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Trinity Growing Globally

The start of the new academic year: Trinity welcomes over 4,600 international students - including over 2,800 from outside the European Union – and in the year will see more than 800 undergraduates leaving on exchanges, research placements or clinical placements abroad. The incoming international students are introduced to the Global Room and its student ambassadors and encouraged to join societies and help with organising Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Chinese New Year, Holi and other campus festivals. Meanwhile, round the world, students on the Dual BA programme commence their studies and will spend time at both Trinity and Columbia University in New York; students from Thapar University in Patiala, India continue to articulate into Trinity’s engineering and computer science programmes, a hundred students enter the joint degree programme in physiotherapy in Singapore, we have students joining from Beijing Foreign Studies University and Minzu University of China, and Science Gallery London opens in King's College London as the first in Global Science Gallery Network, pioneered in Trinity.

In short, this last academic year continues Trinity’s growth in global connectivity and campus diversity. This is the new normal. But it’s of recent vintage - just eight years ago in 2010, there were fewer than 1,200 students coming to Trinity from outside the EU and a very limited number of undergraduates going on exchanges beyond the EU, and the programmes supporting these cohorts were not yet in place.

Between 2010 and 2018, a revolution occurred in global relations in Trinity. In terms of opening up Trinity to the world and the world to Trinity, we are living a period of rapid change in the 427-year history of the university. How did it happen?
First Steps—Singapore

Both the present and the former Vice-President for Global Relations - Professors Juliette Hussey and Jane Ohlmeyer - are agreed on when the first great breakthrough in global relations happened: it was in 2010/11 when Trinity were selected by the Singapore Ministry of Education to deliver one-year programmes to diploma graduates in physiotherapy and occupational therapy. This would lead a few years later to a joint degree programme in physiotherapy with the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT).

“Singapore raised the ambition,” says Ohlmeyer, “this wasn’t just about study exchanges, it was transnational education that went beyond anything envisaged by the EU Erasmus programme.”

“Looking back, the seeds of what has made Trinity’s Global Relations strategy a success were there in Singapore,” says Hussey, “for instance, the importance of networks: Trinity could demonstrate a long history of educating medical students from Singapore, and that stood to us.”

“I felt that Trinity was ripe for change and that all our staff - academic and professional - were ready for a new era of Trinity playing competitively on the world stage,” explains Prendergast. “We had this long, impressive record of internationalism in our history and, more recently, great achievements in a number of research areas, particularly in engagement with European research partnerships.”

“But in truth we hadn’t built on those achievements and were falling behind in terms of our international reach. In the 1970s Ireland underwent a demographic expansion and a new wave of Irish student was seeking third-level education. Trinity rose to meet that demand, and I’m proud that we did and that we became the number 1 choice for Irish school-leavers, but it meant that for a few decades our focus was on meeting domestic demand rather than on growing globally.”

“One of my key aims, when I became Provost was to re-ignite Trinity’s strengths in global relations. And by ‘global relations’ I don’t just mean just student recruitment, but also relationships with universities, industry, alumni and philanthropic supporters. It was clear to me that these had to be integrated into a mutually supportive cohesive activity because I believe that the successful 21st century university will be defined by its connectivity and internationalism. By 2011 it was evident that in terms of international partnerships things were going well beyond stand-alone student recruitment and research collaboration activities - we were getting into a new world of dual degree programmes, global academic networks, second campuses even. I wanted Trinity to be a leader in this so, I asked Professor Jane Ohlmeyer to be the founding Vice-President for Global Relations, and to set up the Global Relations Office.”

What made Singapore a model for the whole university and not just for the medical school was the setting up in September 2011 of a Global Relations Office by incoming Provost, Dr Patrick Prendergast.
On the Road

The new Office opened in September 2011 at the height of austerity. Ohlmeyer thinks this was, on balance, helpful. “There was an understanding that we had to do things differently. I think if we’d been setting out during the Celtic Tiger years, there might have been a feeling of ‘everything’s going great, why would we need to do something new’. As it was a question of: never let a good crisis go to waste.”

Nevertheless they faced an uphill battle at first: “We started with three people here on campus, and we developed a business plan, set up offices in New York, India and China, and recruited 35 people - all within twelve months. And then I began my travels. I think I did 500,000 miles in 18 months – and all in economy class. It was a great day when I earned my gold card from British Airways!”

The travels were about connecting with government bodies and peer universities in order to set up student exchange programmes and research collaborations. She recalls the comical moments: “I remember a meeting in Bangalore in India and they kept asking about auditions, which I found confusing until I realised they thought I was from the Trinity Conservatoire of Music in London!” But in general, we were lucky, she says, because Trinity is so well known. “Being multi-disciplinary and research-intensive with a centuries-old campus and the top ranked in Ireland - all that helped enormously. My experience was that once it was established who we were, it was never hard to get a meeting.”

The other prerogative was getting in contact with alumni, engaging their support and linking alumni relations with student recruitment activities. Alumni were recognised as brilliant ambassadors for Trinity and key supporters on the ground: “Everywhere I went we set up an alumni event. Their support was invaluable. To give just one example, I was in Toronto one year and Hong Kong the next - where no-one from Trinity had been in fifteen years - and in both cities, a graduate, Dr Samuel Lam, introduced himself to me as someone who wanted to financially support the university. Through that contact, he became instrumental in funding the Masters in Chinese Studies, a flagship programme of the Centre of Asian Studies, which was launched in October 2015.”

It was in these early years that Global Relations set up its close working relationship with Trinity Development & Alumni (TDA). Kate Bond, Director of Advancement, in TDA observes: “Our global graduate community is this really large, dynamic network – 115,000 graduates in over 150 countries. When I meet them abroad, I see the strong desire of many to promote Trinity and support others to have the experience of college that they had. The working partnership that now exists between Global Relations and TDA has really helped us deepen our work with our international communities of alumni, supporters and academic partners. Being on the road and travelling together helps TDA and Global Relations mutually support the university’s overall objectives.”

On campus, the Office for Global Relations prioritised explaining its strategy to staff and students: “As with anything new, it took a bit of getting used to,” says Ohlmeyer, “and naturally there were concerns raised, but we held town hall meetings and lots of events to explain our mission and I have to say the academics in general were hugely supportive. Many had really useful contacts abroad and they opened their address books to us.”

Prof. Vincent Cahill, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Maths and Science, confirms that “the Global Relations strategy has been transformative for our students, giving them rich opportunities to study and work abroad and it has meant a much more diverse student body here on campus.”

Student support was crucial. A key initiative was the establishment of the Global Room in 2013 – a student hub for international activities on campus. “In its first year the Global Room ran about 300 events, and we recruited student ambassadors to help settle international students in. There are now 22 ambassadors and there’s great competition for the role,” says Ohlmeyer.

It was 18 months into the strategy when they got confirmation that it was working. “It was summer 2013 that the figures came through of student numbers and collaboration agreements, and they were all there: North America was steady but upward and Asia was really strong. That was the moment we knew it was working.”

A year later, in June 2014, Juliette Hussey took over as Vice-President for Global Relations. She takes up the story.
Building Relationships

“We’ve really focused on relationship-building. What characterises Trinity’s global relations is strong, impactful relationships that can take years to cultivate. In the US for instance, you need to be working with secondary schools, so we now have four recruitment officers – in New England, New York, Florida and Texas – who work with schools and counsellors and organise Open Days. And we’re really seeing the benefit of that.

In China also it can take years of sustained engagement to build partnerships. "What has really stood out to us in China is the many research relations developed between academics – these have been instrumental in building teaching partnerships and student flow." The Global Relations Office leverages the university’s strengths: “Our partners are really interested in the Trinity innovation story – both the success of innovation training initiatives like LaunchBox and our proximity to Grand Canal Dock and its clusters of tech and start-up companies. That’s very attractive and something other universities want to hook into.”

With ever increasing opportunities for heightened connectivity, the global relations strategy has raised its ambition. The past three years have seen a number of ground-breaking initiatives: “The agreement with Thapar University [India] signed in July 2015 was our most significant since Singapore. This provides a pipeline of students through the articulation programme and the potential for research collaboration in Engineering and Computer Science.”

The agreement with Columbia University for a Dual BA Programme, signed in February 2018 is “a game-changer”. Students will spend two years in each university earning two degrees from a top US and a top European university.

“Starting in their undergraduate years, our students will learn to familiarise themselves with different cultures and make the most out of new environments and experiences; they will be truly global graduates.”

Yet again, alumni were crucial to this ground-breaking initiative - the Executive Vice President and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences in Columbia University, Professor David Madigan, is a Trinity graduate himself and warmly supported the programme.

And in China, Trinity has developed a strong relationship with Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU). The engagement commenced formally with the signing of an MOU in 2015 which was followed by a student exchange agreement as well as an Irish Government scholarship which supports a BFSU student joining an arts & humanities Masters programme of their choice in Trinity.

Following on from this, Trinity signed a Masters level pathway agreement with BFSU in 2017, allowing eligible BFSU students to gain two Masters programmes within three years, one from BFSU and one from Trinity. And there has been a significant amount of staff mobility between the two institutions, with three Trinity academics spending time at BFSU during Summer 2018.

In 2018 Trinity also approved an articulation agreement with the University of Science and Technology in Beijing which will see students from Beijing entering year 3 in Trinity to complete their degrees in Physics. “This grew out of the excellent research relations which Trinity’s School of Physics developed with Beijing over many years. We also signed an agreement with Minzu University which has strong opportunity for staff mobility” says Hussey.

And as of March 2018, Trinity students can apply for the Irish Universities Association (IUA) scholarships for summer school or internships in Beijing.

“Of course, not all our initiatives result in agreements like those with Thapar, Columbia, BFSU and Minzu,” says Hussey, “many opportunities arise and need to be carefully evaluated strategically, from both academic and capacity perspectives. We are currently looking into opportunities in South Korea, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, to name but a few. Our priority is to explore possibilities widely, from Europe to America and from Asia to Africa, and to push for the right engagement.”
A Virtuous Circle

Global relations is now an activity that goes across the university: “There are many initiatives across the academic and administrative units of the university that build global partnerships, strengthen the university’s reputation internationally and bring diversity to the campus which don’t come directly under the Global Relations Office, although we might offer advice and support,” says Hussey.

Examples of such initiatives include:

— the Provost’s Council, now in its third year and managed by Trinity Development and Alumni, allows high-achieving alumni and friends to advise and strategize around the university’s future direction;
— Two new centres associated with the School of Languages and Literature - the Trinity Centre for Asian Studies and the Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation - are building on our strengths in languages and cultural exchange;
— The Global Brain Health Institute is a partnership between Trinity and the University of California, San Francisco, aimed at tackling the looming dementia epidemic and training global leaders in brain health by the rapid translation of research into policy.

This is just a sample of the kind of activities, which have been winning ‘in-house Oscars’, the Trinity Global Engagement Awards, over the past few years. Trinity now counts on a ‘virtuous circle’ of global activities across its faculties and programmes, with each global activity enhancing the others and contributing to the goals of the global relations strategy.

And as of 2019, Trinity’s 24 Schools across the three faculties will be more formally engaged in global relations. Two external reviewers of the second global relations strategy (GRS 2, which runs 2015-2019) recommended facilitating global partnerships by more direct engagement at a School level. Accordingly, the third iteration of the Global Relations Strategy, GRS3 refers to School Directors of Global Relations in each of the 24 Schools. These will liaise directly with the Global Relations Office so as to build relations with academics abroad into meaningful formalised partnerships.
Into the Future

GRS 3 was agreed at Board in December 2018 and will run 2019/20-2023/24. It sets new ambitions and is built around four pillars:

- Building global collaborations and partnerships;
- Ensuring a global student community with a truly diverse profile;
- Leveraging the global reach and impact of Trinity’s research, education and innovation;
- Supporting the continued delivery of a high-quality student experience.

The emphasis in GRS 3 is on quality and impact. The university recognises the benefit to staff and students of providing ever wider and deeper opportunities for global research, education, innovation and training as well as the benefit of having a diverse, cosmopolitan campus where students and staff from all over the world contribute cultural richness.

Europe will feature more strongly in future global relations strategies. “The Erasmus programme was a game-changer in terms of student exchanges but our programmes with US and Asian universities have now gone beyond anything we do in Europe. It’s ironic that the first time Trinity has a dual degree programme, it’s with the US, not the EU,” says Ohlmeyer, “although, that said, research collaborations across Europe, through Horizon 2020 and the European Research Council, are very strong.”

Hussey points to the recent announcement by the European Commission of the intention to build a European Universities Network under FP9. “That’s a great opportunity and in fact Trinity has already identified partners to build a new network of European Universities. Through our position as a member of LERU [League of European Research Universities], we’ll be lobbying to try and ensure that the Universities Network is resourced; this is a great opportunity for Europe.”

And, of course, Trinity, like all institutions in Ireland, has to face up to Brexit: “All Irish universities are very oriented towards the UK in terms of research collaborations,” says Doris Alexander, Research Development Manager in Trinity Research & Innovation, “and we are going to have to re-orient ourselves towards Europe. That will mean upping our game in terms of languages. It’s good news that the Department of Education has agreed a language strategy for improving language-learning in Irish schools and I hope the strategy can be resourced.”

Hussey is also emphatic about the importance of battling complacent assumptions that everything can be done through English. “The recently established Centre for Asian Studies and Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation and the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies, established 2012, are part of a university-wide strategy to get students thinking in terms of engaging with other languages and other cultures. That is going to be essential as the 21st century progresses.”

Back in 2010, Trinity understood that the world of higher education was in rapid flux and that ongoing global developments including the communications/technology revolution and new flexible working practices could only mean radical, fundamental change for the sector.

With change still on-going, the university must continue on its path of creativity and ambition. A second campus on another continent? Innovation training across three continents? Degrees from three universities, taken in three languages? All this, and more. To imagine the future is to begin creating it.

What is certain is that when it comes to its core mission in education and research, Trinity must continue expanding, making ever deeper connections with peer institutions, with industry, government and civil partners, and with its worldwide community of alumni and friends.

Knowledge is not served by contraction. It has always been the role of universities to incubate people and research to solve challenges. Increasingly the challenges confronting humanity are global ones that know no borders – challenges like climate change, inequality, migration, data security, water shortage, conflict, energy provision. It goes without saying that you cannot meet global challenges with merely national or regional solutions. If the 21st century is to be a success, it will be a century of global partnership. In Trinity we pledge to being at the forefront of making this happen.
Global Relations Overview

1729
George Berkeley, former Fellow and Regius Professor of Greek in Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin arrives in Rhode Island with a royal charter to establish a college in Bermuda. He leaves after two years without establishing the college but as ‘the foremost European intellectual of his era to visit the American colonies, he influences the future direction of academia in the US, provides endowments for libraries to Harvard and Yale and grants the farm he owned in Rhode Island to Yale, which names its divinity school for him.

1776
Trinity establishes professorial chairs in French and German, the first outside these countries.

1782
Trinity engineering graduate Charles Dickens West takes up an appointment as Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Tokyo Imperial College of Engineering. A status of him can be seen at Tokyo University today.

1898–1930
Trinity graduate George Grierson carries out a mammoth survey of the languages of India, which describes 364 languages and many more dialects.

1928
Trinity graduate, and Lecturer in French and Italian Samuel Beckett takes up Trinity’s first faculty exchange at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris. He remains permanently in Paris.

2004
Trinity launches its International Languages School.

2008
Naughton Fellowship programme funds an exchange programme between Irish universities and the University of Notre Dame.

2009
Masters in Development Practice (MDP) established following recommendations from the International Commission on Education for Sustainable Development Practice. MDP is an interdisciplinary programme blending health, natural, social, and management sciences.

2011
May 2011
Trinity was selected by the Singapore Ministry of Education to deliver one year programmes to diploma graduates in Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy. (Diagnostic Radiography and Radiation Therapy were added to the programme two years later).

September 2011
Jane Ohlmeyer appoints the university’s first Vice-President for Global Relations. Within a year she and her team have opened offices in New York, Delhi and Shanghai. In her first two years she covers c.350,000 miles, visiting inter alia Brazil, Canada, China, India, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Turkey and USA.

October 2012
After signing an historic memorandum with Singapore’s Institute of Technology which sees the two institutions agreeing to collaborate on delivering courses, Trinity welcomes 85 Singaporean students to enrol in Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy.

October 2012
New student society founded, SFPFA (Society for International Affairs).

October 2012
Trinity forms part of Enterprise Ireland’s trade mission to Brazil which coincides with President Michael D. Higgins’ visit to South America. Trinity signs a strategic partnership with the University of San Paulo.

March 2012
Trinity participates in government trade and education mission led by Minister of Education and skills, Ruairi Quinn, TD. The Trinity delegation visits Beijing, Fuzhou, Hong Kong and Shanghai, and signs a student exchange agreement with inter alia Peking University, China’s No. 1 university in terms of funding, capital development, technology, identity and reputation.

Academic Year 2013–14
40% of students in the School of Medicine on overseas electives, including to Belize, Canada, Cuba, Cambodia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Nigeria, Peru, Singapore, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, USA, Zambia, and many more.

During the academic year, memoranda of understanding are signed with leading universities in Australia, Brazil, China, India, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Taiwan.

September 2013
New Global Room opens on campus in the Watts Building. Staffed by a team of student ambassadors, the Room features screens with access to over 200 global television channels, a resource library with international reading materials, and conference and seminar facilities for internationally-themed events. In its first year of operations, the Global Room facilitates over 300 such events.

March 2014
Trinity’s student accelerator, LaunchBox, is classed a ‘Top Challenger’ by the University Business Incubator (UBI) Index. Among 800 global incubators assessed by UBI, LaunchBox is placed just outside the ‘Top 25’.

30 June 2014
Juliette Hessey takes over from Jane Ohlmeyer as Vice-President for Global Relations. In the course of Professor Ohlmeyer’s terms as Vice-President Global Relations, the number of international students from outside of Europe increased 45 percent from 1223 in 2011/12, to 1775 in 2013/14, to 1775 in 2014/2015.
Over 30 new agreements are signed with leading universities in Latin America and Asia, including ten student exchange agreements.

January 2015 Global Relations Strategy 2, GR2, approved by the Board.

February 2015 Brazil Ireland Week, coordinated by Research Brazil Ireland and Science Foundation Ireland, sees Trinity receive grants and researchers from a number of Brazilian universities.

February 2015 Trinity holds its first ever international research showcase, LIRUNION, at Old Library in Boston, Massachusetts. At this high profile event, attended by the Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O’Sullivan T.D., five renowned Trinity academics present the global, societal and economic impact of their research to an audience of academics, educators, and industry representatives.

May 2015 Trinity signs a Global Engagement Awards to “recognize the exceptional contribution made by staff in both research, education, cultural understanding and global experiences that directly benefit the Trinity community, raise Trinity’s profile and support the development of students into global citizens.” Inaugural awards won by the Lorna Carson, Professor Mac MacLachlan and Dr Roger West.

June 2015 The World University News reports that Trinity is in the US top-performing universities in March 2000.

June 2015 The Haddad Fellowship is opened to Brazilian students to provide grants to study in the Masters programme in Irish Studies in Trinity. Philanthropic funding from the Haddad Family Foundation.

July 2015 Trinity, NUI Galway and UCC, established the Blackstone Charitable Foundation’s first international expansion of its campus entrepreneurship programme outside the USA. With a $2 million grant, a physical presence on each university campus and access to the Blackstone LaunchPad Global Network Technology Platform.

July 2015 Trinity signs agreement with Thapar University in India to collaborate on teaching in Engineering and Computer Science through an articulation programme. As a start, 40 students from Thapar will enter year 3 in Trinity to complete their degrees in Engineering and Computer Science.

February 2016 Provost approves a travel bursary of €1,000 for each student studying on university of Trinity-wide exchanges in Asia in Beijing University, Peking University, Tsinghua University, National University of Singapore and University of Tokyo.

March 2016 As part of its celebrations for the centenary of Easter 1916, the university translates the Easter Proclamation into the 17 languages taught at Trinity: Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, Croatian, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Polish, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish.


May 2016 Trinity establishes an international Foundation Programme which will be delivered in its associated college, Marino Institute of Education. The Foundation Programme functions as a preparatory year for students coming from countries where the final secondary school examination does not lead to direct entry to Trinity. Twenty students from China, South Korea, Malaysia, Nigeria, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait are enrolled on the first year of the programme.

May 2016 Global Engagement Awards won by Professor Mauro Ferrari, Professor Kevin Kelly and Professor Daniel Faas. Three academics received a Certificate of Excellence: Professor Rosemary Byrne, Professor Nigel Stenhouse and Professor Fabio Bocian.

June 2016 Trinity becomes the tenth member of CASA, the Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad and the first member from outside the United States. A non-profit consortium of US and research universities including Harvard, Brown and Columbia, CASA facilitates student mobility internationally, through the establishment of student-centred partnerships around the world. The first Trinity CASA student joined the CASA cohort in Havana in January 2017.

June 2016 Trinity Access Programme (TAP) collaborates with Oxford University college, Lady Margaret Hall, to bring the TAP Foundation Year to Oxford in a four-year pilot scheme.

September 2016 The Brozen Summer Programme in Contemporary Global Politics launches as a collaborative initiative between Brown University in the US and Trinity’s Global Relations Office and Department of Political Science. The inaugural programme welcomes 16 students from Brown University to the Trinity campus and one student from Princeton University.

July 2016 200 students from 18 countries participate in a week-long programme of dance at the Riverside Trinity College Dublin International Summer School held at the Lir Academy of Dramatic Art – this becomes an annual event.

November 2016 Articulation agreement signed with the University of Economics in Ho Chi Minh City (UEH) in Vietnam in the presence of the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins.

2016 Trinity signs an articulation agreement with Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) with commitment from both universities to develop joint programmes, starting with a collaborative programme at Masters level.

February 2017 After three years with Juliette Hussey in the role of VPR, the number of international non-EU students is up from 1,521 in 2013/2014 to 2,130 in the academic year 2016/17. approx. 13% of the student body, with another 140 students in Singapore.

September 2017 Opening of Alumni room in East Chapel, sponsored by two prominent Trinity alumni, Alan Dargen (BBS, 1974) and Fergal Naughton (BA, 1984).

February 2018 Trinity signs an articulation agreement with the University of Science and Technology in Beijing (USTB) which will see students from Beijing entering year 3 in Trinity to complete their degrees in Physics.

April 2018 Formal Launch of the Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation in its newly renovated home at 36 Fenian Street.

May 2018 Global Engagement Awards won by Professor Zuleika Rodgers; Professor Charles Patterson and Professor Hongzhou Zhang.

September 2018 Opening of Alumni room at King’s College London.

December 2018 The third iteration of the Global Relations Strategy (GRS 3) agreed at Board.

January 2019 Trinity signs an agreement with the University of Barcelona, Utrecht University, the University of Montpellier and Eötvös Loránd University as part of the European Universities Network Initiative.

February 2019 Cooperation agreement with Yaras Erime, Institute develops a new Korean language course and a course in multimedia.


May 2019 Global Engagement Awards won by Dr John Gamble, Ciocia Harnen; Dr Brian Foley; Doris Alexander and Jennifer Taaffe.

April 2020 Establishment of the A.G. Leventis Professorship in Greek Culture, with a philanthropic grant from the Leventis Foundation.

June 2020 After three years with Juliette Hussey in the role of VPR, the number of international non-EU students is up from 1,521 in 2013/2014 to 2,130 in the academic year 2016/17. approx. 13% of the student body, with another 140 students in Singapore.

September 2020 Trinity leads a 20-person delegation to visit to Cambridge, Massachusetts with Enterprise Ireland to visit C2 Innovation District, with a view to founding an Innovation District in Grand Canal Dock.

March 2021 Trinity signs a strong agreement with the University of Science and Technology in Beijing (USTB) which will see students from Beijing entering year 3 in Trinity to complete their degrees in Physics.

January 2022 Global Engagement Awards won by Professor Zuleika Rodgers; Professor Charles Patterson and Professor Hongzhou Zhang.

September 2022 Opening of Alumni room at King’s College London.

December 2022 The third iteration of the Global Relations Strategy (GRS 3) agreed at Board.

January 2023 Trinity signs an agreement with the University of Barcelona, Utrecht University, the University of Montpellier and Eötvös Loránd University as part of the European Universities Network Initiative.
Global Relations
Statistics
Non-EU On-Campus Growth

Percentage of Eligible Undergraduate Students Availing of Mobility

Growth of Non-EU Exchange Agreements

Growth of Erasmus Mobility

Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin
Growth of Non-EU Research Collaboration

Research Collaboration by Region
Institutions 2012–2018

Number of Institutions
Europe 1804
North America 693
Asia Pacific 768
Middle East 170
Africa 101
South America 150

Non-EU Research Collaborations by Region
Co-Published Papers

2012–2018
Number of Co-Published Papers by Region
United States 3196
Australia 1043
Canada 891
China 571
Russian Federation 420
Brazil 293
India 253
South Africa 216
Israel 195
Singapore 186

Academic Staff

60% Irish
40% International

Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin
I heard of Trinity for the first time when I was just an undergraduate in Brazil. I went to an international conference on nanomaterials and one of the speakers, an academic from Mexico, mentioned research that was being done in Trinity College Dublin and that must have stuck in my mind. When the Brazilian government announced a study abroad programme for undergraduates, I was really excited. I knew I wanted to go to Europe and to an English-speaking country, so UK and Ireland were my obvious options. When I started researching into it, Trinity and Dublin attracted me most.

The first thing that struck me coming to Trinity was Freshers Week in Front Square. All the tents and colour and societies! We don’t have anything similar to these clubs and societies at my university in Brazil so this was something completely new and very exciting.

The second thing that struck me was how much work there was to do in the chemistry course! I remember feeling a bit overwhelmed in the beginning by the dense content of the course work. It was much more than I was used to and of course it was all in a new language. I would say 70 percent of my weekends were devoted to lab reports and studying. But fortunately, I really really like research and learning so this wasn’t something I minded.

My Global Room officer was Niamh, who was great at helping me settle in and I found the Global Room in general brilliant for putting on events where we’d meet a whole range of people.

I had a great experience with my summer project. I chose to work in an area of chemistry that we don’t learn in depth in Brazil – computational chemistry, which is theoretical work, in which we simulate things on a computer. The project was on fuel cells and renewable energy materials. I loved it from the beginning and at the end my supervisor, Graeme Watson, said that if I was interested in doing a PhD in this area, he’d be delighted to have me in his group.

At the time, I wasn’t sure which direction I wanted my career to take. I went back to Brazil, graduated and got a logistics job in industry. It was well-paid but it wasn’t my passion. After 2 years I was longing to get back to research and to Trinity. I contacted Graeme and Niamh, and they were a fundamental help in all the applying process for scholarships and grants that enabled me to return to Trinity to do my PhD.

I’m now in the second year of my PhD and I’m loving it. Right now I’m working with an specific material to fuel cells called LaGaO3, Graeme is a brilliant supervisor and the group is great. I had to do a bit of catching up when I arrived because computational chemistry isn’t really taught in Brazil, and the group was so helpful to me. My experience in general with PhD students in Trinity is that if they can help you, they will. It’s an amazingly positive working environment.

This time round in Trinity I’ve met more diverse groups of people and more Irish people, since I’m here for a longer time than before and I’ve come on my own. When I came as an undergraduate I was here for just 8 months, along with hundreds of other Brazilian students on the same programme. So inevitably we hung around a lot together. I’m very happy that now I’m getting a fuller and more diverse experience. In the School of Chemistry there are PhD researchers from all over the world, and I have French, German, Indian and Irish co-workers, while my supervisor is British. We are all speaking the language of chemistry!

I can easily spend all day in the lab – which is a room full of computers. But I make sure to give myself a break, often going to the pool in the Sports Hall to swim lengths. I love that feeling of swimming through silence, giving my brain a rest for one hour. In the evenings, I might go to the cinema - I’m a big film buff. As part of my PhD programme I do teaching and lab demonstration, about 3-6 hours a week, and that’s an aspect of my work I love. It’s amazing to see the visible progress of a student and know that you’ve taught them something.

Ideally, I would like to stay in academia and I’d like to stay in Dublin, which I truly love. But I’m a realist. I know that it’s tough to get tenured jobs in good universities. So after my PhD I’ll certainly give it my best shot and probably do some post-doc work abroad. Hopefully a tenured job will come out of that. If not, I guess I will work in industry. Whatever happens I will always be incredibly grateful for the opportunity to come to Trinity. It has transformed my life.
My name is Siddharth Sheshadri, and I am from a small town called Jamshedpur in India. Having majored in computers and statistics, the field of Data Science always interested me a lot. I first heard about the MSc Computer Science programme at Trinity while attending an Irish University Fair. The one thing that struck me about the course at Trinity, and which separated it from all other universities was the vibrant modules within the programme. The courses were carefully structured to give students an overall knowledge about their specialisation. On reading further about the brilliant and learned faculty in the university online, I decided to pursue a Masters programme there. I choose to specialize in Data Science, and feel it is one of the best decisions I ever took.

I still remember the first day when I walked through the front gates. The orientation week was my favourite time, meeting other students, learning about the history of the university, and of course the pub crawls! I remember walking into the Book of Kells, and was stunned at its brilliance. I must have spent more time admiring the beauty of the campus, than in class!

Since then, it has been an amazing journey. The first few weeks were spent in exploring the vibrant campus, and getting to join all the societies. My favourite place in the campus was the global room, where I could go and meet other student ambassadors, who are ever ready to help with any issue, or just to sit for a friendly chat over a cup of coffee.

The amount of knowledge I gained here is only seconded by the amount I got to grow and develop as a person. The method of teaching and exam structure was totally different from the ones back home, so it was a challenge to study and prepare for the exams here. It was difficult in the beginning, but with the support of my friends and professors, I managed to do pretty well in my exams. It was a good test of my basic knowledge, and also showed me how much I still have to learn in order to become a successful Data Scientist.

I would highly recommend this course to any person who wishes to push his knowledge beyond the ordinary. The atmosphere encourages you to ask questions, and the staff is always ready to assist you in finding the answers. Overall, I would say this has been one of the best experiences in my life so far.
Growing up, I always had this idea of wanting to go to Georgetown University. I've always been really interested in politics and Georgetown is world-famous for its schools of international affairs and public policy and, of course, it's in Washington DC.

I didn't think I'd realise my dream to go because tuition fees are so high. But then when I came to Trinity to do PPES (Philosophy, Politics, Economics and Sociology) I learnt about non-EU exchanges. Getting Schols in 2nd year helped me put the finances together to go to Georgetown – you don't pay US tuition fees but room and board are high and I wanted to go for the full year rather than just a semester.

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I spent my 3rd academic year in Georgetown and it was a really great experience. Academically it was incredible. The quality of teaching and support is exceptional, as is the sheer variety of modules available. Just in politics and economics which I was majoring in, the choice was huge - there were classes on national security being taught by former CIA agents, one on Sexual Politics in the Arab World, and another on Race and Ethnicity in the US. I wanted to do all of them! In my Hilary term, Madeleine Albright was one of my seminar professors - it was amazing to learn from someone of her experience. And the teaching style was very dynamic - for instance the assessment for one class would be in the form of a model UN.

Beyond the classroom, I think what I got most from the experience was resilience and fortitude. I went from living at home in Dublin with my parents to being somewhere completely new. There aren't that many exchange students in Georgetown and the US students had been living and studying together on campus for three years by the time I arrived, so initially it was somewhat difficult to make friends. I had to get proactive about meeting people and building friendships. You have to get out and make opportunities for yourself.

The extra-curricular opportunities that arose weren't the ones I'd initially envisaged before my exchange. I thought I'd be joining the debating societies and the university journal, as I did in Trinity. Well I did get onto the journal but only after filling out forms and doing a formal interview, and the debating society, like lots of the societies, was very competitive and their interest was in freshers rather than exchange students. I quickly learned to go for the societies that were more open and inviting. I did sailing, rugby, Latin Dance, hiking - all new experiences for me. I wouldn't have considered myself that sporty before but in September 2016, I expected to witness the first woman in the White House… and it didn't quite work out like that! That was my year abroad in terms of self-reliance and initiative. And being away also made me treasure what I love about Trinity and what the university does really well especially with the more finite resources it has compared to Georgetown. My lecturers here have always been really available to me, and I appreciate how open Trinity's student societies are. I'm now doing a Masters in Law in Trinity and I'm working as an Ambassador in the Global Room. My international experience made me a good fit for this. As an ambassador, some of my roles include meeting incoming students in the airport and helping them with inquiries - especially around visa issues which can be complicated for non-EU students. I'm available in the Global Room throughout the academic year, dealing with whatever comes up and I also give tours to people from abroad interested in checking out what Trinity has to offer. The Global Room operates like a Common Room and it's a great place for international students to congregate. And it's peer-to-peer. Georgetown had good supports for exchange students but it lacked that peer-to-peer engagement for international students. Trinity's international students feel they can ask Global Ambassadors anything because we're students like them. I think every Irish person has to experience America at some point and I'm really fortunate that Trinity enabled me to follow my dream to go to Georgetown as an undergard. The experience has cemented my ambition to work in politics or public policy following my Masters.

“I gained so much from my year abroad in terms of self-reliance and initiative”

Sophie Donnelly -- Spending 3rd year in Georgetown University
The last few pages have outlined Trinity’s achievements in global relations since the set up of the office in 2011. The focus of the next five years will be to deepen relationships with universities worldwide and secure further opportunities for students to gain invaluable experience overseas. One ambition in the third global relations strategy is to support and facilitate at least half of our undergraduate students to spend time in study, research or clinical placements abroad.

In a world where our graduates will need to address many global challenges it is important that their university education equips them with the ability to work with other disciplines, cultures and countries. In Trinity we enjoy partnerships across the globe, over 40% of our staff is international and we welcome students from over 120 countries.

It has been a privilege to oversee the developments in the last five years. While it is difficult to predict the future I believe we will continue to strengthen global connectivity and community in our education and research.

Prof Juliette Hussey, Vice-President for Global Relations