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



*Association of*  
**Higher Education  
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 26 Universities, Higher Education Institutes & Institutes of Technology.

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

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## 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.

## JUDGING PANEL

THE AHECS EMPLOYABILITY AWARDS WERE ADJUDICATED BY A TEAM OF INDEPENDENT JUDGES

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### 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.
- 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 2017/18 and enjoys his involvement with the Ireland Funds Young Leaders and Old Wesley RFC.

## **AHECS EMPLOYABILITY AWARDS 2018**

### **SUMMARY OF ALL AWARD SUBMISSION ENTRIES**

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#### **Athlone Institute of Technology** **AIT Inspire**

Denise Dolan, Careers Officer & Lorraine Sammon, Careers Advisor

An initiative connecting first years, progressing students, academic staff, employers, external stakeholders and graduates was piloted this year at AIT. The AIT INSPIRE programme sought to get the conversation started with students around finding their own professional inspiration from the moment of starting college through to graduation and their emerging career path.

#### **Cork Institute of Technology** **Work Place Preparation Programme**

Mary-Rose O'Sullivan, Careers Advisor

The Workplace Preparation Programme (WPP) was designed jointly by the Careers Service and Disability Support Service (DSS) in CIT.

#### **Cork Institute of Technology** **Careerchats With SMEs**

Mary-Rose O'Sullivan, Agnes Looney, Maria Nugent & Treasa Morgan

CareerChats with SMEs was a two-hour event facilitating interactions between 22 SMEs and over 250 students. Food, Engineering, IT and Professional Services companies, among others, promoted internships/jobs to students and engaged with academic staff.

**Dublin City University**  
**Bachelor of Education Career Readiness Session**

Elaine Daly

The Bachelor of Education Career Readiness Sessions provided support to final year students in preparation for applying for Primary Teaching opportunities on successful completion of their degree programme.

**Institute of Technology Carlow**  
**2018 Career Development Seminar for Applied Social Care,  
Youth & Community and Early Childhood Education and Care**

Dr Eileen Doyle, HOD Humanities & Judy Murphy, Careers Officer

A targeted initiative, facilitating Applied Social Care, Youth & Community and Early Childhood Education & Care students to explore careers paths, engage with employers and develop their employability skills.

**Institute of Technology Carlow**  
**Preparation for the Workplace**

Myles Kelly, Dr Pauline Madigan & Judy Murphy, Careers Officer

A credit bearing module which a core part of the BA (hons) in Sports Management and Coaching in Institute of Technology Carlow.

**National College of Ireland**  
**Breaking Barriers and Building Networks through**  
**Personalised, Outcome Focused Career Initiatives and**  
**Employer and Academic Collaboration**

Caroline Kennedy, Helen Conway & John Ruigrok

In partnership with over 30 employers, we developed a targeted, personalised and outcome focused career provision for undergraduates. All events provided personalised feedback which contributed to strong FDRs. (88% response rate, 2% unemployment, 86% in graduate level roles.

**National College of Ireland Galway**  
**Employability Bootcamp for Work Based Learning**

Breda Kenna & Marie Laffey

The Employability Boot camp for Work Based Learning is a suite of employability workshops underpinned by Universal Design for Learning, which seeks to better prepare students for work experience.

**National College of Ireland Galway**  
**NUI Galway Employability Award**

Grace Mannion

The Employability Award, is designed to increase students' employability skills, empower them to make successful transitions towards fulfilling careers and equip them with a framework for lifelong career management.



**National College of Ireland Galway**  
**Weekly Jobs Market – Connecting NUI Galway Students with SME Employers**

Josephine Walsh & Emma Marron

The 'Weekly Job Market' is a unique collaboration with the Bank of Ireland University Branch, addressing the challenge of connecting students with SME graduate employers and part time local jobs.

**Trinity College Dublin**  
**Trinity Employability Award in Partnership with Intel Ireland**

Marielle Kelly, Ann-Marie Brooks, Bernie Capraro & Paul Hanley

Unique academia and industry collaboration enhancing employability. Industry-led training in transferrable technical skills alongside University Careers-led soft skills workshops helping students to reflect on and articulate key skills to employers.

**University College Cork**  
**O.P.T.I.M.I.S.E. The Student Employability Engagement Model**

Eleanor Donoghue, Mary McNulty, Jacqueline Quirke & Sarah O'Riordan

OPTIMISE strategically delivers a bold model of multi-dimensional communication and student engagement where technology and human interaction interacts; catapulting the unengaged students and challenging the engaged to taste their future.

## **University College Cork** **21st Century Skills Badging: A Bridge from Education to Employability**

Mary McNulty & Eleanor Donoghue

UCC Works Award – Digital Badges: A 21st Century micro-credential that evidence students' life wide journeys to employers via online platforms. In today's hyperlinked world, local employability activities gain global reach.

## **University of Limerick** **Mastering Your Employability (Professional Development Programme)**

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.

## **Waterford Institute of Technology** **'Employability — The Vital Ingredient', Students Developing an advertising campaign to promote the Jameson Graduate Programme**

Angela Collins Head of Careers and Career Advisor

An Employability Initiative involving Students, Alumni, Academics and Employers where WIT marketing students developed a creative advertising strategy to raise awareness of the Jameson Graduate Programme among 3rd level students.

## AHECS EXECUTIVE MEMBERS + CONTACT DETAILS

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## TASK GROUPS

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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), Pamela Devins (NUIG), Peter Lewis AHECS Executive (DIT), Nicola Fortune (UCD), Helen Conway (NCIRI)**

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**

**Catherine Lyster, Chair, AHECS Executive (LYIT), Bridie Killoran AHECS Executive (GMIT), 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

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

**Fiona Hayes (TCD) & Angela Collins (WIT) (Co Chairs), Mary McNulty (UCC), Gavin Connell (UL) (Executive Link), 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.

## **Work Placement**

**Annette Dolan Chair (NUIG), Sheila Byrne, (UCC), Trevor Johnson AHECS Executive (QUB), Angela Collins (WIT), Paula Murray (MU), Tracy Murphy (WIT), Teresa Lee (UCD), Siobhan Mockler (NCI), Carol Power (DCU), Colm Cunniffe (UL), Joyce O'Hara (Dundalk IT), Maeve Long (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**

**Dr Sharon Milner Chair (UU), Elaine Kiely (UL), Orlaith Tunney (TCD), Ger Lardiner (UCD), Rachael Keegan (DCU), Siobhán Murphy (DCU), Ananda Geluk (NUIG)**

This task group is committed to supporting the professional career development needs of both doctoral researchers and postgraduates. As a consequence the group this year is hosting an international conference. The focus of the event is on internships and workplace learning opportunities, in addition to the international mobility of these early career researchers. Keynote presentations and parallel workshops will be delivered by speakers from Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and Ireland.

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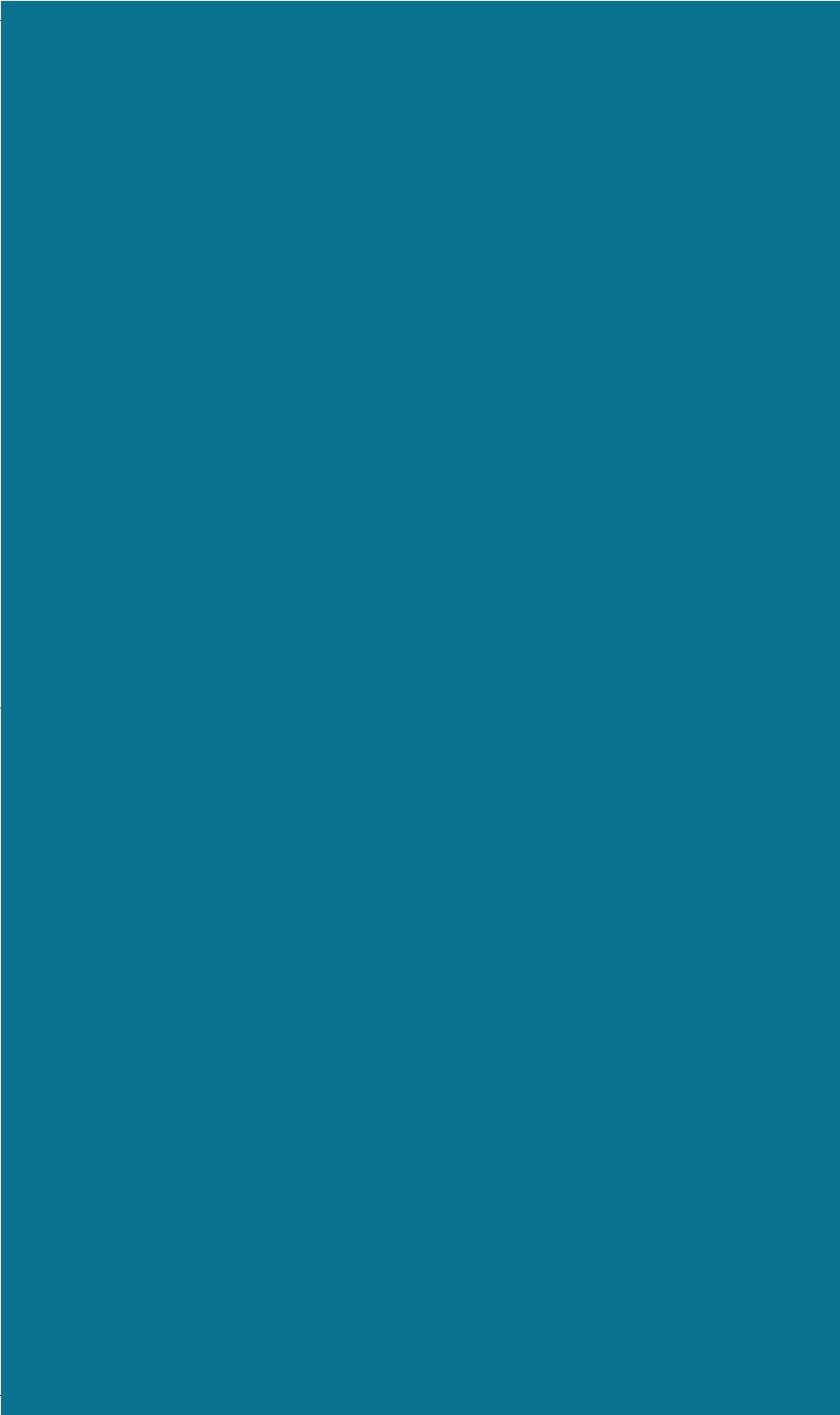
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