

2016

**AHECS AWARDS DIRECTORY &
DIRECTORY OF CAREERS SERVICES**



THE ASSOCIATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION CAREERS SERVICES **AHECS** IS THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY FOR CAREERS ADVISORY AND PLACEMENT PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

ITS MISSION IS TO LEAD, SUPPORT AND FACILITATE COLLABORATION AMONG HIGHER EDUCATION CAREERS SERVICES THROUGHOUT IRELAND AND BE THE RECOGNISED AUTHORITY ON GRADUATE CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING, AND EMPLOYABILITY.

INCLUDED AMONG THE MEMBERS ARE 27 UNIVERSITIES, HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTES AND INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY.

EACH YEAR AHECS PRESENTS A NUMBER OF AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE AT THE ANNUAL GRADIRELAND AWARDS EVENT IN THE AREAS OF EMPLOYABILITY AND ENGAGEMENT.

EMPLOYABILITY AWARD



The Employability Award recognises and showcases the very best in employability initiatives implemented by AHECS member careers services throughout the year. The number, variety and quality of nominations received over the years are testament to the creativity of careers services in addressing the area of employability and the continued importance attributed to this area. The Employability Award is presented through two categories; Small/Medium Services and Large Services.

ENGAGEMENT AWARD



The Engagement Award recognises and acknowledges the very real and substantial engagement between employers and careers services, and the beneficial results on undergraduate and graduate recruitment and employability. This is an opportunity for careers services to acknowledge and highlight the high level of participation with employers. The award will be presented to one employer on the night following nomination by the various AHECS member careers services.

JUDGING PANEL

THE AHECS EMPLOYABILITY AWARDS WERE ADJUDICATED BY A TEAM OF INDEPENDENT JUDGES; MARY SWEENEY, RETIRED HEAD OF SERVICE, UL CAREERS AND COOPERATIVE EDUCATION CENTRE AND MARK MITCHELL, PUBLISHING MANAGER, GRADIRELAND & GTI MEDIA.

Mary Sweeney

Mary Sweeney has spent most of her working life in higher education careers services, in particular, the University of Limerick, until her retirement in 2011. As Head of Careers, she was responsible for the overall development and management of the careers services for students and recent graduates. She has had extensive experience in managing undergraduate placement programmes and in the development of careers education, advice and guidance in higher education.

She has designed and delivered career development skills modules as part of the academic curriculum, integrating work-based learning into the programme. Her role involved liaison with graduate employers on all matters relating to graduate recruitment and development.

Mary has always been actively involved in higher education careers work at a national level and has served as Chairperson of the Association of Graduate Careers Services in Ireland. During her tenure she initiated a series of national conferences, bringing together careers specialists, academics and employers, on the theme of developing employability skills. She still maintains a keen interest in the work of AHECS and the promotion of employability skills.

Mark Mitchell

Mark Mitchell is the Publisher of the gradireland and postgradireland range of graduate careers websites, events and publications. As such he is the chief conduit for the GTI and AHECS partnership in Ireland, supported by colleagues on the Joint Management Board.

Mark has a wealth of experience in publishing, communications and marketing in both Ireland and the UK. A History graduate from the University of Sheffield, Mark also holds a postgraduate qualification in Printing and Publishing Studies from the London College of Communications and a Certificate in Recruitment Practice from the NRF.

Living in Dublin since 1995, Mark is married to Liz and has two daughters, Aoife and Caitlin.

AHECS EMPLOYABILITY AWARDS 2016 SUMMARY OF ALL AWARD SUBMISSION ENTRIES

Athlone Institute of Technology **Brand You**

Denise Dolan & Lorraine Sammon

The AIT Careers Office Brand You project is geared toward helping undergraduates build their employability skillset and manage their personal brand across multiple platforms.

IT Carlow **Career Development Seminar for Social Care & Youth & Community Students**

Rosemary Flynn, Head of Student Services

An informational event designed specifically for Social Care and Youth & Community students to enlighten their views on their future employability both within and outside their chosen sector. Career path options identify paths to placement and employment within their sector, the initiative will feature a conference, impromptu talks by alumni on their career progression routes, trade stands, a CV writing workshop and recruitment tips.

IT Tralee **Empowering academics to develop students' active job search and employability skills through digital learning**

Louise Nagle Careers Officer, Margurieta O'Neill Lecturer,
Fiona Mullins Lecturer, Tony Murphy EDSU, Dr Tom Farrelly
Lecturer & EDSU

Providing careers educative sessions to academics and students incorporating digital reusable learning objects (RLOs) and assessment rubric. This increased their confidence in engaging with employability while also enhancing academic employability teaching.

National College of Ireland

Engage, inspire, achieve and showcase

Caroline Kennedy Head of Service, Helen Conway & Aoife Russell

Co-ordinated range of employability initiatives and events together with walls showcasing graduate successes and a path to employability that are significantly enhancing student employability (particularly amongst first generation college students).

NUIG — Career Development Centre

Employer in Residence Programme

Josephine Walsh, Head of Service

The Employer in Residence Programme is designed to connect students and employers in an informal way which contributes both to the students' employability and the employers' recruitment strategy.

Trinity College Dublin — Career Advisory Service

Bachelor in Business Studies: Personal and Career Development Programme

Fiona Hayes, Careers Advisory Service & Dr. Mary-Lee Rhodes, Director of Undergraduate Teaching & Learning, Trinity Business School

The Personal and Career Development Programme assists third year Business Studies students in developing personal and career insight, through theory, skills and reflection and exposure to employers and guest lectures.

University College Cork

mystudentjob.ucc.ie

Eleanor Donoghue, Mary McNulty, Paul Moriarty

The 'one-stop' jobs portal mystudentjob.ucc.ie, is a collaborative venture aiming to provide UCC students with access to temporary, casual and part-time work both on campus, locally nationally, and internationally.

University College Cork — Career Services Development & Employability Team

uLink Peer Support Programme (uLinK PSP) a personal development and employability initiative)

Rebecca Murphy

uLink provides practical, emotional and social support to 3,600 first year students enabling them to make a successful transition to university life. 300 leaders receive skills training for their roles.

**University College Dublin — Career Development Centre
Embedding Employability within Curriculum**

Aisling Harkin, Sophie Carey, Mark Cumisky, Sorcha Mulcachy, Meeta Dutt

Embedding employability into the curriculum recognises that if UCD students and graduates are to compete effectively in the global economy, they need to gain a career edge in the classroom.

**University of Limerick Cooperative Education & Careers Division
Mastering Your Employability**

Anne O'Connor, Sinead English, Elaine Kiely, Patsy Ryan, Brendan Lally

Mastering your Employability is an accredited, employer-led, sector specific Level 9 module that enables students to identify their talents and transform these into active strengths that enhance employability.

**Employability & Marketing, Ulster University
Student Employability Journey**

Shauna McCloy, Head of Employability

The 'Student Employability Journey' provides all Ulster University students with proactive and personalised careers support driven by a 'smart' system which measures career-readiness and deploys careers resources and planning accordingly.

Dublin City University Careers Services

MBA Careers Day

Yvonne McLoughlin, Head of Careers Service, DCU and DCU Careers Team

Careers Day for Executive MBAs designed to enhance self-awareness; career motivations and leadership competencies. It consisted of mock panel interviews; one-to-one Coaching sessions; CV Reviews; Assessment Centre Feedback and a Motivational Speaker.

Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) Careers Service in conjunction with CIT Alumni Office

Women in Business – STEM Sector: Find out what it takes to flourish as a female graduate in your industry.

CIT Careers Service: Treasa Morgan (Event Lead), Maria Nugent, Donna Horgan, Jeanne Burdon, Marguerite Lynch & CIT Alumni Office: Glynis Gardiner (Alumni Officer)

This joint initiative between CIT and Boston Scientific formed part of CIT Innovation Week. Over 50 female students from STEM and Business courses were exposed to a professional environment through presentations, employee engagement and a panel session. The event encouraged students to pursue progressive careers in the STEM sector.

Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) Careers Service & CIT Alumni Office

CIT Gradfest

Glynis Gardiner Alumni Relations Officer, Treasa Morgan Careers Officer and Thomas Lawton, Alumni Intern

CIT Alumni Office and Careers Service collaborated to host CIT Gradfest where students had the opportunity to prepare for graduation and engage with CIT graduates through a 'Meet the Graduates' session. This facilitates informal discussions with industry professional on career pathways for students.

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TASK GROUPS

AHECS' mission is to lead, support and facilitate collaboration among Higher Education Careers Services. This is achieved through the work of the following task groups:

Employability

Members: Elaine Browne, Chair (UCC), Louise Nagle, AHECS Executive (IT Tralee), Peter Lewis AHECS Executive (DIT), Moira McCarthy (UU), Helen Conway (NCIRI), Pamela Devins (NUIG)

This task group provides leadership in the development and promotion of student employability in conjunction with careers professionals and with some input from employers and academics to enhance the employability of students and graduates north and south. This group's current priority is the development of best practice employability initiatives.

Labour Market

Members: Linda Lynch, Chair (UCC), Treasa Morgan, AHECS Executive (CIT), Cathy Savage, AHECS Executive (UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School), Bridie Killoran (GMIT), Catherine Lyster (LYIT), Angela Collins (WIT), Caroline Kennedy (NCI), Linda Gaughran (TCD), Eleanor Donoghue (UCC), Ger Lardner (DCU), Paula Murray (NUIM)

The main objectives of this task group are to create and sustain links with graduate employers and create a forum for discussion and exchange of information and ideas which is of benefit to all parties—employers, academics, students and careers professionals alike. The group gathers relevant information about the labour market and monitors trends and patterns in graduate recruitment and employment. The group is also involved in the provision of labour market training events for AHECS members.

TASK GROUPS

Product Development

Members: Dave Kilmartin, AHECS Executive (DIT), Louise Nagle, AHECS Executive (IT Tralee)

The product development group works closely with the Joint Management Board (JMB) of AHCES and GTI Ireland to ensure the development of appropriate and fit for purpose products and resources which support and benefit members' day to day work with students, employers and academic colleagues. Working with the JMB, products and resources are developed under the GradIreland brand, while we also facilitate the development of resources which can be published and used more locally by member careers centres. To plan for the future and to ensure relevance, we will at times seek feedback from member services via survey or individual consultation.

Professional Development

Members: Fiona Hayes (TCD) & Angela Collins (WIT) (Co Chairs), Executive Link Mary McNulty (UCC), Christiane Brennan (DIT), Dave Kilmartin (DIT), Yvonne McLoughlin (DCU)

The Group is committed to the continuing professional development of careers professionals working in higher education and to sharing best practice and collaboration within the careers advisory profession. The group does this by delivering training courses and seminars to its members as well as the provision of bursaries to members who pursue additional training and qualifications related to their profession. The Group delivers low cost but high impact training in user friendly ways to members.

TASK GROUPS

Work Placement

Members: Annette Dolan Chair (NUIG), Sheila Byrne, (UCC), Trevor Johnson AHECS Executive (QUB), Gavin Connell UL, Cliona Hilary (TCD), Angela Collins (WIT), Dr. Owen Doyle (UCD), Paula Murray (MU), Catherine Staunton (DKIT), Tracy Murphy (WIT), Teresa Lee (UCD), Siobhan Mockler (NCI), Carol Power (DCU)

Work placement is a partnership that benefits all participants, enhances the capabilities of individuals and improves the human resources of a nation. This Group is committed to promoting and enhancing the provision, value and quality of Work Placement Learning in Higher Education in Ireland. There is a focus on developing best practice policy and guidelines for work placement learning, and creating a forum for the sharing of expertise and experience among work placement practitioners. The group works closely with AHECS Executive on advocacy issues and by promoting work placement generally in the publication of work placement publications dealing with topics of interest and relevance to internal and external stakeholders.

Postgraduate Students Working Group

Members: Elaine Kiely (UL), Josephine Walsh (NUIG), Mary McNulty (UCC & AHECS Executive), Orlaith Tunney (TCD), Rebecca Boyd (QUB), Sharon Milner (UU), Naoimh O'Connor (UCD), Mark Cumiskey (UCD)

This recently formed task group will initially focus on developing and sharing best practice to support the career needs of postgraduate students and research students in particular.

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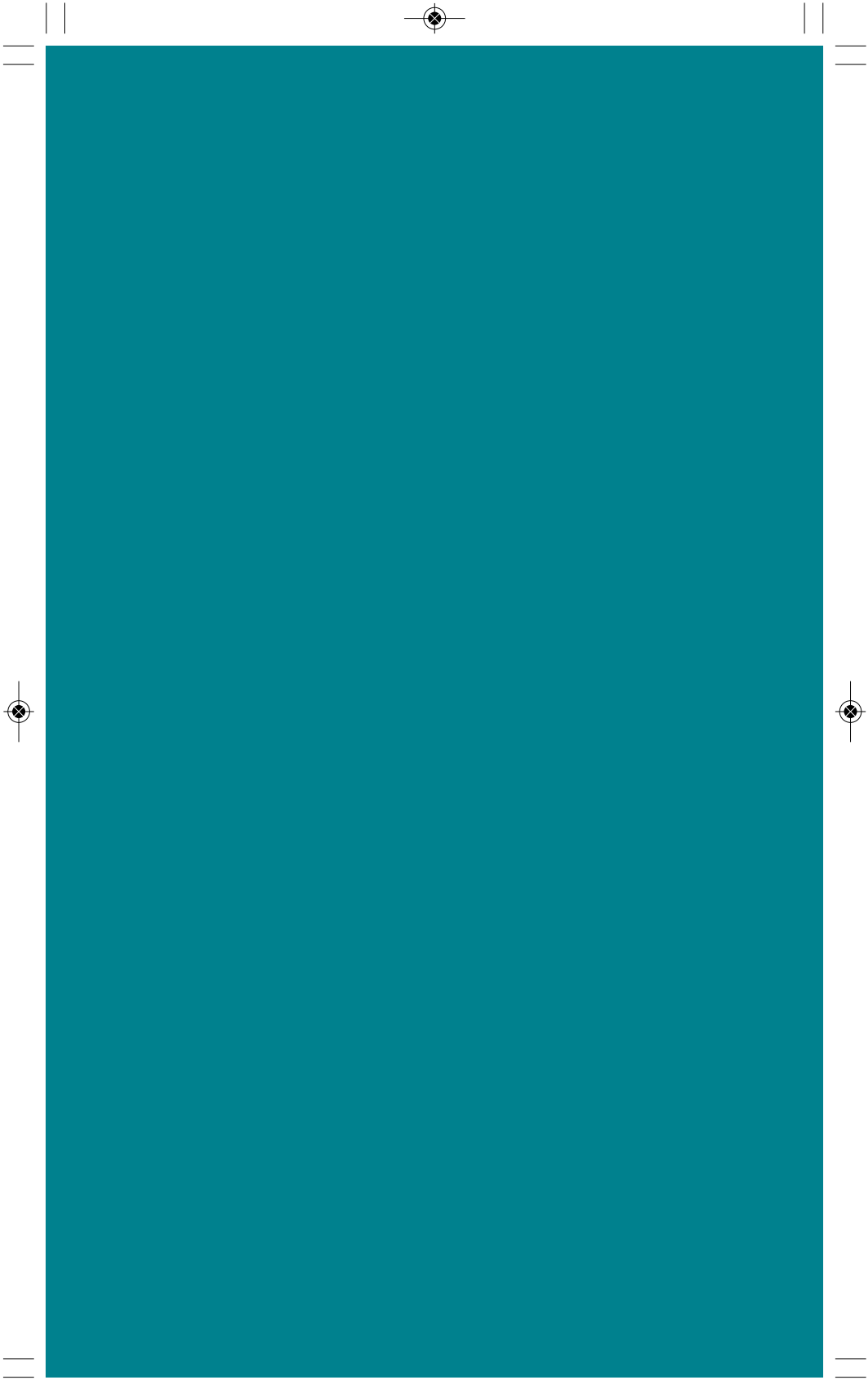


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