education system. Christina is focusing on the empowering role of play in supporting social relationships and learning for young children on the autism spectrum, whilst Finbar's research looks at how student voice approaches can support the inclusion of pupils with autism in mainstream post-primary schools.

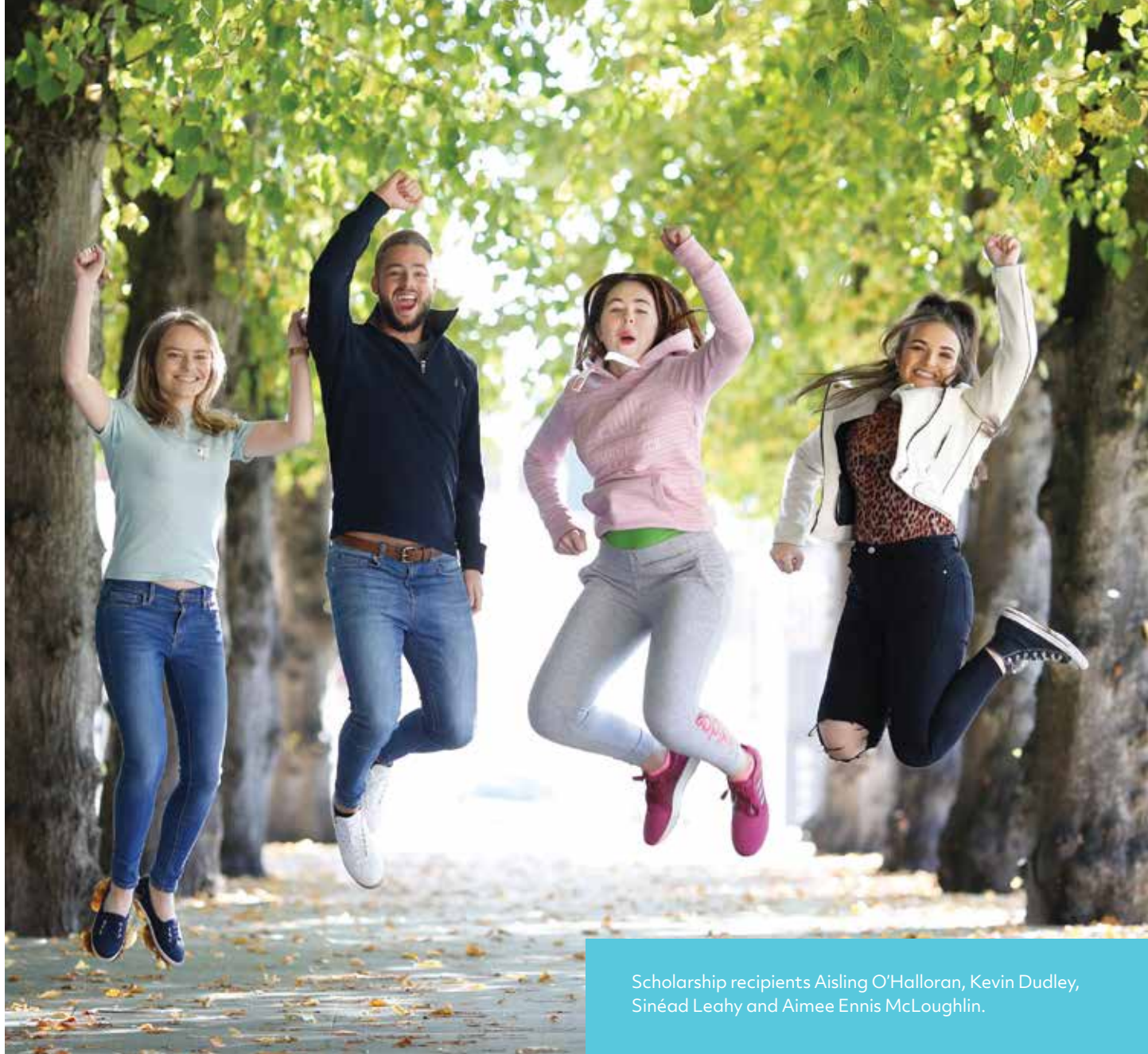
"If we want an inclusive society, it begins with inclusive classrooms."

— Joe Travers, Head of School of Inclusive and Special Education, DCU

Adult Religious Education and Faith Development for a Modern Ireland

With support from the Presentation Sisters, North East Province, Dr Gareth Byrne and Dr Bernadette Sweetman of DCU's Mater Dei Centre for Catholic Education are leading research into community-based adult religious education and faith development in Ireland today. Survey and interview data collected and analysed in 2019/20 will now inform the piloting and development of new models to respond to the challenges of adult religious education in contemporary Ireland.





Scholarship recipients Aisling O'Halloran, Kevin Dudley, Sinéad Leahy and Aimee Ennis McLoughlin.

New Irish Sign Language Primary Teaching Pathway

In 2019, DCU launched Ireland's first entry route to primary teacher education for members of the Deaf community who communicate through Irish Sign Language (ISL). Providing users of Irish Sign Language with the opportunity to become teachers marks an important step in ensuring increased access and inclusion for all in the classroom, allowing Deaf children in primary school to have teachers who are fluent ISL users.

The first four students who entered DCU's Bachelor of Education through the new Irish Sign Language pathway will receive scholarship support from Folens Publishers and CIDP throughout their four-year degree.

"I feel like a huge door has opened for me, and now I'm here to change deaf children's futures for the better."

— Kevin Dudley, Bachelor of Education (ISL pathway)

Inclusive Workplaces



DCU Access to the Workplace

Using their summer months to gain professional experience related to their degree can significantly enhance a student's future career prospects and social mobility. However, **not all students possess the social and professional networks that can help to secure paid, professional summer work experience.** This is particularly true for DCU Access students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

In response, DCU launched its Access to the Workplace Programme in 2019 to offer high-quality, paid, professional summer work placements for second year Access students, hosted by companies who support the DCU Access Scholarship Programme.

Although office closures due to Covid-19 created challenges for our Access to the Workplace partner companies in summer 2020, we were delighted that many managed to adapt and offer remote placements for students instead.

Find out more about DCU Access to the Workplace and our partners at dcu.ie/accesstotheworkplace.

An evaluation of the programme's pilot year, published in November 2019, showed:

440

weeks of placements completed by 50 students



39

partner companies hosted placements



€180,000

earned by participating students



94%

of students would have been unable to secure an equivalent placement through their own networks



72%

of students reported increased motivation in relation to their degree and career



DCU Centre of Excellence for Diversity and Inclusion

Established in June 2018, the DCU Centre of Excellence for Diversity and Inclusion is a central hub for research, advice and knowledge exchange. The Centre works with a community of academic experts, informed practitioners, industry partners and thought leaders to produce research and best practices to support workplace diversity and inclusion.

In 2019/20, the Centre welcomed AIB, Laya Healthcare, PwC, Indeed and AMCK Aviation as founding members, followed by Fidelity Investments Ireland and Pfizer more recently.

Key highlights from the Centre's work in 2019/20 include:



Hosting Ireland's first Diversity and Inclusion Conference in September 2019.



Partnering with the aviation industry to launch the **Aviation Industry Year of Inclusion 2020**, supported by the Government. Due to Covid-19, the initiative pivoted from planned events and engagement activities to providing the industry with practical tools and resources that focus on inclusion.



Launching a new **#PrideinSport** video series to start a conversation about LGBTQI+ Inclusion in Sport.



Working in collaboration with Indeed, the Centre completed research which led to the development of a '**Hiring Manager's Toolkit for Neurodiversity**' and a report on '**Self-disclosure in the Workplace**' which features a free, simple toolkit to support implementation of better self-disclosure practices.



Introducing a new **Employer Resources website** section and a quarterly newsletter with information to help employers stay focused on being as inclusive as possible, despite the challenges of Covid-19.



Establishing a **Race Equality Hub** to provide employers in Ireland with practical tools and best practice guidelines to tackle racism and foster more inclusive practices in the workplace. The Hub was developed in collaboration with the African Scholars Association of Ireland, is supported by Ibec, Business in the Community Ireland and the Irish Centre for Diversity, and is sponsored by Bank of Ireland.



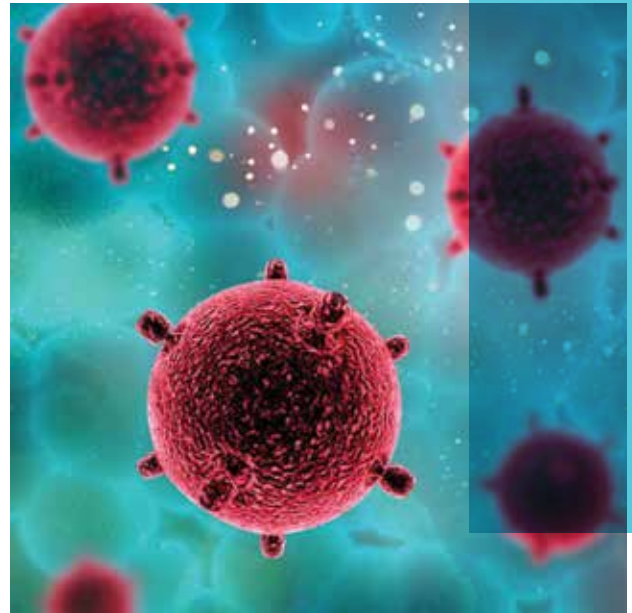
Health and Well-being



Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages is essential to sustainable development.

Philanthropic support has enabled DCU researchers to respond to the Covid-19 global health crisis in 2020, and to continue projects promoting healthy lifestyles, positive mental health and well-being.

Covid-19 Research & Innovation Hub



With the world facing a global health crisis unlike any other, DCU established its Covid-19 Research and Innovation Hub in May 2020 to provide swift solutions to the challenges of Covid-19.

Backed by philanthropic funding from DCU Educational Trust, the Hub brings together DCU's research strengths to tackle key problems created by the Covid-19 crisis across four main areas: healthcare, technology, the economy and society.

The Hub's 15 initiatives have a heavy emphasis on supporting the healthcare sector in the fight against Covid-19 and ensuring the well-being of vulnerable and minority groups. Projects underway include:

- Developing a 'Lab-on-a-Chip' device to provide a faster, simpler diagnostic test for use by frontline workers
- Developing a low-cost, rapid, portable device to sample surfaces for the presence of Covid-19
- Working with the HSE's Covid-19 Laboratory R&D Product Solutions Group to conduct research into the reliability and performance of Covid-19 antibody tests

- Building a platform that rapidly tests if potential therapeutic treatments are effective in stopping the SARS-Cov-2 virus from binding to human cells
- Designing a series of 'PE at Home' lessons to keep children active
- Improving the translation and interpretation of Covid-19 public health messages for minority groups

The initial philanthropic investment has since enabled three DCU project leaders, Dr Jane Suiter, Prof Stephen Daniels and Dr Paul Leonard to secure additional funding to further their projects through a €5.5 million Covid-19 Rapid Response Research and Innovation Programme. The programme was established by Science Foundation Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, the Health Research Board and the Irish Research Council.



Supporting Youth Mental Health



FUSE Anti-bullying and Online Safety Programme

Research by the National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre at DCU has shown that 1 in 3 Irish teenagers have been bullied offline and 1 in 10 teenagers have been victimised online. Yet sadly, 65% of bullying victims do not tell an adult about their experience.

Against this backdrop, the Centre's FUSE Anti-Bullying and Online Safety Programme seeks to empower young people to tackle bullying and online safety issues with support from their whole school community.

Developed with support from Facebook, FUSE was offered to all post-primary schools across Ireland for the first time in the 2019/20 school year and was fortunate to conclude its in-school activities before Covid-19 closures in March 2020.



Engagement with FUSE programme:

- **385** school staff
- **398** parents
- **1,622** second year students



Student attitudes to tackling bullying after taking part in FUSE:

- **86%** were more confident in their ability to notice if someone was trying to bully them
- **86%** were more confident in their ability to see the need to tell someone and speak out
- **89%** said they would know who to ask for help



Student attitudes to online safety after taking part in FUSE:

- **84%** were more confident in their ability to notice if someone was trying to harass/bully them online
- **81%** were more confident in their ability to see the need to tell someone and speak out about online safety/bullying
- **86%** would know who to ask for help to tackle online safety/cyberbullying



Covid-19 Student Emergency Fund

As the Covid-19 pandemic unfolded, its impact on the mental health and well-being of DCU students quickly became clear. From rising financial hardship cases to vulnerable students whose mental health issues were exacerbated by Covid-19, DCU's Student Support and Development Service witnessed unprecedented levels of student need between March and May 2020.

In response, we launched the DCU Covid-19 Student Emergency Fund to help ensure that challenges and financial hardship caused by Covid-19 would not prevent students from pursuing or completing their third level education. With our supporters BT Ireland agreeing to match the first €25,000 in donations, the reaction from DCU's friends and alumni was incredible, raising €75,000 to support students in need.

With the Covid-19 crisis extending into 2020/21, providing supports to help students cope with uncertainty, increased stress and anxiety will continue to be a significant need.

183%

increase in requests to DCU's Student Assistance Fund



100%

increase in registrations for DCU counselling services



400+

friends, alumni, staff and students made a donation



€75,000

raised to support students in need



The Gift of Movement

DCU's Exoskeleton Programme enables people who have reduced mobility due to paralysis to walk again wearing a robotic suit (exoskeleton) created by Ekso Bionics. In 2019/20 the physiotherapist-led programme facilitated 531 walking sessions for 38 individuals affected by paralysis.

After closing due to Covid-19 in March, the service re-opened again in August 2020. Thanks to an anonymous donor, the programme will purchase a new paediatric exoskeleton this year and is currently seeking match funding for the physiotherapist hours required to run a children's service. When fully operational, the suit will enable DCU to offer up to 20 walking sessions per week for children suffering from paralysis. For more information, please visit dcu.ie/exoskeleton.



Colm's Story

Dr Colm Costigan, a paediatric consultant who lost the use of his legs due to spinal damage following a cardiac arrest explains how the programme has helped him find his feet again.

"My first time using the Exoskeleton was surreal. The suit got me to my feet, but I couldn't find my balance at all. Since that first session, my balance has improved tenfold and my muscle recovery is also improving with every session.

I wouldn't be where I am today without DCU's Exoskeleton Programme. After just six sessions walking in the suit, I'm able to stand straight and walk a reasonable distance with my crutches. I hope that I can return to fully completing my rounds in the hospitals as soon as possible, which I know would never be possible if it weren't for my sessions walking in the Exoskeleton."



Visual Art for the Soul



Pablo Picasso once said, “art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life,” a quote which wonderfully conveys the important contribution of arts and culture to our well-being. In times of difficulty, such as the current Covid-19 pandemic, the momentary joys and beauty which art brings to our lives, and the positive impact this can have on our mental health should not be underestimated.

In 2019/20, DCU Educational Trust continued to work closely with the DCU Visual Arts Committee on a strategy to develop the university's art collection and public art realm. Philanthropic support plays an important role in DCU's continued work to enhance the visual environment across its three academic campuses. Generous donations of artwork have served to complement the university's growing arts and culture initiatives, which include the ANAM arts and culture platform and a diverse artists in residency programme.

“Art washes
away from the
soul the dust of
everyday life”

— Pablo Picasso

In 2019/20, our supporters the Beacon Medical Group generously donated a piece of sculpture by artist Alva Gallagher. Smurfit Kappa plc also gifted a facsimile edition of the Book of Kells (Faksimile Verlag Luzern Edition), which allows students and visitors to the John & Aileen O'Reilly Library to see the full splendours of the manuscript free from the protections necessary for the original book.



Norma Smurfit presents Prof Daire Keogh, President of DCU, with a facsimile edition of the Book of Kells (Faksimile Verlag Luzern Edition).

Promoting Sporting Participation and Performance

In 2020, DCU was crowned the Student Sports Ireland Sports College of the Year for the second year in a row. The award was welcome recognition for a university which prides itself on both the promotion of sports and physical activity as part of the student experience, and also on the outstanding performances of the elite athletes supported through DCU Sports and Well-being.*

Thanks to Bank of Ireland, DCU Sports and Well-being continued to support student athletes to excel in both their academic and sporting pursuits in 2019/20 and to develop as well-rounded individuals who will go forward to make a significant impact in their communities and wider society.

“DCU Sports and Well-being has taught me how to discipline and organise myself to juggle both my education and sporting career, and excel at both, so I’m looking forward to what my future will bring.”

— Evan Comerford, Athletic Therapy and Training student and goalkeeper with the Dublin Men’s Senior Gaelic Football team.

*Formerly DCU Sports Academy.



700 students across 27 men’s and women’s GAA teams represented DCU in competition



DCU’s Men’s Gaelic Football Team won the prestigious Sigerson Cup in 2020



DCU signed the 20x20 Charter pledging to support the women in sport movement



DCU athletes won 25 individual medals and set 2 new Irish Universities records at the Irish University Athletics Association Indoor Championships in February 2020, taking the overall men’s and women’s team titles for the 14th year in a row



12 DCU students or alumni competed at the U23 European Championships in Galve, Sweden in 2019, where student Nadia Power won bronze in the 800m competition



Photograph by Kevin Clancy.

“I’ve had some fantastic coaches since I’ve come to DCU who have pushed me and supported me throughout my time here. I think the best thing about DCU though is having other students who are training just as intensely as you are. I owe a big credit to the group of people I’ve trained with at DCU – they’ve been a great support network and have definitely helped me get to where I am today.”

— Nadia Power, Marketing, Innovation and Technology student at DCU and 800m bronze medal winner at U23 European Athletics Championships 2019.



Smarter Futures



People drive innovation that changes societies.

Philanthropic support is enabling bright minds at DCU to deliver research to promote innovation and to equip future generations with the skills, knowledge and innovative mindset required to create economic growth that will ensure decent work for all.

Supporting Business Innovation and Success



AIB Chair in Data Analytics

Data analytics is a massive global research effort aimed at taking the guesswork out of decision making in society, with potential to improve our approach to everything from hospital waiting lists to energy use to advertising.

As the AIB Chair in Data Analytics at DCU, Professor Tomás Ward is an internationally recognised researcher in the field of machine learning and data analytics. In 2019/20, his teaching and learning activities contributed to developing Ireland's next generation of data scientists and STEM graduates, whilst his research projects focused on using machine learning and data analytics to enable businesses and society to better understand human behaviour and decision-making.

Just some of the projects led by Professor Ward in 2019/20 include:

- Developing the innovative AthenaCX platform to enable researchers and marketers to conduct in the moment experience sampling through pop-up questions on a smart phone triggered by GPS location, heart rate, sleep patterns and more
- Research with PhD student Lili Zhang using machine learning to understand how decision-making changes with age
- Research with DCU's School of Psychology to determine how living with chronic pain affects human decision-making characteristics

- A study with HealthBeacon to predict patient adherence to injectable medication schedules. After analysing data from 5,000+ participants and 300,000+ needle drops, the researchers could predict with 80% accuracy when a participant would forget to take their medication

National Centre for Family Business at DCU

Family businesses play an important role in the Irish economy and wider society, accounting for 64% of Irish companies and employing over 938,000 people according to research published by DCU's National Centre for Family Business in 2020.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Centre, which is supported by AIB, Beauchamps and PwC, quickly developed a series of resources and events to **support this critical sector of the economy**. A practical Covid-19 Family Business Information Series covered topics ranging from financial assistance initiatives and business continuity to managing well-being. Online webinars entitled 'Communication in Family Business: The Cornerstone to Successful Re-opening,' 'Lockdown to Recovery,' and 'Innovation: The Key to Success and Longevity in Family Business' were attended by 285 family firms. The webinars, which provided expert advice on the challenges of Covid-19 are available at dcu.ie/dcu-national-centre-for-family-business.

Preparing Generation Z



Children today live in a world where we haven't yet imagined many of the jobs they will do in the future. To prepare our children for this future, it is critical that our education system can equip them with a solid foundation in STEM skills.

With philanthropic support, new initiatives at DCU are empowering teachers to develop critical science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) skills in their students.

The Naughton Family Chair in STEM Education

In July 2020, DCU announced the creation of The Naughton Family Chair in STEM Education at DCU's Institute of Education. Supported by the Naughton Family Foundation, the Chair will be the first in Ireland to focus on STEM education at primary level and in early childhood education.

Traditionally, STEM education initiatives have targeted post-primary level. However, recent research shows that experiences in primary and early years classrooms are critical to create positive dispositions towards STEM.

With DCU's Institute of Education graduating over 500 primary teachers and 100 early childhood specialists each year, the new Chair will work closely with all those involved in the preparation of our future educators. The Chair will also build on world-class research undertaken by DCU's Centre for the Advancement of STEM Teaching and Learning (CASTeL), Ireland's largest STEM education research centre.



Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD launches The Naughton Family Chair in STEM Education. (L-R) Fiona Naughton, Prof Brian MacCraith, Minister Simon Harris, Prof Daire Keogh and Prof Anne Looney.

With DCU's Institute of Education graduating over 500 primary teachers and 100 early childhood specialists each year, the new Chair will work closely with all those involved in the preparation of our future educators.



Prof Deirdre Butler
in DCU's Minecraft
Education Studio.

Microsoft Student Teacher Digital Skills Project

With support from Microsoft, Professor Deirdre Butler led an innovative Student Teacher Digital Skills Project in 2019. The project aimed to increase the confidence and competence of student teachers to use game-based learning and computational thinking in the design of learning activities.

The project saw 408 final year students on the Bachelor of Education engage in practical, hands on learning modules, which encouraged them to use the Minecraft game and coding activities. These students then completed a project, which involved facilitating an Hour of Code with primary age children in a range of schools across Ireland.

The project's research findings showed it increased the student teachers' confidence and competence in game-based learning, with 73% indicating they would use it in the classroom after taking part.

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6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



Climate Action and Safe, Sustainable Societies



Climate change is a global challenge that affects everyone, everywhere, while clean accessible water for all is an essential part of the world we want to live in but it is under threat.

Philanthropy plays an important role in enabling DCU to provide evidence and insights to safeguard water and to shape policy and practice for more sustainable life and safer societies.

Caring for our Planet



Mobilising Citizen Scientists to Protect our Water

In a world where 2.2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water and warming oceans threaten marine life, **DCU's Water Institute** is addressing national and global water problems through research and capacity building. In 2019/20, the Institute strengthened its focus on citizen science, alongside its recognised research expertise in the development of new water technologies like membranes for water filtration and tools to support environmental monitoring of marine and inland waterways.

In partnership with Earthwatch and RBC, the Water Institute led a WaterBlitz which saw 600 citizen scientist volunteers sample over 350 locations on Dublin's waterways in September 2019. Volunteers collected valuable water data that included both observations and chemical nitrate and phosphate tests, helping to take a snapshot of the health and state of Ireland's waterways and identifying areas in need of remedial action. The Water Institute is currently working with philanthropic partners to develop new citizen science projects for 2020/21.

Preparing Future Climate Change Leaders

As 2019 marked the end of the warmest decade ever recorded (2010 – 2019), calls for urgent action to combat climate change have amplified across the world. Two aspiring climate change leaders, Justyna Byrzykowska and Amy Ní Cholgáin, were the lucky recipients of **NTR Foundation scholarships** in 2019/20 to undertake DCU's MSc in Climate Change: Policy, Media and Society. Unique in an Irish context, the course aims to provide a new generation of leaders with a thorough understanding of the climate regulatory landscape and the political, media and social environment within which change must be achieved.

A Stable and Peaceful World

With conflict, insecurity and weak institutions representing a great threat to sustainable development, our supporters are enabling research at DCU's School of Law and Government that contributes to just, peaceful and inclusive societies.



DCU Brexit Institute

The withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (EU) remains arguably the most important political event in Europe since the Fall of the Berlin Wall. Not only has Brexit upset consolidated assumptions on the finality of the EU, it has also created significant legal, political and economic challenges.

With support from AIB, Grant Thornton and Arthur Cox, **DCU's Brexit Institute** is Ireland's only and Europe's first centre specifically established to analyse the challenges of Brexit from a research and policy perspective. In 2019/20, the Institute produced over 146 publications and hosted six events that explored Brexit's impact on government, business and society at large.

Paddy Moriarty Memorial Scholarship

PhD candidate Sheelagh Brady was the 2019/20 recipient of the **Paddy Moriarty Memorial Scholarship** to support doctoral research in DCU's School of Law and Government. A former member of An Garda Síochána, Sheelagh left the force in 2012 to pursue a career as a security analyst and advisor with the United Nations and European Union before co-founding SAR Consultancy in 2014.

Sheelagh's doctoral research explores similarities and differences between the recruitment methods of violent organisations. This involves studying videos by extremist groups, criminal gangs, mercenaries and the military to identify the strategies they use to attract members. With extremist organisations and gangs posing a significant threat to peaceful societies, her research when completed will contribute to both academic understanding of these organisations, and to operational efforts to curtail their activities.

Partnerships for the Goals

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



A successful development agenda requires inclusive partnerships — at the global, regional, national and local levels — built upon principles and values, and upon a shared vision and goals that place people and the planet at the centre.

Through our shared belief in DCU's mission to transform lives and societies, DCU is proud to work with our philanthropic partners to deliver meaningful initiatives to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2020.

Powerful Partnerships



Rethink Ireland Children and Youth Funds

Rethink Ireland backs big ideas and sustainable solutions to create an inclusive Ireland we all want to be part of. As a significant partner in DCU's mission to transform lives and societies, Rethink Ireland provided cash grants and business support to three innovative DCU projects in 2019/20 through its Children and Youth Funds:

- **DCU Access to the Workplace**, a bespoke student summer work placement programme that offers fully paid, professional work experience in leading Irish companies for DCU Access students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds
- **DCU Changemaker Network**, which identifies, celebrates, expands and refines the unique attributes of schools, which are successful in creating systemic change in education
- **DCU FUSE Primary Programme**, an anti-bullying and online safety programme for primary school students developed by DCU's National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre

Rethink Ireland's Children and Youth Funds are made up of 50% private philanthropic funding, self-raised by awardees, with the other half of the funds supported by the Government of Ireland, through the Dormant Accounts Fund.

Recognition for DCU Access to the Workplace Partners

The tremendous impact of DCU's collaboration with partner companies to establish the life-changing DCU Access to the Workplace Programme was recognised when the initiative took the top prize in the Best Business and Third Level Institution Collaboration category at the Education Awards in February 2020.



Presentation of Best Business and Third Level Institution Collaboration prize at the Education Awards 2020.

Celebrating our Partners

Each year we hold the DCU Leadership Circle Dinner to celebrate our philanthropic supporters and present three awards to recognise individuals and organisations who are leading partners in DCU's mission to transform lives and societies. In 2019, the Leadership Award recipients were:

— **Corporate Leadership Award:**

Vodafone Ireland

Presented to Anne O'Leary, CEO of Vodafone Ireland in recognition of the company's generous philanthropic support for a range of DCU initiatives to improve the lives of young people which include DCU's Access Programme, DCU Access to the Workplace, the work of DCU's National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre and DCU's University of Sanctuary.

— **Individual Leadership Award:**

Michael Dwyer

Presented to alumnus Michael Dwyer, Executive Chairman of Empathy Marketing Ltd (Pigsback.com), in recognition of his sustained engagement with DCU over many years and his support for DCU's Access Programme and student entrepreneurship initiatives.

— **Staff Leadership Award:**

Professor Daire Keogh

Presented in October 2019 before Professor Keogh was appointed as President of Dublin City University, this award recognised Professor Keogh's outstanding leadership to progress DCU's mission to transform lives and societies in his capacity as Deputy President from 2016 to 2019.

To find out more about our supporters, please visit: shapingthefuture.dcu.ie/our-supporters.



2019 Leadership Award recipients Michael Dwyer, Anne O'Leary from Vodafone and Prof Daire Keogh pictured with former DCU Educational Trust Chair, Larry Quinn, and former DCU President, Prof Brian MacCraith.

DCU Educational Trust Leadership

Our Council of Trustees

The work of DCU Educational Trust is guided by its 5 directors and 17 Council members who voluntarily give their time and expertise to guide the work of the organisation:

- Eamonn Quinn (Chairperson and Director)
- Professor Daire Keogh (Director)
- Deirdre Hannigan (Director)
- Jerry McCrohan (Director)
- Raymond Reilly (Director)
- Brian O'Dwyer
- Colm Delves (deceased 2020)
- Declan Raftery
- Fiona Gallagher
- Gay White
- John Martin
- Mary Shine Thompson
- Michael Bennett
- Michael O'Halleran
- Patrick Brazel
- Paul Keogh
- Paul Kerley
- Robert M. Dunn PhD

Thank you to the following members who retired from our Council of Trustees in 2019/20 following many years of service to DCU Educational Trust:

- Larry Quinn (Chairperson and Director, retired 2020)
- Professor Brian MacCraith (Director, retired 2020)
- Bernie Cullinan (Director, retired 2020)

Our condolences to the family of Colm Delves, a valued Council member who sadly passed away in 2020. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him at DCU.



Chief Executive Officer



Joe Quinsey joined DCU Educational Trust as CEO in November 2019. In this role, Joe is responsible for the organisation's overall strategy and future development as it works to build meaningful partnerships with DCU's supporters to further the university's mission to transform lives and societies. An accountant by training, Joe has over 20 years' leadership experience gained in both the not-for-profit and commercial sectors. Joe is a graduate of DCU Business School, having completed an MBA in 1996.





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 @DCUEdTrust

 The Campaign for DCU

 Dublin City University Educational Trust

The DCU Educational Trust is a registered charity (CHY 8960) established in 1988 to advance the development of Dublin City University.