



DCU Access Programme

Supporter Update 2023/24



Iontaobhas Oideachasúil
Educational Trust

We are extremely grateful for your ongoing support, which enables us to share the possibilities of higher education across socio-economic divides.

Supported by our Excellence and Opportunity fund, the DCU Access Programme opens a door for talented students to fulfil their potential and make their mark on the future.



Providing Entry Routes to Higher Education

25

linked schools in North Dublin engage with our Access Outreach Programme

10%

of places on all undergraduate courses are reserved for Access students

70%

enter with a reduced points offer through the national Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)



Empowering Access Students to Excel

1,100

students from 46 different countries

100%

of Access students receive a post-entry package of financial, personal and academic supports

98%

graduated with a higher honours degree in 2023

“I wouldn’t be in college if it wasn’t for supports like Access. I wouldn’t be able to afford it. Now I have an opportunity to inspire someone from a similar background to mine to see what they could achieve.”

Laeq Ur Rehman,
Bachelor of Business Studies



Caitlin's Story

Support from the DCU Access Programme helped Caitlin pursue her dream of becoming a teacher. Now, she wants to inspire other young people from her area to fulfil their potential.



"I grew up in a busy home in Ballymun, where I was the third youngest of seven. My dream was to be a teacher, ever since primary school. I knew that meant going to college, but it was only when my older brother started in DCU that I began to imagine myself in university.

"Seeing him go to college just down the road made me think that university was a real possibility for me. I used to pass DCU on the bus and think, I want to get off at this stop and go in."

In sixth year, our school had a visit from the DCU Access Outreach Programme, who spoke to us about university and how to apply. My parents never had the chance to finish secondary school, so it was always their ambition that we'd make it through school and get the Leaving Certificate. University was more than they ever hoped for. Although we're the first generation of the family to go to university, my brother's experience with the DCU Access Programme, and his belief in me, made me realise that I could do this.

The Access Programme got me into college. My twin sister and I started university the same year, so we were worried about the financial side of things. Without the SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland) grant and the DCU Access Programme, we would have faced a lot more barriers.

The support we get from the Access Programme means a lot. It's incredible to have someone you can go to with any of your problems, and financial supports like the scholarship and lunch vouchers for the shop are really helpful.

I'm in my final year now, studying Religious Education and History, and I love the relationships you form with the students when you're on teaching placement. I think it's my own enjoyment of learning that makes me want to teach, because you're sharing that with your students. I hope that by August, I'll be working as a secondary school teacher in the same area I grew up in. I want to be a role model to other young people in Ballymun.

"When I was in school, none of our teachers sounded like me or came from areas like mine. I want the students I teach to see that college could be for them, and I hope that I can make school feel like a positive place to be."

Access has changed my life – and I hope I can pass that change on to other young people like me."

Access Graduates are Shaping the Future

Zainab Boladale
Access Graduate,
Journalist and Author



“Access helped me make the most out of my time in university. I left with more than a qualification, I left knowing that I made friends and I helped make an impact. My work as a journalist and presenter began in DCU, and I will forever be thankful for that opportunity.”

Zainab Boladale studied Journalism at DCU, with support from the Access Programme. As a presenter, journalist and author, she crafts stories that resonate and inspire.

Rhys Doyle
Access Graduate
and PhD Candidate



“Thanks to the support available at DCU, I was able to make the right choice for me and finish my Physics degree... After my PhD, I’d like to stay in the renewable energy sector so I can continue to advance our understanding of the world and change people’s lives for the better.”

Today, Access graduate Rhys Doyle is a doctoral researcher at DCU, pursuing the holy grail of nuclear fusion: a truly infinite source of clean energy.

Keep in Touch

We are so grateful for your continued support for the DCU Access Programme. We love to hear from our supporters, so please get in touch with any questions or feedback by emailing edtrust@dcu.ie.

To update your contact details or preferences, please visit dcuedtrust.ie/contact/lets-keep-in-touch.

To discover the many other ways alumni can stay involved with DCU, from events and class reunions to guest lectures and student mentoring, visit dcu.ie/alumni.

Contact

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



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Promoting Trust