

AHECS

**Association of Higher Education Careers Services
c/o Careers Service
Cooperative Education & Careers Division
University of Limerick**

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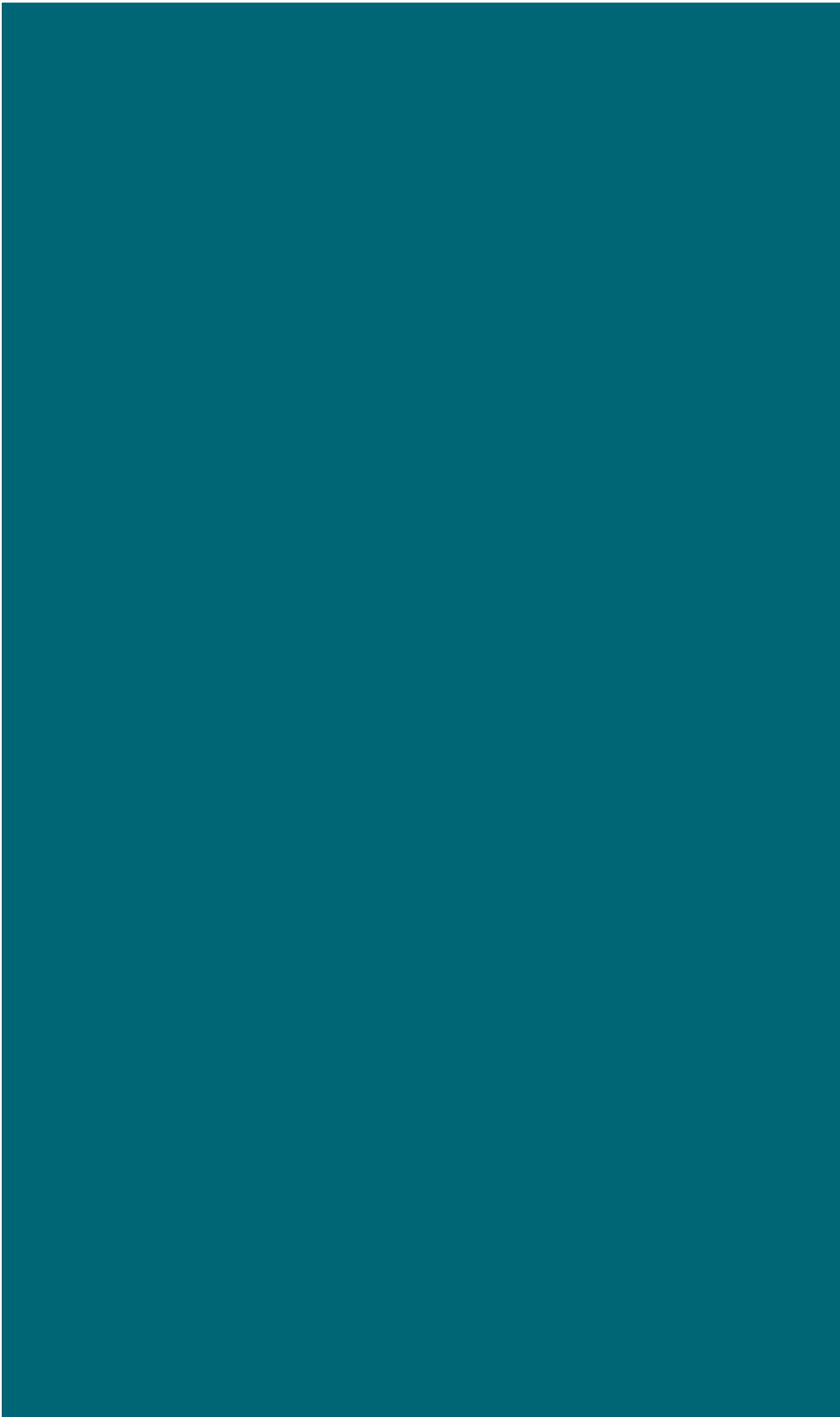
2019

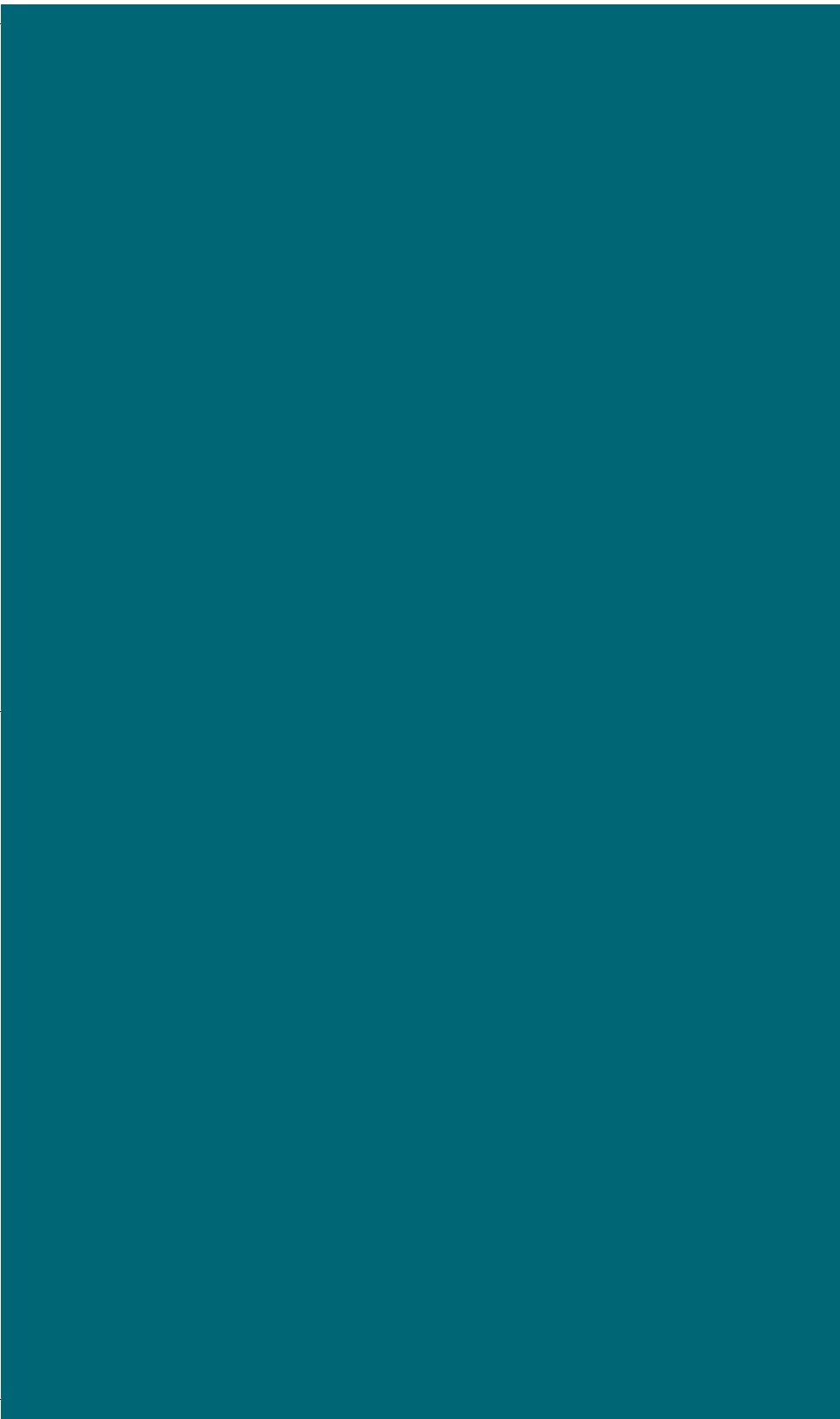
AHECS

Awards Directory and
Directory of Careers Services



Association of
Higher Education
Careers Services





Each year AHECS presents a number of Awards for Excellence at the annual gradireland Awards event in the areas of Employability



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.

Judging Panel

The AHECS Employability Awards were adjudicated by a team of independent judges

Mark Mitchell

Mark Mitchell is the Director of gradireland. 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 National Recruitment Federation of Ireland. Living in Dublin since 1996, Mark is married to Liz and has two daughters, Aoife and Caitlin.

Paul McClatchie

Paul McClatchie is the founder of Engage People, a Dublin based Financial Recruitment firm set up in 2016. From start-up stage, Paul now works with an established team who enjoy adding value to the lives and careers of the people they work with. Prior to setting up Engage People, Paul has built a proud track record in Dublin and Sydney in Financial Appointments and leading successful Recruiting teams in the Financial arena over the last 17 years. Paul and his team take great interest in aligning business with talent from both a skills and culture perspective.

Clóna Hillery

Clóna is a qualified, accredited and highly experienced Executive & Career coach and now heads up her own Coaching practice. She has worked as a Career Specialist & Consultant for over 15 years including over a decade with Trinity College Dublin as well as Smurfit School of Business, UCD and NCI. Prior to that Clóna worked as a management consultant in Human Capital & Strategy consulting for a Big 4 firm in both London and Dublin.

Clóna holds a B.Comm (Int'l), an MEd. (Guidance & Counselling), and a Diploma in Executive Coaching & Leadership. Clóna is a qualified and licensed 16PF practitioner and is a member of the Association for Coaching. She is currently engaged by one of the Big 4 Accountancy firms on both an Emerging Leaders programme as well as a Director programme both of which use Coaching as an investment in high performing and talented future leaders.

The focus of Coaching with participants is to develop, inspire, empower and mobilise future talent to reach individual and organizational goals. Using a self-designed system, drawing on numerous NLP, EI, CBT, Positive Psychology, career and coaching techniques, Clóna helps her clients to discover their own unique narrative in order to empower them to achieve their personal and professional best.

AHECS Employability Awards 2019

Summary of all award submission entries

Athlone Institute of Technology **AIT Work Placement Integrated Learning Programme**

Denise Dolan, Lorraine Sammon, Kieran Dowd and David Kelly

AIT Work Placement Integrated Learning Programme aimed to prepare and inspire students as they embark on their work placements and ultimately to achieve their potential in their emerging career paths.

Cork Institute of Technology **Professional Communications Mentorship Project**

Maria Nugent, Mary-Rose O'Sullivan, Caitriona Horgan, Emmett Coffey and Frank O'Donovan

The CIT Careers Service collaborates with the Media and Communications Departments on two MA programmes, contributing to the delivery of the MA Project modules through career planning and employability workshops, a Career Development Plan and exit presentations.

Cork Institute of Technology **BioPharmChem Showcase**

Mary-Rose O'Sullivan, Dr Eileen O'Leary, Lecturer in Chemistry

Student teams created posters on BioPharmchem companies. Industry experts/employers attended, and judged students' oral presentations and poster displays, networked with students and advised on key skills for the workplace.

AHECS Employability Awards 2019

Summary of all award submission entries

Dublin City University

Future Focus: Careers Week DCU

Yvonne McLoughlin, Miriam Jones, Marie Calnan, Siobhan Murphy, Elaine Daly, Sheila Barr, Callaghan Commons

DCU Careers Service identified an opportunity to leverage the value of peer-to-peer learning in careers education and, in collaboration with DCU Students' Union, devised a week-long festival of employability-focused events.

Galway Mayo Institute of Technology

Online Employability Toolkit

Bridie Killoran, Dr Carina Ginty, Natasha Rohan

The GMIT online independent flexible learning employability toolkit includes three themes: Self Awareness; Employability; and the Workplace and Beyond. It covers cross-disciplinary challenges, reflective tasks, animation guides and student engagement e-tivities.

Institute of Technology Carlow

The WorkAbility Programme

Rosemary Flynn, Angie Costelloe, Enda Dunican

IT Carlow has become the first Irish third-level college, in collaborating with Specialisterne, (EU Funded), to specifically develop the employability skills of student's with Autism, in the 'WorkAbility' Development Programme.

AHECS Employability Awards 2019

Summary of all award submission entries

National College of Ireland

Career Shift – Activating mid-life career transitions

Dawn O'Connor, Orla O'Sullivan, Caroline Kennedy, Siobhan Mockler, Helen Conway, Kate Honan, Karina Septore

A high-impact experiential career programme tailored to career changers and those upskilling. 40 unemployed students aged 26 to 53 gained employment in technology and 108 employed students transitioned to relevant roles.

NUI Galway

Creating the 'WOW' Experience!

Marie Laffey, Breda Kenna, Paul O'Rahilly, Tom Fitzgerald, Aisling Conroy, Bridin Quinn

The placement advisory summit seeks to create a 'wow' factor for students by facilitating exploration, engagement and a successful transition to the World of Work (WOW).

NUI Galway

Employability Award

Grace Mannion and NUI Galway Career Development Centre

The employability Award increases students' understanding and awareness of employability by creating a framework to recognise and develop their skills gained through work experience, extra-curricular, career and academic education.

AHECS Employability Awards 2019

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NUI Galway

Skills for Business – from theory to practice – bringing skills alive at NUI Galway

Pamela Devins, Michael Campion, Lecturer JE Cairnes School of Business and Economics, NUI Galway

The second Commerce module brings the theory of skill development alive in innovative ways through peer assisted learning community partner projects, extensive employer engagement and career development learning.

Queens University Belfast **Development Weeks**

Christine Boyd and Karen McCann

Development weeks is an inclusive Careers-led, University-wide, dedicated 3-week extra curricula accredited programme that inspires students to create new learning, innovate across disciplines and explore professional, personal and career development.

University College Cork **‘Engage, Empower, Experience’**

Eleanor Donoghue, Mary McNulty and Shane Horan

Empowering students to become “future ready” through community partnerships. By focusing on formal/informal, local/global community connections, collaborative projects and relationships, we advanced 647 students’ graduate attributes and employability goals.

AHECS Employability Awards 2019

Summary of all award submission entries

University College Dublin The Jumpstart Project

Nicola Fortune and Geraldine Lardner

“Jumpstart” is an online career development resource, designed to be accessed by incoming international students – in advance of their arrival in Ireland.

University College Dublin Beyond PhD: Career Development and Mobility

Geraldine Lardner

The establishment of a highly successful Career Development service with notable and visible impact, to support the mobility of UCD Graduate Researchers to national and international opportunities beyond their PhD.

University of Limerick UL Diversity and Inclusion Programme

Anne O'Connor, Gavin Connell, Patrice Twomey, and the Cooperative Education and Careers Division

The UL Diversity & Inclusion Employability project for students with disabilities ensures that students with disabilities are provided with equal opportunity to access and participate in the workplace.

AHECS Employability Awards 2019

Summary of all award submission entries

University of Limerick **GoGlobal@UL – Measuring a Global Mind-set** Treaşa Landers and Olga O’Sullivan

Employers are increasingly seeking graduates with demonstrable global perspective, insight, knowledge and cultural agility. To help students to prepare for their future global careers the University of Limerick has developed a tool that allows them to reflect, track and evidence their global learning during work placement.

University of Ulster **Strategically Embedding Employability into the Heart of the Widening Participation Student Experience** Rachel Shannon

Employability and Careers at Ulster has an institutional-wide approach to enhancing the widening participation of students’ employment outcomes. Initiatives focus on upscaling curricular employability interventions and developing inward and outward mobility for 1500+ students.

Waterford Institute of Technology **The Art of Designing your Employability Skills** Angela Collins

A coordinated programme of employability initiatives for Art and Design students targeted at career research, industry networking and providing valuable opportunities for their work to be published and widely exhibited.

Task Groups

Labour Market Task Group

Treasa Morgan, Co-chair (CIT), Paula Murray, Co-chair (NUIM), Catherine Lyster, AHECS Executive (LYIT), Bridie Killoran, AHECS Executive (GMIT), Brendan Baker (NUIM), Angela Collins (WIT), Mary-Rose O'Sullivan (CIT), Emma Goode (NUIG), Marie Laffey (NUIG)

The Labour Market Task Group provides a forum for discussion and exchange of information and ideas to benefit all stakeholders; employers, academics, students and careers professionals alike. The group's main objective is to create and sustain links with graduate employers, as well as monitoring trends and patterns in graduate recruitment and employment. A topical labour market training seminar is coordinated and managed by the group on an annual basis for the particular benefit of all AHECS member services.

Employability Task Group

This task group currently falls under the remit of the Labour Market Task Group

The Employability Task Group provides leadership in the development and promotion of student employability in conjunction with careers professionals and with input from employers and academics to enhance the employability of students and graduates, north and south.

Task Groups

Postgraduate Task Group

Ger Lardner Chair (UCD), Elaine Kiely (UL), Claire Murphy (NUIG), Siobhan Murphy (DCU), Deirdre Parker (UCC), Orlaith Tunney (TCD), Marie Murphy (NUI Maynooth)

The Postgraduate Researcher Task group is committed to enhancing the professional career development needs and employability of doctoral candidates and research masters' students. In May 2018, the group hosted a very successful International Conference entitled 'Developing Future-Ready Researcher's. The conference, held at the Trinity Long Room Hub, included invited speakers from Australia, Canada, the UK and Ireland and an Expert Panel discussion on researcher mobility. The group now plan to bring the spirit and recommendations of this Conference, in line with AHECS Executive objectives, into the next stage of development.

Work Placement Task Group

Annette Dolan Co Chair (NUI Galway), Dr. Colm Cunniffe Co Chair (UL), Paula Murray Co Chair (Maynooth), Dr Teresa Lee (UCD), Angela Collins (WIT), Tracy Murphy (WIT), Maeve Long (DCU), Aileen Waterman (UCC), Siobhan Mockler (NCIRL), Joyce O Hara (DKIT)

The AHECS Work Placement Task Group is committed to promoting and enhancing the provision, value and quality of work placement learning in Higher Education in Ireland. The focus of the task group includes advocacy and establishing best practice, policy and guidelines, by producing relevant publications, and by creating a forum for the sharing of expertise among work placement professionals. This is done through engagement with all stakeholders involved: students in Higher Education, placement staff and management in Higher Education, employers and their respective bodies.

Task Groups

Careers Professional Development (CPD) Task Group

**Yvonne McLoughlin Co Chair (DCU), Mary McNulty Co Chair (UCC),
Fiona Hayes (TCD), Angela Collins (WIT), Pamela Devins (NUIG),
Gavin Connell (UL)**

The CPD Task Group has three overarching objectives to support the AHECS strategy as follows:

1. Committed to continuing professional development and the promotion of best practice for higher education careers advisory and graduate employment professionals in Ireland including Careers Guidance, Information and Advice, Internships and Work Placement, Employer Engagement and Administrative Support.
2. Delivery of training courses and seminars to its members.
3. Provision of financial assistance in the form of bursaries to members who pursue additional qualifications related to their profession.

List of Member Institutions



Athlone Institute of Technology
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List of Member Institutions



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**National College
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A Recognised College of
University College Dublin

National College of Art and Design

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List of Member Institutions



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University of Limerick

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Waterford Institute of Technology

Waterford Institute of Technology

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About AHECS

The Association of Higher Education Careers Services 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 & Institutes of Technology.

AHECS Executive Members and Contact Details

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Notes

