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CONNECT

Issue 2.0 December 2018



SEASONS GREETINGS

The festive season presents an opportunity for AHECS to look back and reflect on the past year which was productive with many achievements of which we are proud. For those who attended, I am sure you will have appreciated events such as the Labour Market Training day in April and a thought provoking and inspirational Robots & Human's Biennial Conference in Belfast in June.

Christmas is a time where we can gather socially, relax and raise a glass together to the often overlooked role in developing relationships and building a

members in 2019. Thank you to all of our Task Group Chairs, Task Group members and all of you our members who so willingly give your time, energy and expertise to the work of the Association.

In July, we formed a new Executive Board and on behalf of the Board, we would like to wish all of our members and your families a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

AHECS Mission 2018-2020

At its meeting on 30th November 2018, the Executive Board approved the mission and strategic objectives outlined below and also met with the Chairs of the Task Groups for PG Researcher; Continued Professional Development; Labour Markey and Work Placement and presented their plans. Further details will be available in the next edition of Connect.

AHECS MISSION

To lead and support collaboration among Higher Education Careers Service professionals throughout Ireland and be the recognised authority on graduate employability, placement and Career Development Learning

Objective one

To engage, support and communicate with the membership on a regular basis through the AHEC's website, regular newsletters, face to face events and social media.

Objective two

To support resource development and sharing of information resources and tools amongst AHECS Member Career Services.

Objective three

To provide opportunities to new and existing members Continual Professional Development to ensure the highest standards of delivery.

Objective four

To identify and promote best practice within a range of areas such as work placement, CPD, employability, labour market and research post graduate and other areas of work that might emerge.

Objective five

To develop a consistent brand to support external advocacy and to be the recognised authority on graduate employability, career development learning, placements and internships advocating at a government and policy level, both

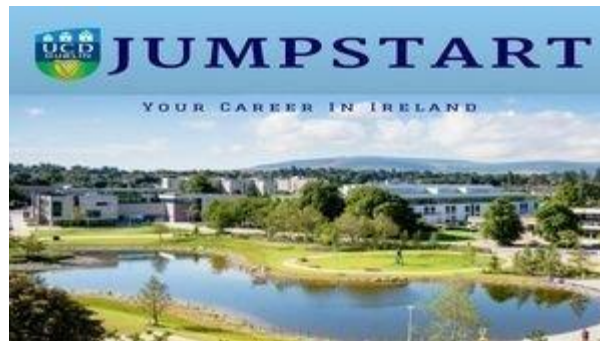
The following vacancies exist for members to join task groups:

PG Researcher – one new member representing IOT's or NUI Galway (email expressions of interest to ger.lardner@ucd.ie)

CPD - two members (email expressions of interest to acollins@wit.ie)

Labour Market – one or two members (email expressions of interest to emma.goode@nuigalway.ie)

Work Placements – one member (email expressions of interest to annette.dolan@nuigalway.ie)



Jumpstart - UCD

by Nicola Fortune

As Ireland's Global University, University College Dublin is host to 7,789 international students, many of whom hope to work in Ireland after they graduate. While excellent students, some may find that they encounter additional barriers to the graduate recruitment market, possibly due to cultural, language or immigration issues. It can also be quite a shock to students arriving in Ireland for the first time to pursue a one-year master's programme to find that the graduate recruitment process begins almost immediately.

To support these students, the UCD Career Development Centre recently

The course is divided into ten sections, each addressing a specific question that students may have - such as "How do I find out about relevant labour market information?", "Can I work in Ireland after I graduate?", and "How should I write a C.V. for the Irish market?". The content is written in a straightforward, accessible style and links to a range of useful websites and resources - including the UCD "5 Minutes on Careers" video series, which cover relevant topics such as Networking.

To date, over 350 students have registered to the course and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with

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hosted on Open Blackboard, designed to be accessed by incoming international students in advance of their arrival in Ireland. In addition to helping these students to hit the ground running upon arrival, Jumpstart also provides answers to some of the typical questions that prospective international students may have about graduate recruitment in Ireland – even before they register as students.

provides “*detailed information about everything I'd like to know*” and “*a better vision of graduate job opportunities in Ireland*”. While still ongoing, of the students who have completed course feedback to date, 100% indicated that they would recommend it. Based on the success of this pilot, the UCD Career Development Centre looks forward to developing this course further in 2019.

gradireland Updates

Working with the AHECS Product Development Group, the gradireland Editor Ruairi has put together a very useful blog, linking to all the new content on the gradireland website that AHECS members can use in their work with students. You'll find it here <https://gradireland.wordpress.com/2018/12/05/whats-new-on-gradireland-com/>. It features links to new profiles, videos and advisory content on the site, along with fresh content on funding for postgraduate study and the new gradireland Podcast series.

St Mary's University London

Clive Woolger from St Mary's University (Strawberry Hill) London will be in Ireland week commencing 28th January 2019. They will fly into Dublin, Cork or Shannon and return via Dublin depending on demand. As they build their schedule, they are seeking interest from Institutions where they visit at least two Institutions each day and also offer evening sessions if required. If you are interested in a visit to talk with students about the possibility of training to teach in England please email pgcesecondary@stmarys.ac.uk

2019 gradireland Events

30 January: [Discover IT](#). This **one-day recruiting event** is open to all final year and masters students who are studying or have completed an IT-based course. Please share with relevant academic colleagues in Schools/Departments of Technology and Engineering, there are still plenty of

7 February: [gradireland Live](#) is an **experiential careers event for all students** where they can craft their skills, build confidence and find their career direction. There's loads of interactivity along with inspirational talks including 'Pursuing your Passion', 'Create your future: expert advice on navigating your future career path' and 'Managing your mental health - the transition from study to work' There are some exceptional '**Voice of this generation**' speakers on the day including James Kavanagh, Niamh Cullen, Ailbhe Keane, Philly McMahon plus more to be announced. There will of course also be the usual 'careers fair' vibe (including jobs, employers and course providers) – but with a difference! Please promote this event as widely as you can to your students, it really will be an unmissable event! See <https://gradireland.com/events/gradireland-live/582170-fine-tune-your-future-at-gradireland-live>

4 March (Online challenge closes on this date): [gradireland National Student Challenge](#) gives students the chance to see how they compare to students from across Ireland in a variety of areas, not just academics! The Top 60 students when the online challenge closes are invited to the Final Day (21 March) where they will be put through six physical and mental Challenges and could win one or more prizes up to €1,000! See <https://gradireland.com/challenge>

Job Opportunities

If you have job opportunities to advertise in the next Connect, please email admin@ahecs.ie



Article Submissions

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