



AHECS

ASSOCIATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION CAREERS SERVICES
CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
ARTS BUILDING, NORTH CAMPUS
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2017

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

Muireann Ní Dhuigeáin

Head of DCU Careers Service, (Retired) developed careers education, information, advice and guidance services at second and third level. Academically qualified in Economics, History, Guidance, Education, Leadership, Management and Executive Coaching, her research interests include the art of reflection, strategic leadership, graduate recruitment, employability and relevant issues in career guidance. Pioneered work on career development, management and transferable skills at National and EU level. As an experienced careers consultant, she has worked in Africa and also with the OSCE in Kosovo. Served on two occasions as Chair and Joint Chair, of the Association of Graduate Careers Services in Ireland (AGCSI) now on the AHECS Adjudication Panel, and was a member of the Management Board of AGCSI/Gradireland. She received many nominations and awards for her work, including the prestigious DCU Leadership Circle Award for outstanding leadership.

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 high growth Dublin based Financial Recruitment firm. Since graduating in 2001 with a BBS (Hons) in HRM & CIPD Paul has built a proud track record in Dublin and Sydney in Financial Appointments and leading successful Recruiting teams. Paul's greatest passions are inspiring his colleagues to achieve their career and personal goals and working with organisations and candidates to identify and pursue their objectives, enabling them to achieve more.

Paul enjoys his involvement with a variety of industry panels:

- Labour Market Task force for AHECS – Advanced Higher Education Career Services
- Advisory Panel of Financial Services Ireland (IBEC)
- Regular advisor to organisations considering Ireland as a location to set up

Paul is the President of St. Andrew's College, Dublin Alumni 2017 and enjoys his involvement with the Ireland Funds Young Leaders and Old Wesley RFC.

AHECS EMPLOYABILITY AWARDS 2017

SUMMARY OF ALL AWARD SUBMISSION ENTRIES

Institute of Technology Carlow **“Lighting the way to the future” – Insight, Information and** **Employability Skills Development – for Applied Social Care,** **Youth & Community and Early Childhood Education and Care** **Students**

Judy Murphy, Careers Advisor, Institute of Technology Carlow & Wexford
Navigating your sectors careers landscape, accessing employers and awareness of employability skills is daunting for students. IT Carlow’s Career Service have developed a “Career Development Seminar” model mitigating these challenges.

Career Development Centre NUI Galway **Employability – Transition to Employment**

Marie Laffey and Ananda Geluk

The EmployAbility programme is a career readiness service for students with disabilities that supports and empowers students to make successful transitions into the workplace and towards fulfilling careers.

Queens University Belfast **MEDIA (*Media Employability Development in Action*) Programme**

Emma Lennox

The MEDIA Programme recruited an editorial team of non-vocational AHSS students to produce a quarterly ‘communication’ selling careers and employability to this faculty while gaining media experience for their CV.

Waterford Institute of Technology – Careers **Building and Engineering Your Career**

Angela Collins Head of Careers and Careers Advisor

A careers initiative (5 credit careers module) which has been developed by the Careers Centre and delivered to the School of Engineering students to boost their employability and confidence.

**University College Cork Careers Services
Employability Support Team**

Jackie Quirke, Niamh Sweeney, Eleanor Donoghue, Lorraine Tattan
UCC Careers took the Recruitment Fair digital with a specifically designed app. This gave students invaluable access to employer profiles, tips for success and fair maps while on the go.

**University College Cork Careers Services
Transition to Professional Life Deep Dive Learning Journey to
Employability. A 10 credit module embedded into each year
of the BA (Hons) Economics (through Transformational
Learning)**

Mary McNulty, Deputy Head and Aileen Waterman, Placement Manager,
Career Services in collaboration with Daniel Blackshields and Dr Ella
Kavanagh, Programme Directors, School of Economics, UCC.
Engaging undergraduate economics students in a deep dive learning
journey to challenge and support their integrated scholarly, professional
and personal development to reflexively design their 21st century life plans.

**University College Cork Careers Services
The UCC Works Entrepreneurship and Innovation Pathway
(new award)**

Eleanor Donoghue
The UCC Works Entrepreneurship and Innovation Pathway, run jointly
with Blackstone Launchpad, provides and develops participants'
entrepreneurial/innovative skills increasingly sought by employers, which
is recorded on students' Diploma Supplement.

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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

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

Emma Goode, Chair (NUI Galway), Bridie Killoran AHECS Executive (GMIT), Catherine Lyster, AHECS Executive (LYIT), Caroline Kennedy (NCI), Sophie Carey (UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School), Angela Collins (WIT), Ger Lardner (DCU), Paula Murray (NUIM)

The main objective of this task group is to create and sustain links with graduate employers. We also provide a forum for discussion and exchange of information and ideas to benefit to all stakeholders; employers, academics, students and careers professionals alike. The group gathers relevant labour market information and monitors trends and patterns in graduate recruitment and employment. The group is also manages and coordinates the provision of labour market training events for AHECS members.

Product Development

Fiona Hayes (TCD) & Angela Collins (WIT) (Co Chairs), Executive Link Gavin Connell (UL), Christiane Brennan (DIT)

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)

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.

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: Dr Sharon Milner Chair (UU), Elaine Kiely (UL), Mary McNulty (UCC), Orlaith Tunney (TCD), Mark Cumiskey (UCD), Ananda Geluk (NUIG)

This task group is committed to supporting the professional development needs of both doctoral researchers and postgraduates. As a consequence the group carried out a survey of good practice in careers provision for doctoral researchers across national and international institutions last year. This year a training day is being developed based on this international good practice, exploring the themes of doctoral internships and postgraduate international mobility.

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