




## AHECS

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# AHECS

AWARDS DIRECTORY

# 2015

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; DAVID BRODERICK, CHAIR OF THE JUDGING PANEL AND EOP PROGRAMME MANAGER, IBEC; MARY SWEENEY, RETIRED HEAD OF SERVICE, UL CAREERS AND COOPERATIVE EDUCATION CENTRE; AND MARK MITCHELL, PUBLISHING MANAGER, GRADIRELAND & GTI MEDIA.

### **David Broderick**

*EOP Programme Manager Ibec*

David Broderick is Programme Manager for the Ibec EOP Programme which places graduates in export oriented organisations for period of 12 – 24 months. It combines practical on-the-job experience, with organisations such as Apple, Bord Bia and Tourism Ireland, with the opportunity to gain further educational qualifications. David helps companies attract the right talent so that their businesses can grow, maintain their international profile and increase their market share.

David has worked with several third level institutions such as DCU, UL and DIT to deliver employability and interview skills to their graduates to help them to identify and secure the right job.

David holds a BBS (Hons) in Business Management from ITT Dublin, a Diploma in Employment Law and an MSc in Strategic Management, both from DIT. Before joining Ibec in 2007 David worked for Masterfoods and was Vice-President of ITT Dublin's Student Union.

**Mary Sweeney**

*Retired Head Head of Careers, UL Careers and Cooperative Education Centre*

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**

*Publishing Manager, Gradireland & GTI Media*

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.

## LIST OF ENTRIES FOR THE AHECS EMPLOYABILITY AWARDS 2015

### **Athlone Institute of Technology**

*Dress for success fashion shows*

Denise Dolan & Lorraine Sammon

Employment opportunities with some of Ireland's leading companies, plus fashion tips on how to land the ideal job, were part and parcel of the careers fair at Athlone Institute of Technology. The idea for providing information on make-up and fashion with interview techniques was the brainchild of AIT's Careers Office.

### **Cork Institute of Technology**

*CIT Joint Mentorship Programme*

Treasa Morgan, Acting Careers Officer, CIT Careers Service, Glynis Gardiner, Alumni Relations Officer & Lisa Moran, Alumni Intern

The CIT Careers Service and Alumni Office have collaborated to coordinate the CIT Joint Mentorship Programme. This interactive learning experience facilitates engagement with industry professionals, supporting students' development and enhancing the knowledge gained through higher education.

### **Dublin City University (DCU) Career Service**

*Working Psychology*

Dr Liz McLoughlin, Module Co-ordinator, Working in Psychology & Course Chairperson of BSc in Psychology in the School of Nursing & Human Sciences

A credit bearing module assisting third year Psychology students to prepare in a meaningful way for potential careers and pathways upon exiting with their degree from DCU.



### **DIT Career Development Centre**

*Connect, Commit, Communicate – Building employability through positive transitions – transition into first year*

DIT Career Development Team, Campus Life Colleagues, DIT Learning Teaching & Technology Centre

The aim of the initiative is to support and empower students to develop a sense of agency and self-efficacy regarding their academic, social, personal and vocational transition into higher education and beyond.

### **Galway – Mayo Institute of Technology Careers Service**

*Careers Module: The Next Step – Transitioning to the Workplace*

Siobhaun Cawley, Lecturer, School of Engineering, Lorna Moynihan, Lecturer, School of Business & Bridie Killoran, Careers Officer

A five credit careers module for final year students, where the focus is on action learning techniques and industry interaction which is synonymous with practically all aspects of the module.

### **National College of Ireland**

*NCI Careers Passport – 1,000 days to employability*

Caroline Kennedy

Within the highly competitive job market, graduates must work hard to be noticed! The passport promotes employability from first year encouraging and rewarding involvement in extra-curricular activities, self-reflection and brand development.

### **National University of Galway**

*Options with Arts – Careers Fair*

Josephine Walsh, Career Development Consultant, Breda Kenna, Administrator

This fair explored career options, provided students with the opportunity to have one-to-one conversations with alumni, and emphasised the employability value of a BA as a foundation for a fulfilling career.



### **National University of Galway**

*Engineering Alumni Connect*

Kathleen O Connell, Placement Officer & Mairead Ledwith,  
Placement Administrator

Connecting NUI Galway 2nd year engineering students with alumni for one-to-one practice interviews to develop skills, increase potential for success at interview and expand job search networks.

### **Trinity College Dublin**

*Career Pathways – Transition to Employment*

Eileen Daly, Claire Gleeson & Kieran Lewis

Career Pathways is a flexible and individually-tailored transition planning service for students with disabilities, as they progress through college and into employment.

### **University College Cork**

*Future Fest*

Patricia Finucane, Eleanor Donoghue & Jacqueline Quirke

FutureFest is an innovative employability initiative designed for first and second year students which introduces them to career development in a fun and interactive way in a carnival like atmosphere.

### **University College Cork**

*Networking for Engineering Internships*

Linda Lynch

An opportunity for students to network in informal, small group settings to discuss and showcase ideas and opportunities, and gain an insight into engineering in the commercial world.

## **University College Dublin**

### *The Big UCD Skills Challenge*

Sorcha Mulcahy

In 2014 UCD piloted an extended orientation programme for first years. As part of this, the Career Development Centre developed and delivered 'The Big UCD Skills Challenge', an exhilarating cross-campus test of students' teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills.

## EXECUTIVE MEMBERS + CONTACT DETAILS

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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), Josephine Walsh (NUIG), Peter Lewis (DIT), Moira McCarthy (UU), Helen Conway (NCIRI), Deirdre Parker (UCC) Angela Collins (WIT)**

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), and 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.

### Products and Services

**Members: Dave Kilmartin, Chair & AHECS Executive (DIT), Kendra Cassidy (NUIG), Sarah Jones (TCD), Mark Cumisky (UCD)**

This task group, in partnership with AHECS publishing partner, GTI Media provides high quality services and products, paper and web-based, that support and inform the delivery of careers education, guidance and information to students within higher education.

## Professional Development

**Members: John Hannon, Chair & AHECS Executive (NUIG), Mary McNulty, AHECS Executive (UCC), Phil Clarke, RIP, AHECS Executive (QUB), Fiona Hayes, (TCD) Sarah Ryan (TCD), Angela Collins (WIT), Marie KIELTY (ITT Dublin), Yvonne McLoughlin (DCU), Christiane Brennan (DIT)**

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.

## Work Placement

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

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

**Members: Orlaith Tunney (TCD), Elaine Kiely (UL), Sharon Milner (UU), Rebecca Boyd (QUB), Mary McNulty, AHECS Executive (UCC), Josephine Walsh (NUIG), Enan Strain (NUIM)**

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.

## DIRECTORY OF CAREERS SERVICES



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## DIRECTORY OF CAREERS SERVICES



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A Recognised College of  
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# NOTES

