



**Gaeltacht UCD**

*UCD Global Centre for Irish Language & Culture*

[www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/](http://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/)



# Special Provision for the Support of the Irish Language

**Report on Activities**  
September 2023 to August 2024





Residence Scheme Students at Gradaim Ghaeltacht UCD 2024

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## The year 2023-2024

saw positive developments for the promotion of the Irish language in Ireland. The implementation of the first regulations under the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021, resulted in an increased awareness of the Irish language and its significance in public life. University College Dublin contributed to this national effort. The University renewed its commitment to the Irish language and approved 2 new posts in Gaeltacht UCD, UCD Global Centre for Irish Language and Culture, with the purpose of facilitating compliance with Irish language legislation and implementing the Government's soon to be published Plean Náisiúnta um Sheirbhísí Poiblí Gaeilge (National Plan for Irish Language Public Services). The University's decision to invest in the language through the recruitment of an Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga (Irish Language Planning Officer) and Riarthóir Gaeilge, (Irish Language Administrator) constitutes a significant development which is expected to impact positively on the provision of Irish language services in UCD in the years ahead.

In addition to enhancing its services nationally, the University expanded its membership of international networks and hence its influence globally. This enabled Gaeltacht UCD to share the Irish language within a wider multilingual community; welcome members from networks such as Una Europa and Universitas 21 to its Irish-language summer school and provide linguistic and cultural activities to visiting groups throughout the year. The year 2023-'24 saw Gaeltacht UCD resume its collaboration with UCD China Joint Colleges and deliver a bespoke Irish-language and cultural course to students in Guangzhou Dublin International College of Life Sciences and Technology (GDIC), China.

At the core of all Gaeltacht UCD activity, is UCD's Irish language community, based primarily on the Belfield campus and centered around the projects funded by the HEA Special Targeted Funded Initiatives. This is a diverse linguistic cohort of traditional and non-traditional native speakers, new speakers, fluent speakers and learners. Aligned with UCD's policy of promoting 'Languages for Life', the Gaeltacht UCD Irish language courses encouraged student and employee engagement, its cultural programs and co-curricular activities contributed to intercultural awareness, and its Irish language student residence scheme, reflective of the University's commitment to inclusion, ensured that a language and culture unique to Ireland was valued, maintained and promoted.





Gaeltacht UCD Tutor Ciara Greene with her A1 level Irish language class

## Irish Language Courses for UCD Students, Faculty, and Professional Staff

UCD students and employees, both academic and professional staff partook in the Gaeltacht UCD Irish language courses 2023-2024. The unit delivered Irish language courses at 5 levels in accordance with the Common European Framework for Languages. It completed the design of new learning resources at level A2, piloted in 2023-'24, and it commenced the design of new resources at level B2.

The 2023-2024 language program was advertised extensively within UCD at the beginning of each trimester, via UCD's electronic newsletters, e-screens, via the student media, and in-person, through rotating pop-up stands throughout campus. The on-line placement test available on the Gaeltacht UCD website ensured learners were placed at a level appropriate to their requirements. Language learners comprised both employees and students with a high level of engagement from the University's global community. The positive interaction between learners strengthened UCD's Irish language-speaking community, facilitated the integration of visiting and exchange students, and encouraged engagement between students, faculty, and professional staff. The feedback from the courses was positive and it is notable

that a percentage of employees have already registered for the 2024-2025 offerings.

From September 2023 to June 2024, over 570 Irish language learners registered with Gaeltacht UCD on Belfield campus; 324 students and employees registered for evening courses, 67 attended the 1-week Irish language summer school and an additional 179 registered for Irish language and bilingual cultural workshops throughout the year. In addition to the 570 students registered on Belfield campus, a further 350 students partook in Irish language and cultural workshops in UCD's China Joint College, Guangzhou Dublin International College of Life Sciences & Technology (GDIC). The course, which was funded outside of the HEA targeted funds, provided the opportunity for registered UCD students in China to experience internationalization at home.

The Gaeltacht UCD evening courses at level A1 were particularly popular with international students and staff comprising over 60% of those registered. The 2024 International Irish Language Summer School, by comparison, attracted a high percentage of advanced learners; 75% of participants took classes at an advanced

level. A total of 14 qualified tutors were employed by Gaeltacht UCD on a part-time basis throughout the year; 8 to facilitate delivery of the Centre's evening courses and a further 6 for its summer school, as well as a number of substitute tutors. The recruitment of Irish-language tutors is currently a challenge at a national level and the Centre was happy to maintain and recruit an excellent team of qualified tutors with experience in adult education. All UCD Colleges were represented among the 2023-2024 participants, they included undergraduate and postgraduate students, academic and professional staff. Like previous years, a sizable number of learners comprised those who did not have the opportunity to learn Irish due to residence in another jurisdiction such as Northern Ireland or exemption from Irish during their school attendance in the Republic of Ireland. Many international learners were bilingual or multilingual, and it is notable that of those who were monolingual (English speaking students from the USA, for example) many had knowledge of a heritage language. Many learners cited the classes as an opportunity to gain an additional insight into Ireland's culture as well as an opportunity to meet with both Irish and international students and employees socially.

### European Certification in Irish

Gaeltacht UCD language courses are offered at levels A1, A1 continued, A2, B1, and B2, and align with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Further to the legal requirements placed on the public sector under the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021; and the necessity to increase competency in Irish among employees, an increase in demand for certification of Irish language skills is expected.

In anticipation of this demand, a preparatory course for the Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge B1 examination (European Certificate in Irish, B1) was first developed in 2021 and these new resources included digital recordings, video content, and interactive exercises in each of the 3 major dialects. In September 2023, Gaeltacht UCD piloted new learning resources at A2 level which provided learners with a comprehensive basis for the B1 preparatory course in an effort to attract an increased number of learners towards certification. Gaeltacht UCD has been updating its course materials on a phased basis since 2019, with priority given to the courses with the highest registrations, subject to the availability of funding. The final update on level B2 has commenced and will be ready for piloting in 2025.



Gaeltacht UCD tutor Sibéal Davitt

### Language Learning Outside the Classroom

In addition to its structured language courses, Gaeltacht UCD provides its learners with opportunities to use the language outside the classroom setting. These activities included workshops in music, song and traditional crafts through the medium of Irish. The activities offered September to April 2023-2024 included tin-whistle workshops, St. Bridget's Day cross weaving workshops, as well as workshops in sean-nós dance, céilí dance, Irish language and traditional song, all conducted in Irish or bilingually. Seachtain Domhanda na Gaeilge (Global Irish Language Week), which took place in March 2024, was a particular focus for co-curricular events organized by both UCD Students' Union, Cumann Gaelach UCD and Gaeltacht UCD. Examples of some of these activities are outlined in this report under Projects 2 and 3.





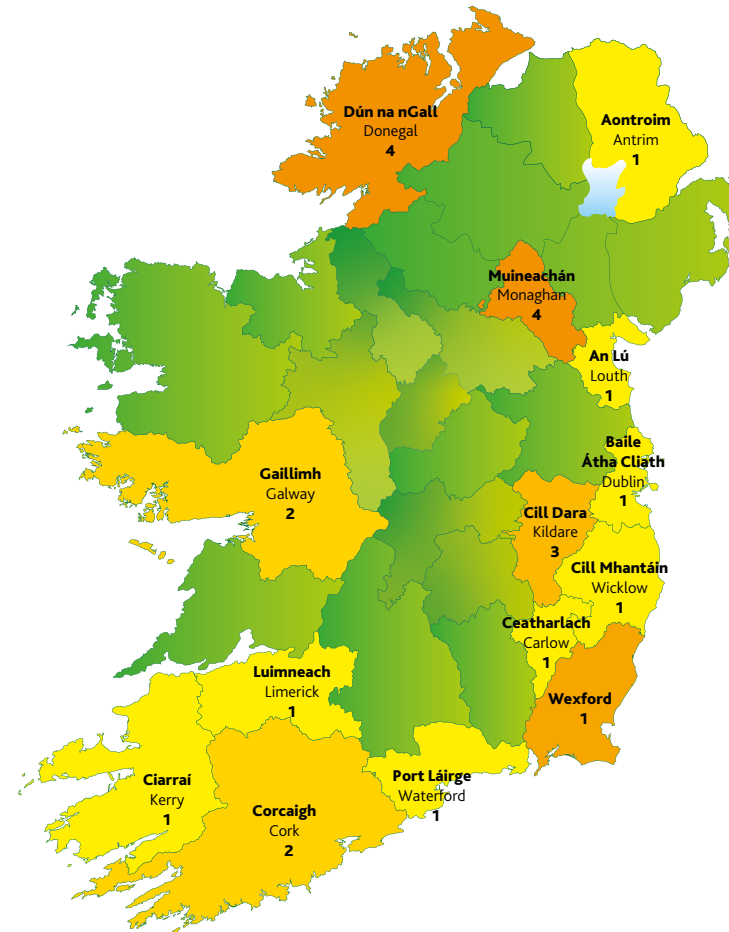
2023-'24 Teach na Gaeilge Scholars with Professor Iarfhlaith Watson, Chair of Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD and Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Director of Gaeltacht UCD

## Teach na Gaeilge 2023-2024, Residential Scholarship Scheme

Language maintenance is a key objective for Gaeltacht UCD. Teach na Gaeilge UCD, the University's Irish language student residence scheme remains, therefore, at the core of all Gaeltacht UCD activity. This scheme has been highly successful in enabling students from all UCD Colleges to meet with other Irish speakers and use the language in their everyday lives. Students promote the use of the language among their peers and represent the University in the wider Irish language community. The success of this scheme is now evidenced in the level of second-generation language transmission, i.e. graduates

of the residence scheme, who are now parents. Many of these alumni from non-native speaking backgrounds, have maintained friendships formed within UCD's Irish language community and have since taken a number of steps to support each other in raising children through the medium of Irish, both in the greater Dublin area and beyond. As Teach na Gaeilge UCD prepares to celebrate 25 years in existence in 2025, the interest expressed by its alumni in including this second generation in its celebrations, is the ultimate endorsement of the scheme's success in language maintenance.

### UCD Residence Scheme Students 2023-'24 Counties of origin



### Residential Scholarship Competition

The 24 Teach na Gaeilge UCD scholarships for the year 2023-2024 were advertised in March 2023 in second-level schools nationwide (32 counties). The scholarships were also advertised in the Irish-language media (Tuairisc.ie, on social media (Instagram, X and Facebook) and via the UCD Scholarships website <https://www.ucd.ie/students/scholarships/prospectiveundergraduatestudents/> and the Gaeltacht UCD website <https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/ansceimchonaithe/scolaireachtai/>. The 2023-2024 scholars chosen by application and interview included traditional native speakers (from Gaeltacht areas), native speakers located outside the Gaeltachtaí, nua-chainteoirí (non-native fluent speakers from Gaeltacht areas), fluent speakers from Irish-language medium education, and fluent speakers from English-language medium education. This year, scholars represented the University in the Irish-language community nationally and internationally and initiated a broad range of language projects which involved the promotion of the language within the wider University community. The Gaeltacht UCD residence scheme scholarship is documented on each student's academic transcript. The Centre continuously reviews this student experience; feedback from 2023-2024 scholars was positive and demand continued for the 2024-2025 competition.

### 2023-'24 Orientation and Training

Gaeltacht UCD organizes specific orientation and training programs for its scholars through the medium of Irish. These are organized prior to the commencement of each trimester thus ensuring that Irish is the language of the initial communication between participating scholars, in accordance with best practices in language preservation and maintenance. Orientation enhances communication between the individual scholarship students, between the students and the wider University community, and between the students and the broader Irish-language community. Scholars are provided with information on the opportunities available to them, the support available and their obligations under the Gaeltacht UCD Residential Scheme Contract.



Austin Brennan, Residence Scheme Scholar



The 2023-2024 orientation program included 3-weekend courses: the first taking place 8-9 September (continuing students) and the second on 16-17 September 2023 (for continuing and incoming students together). The 3rd course took place prior to the commencement of trimester 2, 20-21 January 2024. The 2023-2024 orientation included workshops with entrepreneur Nóirín Ní Bhraoin, manager of the App GaelGoer, singer Iarfhlaith Ó Muirthile and Irish language playwright and actor Hilary Bowen Walsh. Team-building activities included a hike in County Wicklow, cycling in the Phoenix Park and a cookery competition. In trimesters 1 and 2, Gaeltacht UCD organized regular breakfast meetings with the 24 students with the purpose of planning language promotional activities for their peers. The scheme's alumni are central to the success of this project and planning sessions with Teach na Gaeilge

alumni and mentors motivated new participants and provided guidance and support in the execution of the 2023-2024 projects. Students also met with mentors from Scéim Meantóireachta Theach na Gaeilge, the unit's alumni mentoring scheme, via informal Irish language activities such as at the weekly intervarsity traditional music societies' sessions in Club Chonradh na Gaeilge, Harcourt St, Dublin 2 and at the national Irish language and cultural festival, Oireachtas na Gaeilge, Kilarney, Nov 2023.

Student leadership is supported within the residence scheme and language promotional activities are primarily student-led. In 2023-2024, both the Auditor of An Cumann Gaelach, Leah Ní Ghairbhith and UCDSU's Irish Language Officer, Aoibhinn Brentall were both scholars of Teach na Gaeilge.



Residence Scheme Scholars from the Donegal Gaeltacht

## Scéim Meantóireachta Theach na Gaeilge, Alumni Mentoring Scheme

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/ansceimchonaithe/meantoiritheachnagaeilge/>

The purpose of the UCD Irish-language student residence scheme is to maintain continuity of language use from second to third level, from the language of the home, school or community to adulthood when a language can be used in a profession or recreational activity also. Forming friendships in the language, and meeting with a wide range of alumni from professions beyond the University, is key to ensuring the active use of the language among the future leaders of society. It is with this purpose that Gaeltacht UCD initiated 'Scéim Meantóireachta Theach na Gaeilge', now in its 8th year. In September 2022 James Knoblauch, a UCD Lochlann School of Business alumnus, took on the role of mentor coordinator (previously held by alumni Dónal Ó Catháin and Peadar Ó Lamhna).

The 2023-'24 mentors organized an information session and workshop during orientation, as well as a social event in the city centre during the year. Mentors also joined the Gradaim Ghaeltacht UCD 2024 event, a celebration of the 2023-'24 student initiatives and awards held on Belfield campus on 16 April 2024.

## 2024 Accredited Module in Radio Broadcasting Skills

The Horizons Module Scileanna Cumarsáide (Communication Skills) was specifically designed for Teach na Gaeilge scholarship students in recognition of their innovation and time commitment to language promotional activities. The module is a collaboration between Gaeltacht UCD, Gaelchultúr Teoranta, and the National Irish-language radio station, Raidió na Gaeltachta. It is accredited by the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, and Irish Folklore. The module is offered annually, most recently in January 2024, and comprises advanced Irish language skills as well as hands-on broadcasting skills. Students can gain credits while further developing their communication and leadership skills. This year's guest broadcaster was Seán Ó Dubhchon. Podcasts of the programs produced by students are uploaded regularly to: <https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/ansceimchonaithe/scileannacumarsaide/>

As residence scheme scholars frequently hold leadership roles in student societies, they are often invited for interview by Raidió na Gaeltachta, Raidió na Life and Raidió Fáilte, the 2024 module supported them in this. In 2023-'24 students who had taken this module previous hosted 2 Irish language programmes on the UCD student radio station Belfield FM, *Tae an Lae* and *Cnuasach Ceoil*.



Cormac Ó Dubhláine, winner of the Ambasador Teanga 2024 award celebrating with mentors and friends



### 2024-'25 Competition

On 1 March 2024, the 2024-2025 Teach na Gaeilge scholarships were advertised. A total of 100 applied for scholarships of which 54 were prospective students. Interviews for 46 continuing students (2nd and 3rd-year students) were held on 2 and 3 May and interviews were held for 54 prospective students on 28 and 29 May '24. The highest-scoring 24 students were selected for scholarships and a waiting list was compiled. Scholarships for incoming students are subject to CAO offers, August '24.

### 'Teach na Gaeilge' Projects

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/ansceimchonaithe/tionscnaimhnamacleinn/>

Teach na Gaeilge students (UCD residence scheme scholars) play an important role as language ambassadors throughout the year. As students pursue various degree courses in a variety of UCD Colleges, they are particularly well placed to bring the language to a broad student base. They organize projects or events which provide their peers with the opportunity to use the language. Irish-language projects can include a diverse range of activities based on individual scholars' talents and interests. The freedom to work on a project of their choosing and the support provided by Gaeltacht UCD to facilitate this, has led to many successful projects, some of which are now held annually, and which involve contact with the wider community. Although students have the freedom to organize events of their choosing, Gaeltacht UCD is mindful of its responsibility towards language maintenance, in relation to native and fluent speakers; activities such as debating, moot court competitions, broadcasting, journalism or creative writing are particularly encouraged as they provide students with the opportunity to maintain a high level of fluency. Students are encouraged to host their activities on the Belfield campus and to collaborate with various student societies.



Professor Iarfhlaith Watson presents Gradaim Ghaeltacht UCD 2024



Meadhbh Broderick, Trad Soc Treasurer 2023-'24

### Gradaim Ghaeltacht UCD 2024, Student Awards

<https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/ansceimchonaithe/gradaimghaeltachtucd/>

Gaeltacht UCD identified the need to recognize the work and commitment of students, clubs, and societies in the promotion of the language, hence the establishment of Gradaim Ghaeltacht UCD (Gaeltacht UCD Awards). Gradaim Ghaeltacht UCD 2024 was held on 16 April '24. Among the awards presented was that of 2024 Teach na Gaeilge Student Ambassador awarded to student Cormac Ó Dubhláine. Award recipients are chosen by student ballot in advance of the event. The event was attended by current scholars and friends, representatives of Scéim Meantóireachta Theach na Gaeilge (mentoring scheme), and the Chair of Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD. Certificates and photos of 2024 and previous years events can be viewed at the link below and on social media, twitter, instagram and facebook.: <https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/ansceimchonaithe/gradaimghaeltachtucd>



UCD students and alumni at the launch of 'Gníomhaí Gaeilge', a Conradh na Gaeilge nationwide language promotional initiative for students



## Cemic as Gaeilge/ Chemistry in Irish

On 1 March 2024, the ICI Young Chemists Network organized an event in the offices of the National University of Ireland, Merrion Square, Dublin 2, in which they presented their chemical research projects through the medium of Irish. Dr. Joe Byrne of UCD School of Chemistry led the UCD team which included Teach na Gaeilge alumnus Eoghan Courtney. The UCD chemists were joined by students from Trinity College Dublin and Queens University Belfast. This was the first time for the ICI to present their research in Irish and it is hoped it will be an annual event.

Student Language Promotional



Dr Joe Byrne with Teach na Gaeilge scholar Eoin Courtney, together with participants of the first ICI Young Chemists Network Irish Language Event

## Activities

The year 2023-2024 saw a diverse array of events organized by students both on and off campus. These included football competitions, cookery demonstrations, projects focused on sustainability, table quizzes, language exchanges, poetry workshops, craft workshops and charity events such as 'Darkness into Light' as Gaeilge. A small selection of this activity is detailed below.

## Aonach na Gaeilge 2024 (Irish Language and Careers Fair- 'Irish in Everyday Life')

In February 2024, UCD Teach na Gaeilge scholars organized a unique fair, the first of its kind held on a university campus. The fair entitled 'An Ghaeilge sa Ghnáthshaol', (Irish in everyday life) highlighted employment and recreational opportunities for speakers of Irish. Teach na Gaeilge scholars Cormac Ó Dubhláine and Orla Coffey supported by UCDSU and An Cumann Gaelach, invited over 30 Irish language companies and institutions from 32 counties in Ireland as well as the EU Parliament in Luxembourg to host a stand in UCD Sports Hall. All invitees sent representations. Representatives from within UCD included UCD's Career Network, UCD School of Irish and UCD School of Education, schools from various other Irish universities, public bodies, private companies, media organizations, translation companies and Irish language sports clubs were also represented, see list below. Representatives at the stands, many of whom were UCD alumni, had the opportunity to get to know prospective employees and/or perspective members. Aonach na Gaeilge 2024 proved a great success; it was followed by several enquiries from Irish language organizations re. participation at future fairs. The students who led this project were exceptionally well supported by staff in UCD Sports Centre, and this positive experience has encouraged them and others to continue to build on this initiative in the future. The following organizations took part in the fair:

Coimisiún na Meán, Macalla Teo, An tAontas Eorpach, Ógras, GaelGoer, Cumann na bhFiann, Raidió na Life, An Garda Síochána, Coláiste Uisce, BÁC le Gaeilge, Conradh na Gaeilge, Gaillimh le Gaeilge, Bloc TG4, Raidió RíRá, STAR Translations, Foras na Gaeilge, Gaelchultúr, OPW,

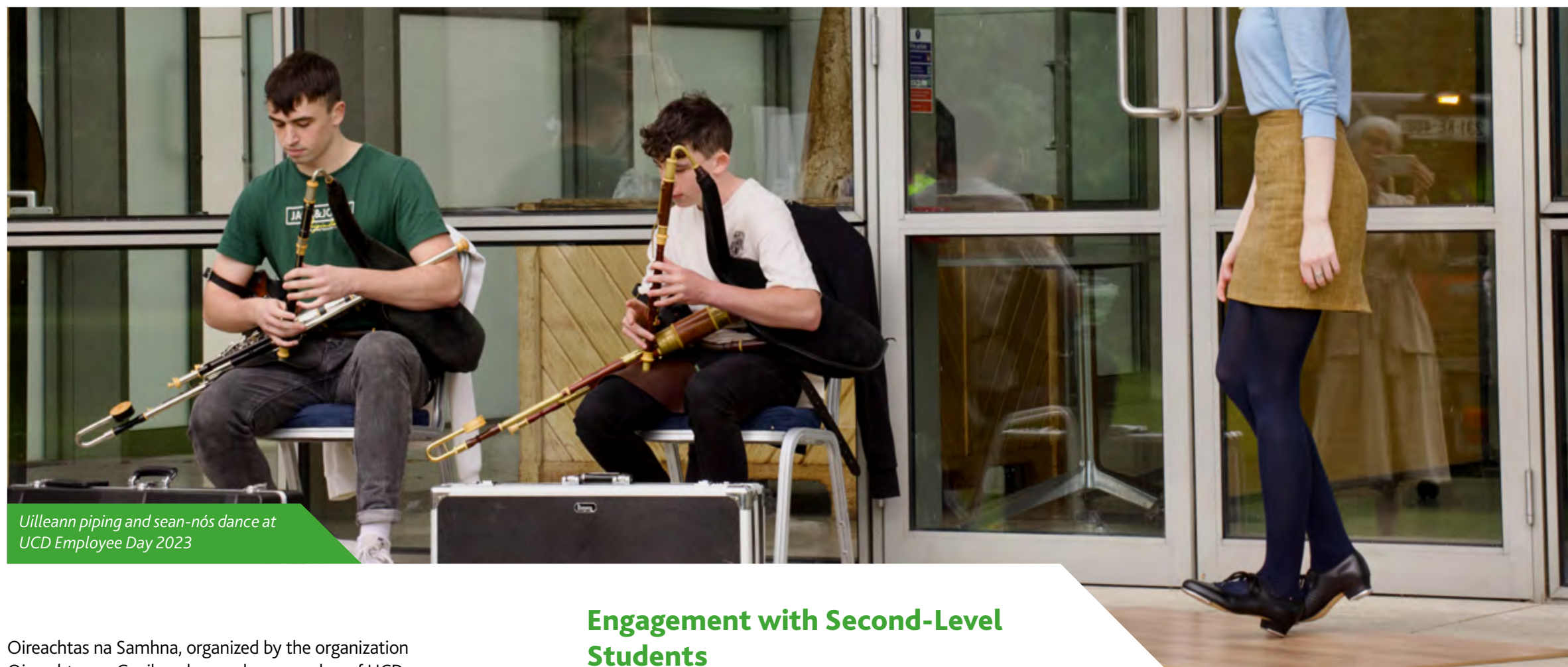


Raidió na Gaeltachta, Gael-Linn, Kina, Nemeton TV, An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna, Ostaí na Rí, Tithe an Oireachtais, GaelPhoist, Club Dornálaíochta, Club an Chonradh, Cúirt Bhreithiúnais an Aontais Eorpaigh, TG4 Foghlaim.

## Bréagchúirt Uí Dhálaigh Ghael-linn 2023/National Moot Court Competition

Bréagchúirt Uí Dhálaigh, the National Irish Language Moot Court Competition is organised annually by Gael-Linn in honor of former President of Ireland and UCD scholar, Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh. Students from UCD Sutherland School of Law, who are frequently also Teach na Gaeilge scholars, represent UCD in this competition each year. The 2023 competition took place in the Four Courts on 17 November 2023 and Teach na Gaeilge Scholar and SU Irish Language Officer Aoibhinn Brentnall represented UCD. Alongside UCD, King's Inns, UCC and UL competed in a series of preliminary mooting rounds, receiving feedback from a bench of barristers and other legal professionals. The 2023 competition was judged by Ms Justice Bronagh Ní Anluáin, Clíona Kimber SC, and Cormac Ó Dúlacháin SC.

Ardfheis Chonradh na Gaeilge & Oireachtas na Samhna In addition to their involvement with the organization Gael-Linn above, UCD Irish speaking students, members of An Cumann Gaelach and Teach na Gaeilge scholars are actively involved in the activities of the Irish language organizations Conradh na Gaeilge and Oireachtas na Gaeilge. In 2023-'24 Conradh na Gaeilge events included a training session for society auditors and a training session for Irish language promoters Gníomhaí Gaeilge, both of which were held in the Conradh na Gaeilge head office in Dublin 2. A number of students also participated in the Conradh na Gaeilge Ard-Fheis, 23-25 February 2024, held in Blanchardstown, Co Dublin. The Irish language and cultural festival



*Uilleann piping and sean-nós dance at UCD Employee Day 2023*

Oireachtas na Samhna, organized by the organization Oireachtas na Gaeilge, draws a large number of UCD students each year; over 50 UCD students participated in the 2023 festival which took place in Killarney, Co Kerry, November 2023.

## Student Broadcasting on Belfield FM

The student media has proved to be an effective means of language promotion among students in the University. In September 2022 Teach na Gaeilge students Leah Ní Ghairbhí and Pádraig Mac Fhionnlaoich first hosted a weekly Irish language program, 'Tae an Lae' which continued 2023-2024. The program included interviews with fellow Irish speaking students, discussions on students' issues, social events and entertainment. In October '23 Teach na Gaeilge scholar and renowned uilleann piper Éamonn Ó Meachair hosted a weekly music program through Irish, Cnuasach Ceoil, in which he interviewed some of UCD's most talented musicians. Podcasts can be heard via the Belfield FM website: <https://www.belfieldfm.com/>

## Engagement with Second-Level Students

Each year residence Scheme Scholars have been invited to visit private, voluntary and DEIS schools, to assist pupils with the spoken language. In 2023 requests came from Mount Anville Secondary School, located adjacent to UCD, as well as from Mount Seskin Community College, Clondalkin via UCD All and the Clondalkin Access Network. Six scholars prepared materials and assisted students in preparing for their oral Irish examinations, some workshops were held in person and others online.

UCD Students' Union and Student Societies Residence scheme scholars frequently take on leadership roles in student societies in UCD Students' Union or the Union of Students in Ireland, as referenced under 'Teach na Gaeilge 'above. In 2023-2024 Residence Scholar Aoibhinn Brentnall was elected as UCDSU Oifigeach na Gaeilge (Irish Language Officer). The union works closely with the Auditor of An Cumann Gaelach, Leah Ní Ghairbhí, also a residence scholar. A number of 2023-'24 scholars held the role of class reps both within the Cumann and the Students' Union.

## Music with Irish

In 2023-'24 Teach na Gaeilge scholars work closely with Trad Soc, UCD students' traditional music society, whose membership includes a high percentage of Irish speakers. They organized weekly Irish music sessions in the city center with fellow musicians from TCD, NUIM, and TU Dublin. These sessions were held in the Irish-speaking venue, Club Chonradh na Gaeilge. Teach na Gaeilge was fortunate to attract several very talented traditional musicians 2023-'24, and they performed at many Gaeltacht UCD Irish-speaking events, including a presentation of traditional instruments during Global Irish Language Week '24. Other events included UCD Staff Day, August '23, the UCD Global Experience Summit, October '23, a conference hosted by UCD Lochlann School of Business, March '24, the UCD in the Community Concert for Ukraine and UCDVO, April 2024, and a visit from the Ambassador of Portugal to UCD School of Languages Cultures and Linguistics, April '24.



## Irish Language Cultural Program

From September '23 to May '24 Gaeltacht UCD organized various cultural activities through the medium of Irish or bilingually. The events were designed for language learners attending its courses, for visiting and exchange students and for UCD employees.

### Café Sheachtain na Gaeilge/Irish Language Coffee Morning

On 13 March, in celebration of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2024 (National Irish Language Week), Gaeltacht UCD organized an Irish language coffee morning with live music for UCD employees. This event was organized in association with UCD Registry, and it was held in the UCD Global Lounge. This event served the purpose of bringing together Irish-speaking employees and in raising awareness of the Gaeltacht UCD 2024 services. In light of the increased obligations placed on UCD under the most recent legislation and the necessity for employees to engage with the language, Gaeltacht UCD looks forward to welcoming colleagues to similar events in 2024-'25 to facilitate language use in a relaxed, informal environment.



Teach na Gaeilge scholar and harpist  
Deirbhle Ní Chuin

### St Bridget's Festival Workshop

The Feast of Saint Bridget, 1 February, a national holiday in Ireland since 2023, is celebrated globally and provides the opportunity to share aspects of Irish folklore and tradition. On 1 February 2024, Gaeltacht UCD students facilitated a St. Bridget's cross workshop in UCD's Global Lounge. The Gaeltacht UCD scholarship students, some of whom are natives of different Gaeltachtaí, often have an in-depth knowledge of the customs associated with this festival, the Irish language terminology used, and the style of Bridget's crosses made in their specific regions. Students collected rushes from the countryside in advance and demonstrated how the crosses were made. Among those who participated in the workshop were students from Europe, Canada, the USA, Australia, China, and India. In July 2024 the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht and Sport announced state recognition of St. Bridget's cross weaving as part of Ireland's intangible cultural heritage and Gaeltacht UCD expects increased interest in this workshop in 2025.

### The Traditional Arts

The strong connection between the Irish language and its musical heritage is referenced above in 'Student Activities'. Gaeltacht UCD also promotes the language through the traditional arts to current and perspective Irish language learners. Workshops in Irish music song and dance were held once a month on average from September '23 to March '24. Gaeltacht UCD offered bilingual dance workshops together with UCD Global during students' orientation in September and January and again during Seachtain na Gaeilge/Global Irish Language week, March '24. Tin-whistle workshops, workshops in sean-nós, dance and traditional song were offered in both trimester 1 and 2. Some of these were provided as part of the Gaeltacht UCD language course schedule, while others were requested by specific groups such as CEMS students in UCD Smurfit School of Business. Workshops were delivered by Gaeltacht UCD tutors and/or external artists from the wider Irish language community.

## Introduction to the Irish Language Pop-Up Gaeltacht UCD

Over 31% of UCD students and 36% of UCD employees are classified as international. Over 10,000 of these students are based on the Belfield campus, many are in Ireland for the first time and have no prior exposure to the Irish language. Gaeltacht UCD in association with UCD Global, offers this cohort a number of introductory workshops in Irish, 'My First Gaeilge'. This year workshops were offered prior to trimester 1 in September 2023 and again in January 2024. This provided a 'taster' for students, some of whom were motivated to register for the Centre's evening courses. In addition to these sessions, the Centre was requested to facilitate several bespoke workshops for visiting US students. In May 2024 it offered a half day workshop in the language at the request of the Northern Arizona University (NAU), USA, Department of Psychological Sciences. This was the 5th consecutive year that Gaeltacht UCD worked with NAU students. In June 2024 it similarly provided a workshop for students from the Department of Art, Art History and Design, University of North Florida, USA.

On 15 November '23, Gaeltacht UCD held a Pop-up Gaeltacht to provide its language learners, employees and students, with the opportunity to use the Irish language in an informal environment. The event was held in association with the UCD University Club and students from the Centre's Irish language residence scheme provided live entertainment. In addition to sean-nós song, traditional Irish storytelling, harping and uilleann piping, Irish language learners from Japan, Singapore, Kazakhstan, India, Iran and Mexico sang in their native languages. This event not only gave the Centre's language learners the opportunity to use Irish and engage with fluent Irish speakers, it also provided an environment conducive to cultural exchange between all participants and the experience of internationalization at home. Gaeltacht UCD is grateful to UCD University Club for providing the venue.



Musicians Méin Ní Craith and Éamonn Ó Meachair with University Club and Gaeltacht UCD staff



# Gaeltacht UCD Engagement

## Local Engagement

Throughout 2023-2024, Gaeltacht UCD was actively engaged within the University both formally and informally; it contributed to UCD in the Community, UCD Culture and Engagement, UCD Global and UCD Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. The Centre published articles on Irish language activity in the 'UCD in the Community' annual report and in UCD Relations publication 'UCD Today'. It was also represented on the following committees and groups: UCD Student Services, UCD Languages Strategy and Implementation Committee, UCD's Multicultural Employee Network, UCD Co-curricular Community of Practice and Una Europa Language Centre's Group. In September '23 Gaeltacht UCD had a stand at UCD Global Fair and at UCD Grad Connect. In November it had a stand at UCD Open Day, it presented at the UNA Europa Conference hosted by UCD and in January 2024 it attended the UCD Careers Guidance Counselors Event. On 9 occasions from



Gaeltacht UCD Director Clár Ní Bhuachalla presented Live-Work-Grow event, Central Park, Sandyford, Co Dublin during Seachtain na Gaeilge 2024



Meeting of Cumann na nOifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge (Irish Language Development Officers Association), May '24

September '23 to May '24, it both presented at and joined in networking events at UCD HR New Staff Orientation.

## National Engagement

Gaeltacht UCD is in regular contact with the national Irish-language community. In 2022-2023 it maintained contact with the 6 lead organizations within Foras na Gaeilge, the All-island Partnership Forum: Glór na nGael, Gael-Linn, Conradh na Gaeilge, Cumann na bhFiann, Gaeloideachas, and Oireachtas na Gaeilge, <https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/tacaiochtaigaeilgesaphobal/> Throughout the year Gaeltacht UCD Director, its Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga and its Project Coordinator contributed to the Irish language media; participating in Raidió na Gaeltachta and Raidió na Life broadcasts. The Centre also provided news articles to the Irish language publications Tuairisc.ie, Seachtain (Irish Independent) and ExtraG.ie. Gaeltacht UCD supported meetings and events in Saol na Gaeilge including Oireachtas na Gaeilge, held in Killarney, Co Kerry, November 2023 and Seachtain na Gaeilge launched in January '24 and organized nationwide in March. 2024.

The Centre's Director was actively involved with the lead organization Gael-linn, as associate board member and a member of Coiste Oideachais, Conradh na Gaeilge committee on the Irish language in education. Gaeltacht UCD also had an active presence in the external English-speaking community, in March '24, the Director was invited to give a presentation on the language by the company Live, Work, Grow, Central Park Leopardstown, Co Dublin, which provided an opportunity to engage with those residing in and/or working in businesses based in Central Park.

Gaeltacht UCD was actively involved in the organization Cumann na nOifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge (COFG), <https://cofg.ie/>, the National Association of Irish Language Officers and Directors, attended meetings during Oireachtas na Gaeilge, November 2023 and a seminar for members held in DCU, May 2024. It attended seminars organized by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and by An Coimisinéir Teanga (the Irish language regulator), related to developments in Irish language legislation.



John Prendergast, Gaeltacht UCD Irish Language Planning Officer and Fiachra Ó Coileán Gaeltacht UCD Administrator, accompany Gaeltacht UCD 2024 Summer School participants on a guided tour of 6 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2



## International Engagement

Gaeltacht UCD activities are popular with visiting students, exchange students and international employees. Over 50% of registrations for the Centre's 2023-'24 language courses and cultural workshops came from participants who identified with a country or region outside the island of Ireland. In addition to its core activities, the Centre provided bespoke courses to visiting groups, and has already received requests for 2024-'25.

## Gaeltacht UCD Summer School/ Scoil Samhraidh Ghaeltacht UCD 2024

Gaeltacht UCD's annual International Irish Language Summer School provides the national and global Irish language community with a unique opportunity to engage with the University. This 1- week school, first founded in 2017, has attracted a diverse group of learners, a number of which have returned for a 6th and 7th year in succession.

Gaeltacht UCD welcomed a total of 67 participants to the 2024 school (17-21 June '24), which comprised speakers and learners from UCD (students and staff), as well as from counties throughout Ireland, from Europe, North America, USA, and New Zealand. The 2024 school saw a development in connections with the Irish diaspora in England, both first generation and second generation Irish, most notably members of Irish language groups in London and Birmingham. The USA was represented by learners from the Irish language network 'Daltaí na Gaeilge'. European participants included representation from Freie Universität Berlin, a member of the UNA Europa Network. <https://www.una-europa.eu/>, (an alliance of 11 European universities of which UCD is a member) and Conradh na Gaeilge Bheirlín. Gaeltacht UCD was especially happy to welcome back UCD alumni as well as many neighbours, participants from UCD's immediate vicinity in South County Dublin.

The 2024 school offered Irish language classes at 5 levels with the majority of learners at level B1, B2 and advanced level. Classes were held each morning and organized in association with the organization Gaelchultúr. Lectures were offered each afternoon and guest lecturers included



UCD President, Professor Orla Feely launched UCD North American Engagement Strategy, together with UCD Vice President for Global Engagement Professor Dolores O'Riordan, Canadian Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Nancy Smyth and US Deputy Chief of Mission to Ireland, Mike Clausen, April '24

UCD faculty; Dr. Conor McCabe, School of Irish Celtic Studies and Irish Folklore, UCD Alumni Dr Siobhán Nic Fhlannchadha (UCD ALL), Chair of Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe) and Áine Ní Bheisléáin, RTÉ Broadcaster, Dr Gearóid Ó Cléirín of Fiontar, Dublin City University, Barrister Daithí Mac Cárthaigh and Irish Times Journalist Harry McGee. Among the guest artists who delivered cultural workshops were renowned entertainers Ray Mac Mánaís and Joe Ó Dónaill who delivered a cultural workshop on the unique Irish practice of 'Lúbíní', dancer Louise O'Connor who performed and facilitated a lively céilí and traditional singer Iarla Ó Muirthile, of 'Amhránaithe an Chlub', Dublin's Irish language traditional singing group who introduced participants to Irish traditional song. Participants enjoyed a guided tour of number 6 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2, a historic house which is currently home to 'Conradh na Gaeilge' after which they partook in a table quiz and experienced a Pop-up Gaeltacht with Dublin's wider Irish language community in the city centre. Feedback from the 2024 surveys distributed was positive with participants commenting on the high standard of teaching and the variety of guest lectures and activities.



Summer School participants





Summer School participants

Gaeltacht UCD appreciates the cooperation of its colleagues in UCD Global, UCD Alumni and the Irish language media in advertising this event, as well as colleagues in UCD Quinn School of Business, UCD Sutherland School of Law, UCD Village, UCD Student Centre, UCD Estates, UCD University Club and Summer at UCD, all of which facilitated operations, hospitality and accommodation, services which contributed to the success of the 2024 program. Below are a selection of testimonials from participants:

*As a student in the new B.Ed course in UCD, I found this course to be of huge benefit to me. I met a lot of avid learners of Irish and bhí sé go hiontach. This has been a very beneficial week for myself.*

**Adam Mullen (UCD student),**  
2024 Summer School participant



Ciara Ní Ghairbhí, Gaeltacht UCD



Summer School participant



Fiachra Ó Coileáin, Gaeltacht UCD with Summer School participant

*Just a massive Thank you to everybody who organized and facilitated this school and all the classes, lectures and activities. I'm so grateful for the lovely experience. I feel so reinvigorated to take the next steps on my journey learning Irish.  
Go raibh míle maith agaibh,*

**Sarah Westvik, (UCD staff member),**  
2024 Summer School participant

*This week has been fantastic!!! To begin with, I was nervous to speak as Gaeilge because it had been a while since I had last done so but I was made to feel at ease as soon as the classes began. Speaking out when I had a question was strongly encouraged and I feel the standard of my Irish has come on leaps and bounds, I couldn't ask for more*

**Jan Van Cauwelaert,**  
2024 Summer School participant





Summer School USA participants



Students from Guangzhou Dublin International College of Life Sciences & Technology (GDIC) partake in a cultural program with Gaeltacht UCD facilitators



Gaeltacht UCD Irish language learners using the language socially

### Gaeltacht UCD/UCD China Joint Colleges Collaboration 2024

Background: In March 2019 Gaeltacht UCD delivered its first Irish language and cultural course to students of Chang'an Dublin International College of Transportation (CDIC). The purpose of the course was to provide an opportunity for UCD registered students in China to interact with various aspects of Irish culture, in line with the UCD Global Engagement Strategy, which aims to bring 'the best of Ireland including its distinct cultures to the world'. The course was received exceptionally well, and it was envisaged that a similar course be delivered in Guangzhou Dublin International College of Life Sciences & Technology (GDIC) and in Beijing Dublin International College (BDIC). The course was offered online the following year due to international health restrictions, however with the support of UCD China Joint Colleges, Gaeltacht UCD was delighted to have the opportunity to deliver the course in-person again in Guangzhou, China in 2024. In March 2024 a team of 4 Gaeltacht UCD Irish language tutors/dance artists/musicians and sports women delivered a total of 22 workshops on the GDIC campus. Of the 500 plus students enrolled in GDIC over 350 actively

participated in the cultural program. The GDIC project was funded by UCD China Joint Colleges and Gaeltacht UCD is grateful to its colleagues in both UCD Belfield and in GDIC China for their practical support. The experience gained by the Gaeltacht UCD team in the delivery of HEA funded projects over several years enabled this unique intercultural exchange.



Workshops in GDIC included basic hurling skills





## Supporting Compliance with Irish Language Legislation

### Background

UCD first founded its Irish Language Board in 1996 before the introduction of the 1997 Universities Act. One of the Board's first initiatives was to initiate a bilingual policy for stationery and signage, followed by the provision of Irish language courses for employees and the establishment of an Irish language student residence scheme. With the assistance of the newly established HEA Targeted Funding Initiative for the Promotion of the Irish Language, the University established the post of Irish Language Officer in 1996. Further to the 2003 Official Languages Act, demand for all Irish language services within the University increased and the post of Senior Executive Assistant was established. The Office provided Irish language courses for students and staff and worked with UCD Procurement and Rannóg an Aistriúcháin in procuring translation providers. The Irish language office represented the University at meetings of Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga and the then Department of the Gaeltacht.

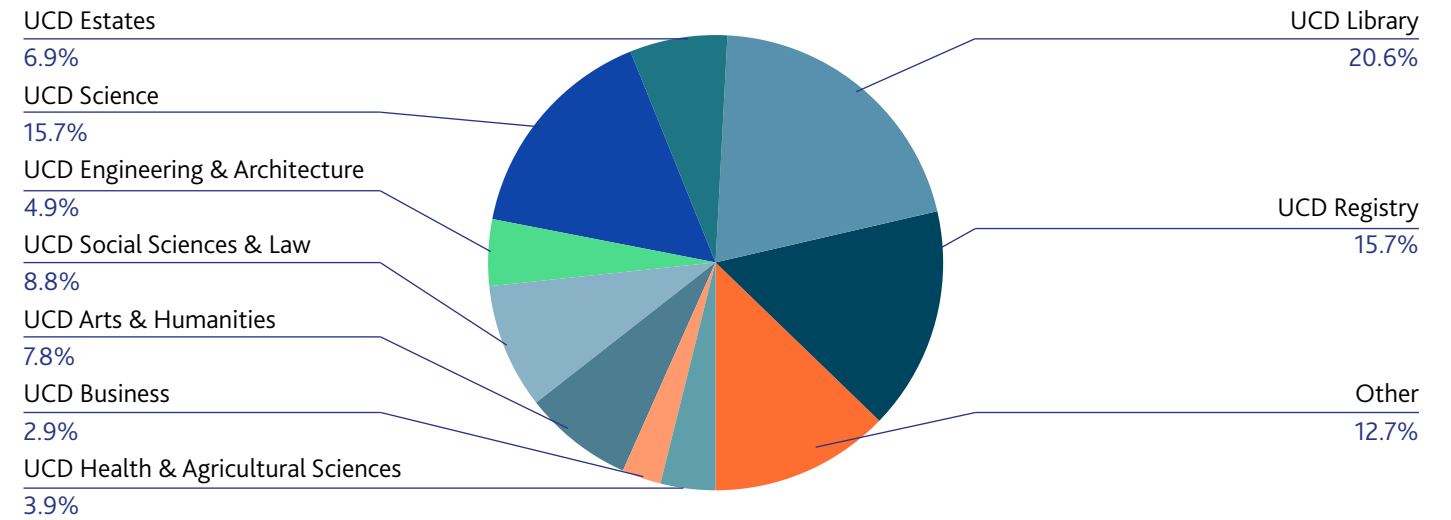
In 2019 the Irish language office was rebranded as Gaeltacht UCD. In 2021 it welcomed the Official

Languages (Amended) Act and Gaeltacht UCD Director was the nominated senior officer to oversee reporting to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht Sport and Media and Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga, as required. In November 2022 the University founded Coiste Acht na dTeangacha UCD (the official languages act committee). An Coiste is a University Management Team advisory committee with the purpose of bringing together the significant stakeholders within the University concerned with compliance. The 2023-'24 membership comprised of representatives from UCD IT Services, UCD Legal, Gaeltacht UCD, UCD Communications, UCD Registry, UCD Estates, and UCD Global Engagement. An Coiste is Chaired by Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin, Professor of Irish and Dean of UCD College of Arts and Humanities.

### Continuity and Expansion

Further to the enactment of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021, the University's Governing Authority approved 2 new posts in Gaeltacht UCD with the purpose of facilitating the University's compliance

Number of requests for translations September 2023 - August 2024



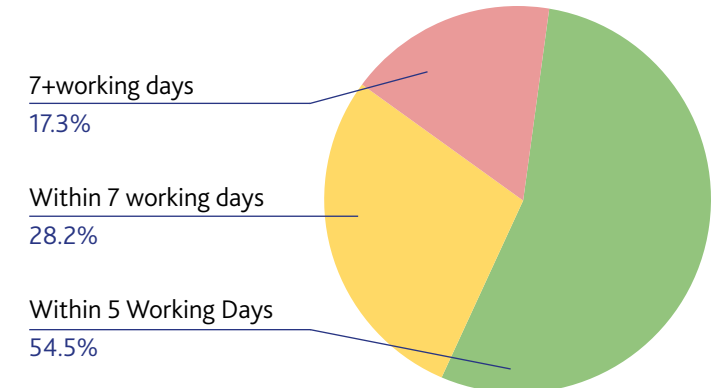
with the increased number of regulations. Gaeltacht UCD Director and Project Coordinator were joined by two new colleagues: an Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga (Irish Language Planning Officer) and Riarthóir Gaeilge (Irish Language Administrator). These posts were advertised in 2023 and the chosen candidates, John Prendergast and Fiachra Ó Coileáin commenced employment on 8 April 2024 and 26 May 2024 respectively. The 2 additional posts constitute the most significant development of the unit since its establishment and represent the commitment of the University to the language and its speakers.

In July 2023 the Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga and Riarthóir Gaeilge initiated a communications campaign to increasing awareness among internal stakeholders of the University's obligations under the Official Languages Act 2003, to explain the new regulations which come into effect under the 2021 Amendment Act and to highlight the supports now provided to UCD employees by the Gaeltacht UCD office. The campaign included a series of information seminars and 1:1 meetings. The post of Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga in association with Coiste Acht na dTeangacha UCD will enable the University to develop its language plan in line with An Plean Naisiúnta um Sheirbhísí Poiblí Gaeilge, the National Plan for Public Services in Irish due to be published by Government, mid-September 2024.

### Translation and advisory service

In January 2024 Gaeltacht UCD worked with UCD Procurement in inviting expressions of interest from Government Publications approved translation suppliers to ensure continuity of its university wide translation

Turnaround time for translations



service. Further to the establishment of the post of Riarthóir Gaeilge, it launched a new email account for its translation and advisory service [tearma@ucd.ie](mailto:tearma@ucd.ie). The service was advertised on the University's digital platform WorkVivo, on social media, internal publications (UCD staff e-zine, UCD Events Calendar), and at orientation for UCD employees. In 2023-2024, a total of 77 unique requests were received by Gaeltacht UCD for translation. Requests included job descriptions, event announcements, temporary and permanent signage, social media posts, leaflets & brochures. The most frequent service users were UCD Library, UCD Arts and Humanities and UCD Estates. From September 2023 to July 2024 over 82% of translations requested were completed and proofed within a 7-day timeframe. A section on 'Supports' for UCD employees detailing regulations applicable to UCD under the legislation including FAQs on the translation service and video recordings from Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga can be viewed on the Gaeltacht UCD website <https://www.ucd.ie/irish/ga/tacaiochtaí/reachtaiochtteanga/>.



## Irish Language Promotional Activities

### Publications

Articles on Gaeltacht UCD events were published regularly in UCD internal publications; in UCD Today <http://www.ucd.ie/ucdtoday/> and UCD Alumni E-zines <https://alumni.ucd.ie/magazine-archive/>. Notices were placed regularly in UCD's Staff and Student e-zines and on UCD's social platform Workvivo. The Centre's activities featured in Irish-language digital media and in the Irish language publications, Tuairisc.ie and ExtraG.ie. Advertisements for language courses and the University's residential scholarship scheme were published in UCD student media, UCD Observer, and UCD College Tribune and its summer school was advertised in the national English language media.

Gaeltacht UCD continued to design various promotional materials; brochures for its summer school in Irish/German, Irish/Polish, Irish/French and Irish/Chinese, bilingual flyers on its scholarship scheme to all second-level schools in Ireland as well as posters and promotional materials for on campus and electronic distribution. All were displayed on the Gaeltacht UCD website, on electronic screens and shared via Gaeltacht UCD social media, X, Mastodon, Facebook, and Instagram

Greasán Gaeilge na hEarnála Poiblí: [greasangaeilge.ie](http://greasangaeilge.ie)  
On 11 July 2024, The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, in association with Foras na Gaeilge and Oireachtas na Gaeilge launched Greasán Gaeilge na hEarnála Poiblí, the 1st Irish language network for the public service. The network, highlights opportunities to use the language through activities and events, throughout Ireland. Gaeltacht UCD was represented at the launch and will continue to promote this network among UCD employees 2024-2025.

Gaeltacht UCD Website: [www.ucd.ie/irish](http://www.ucd.ie/irish)  
The Gaeltacht UCD website highlights the Centre's projects and makes information accessible to those within and without the UCD community. It is a bilingual site which enables users to move seamlessly from Irish to English and English to Irish on each page. Registration for language courses, cultural activities and scholarships are all hosted on the website via UCD Infohub, systems and the ease of access has been commented on in feedback



from the Centre's 2024 summer school participants. In 2023 UCD IT services facilitated the movement of the site to the new UCD interface 'Design Library', this work is near completion, and it is expected to further enhance the site's accessibility on mobile devices, giving particular consideration to the visually impaired.

### Social Media

In addition to being active on the University's own digital platform Workvivo, Gaeltacht UCD has an active presence on various social media including Instagram #ucdgaeltacht (2,411 followers), X @ucdgaeltacht (3,669 followers), Facebook @ucdgaeltacht (2,100 followers), Mastodon @gaeltachtucd (93 followers), LinkedIn.com/company/gaeltacht (567 followers) This engagement contributes to the visibility of the language, promotes the University's Irish-language initiatives, and connects it with the national and global Irish-language community. It has also proved to be particularly effective in creating awareness among prospective students, highlighting events organized by the student community on campus.



Gaeltacht UCD students meet with prospective students at UCD Openday 2023

### Irish Language Media

During 2023-2024, Gaeltacht UCD employees; its Director, its Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga and its Project Coordinator spoke with the Irish language media: Raidió na Gaeltachta, Raidió Fáilte and Raidió na Life. The Centre's students and its summer school participants were also interviewed. Programs included Painéal an Luain and An Saol ó Dheas on Raidió na Gaeltachta, Fios Feasa and Fad is Fairsing on Raidió na Life. Interviews and participation in discussion groups provided the opportunity to highlight the Centre's work as well as other relevant University initiatives to the wider Irish language community nationally and internationally.

### Sponsorship

In 2023-2024, Gaeltacht UCD supported the use of the language by UCD schools, centers, units, student societies, and clubs. The Centre supported student involvement in literature and journalism through its sponsorship of Duaiseanna Liteartha an Oireachtais (the national under-19 award for journalism section) including the most recent awards in November 2023. It also provided translation and proofing support to Irish-language student journalists, bloggers, and vloggers.





Professor Dolores O'Riordan  
UCD Vice President for Global Engagement



Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin,  
Chair of Coiste Acht na dTeangacha UCD



Professor Iarfhlaith Watson,  
Chair of Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD

## Structure and Governance

Gaeltacht UCD sits within the UCD Global Engagement portfolio under the direction of Professor Dolores O'Riordan, UCD Vice-President for Global Engagement. The repositioning of the Centre within this structure in 2019, has increased awareness of the language within the University in Ireland and through the University's global networks. Gaeltacht UCD is happy that it has succeeded in supporting all that is unique to the Irish language and its speakers in Ireland while simultaneously sharing both the language and its associated culture globally.

UCD's alumni as well as a representative from the wider Irish language community. Current membership can be viewed at the link above.

In July 2023 the term of the board's Cathaoirleach (Chair), held by Professor Michael Doherty concluded. Further to Professor Doherty's resignation, the Office of Vice-President for Global Engagement Professor Dolores O'Riordan invited expressions of interest from UCD employees across the University. Professor Iarfhlaith Watson from UCD College of Social Sciences and Law was appointed Cathaoirleach; he commenced his term 1 September 2023. A meeting of the board under the newly appointed Cathaoirleach was held 6 December 2023 at which members were updated on the recent developments in recruitment and legislation. The meeting concluded with a social event hosted by Gaeltacht UCD to acknowledge Professor Doherty's commitment to the language during his chairmanship and welcome the newly appointed Chair.



Former Chair of Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD  
Professor Michael Doherty with his wife Dr. Cliona Skelly

### Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD & Coiste Acht na dTeangacha UCD

The purpose of Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD, UCD's Irish Language Board first founded in 1997 is to advise both Gaeltacht UCD and UCD Governing Authority on the use of the Irish language. Members of the 2023-'24 board included the Director of Gaeltacht UCD, representatives from each of the UCD's 5 colleges, from UCD Students' Union, from UCD's Cumann Gaelach, from Gaeltacht

Coiste Acht na dTeangacha UCD was founded in April 2022 with the purpose of advising the University on the implementation of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021, bringing together the relevant stakeholders and supporting the implementation of regulations, (see Project 5, page 25). In September 2023 the Office of Vice President for Global Engagement appointed UCD Professor of Irish/College Principal of Arts and Humanities Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin as Cathaoirleach. An Coiste met at regular intervals throughout 2023-2024 and in March 2024 advised on the first of the University's reports to Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga, (under article 10A of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021). It also oversaw the distribution of the survey on Irish language in the public service distributed by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, March '24.

Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD and Coiste Acht na dTeangacha UCD provide expertise on language promotion and legislation and ensure that a broad cohort of UCD employees and students have the opportunity to contribute to the promotion of the Irish language in the University.



## UCD Governing Authority

Gaeltacht UCD appreciates the support of the University's Governing Authority and submits a report on its projects annually. In September 2023 the Centre presented its 2022-2023 annual report to the Authority. Gaeltacht UCD Director was also invited to meet with Mr Michael Beary, the newly appointed Chair of UCD Governing Authority in 2023 to brief him on the work of the unit.

## Gaeltacht UCD Team; Administrators, Tutors and Facilitators

The HEA funded projects are managed by one full-time Director, Clár Ní Bhuachalla, and one full-time Project Coordinator. Further to the resignation of Ashling Hartefeld, the Centre's Project Coordinator, in July '23, Gaeltacht UCD welcomed Ciara Ní Ghairbhí to this full-time position in February '24. Gaeltacht UCD is grateful to the outgoing coordinator Ashling Hartefeld for her 8 years of service; her support was central to the success of each of the Centre's projects. This Senior Executive Assistant post, which has been funded by the HEA Special Targeted Initiative Funding since its establishment, has ensured a high standard of delivery and continuity in all initiatives. In April and May 2024, further to the competition for the posts of Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga and Riarthóir Gaeilge, Gaeltacht UCD welcomed John Prendergast and Fiachra Ó Coileain respectively. In addition to office administrators, Gaeltacht UCD was fortunate to have an excellent team of qualified and experienced tutors, artists, musicians, and facilitators, who were employed on a part-time basis and who played an important role in the successful delivery of the 2023-'24 projects at home and abroad. Cooperation with numerous colleagues in schools and units throughout UCD was crucial to the delivery of each of the projects referenced in this report, as was collaboration with individuals and organizations in saol na Gaeilge, the external Irish language community.

The Centre appreciates the support it received from UCD President, UCD Vice President for Global Engagement and the University Management Team, the Chair and membership of Coiste Acht na dTeangacha UCD and the Chair and membership of Bord Tacaíochta Gaeilge UCD.



## Mar Fhocal Scoir/ In Conclusion

The year 2023-2024 was a significant year for the Irish language in University College Dublin. The continued support of Gaeltacht UCD Irish language initiatives and the additional resourcing of the Centre to facilitate compliance with the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021, confirmed the University's commitment to the promotion of the Irish language.

The Centre's position within the UCD Global Engagement portfolio has enhanced the profile of the language and the University has ensured that the relevant structures are in place to support compliance with Irish language legislation. Gaeltacht UCD looks forward to the publishing of the Government's Plean Náisiúnta um Sheirbhísí Poiblí Gaeilge, September 2024 and believes that many of its HEA funded initiatives, recognized as examples of best practice, can be further developed in the context of the new system of standardization. As UCD prepares its Strategy to 2030, Gaeltacht UCD looks forward to playing its part in making a positive difference to the lives of Irish speaking students, to the Irish language community in Ireland and the wider world.





*Deirbhle Quinn and Méin Níe Craith, Teach na Gaeilge scholars at the 'UCD in the Community' Charity Concert*