



Trinity Access Impact Report

2021-2022



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

TRINITY ACCESS

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A Message from Lisa and Brendan



We are delighted to welcome you to this year's Impact Report. Our mission for 2021/2022

was to refocus and recalibrate our priorities of community, technology, teaching & learning and connectivity. Through the twists and turns of the Covid landscape, we worked hard to change our teaching and collaborative practices and evolved to support our community in the aftermath of the pandemic. As we reimagined what Trinity Access would look like during uncertain times, words like 'crisis' accompanied economic, housing, rental, energy and environment, we built our sense of purpose from a different place. In the words of the late Trinity Professor Brendan Kennelly "*Though we live in a world that dreams of ending, that always seems about to give in, something that will not acknowledge conclusion, insists that we forever begin*".

With events and crises unfolding rapidly, the student voice can be forgotten, but you-our community, didn't forget. You saw how the extra pressures and fears can detrimentally impact at-risk students and you provided unwavering support, which allowed us to sustain and enhance our programmes. We increased our number of undergraduate scholarships, created more pathways with greater development into STEM and brought more students on campus than ever before, with over 2,000 taking part in campus tours alone.

We used the innovations that came from lockdown-life to create our "now" post-pandemic. From online information sessions for prospective students, to our hybrid Postgraduate Certificate in 21st Century Teaching & Learning reaching teachers nationwide, the blend of online and in-person collaboration allowed us to grow our community.

Our team have adapted to a new way of working, but undoubtedly the resounding highlight of the year has been coming together again on campus. The return of 'in-person' graduations and awards gave us moments that every student, alumni and proud onlooker will hold forever. Moments that acknowledge all the hard work that goes into achievement and moments that encapsulate hope for what is to come.

Thank you for continuing to champion our students with your time and support. In 2023 Trinity Access turns 30! We look forward to celebrating this milestone with you. Together we are building a better and brighter future for all.



[Click here to share your memories of Trinity Access with us.](#)

Highlights from 2021-2022

Our sincerest and heartfelt thanks to all our donors, corporate partners, volunteers, schools and communities who have supported us. Thanks to your generosity and vision, we continue to reach thousands of under-represented students and support them in reaching their full educational potential.



2,460
students
participated in
Campus Tours

1 2
3 4

5
schools chosen to
take part in Access
Maths



222
students in receipt
of a Trinity Access
scholarship



150
students signed up
to be Trinity Access
Ambassadors



Over
150,000
participants in College
Awareness Week 2021



154
Community Mentors
were recruited



More than
920
students took part in
CodePlus career talks



44
students completed
the Foundation
Course programme



374
students
participated in
Bridge to College

Undergraduate Scholarships

Helping students reach their full potential

Students in receipt of Trinity Access Scholarships have shown exceptional commitment. Not only have they achieved strong academic results, but they also enrich student and community life through their active participation in clubs, societies, Erasmus, travel and internships. Often, these remarkable students are overcoming serious challenges like homelessness, family illness & bereavement, personal learning disabilities or are coming from the asylum seeker system.

With the increased cost of living and rental crisis over the past year, scholarship support has proven to be more vital than ever. The Trinity Access Scholarship Fund is supported entirely through the generosity of private donors and corporate partners and plays an essential role in ensuring students can continue their studies.



Professor John G. Byrne & Nóirín Plunkett Scholarship Awardees Grace Bokunde, Diana Hrisovescu and Faith Olopade with Provost, Dr Linda Doyle.



222

students in receipt
of a Trinity Access
scholarship



76

new scholarships
awarded to students,
totalling €139,000



€384,000

distributed to
scholarship
recipients



€37,050

additional funding to
Foundation Course
Students



"Words cannot explain the impact this scholarship has had on me; across all areas of my life, both professionally and personally, and for that, I am beyond grateful."

"The scholarship has aided me in easing the financial burden which was weighing on me."

"Thank you so much for being a big part of my journey in becoming the best doctor I could ever be."

"It's the little things, the teeniest tiniest of things that make huge differences."

The Foundation Course

A stepping stone to third level



Our Foundation Course offers an alternative access route to third level education for students whose social, economic, and cultural experiences have impacted their educational attainment and progression. There are no standard educational requirements for entry other than applicants demonstrating a real desire and ability to pursue third level study.

There were 44 students enrolled in the course in 2021/2022. The rich learning from engaging with staff and peers proved invaluable. All students reported that the course gave them the support they needed to challenge themselves and 80% of students feel they now have a high level of preparedness for a degree course.

We were delighted to welcome our 42 graduates from the 2020/21 Foundation Course class for their in-person graduation in Trinity College in March 2022. They had studied exclusively online during the pandemic, so it was wonderful to celebrate their success on campus. It was also the first occasion that Foundation Course students wore gowns.

The Grant Thornton Career Development and Mentoring Programme for Foundation Course Young Adults continued to go from strength to strength and celebrated its fourteenth year. A highlight of the programme was a breakfast for students and mentors in the Grant Thornton offices in April. Six students also secured summer internships with Grant Thornton.



[Click here to play a video about Traveller Access routes to TCD featuring Foundation Course students!](#)



Denise Kenny

Foundation Course Student Profile:

Denise Kenny

"The constant support I received from the Trinity Access team throughout the year was outstanding. I began studying on the Foundation Course in the middle of a worldwide pandemic and completed the full year online. The staff were amazing! If I had any problems, they were always there to help or guide me in the right direction and made the whole online learning process feel normal. The tutors are all so passionate about their field of study and did everything they could to help me reach my full potential."

Scholarship Student Profile:

Manpreet Kaur

"I am incredibly grateful to receive the ASAP (Asylum Seeker Access Provision) scholarship. The scholarship helped me financially and academically. The ASAP scholarship is helping me to fulfil my dream of studying chemistry in Trinity College Dublin. This scholarship helped me throughout my course and now I can finally study 'chemical sciences', my dream degree in chemistry. I would like to thank everyone who helped and supported me throughout my Foundation year. I am forever thankful to Trinity and Trinity Access."



Manpreet Kaur

Further and Higher Education Access

Creating more entry routes for Adult Learners

Beyond the walls of Trinity College, we in Trinity Access support several alternative routes to education through University Access Courses in three [CDET](#) colleges across Dublin: Liberties, Pearse and Plunket College. These courses provide students with a hybrid [FET](#)-Higher Education/ Foundation Year experience. Throughout the academic year, these students are welcomed on campus for orientation and information sessions along with study and writing skills seminars, module workshops and educational guidance talks.

Similarly, the Trinity Access team visit the colleges throughout the year giving guidance regarding entry routes to TCD and other colleges of their choice. Since 2004, 333 students who have completed one of our CDET courses have progressed to degree level study in Trinity College Dublin.



We continue to expand our [QQI-FET](#) routes into degree level courses in Trinity. A route from QQI-FET to Dental Technology was approved for 2022 entry and a QQI-FET route into Computer Science has been approved for 2023 entry. The FET team hosted a number of well-attended online information sessions for applicants. We also contributed to a number of College-led activities, such as panel discussions and recruitment events.



"Witnessing the change in myself and my peers over the year has been priceless."

Graduating student, Plunket College

Pathways to Professions

Raising aspirations through school outreach to early career support

Pathways to Business

Pathways to Business is our collaboration with the Trinity Business School, supporting both second-level students and current Trinity Access business undergraduates by helping them identify, work towards, and achieve their business career goals. Our supporters generously provided vital funding for students on this programme last year with 18 final year Business students each receiving a scholarship worth €4,000, and 99 additional students receiving once-off payments of €500.



[Click here to read more.](#)



Pathways to Law

Pathways to Law continued its successful collaboration with the Law Society, with 83 fifth and sixth year second-level students completing their Street Law programme. Thanks to the support and commitment of Ireland's leading legal professionals, this year 70 undergraduate students received financial support, mentoring, skills development, and career guidance, all of which allows them to consider entering Law as a long-term career objective. This is evident in the increased number of 109 applications made to summer internships and training contracts this year by Pathways to Law students.



“When I participated in Pathways to Law, I realised that this is actually an option for me and someone who talks like me, this is something you can actually do. It’s always been a dream to do really well in life but I never knew how. It was the Pathways to Law programme that made me feel like I’m good enough and that I had the ability to if I really wanted to.”

Law- Junior Sophister

Pathways to STEM



374

students in the
Bridge to College
programme



220

students worked
on a Leadership
Project



5

schools chosen for
Access Maths



292

students took part in
CodePlus and CS-TY

Careers in STEM are challenging, rewarding and very flexible in the career paths they offer. However the number of students from areas of socio-economic disadvantage pursuing STEM courses and careers remains low, despite an increase in students from such backgrounds entering third level education. Our school outreach programmes aim to address this.

Bridge to College Programme

The Bridge to College programme helps Transition Year students develop the skills they need to progress to and thrive in third-level education. As well as continuing our successful partnership with Citywise Education in Tallaght, this year saw the most TY students ever graduate from the programme. Their achievements were celebrated at the Showcase Day and Graduation where 18 schools who successfully completed the programme received certificates. Those who took part in the Leadership Projects also had a chance to display and present their work to the Provost and Trinity Access team.

Access Maths

Access Maths aims to empower teachers and students so they can engage fully with the new mathematics specifications. By increasing interest and competency in mathematics at second-level, it is hoped this will create opportunities for students to pursue courses and careers in STEM. The five participating schools, located in Dublin and Kilkenny are situated in areas of socio-economic disadvantage.

CodePlus & CS-TY

In September 2021, we packed up our laptops and took CodePlus out on the road to visit TY classes and deliver workshops in schools to build female students' confidence, and interest, in coding. Students spent a week working together on projects to learn about all-things computer science, from algorithms to hardware. 2022 also saw 125 transition year students take part in the Computer Science for Transition Year (CS-TY) programme. This is a four day introductory programme during which students get to learn about coding and computer science.



[Click here to read more about these programmes.](#)

Trinity Access Ambassadors

Inspiring others to follow their dreams

Our student Ambassadors act as both facilitators and role models on the programmes run with partnered primary and secondary schools. With more than 150 students signed up as Ambassadors, their support makes an even more impactful experience for the schools Trinity Access works with.

Many Ambassadors get the opportunity to go back to their old school to talk with current students. These visits make such a difference because Ambassadors have first-hand experience that the students can easily relate to. In addition to off-campus visits, a staggering 2,460 students from 28 partner schools received a campus tour from a Trinity Access Ambassadors this year.



Mature Student Ambassador Profile: Ruth Hanratty

"As a mature student it was my pleasure to address students in secondary school and in a college of further education. I myself was inspired by a Trinity graduate to pursue third level as a mature student. Learning about the different pathways into Trinity and embracing the concept of liberating yourself through education was something I wished to encourage others to do."



Ruth Hanratty

Primary & Secondary School Outreach

Introducing Young Minds to our Campus



We provide learning opportunities for students at both primary and second-level. These include activities that take place both on campus and in schools. Across both programmes, the ultimate highlight over the past twelve months was the chance to see so many students in Trinity - some for the very first time! It was wonderful to see the university opening to a new generation of learners following the pandemic lockdowns.

From primary school pupils to second year students, we welcomed 1,563 young people eager to explore and make the campus their own in 2021/22. Our Scholars Ireland programme in partnership with Access Ed provides students with an authentic university experience. Scholars Ireland students participate in campus tours and attend lectures by PhD tutors. The aim is that students will build the skills, confidence and motivation to help them achieve their higher education goals.



600
primary students
in Maths &
Science Week



239
Scholars Ireland
students



114
primary school
students received
Achievement awards



241
secondary school
students received
Educational Awards



“The programme (Scholars Ireland) is a brilliant opportunity for our students. They learnt so many skills. Girls who would never put themselves forward for anything or have the confidence to do anything extracurricular loved this.”

Teacher, Loreto Secondary School

Open Days & Summer Schools

Welcoming more students of the future to the campus

Our Summer School welcomed its highest number of student attendees ever, with 80 fifth year students participating from Trinity Access linked second-level schools and Traveller, Direct Provision and Ukrainian Refugee backgrounds.

We also had the opportunity to host a language Open Day for 100 fifth year students in collaboration with the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultural Studies. The STEM Open Day proved to be equally as popular with the same number of students visiting the campus.



[Click here to play a video filmed over the course of our Summer School Graduation day.](#)

The PG Certificate in 21st Century Teaching & Learning

Helping to future-proof education

We support the implementation of innovative pedagogies through professional development workshops and courses for teachers. Each year approximately 80 teachers complete the postgraduate certificate in 21st Century Teaching and Learning in Trinity's School of Education.

The aim of this course is to equip in-service teachers with the requisite knowledge, skills, and competence to support the development of an innovative learning culture within schools that is team-based, technology mediated, project-focused and cross-curricular.

The course modules, are designed to leverage current technology and to release students' potential through a structured move away from individualised, teacher-led learning. It aims to empower schools to build on what already works well, while shifting focus from the teaching of individual subjects to the teaching of key competencies and 21st century skills.



Trinity Access Academic Champion, Professor Brendan Tangney with a graduate of the PG Certificate in 21st Century Teaching and Learning.



Informing our work through Research

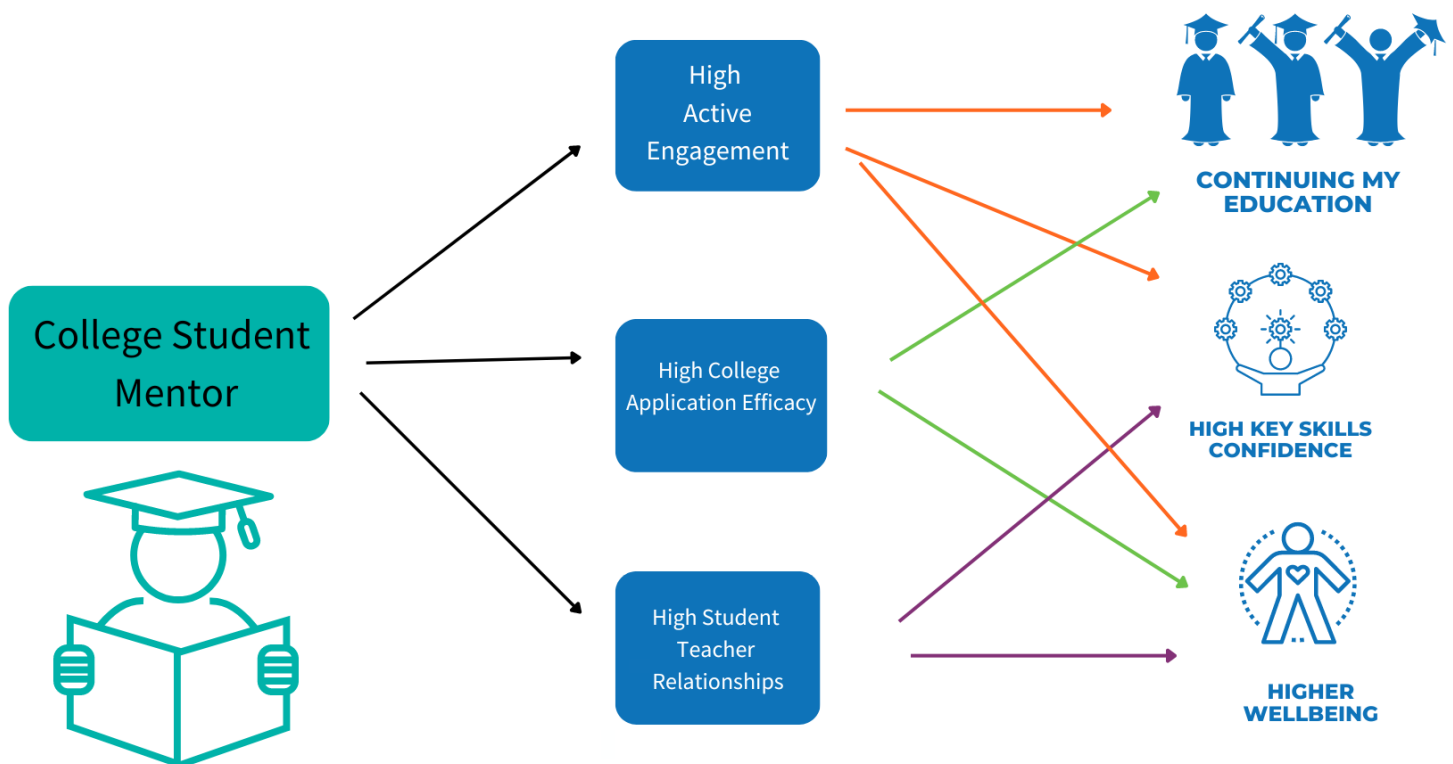
Gathering insights from over 3,500 students and 500 teachers

Our team were delighted to be able to return to in-person data collection in the fourth year of the Trinity Access Longitudinal Project. School consultations were initiated which offered tailored data insights. These also allowed for the identification of year groups at risk where interventions may be needed. These meetings have also allowed Trinity Access staff to listen to and reflect on what schools need post-pandemic.

We are currently working on a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system partnering with Salesforce. Implementation of this project will allow Trinity Access to provide accurate, reliable, and actionable data insights as well as promoting high standards in data management.

In 2021/22 our research featured in the Teaching Council newsletter and reached over 10,000 teachers. Recent Trinity Access research reports and papers (2020 onwards) have been cited over 50 times on Google Scholar.

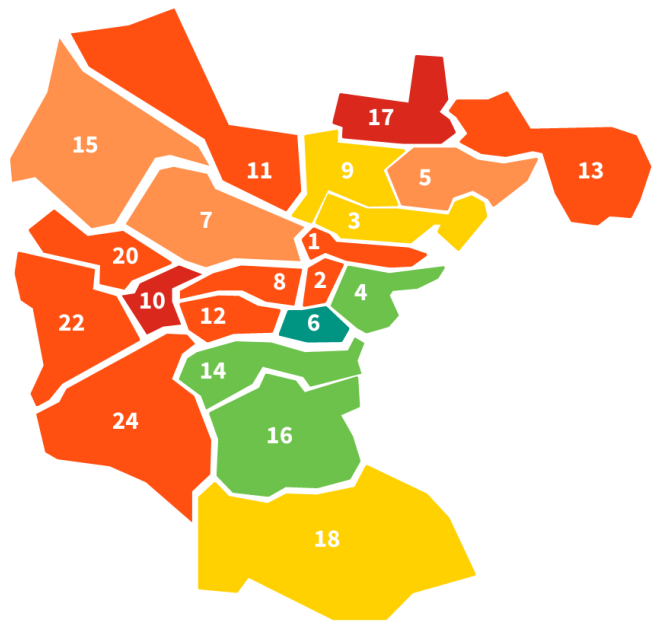
This image, based on our research depicts the impact that a mentoring relationship with a college student has on second-level students' attitudes towards education. Students who had a mentor were more likely to plan to progress to further or higher education. They also showed higher well-being and higher confidence in 21st century key skills.



This data shows the educational inequality within areas of Dublin. The heatmaps compare 2013 Higher Education Institutions (HEI) enrolment data to 2022 enrolment data.

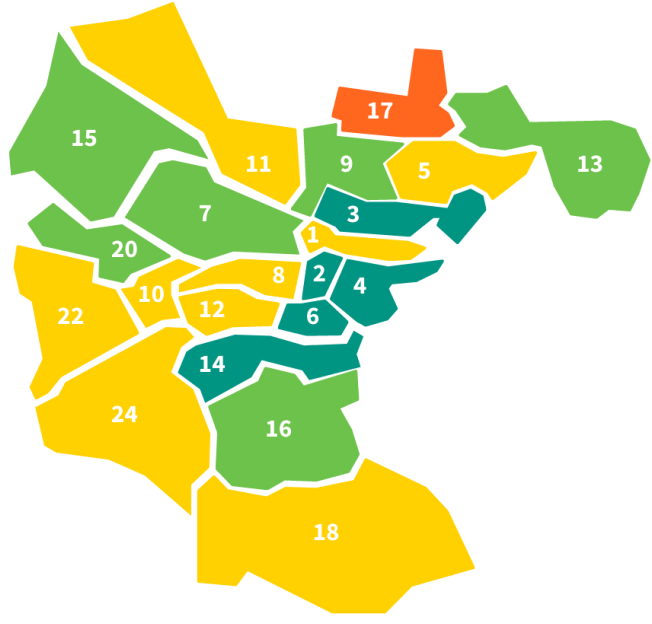
It is clear from these heatmaps just how much progression to higher education has improved over the last eight years. However, it shows we have more work to do.

2013 Data



Dublin 6	99%
Dublin 4	84%
Dublin 16	79%
Dublin 14	76%
Dublin 3	60%
Dublin 18	58%
Dublin 9	55%
Dublin 5	47%
Dublin 15	47%
Dublin 7	41%
Dublin 12	37%
Dublin 13	36%
Dublin 20	32%
Dublin 24	29%
Dublin 8	28%
Dublin 11	28%
Dublin 2	26%
Dublin 22	26%
Dublin 1	22%
Dublin 10	16%
Dublin 17	15%

2022 Data



Dublin 2	95%
Dublin 14	93%
Dublin 6	92%
Dublin 4	91%
Dublin 3	90%
Dublin 16	82%
Dublin 20	81%
Dublin 9	78%
Dublin 13	75%
Dublin 15	73%
Dublin 7	70%
Dublin 18	69%
Dublin 1	69%
Dublin 8	68%
Dublin 5	64%
Dublin 12	64%
Dublin 22	61%
Dublin 24	60%
Dublin 11	57%
Dublin 10	55%
Dublin 17	20%



College Awareness Week

Reaching 150,000 students nationwide

Established in 2014, College Awareness Week is a national campaign which aims to promote the benefits of going to college and help students of all ages to become college ready. Four native Irish trees were planted in schools across the four provinces of Ireland to recognise the nationwide reach of the campaign. The trees also symbolised the seeds planted by the week over its eight-year history, as well as the growth of learners, and the campaign's deep roots in local communities. We were honoured to have both An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD present in Terence MacSwiney Community College, Cork and Minister Simon Harris TD in Tallaght Community College, Cork and Minister Simon Harris TD in Tallaght Community School showing their support for the campaign.



"College Awareness Week, now in its eighth year, has become a highlight of the academic calendar for many involved in teaching and learning. It has helped to inspire and inform students across the country, encouraging them to consider higher and further education as real opportunities."

- Simon Harris TD, Minister for Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science

"The National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals is happy to see the growth of CAW over the years. The campaign is a fantastic source of support for schools, and I'd encourage all schools to take part."

- Paul Crone, Director of NAPD
(National Association for Principals & Deputy Principals)



Minister Simon Harris at the launch
of College Awareness Week at
Tallaght Community School.



Over
3,000
Online resources
downloaded during
the campaign



290
Secondary Schools
#CollegeConnections
webinars

Schools of Distinction

2021 marked the largest awards ceremony yet!

The School of Distinction award scheme aims to support the development of 'college-going' practices and student-centred, innovative learning environments within schools. This scheme involves schools nationwide, with a particular focus on those with low progression rate to post-secondary education.

In November 2021, we held an Active Planning Day in conjunction with the Access21 Erasmus Plus programme. This initiative supports teachers in European-wide schools

to incorporate our core practices of: Mentoring, Pathways to College and Leadership in Learning.

The day brought together over 140 teachers and focused on improving the college going culture in all schools. It concluded with a lively Awards Ceremony and dinner in the Dining Hall for the Schools of Distinction recipients. 38 schools were awarded prizes on the day.



[Click here to watch one of our Core Practice videos.](#)

Community Mentoring

A new partner and model for 2021/22

This year, Community Mentoring expanded to include [RCSI](#) in addition to partners TCD, UCD, IADT, MIE, and NCAD. Community Mentoring has always been most effective when mentors have a direct connection to their host institution and mentees. It was very important to be able to increase support to schools to enable them to recruit their own mentors in their communities.

A new model - supporting community groups to recruit and train local community role models, such as past pupils - was also piloted. 65 mentors were directly recruited from 6 participating HEIs. 190 were recruited by schools from their local communities. 52 organisations, including schools, community groups and FETs hosted mentors.



"Brilliantly encouraging."

"I learned that you can take your time if you don't get what you want in the leaving cert the first time and try again."

- Community Mentees

"I felt so confident sharing my story and was overwhelmed at the eagerness with which the students were listening."

- Community Mentor



Social Media Highlights

Our community is inspiring and uplifting

We were delighted to celebrate the achievements of students and alumni on social media. Some highlights include our #WibWednesdays campaign celebrating the new Laidlaw Foundation "Pathways for Women in Business Scholarships", while we also celebrated our Schools Manager Kevin's [Ph.D](#) on Bridge to College (left).

Maureen Penrose (below right) put mature students on the map and was our social media star of 2021/22. The posts featuring her garnering 1,229 likes across all platforms with many people sharing her inspiring story in which she said "I have had a constant gurgle of laughter bubbling inside me since I began my course. Now, I wonder why I was so nervous when I started last year. In all, my time in Trinity thus far has surpassed my dreams". You can read the full post [here](#).



475

New LinkedIn
followers



15,894

Instagram Page
visits



970

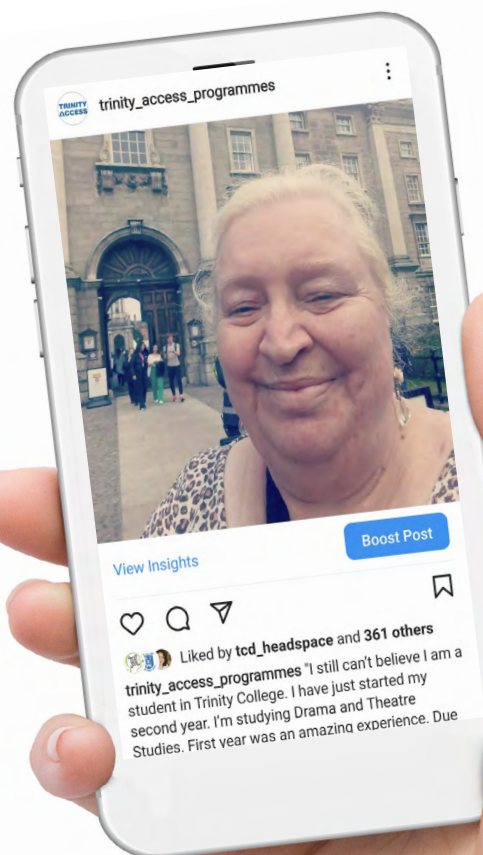
new Instagram
followers

Women in Business

"Having female representation
in business means more
diversity in innovation,
diversity in backgrounds and
enables the younger
generation to strive to also
want to make a positive
change in their own way"

Lola Salam, TCD BESS graduate.

Digital Marketing and Data Consultant at Salesforce.





Trinity Access is Turning 30

Share your part in our story

As we approach almost three decades of Access in Trinity, our impact is felt in a diverse and talented college community that is more representative of the Ireland we live in today. 30th birthdays are traditionally celebrated as a sign of reaching maturity with the necessary wisdom and experience to face future challenges and embrace opportunities.

We are excited to enter this chapter of the Trinity Access story and celebrate the amazing achievements of alumni and friends. Learning isn't about the knowledge that one person gives to others it's about what we each bring to the table.

We can't wait to see what we will achieve together over the next thirty years.



[Click here to read our article in Trinity Today which gives a brief overview of the history of Trinity Access.](#)



[Click here to share your memories of Trinity Access with us.](#)

Thank you
for being a part of the
Trinity Access Community!



@Trinity Access Programmes



@Trinity_Access_Programmes



@AccessTCD



@Trinity Access



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Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

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