

explicit MAGAZINE

Munster Technological University Cork
Students' Union



MTU CORK SU
PHOTO
GRAPHY
Competition

Winner!

TANMAYEE SURYAWANSHI
Third year BSc Hons Software Development

Check the prize winners and a
selection of the great entries
on pages 12-13

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- **SU Council Awards 2021**
- **Covid 19 - The Student's Experience**
- **Student Profiles - insights into some MTU courses**
- **Enter our Competitions to WIN One-4-All Vouchers!**

AND LOTS MORE!

WANTED

STUDENT PROFILES!

Give us your insights into your college course, get published and WIN a €50 One-4-All!

Would you like to write a profile which will give others an insight into your course of study and a taste of what your own student life is like? Look no further... explicit, MTU's digital magazine has devised a set of 6 questions as a guide to get your insights. Students who get their pieces published will WIN €50 One-4-All digital vouchers for their efforts.

So go on, give us your piece on being a student and your MTU college course. The questions below are suggestions for your writings and there's no need to stick rigidly to answering every question) You can write as little or as much as you like (we suggest between 500 and 1,500 words). Write with wit, seriousness, honesty or even controversy. It's up to you! Send us some pictures of yourself or relating to your course which might go well with your piece.

We kick things off on pages 10 & 11. The next inclusions will be published after the summer. Please send your contributions to: supublications@cit.ie

Your Guideline Questions:

Q: What are you studying at MTU and what led you to decide to pursue this career?

Q: The absolute best thing that has happened in college so far is...?

Q: Would you like to describe a little about the course itself, the type of work you do, your influences, your projects etc?

Q: Ultimately, what do you hope to achieve and where do you see yourself when you have completed?

Q: Any positive advice you would like to convey to prospective students, based on your experiences so far?

Q: The absolute best thing about your course is...?

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#InclusiveMTU

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MTU

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Mumhan
Munster Technological University

Munster Technological University Cork Students' Union

Your Union Your Voice

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Instagram:  @MTUCorkSU  www.MTUCorkSU.ie

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Students' Union Council Awards 2021 #UCA2021



The Students' Union Council Awards-Announcements live on Zoom, were held on, Thursday 6th May 2021. There were 265 nomination forms submitted this year which is testament to the great work and support offered by Class Reps. Ten awards for 'outstanding voluntary contributions' were announced and Professor Maggie Cusack announced the recipient of this year's Presidential Citation. MTU Cork SU President, Aisling O'Mahony, was the host for the evening and Dr Áine Ní Shé, Registrar & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr Dan Collins, Academic Administration & Student Affairs Manager, Zack Nutchana, SU VP Education and Cian O'Driscoll SU VP Welfare paid tribute to the Class Reps.

The event was broadcast live on YouTube which can be viewed [HERE](#)

This was a great opportunity to celebrate and to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of these students. Class Reps play a very important role in the work of the Students' Union and underpin its success in actively representing all the students of the University. They are also pivotal in ensuring students in their class feel a sense of belongingness and they are key to fostering a culture of inclusivity for our diverse student population.

THE 10 CLASS REPS AWARDED IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR 'OUTSTANDING VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION' ARE:



Aine Ryan Contemporary Applied Art, 4th year

Aine has been described as brilliant voice of the class and by keeping the class updated via personal emails, meeting one to one (when it was allowed) and through group chats. Aine has liaised with the Students' Union, and staff and has sat on course board meetings throughout the year. She always provides the class with feedback following these meetings! Classmates have said that Aine has put her own needs to one side no matter how busy she has been to help the class. She made sure classmates were managing okay with assignments and deadlines and also checked in on 'classmates' mental health. She have also organised online social events such as a weekly zoom get together and a chat room for the class. Aine has been described as caring, motivating and passionate.

Alan Murphy

Cybersecurity Management, post graduate studies

In these difficult times, communication with the university and with individual lectures can be very challenging. Alan has been the conduit for all of class queries and has helped resolve so many issues. Alan organised meetings and methods for their course mates to interact and get to know each other. One classmate said,

"Without Alan's efforts, I really don't know if I would have been able to complete the course because the close-knit group my Rep has created has really helped get me through the most difficult moments and soldier on."

If that's not enough, Alan is also the Post-Graduate Representative on Academic Council.



Aodan Healy

Chemical and Biopharmaceutical Engineering, 3rd year

Aodan strived to support the positive mental and physical health of his classmates, has proven problem solving skills, is the voice of the class and organised online events such as Christmas Zoom Quizzes with thoughtful prizes for the class. Aodan was passionate and determined to make the year enjoyable for the class, and merited the descriptor of, GOAT (Greatest of All Time).



Arissa Tan

 Hospitality Management, 2nd year

Arissa has represented her class very well, reminding the class of the Students' Union Campaigns and other important talks and events. Two-way communication is a key skill of Arissa as she listened to the needs of her class, liaises with staff to relay these needs and always closes the feedback loop. Arissa rose to the challenges of this year and kept the class connected by organising online events and the purchase of class hoodies. Arissa is described as being there for everyone and tries their best to help everyone. Very approachable, selfless, kind, committed and hard working. A friend of everyone and good mediator for the class.



Ellen Foley

 Theatre and Drama, 3rd year

Ellen has been described as one who goes beyond seeing the role of Class Rep as a job but more as a vocation. Ellen is known for her strong communication and research skills, and coupled with a strong sense of representation, she has been a powerful voice for her fellow students. Moreover, acting as the main representative of her constituent campus she have exceeded all the expectations of her class and campus.



Cian Ryan

 Marketing, 2nd year

Cian really made his classes experiences so much easier during such a difficult year. It was mentioned that Cian won't let anyone fall through the cracks. He asked lecturers for clearer instructions in regards to classes and assignments. He was always concerned for the welfare of the class and always reaches out if someone needs help. With students being online, Cian made classmates feel connected. Cian had no qualms with making sure the class voices were heard. Any issues were resolved in a matter of hours, and the class members were always kept up to date with upcoming events, timetables and assignment deadlines. Genuinely passionate about this role and wanted to ensure people felt a sense of safety but also community during such a crazy year. Responsible, attentive, supportive and a true leader.





#UCA2021

Students' Union

Darragh O'Shea

Accounting, 4th year

Darragh has excellent communication skills, is a proven problem solver and has supported many online campaigns and events. Darragh has organised hoodies, one to one support, attended Council/General Meeting and represented a thousand students on a national platform by passing motions and representing the voices of students. Described as a down to earth individual, passionate, friendly, hardworking, and the most approachable Class Rep in the past four years in CIT/MTU by his classmates.



Marie Singleton

Social Care, 4th year

Marie is an excellent liaison between the college and students and genuinely cares about the class. She is a confident and respectful advocate and is trusted, respected and valued by her classmates. Marie understands the importance of listening to the class and taking an overview of the needs of the class and accurately reflects this back to academic staff, the Students' Union and on course boards. As a final year student, Marie is determined to make the course the best that it can be, not only for current students but for the benefit of the future students of the course. Her class say that they could not have asked for a better Class Rep. So respectful, such a great listener, and a natural advocate.



Ruairí McClintock

Electronic Engineering, 1st year

Ruairí was a direct line of contact for all students to the lecturing staff throughout this whole year of online learning. Ruairí oozes enthusiasm and brings such great energy to the class. He has organised class hoodies, online events such as movies, game nights and online group study sessions. Ruairí is fun, open and welcoming and, to the best of his ability is willing to help anyone in need. Ruairí organised a discord chat for the whole class to make sure everyone kept in touch socially and with college work. This was extremely helpful to students when they needed help with anything to do with the course and was a creative way to make friends this year. This has had such a huge impact on the class. Ruairí is always willing to chat, always willing to help and cares about everyone in his course. He not only represented his class on a local level but also on a national level as he attended national meetings with other students across Ireland, Students' Unions and USI to help shape policies to lobby the government to benefit the student population of Ireland. Caring, supportive, passionate, and a voice for all students.



The event was broadcast live on YouTube which can be viewed [HERE](#)

Council Awards 2021

#UCA2021

Sean Hoban Nautical Science, 1st year

An approachable and kind individual whom in a challenging year for all, has gone beyond what is expected in their role as a Class Rep. Sean's solution focused attitude has managed to keep the class engaged academically and connected socially, whilst reduced the uncertainty and fear around any in person learning that took place. Whilst doing this Sean has also worked part time yet remains available to everyone who needed him 24/7.



PRESIDENTIAL CITATION FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO MTU CORK

Marie Singleton



The Presidential Citation is presented to a Class Rep in recognition of exceptional and outstanding service to the Students' Union and the wider community as a whole. The voluntary work they do with charitable causes, the support they give to enhance students' well-being and contributions to the external community are taken into consideration when identifying a deserving recipient of this citation. Marie was awarded this in recognition of her continuous support of the CIT, MTU and wider community.

Congratulations to all Class Reps!

Sincere thanks to the Students' Union staff members, Mick O'Mahony, Keith Brown, Fiona Leddy and Mella Leonard, who supported the organisation of the event. We also very much appreciate the assistance of Fiona Kelly, Aoife Kelliher, Mervyn O'Mahony, Edel Kelly and Anthony Fleming.

The event was broadcast live on YouTube which can be viewed [**HERE**](#)

Flynn's Flying Column

So far, things are not going well for the European Union under the tenure of the European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen (VDL for short!). She was put into the job in 2019 by German Chancellor Angela Merkel to get her out of the spotlight of investigations regarding some brown envelope behaviour while serving as Defence Minister in Merkel's cabinet – a move that proved unpopular with Angela's supporters. Time will tell whether Ursula inherited a poisoned chalice, for with Covid-19 having continuing to maintain its lethal grip across the globe, and VDL has certainly made plenty of unnecessary blunders.



making strides and re-opening the country cannot come any sooner. But, was all that delay, inaction and upheaval really necessary?

But hold it! Thursday April 8th 2021, and VDL, along with her second-in-command, European Council President Charles Michel travelled to Ankara for an EU-Turkey Summit with President Erdoğan, notorious for his disregard of Human Rights and, in particular, Gender Inequality. Of course the EU have their reasons for keeping Turkey close and even as a prospective member, regarding the potential wealth Turkey can unleash being part of the Mid-East. But what happens in front of the Media and the Cameras? Erdoğan has a chair for himself and for Charles. And the lady, yes, Ursula, has to stand.

VDL has to answer as much as the other World Leaders for not ordering the EU Member States into Lockdown on time back at the start of last year. The consequence was countless numbers of people across the bloc, Italy more than most, losing their lives. All Ursula could give them was an apology, heavily souring relations between Italy and Brussels. VDL also had all of 2020 to formulate a plan to get the bloc vaccinated via a EC-sponsored programme once the vaccines were successfully developed. Now with Britain out of the EU and free of Brussels red tape, PM Boris Johnson successfully gambled on that exact vision, got a programme implemented, sorted a deal with Astra-Zanaca (among other medical companies), and now Britain is ahead of schedule to reopening the country. VDL's calls for a blockade smacked of mere vindictiveness, and her near-triggering of the Brexit protocol regarding the Northern Ireland Border, almost tearing up the 1998 Good Friday Agreement and putting Ulster on knife-edge shows how little she really regards the peace process. Again, she apologised to the Irish Government, but someone should point out to VDL that apologies, no matter how sincere, tend to lose their impact through overuse. This has had the consequence of other EU Member States pursuing their own vaccine purveyance operations so they do not fall behind. But not only did the Irish Government meekly accept VDL's apology for trampling all over Ireland – not for the first time – but Government Buildings have re-iterated their insistence on sticking with the EU Line in the vaccination programme and not following their own path. Once again, Ireland is placing being the Good Pupil in Europe above saving lives and livelihoods. The EU vaccination programme is now

Now why did VDL not tell Erdoğan where to go for such discourteous and sexist treatment? Ursula could have struck a blow for the campaign for Women's Rights in an instant! Especially since Gender Equality is high on any EU Agenda. Even more bizarrely; why did her Number two, Charles Michel, not get up and offer her HIS chair, if such an agenda is that high in EU Affairs? When Mary Robinson was Uachtarán, she would never have let that one go. That said, this punctuates another fact; Erdoğan certainly did not treat VDL's previous boss Angela Merkel the same when the German Chancellor visited Turkey in January 2020.

Von Der Leyen went into her position as EC President with brash bluster, and she has been increasingly shown up with her failures regarding the pandemic and the vaccination programme and almost causing The troubles to recommence again in the process. Boris Johnson has really managed to put ten over her - who is the 'clown' now? But when she gets shown up like this in Ankara by a ruthless autocratic President and EU Colleagues who fail to show support to her in public, it is at this point you have to realise that something is seriously rotten with the European Union. One has to ask, for all the declarations for Equality and Human Rights and Opportunities, who is really pulling the strings when it comes to vested interest? VDL will have a fight on her hands to recover her reputation, especially when the return to normal will shape the directions of the routes to come.

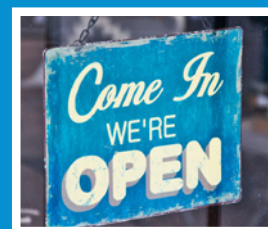
WOTS DA CIT-uation DERE?

Lockdown is now slowly but surely being lifted, and not a moment too soon. What is everyone looking forward to? Holidays abroad? A few pints in the pub? Meeting and embracing loved ones once again?

Yes, it will take a while for things to fully return and I am not going to miss any of the daily monologue from the Government, the HSE or NPHET. Or Ryan Tubridy and his increasingly depressing covid-themed Late Late Show. And, I cannot wait to get the vaccine – if you are offered it, take it, it is the only gig in town. One thing the pandemic has done to Da Flynnner is that it has made his glorious years in CIT feel like another chapter in History (did I only graduate 4 years ago?), not least because this is now part of MTU since January 2021 and that RTE Reeling In The Years is screening the 2010s! The latter will certainly evoke many a memory fer sure!

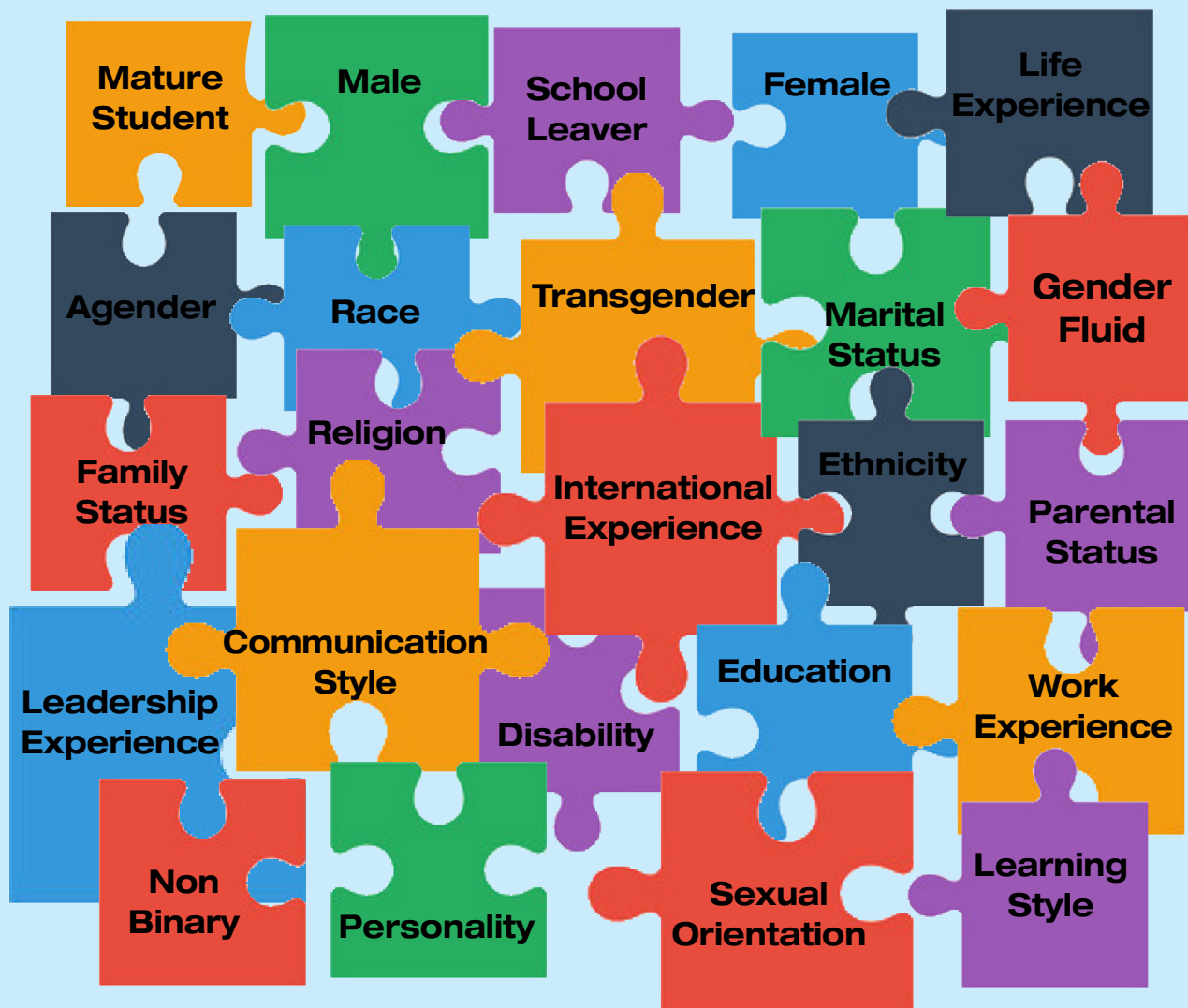
But look, this should teach us all a lesson in never taking the simple things in life for granted again, and it might teach the student body to keep the common room and the dining halls clean and rubbish-free in future; disease DOES thrive in filthy areas you know! I am deffo looking forward to travel, meeting my pals, and certainly a few tall, frothy Franciscan Well Chieftains with SU Officers Aisling, Cian, Zack and Sinead some night soon enough! And meeting up with the SU Management for an overdue get-together of course!

In the meantime, Stay The Course, Stay Safe and take the vaccine when you get the offer. Best of luck in the exams and the future, and I am looking forward to writing for ye all again come September 2021, when we should be able to kick off again! Remember, there is always Tomorrow.



DIVERSITY IS ALL THE FACTORS THAT SHAPE YOUR IDENTITY

INCLUSION HARNESSSES YOUR DIVERSITY



When people or companies talk about diversity, sometimes it can feel like the focus is on a couple of factors. Inclusion is about more than a set of differences. Inclusion recognises that everyone is unique. That uniqueness is important and helps people to thrive in their learning. Here in MTU, we value all students, we value all differences and similarities. We want all students to feel included, regardless of who you are, your experiences, your background.

Inclusion = Being Your Authentic Self

#InclusiveMTU

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Antoinette Hogan (antoinette.hogan@cit.ie)

Sheila Butler (sheila.butler@cit.ie)



MTU

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COURSE PROFILE

AMY MCCARTHY



I'm a third year student studying Visual Communications at MTU. Being in this course kinda happened by accident. After leaving cert, I studied animation for two years at St John's college and I absolutely loved it. After that I went to LIT in Clonmel to study animation at a level 8 degree. However, I only spent one year out of the 4 years because the place just wasn't for me. I wouldn't recommend Clonmel LIT. If you are interested in animation at LIT, go to the course in Limerick.

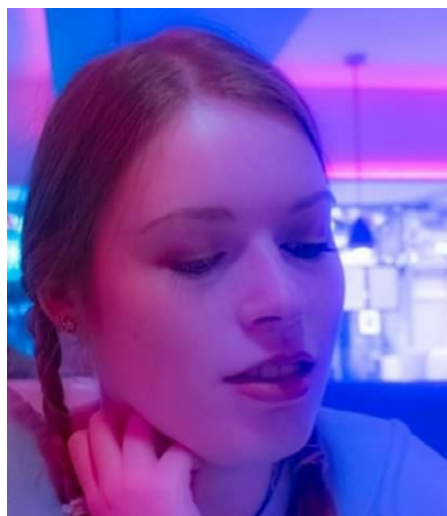
The only joy I found at Clonmel were the books on animation at the library and the visual communications module. There were some great lecturers there but this lecturer was enthusiastic and very helpful towards students. I found a love for graphic design that I didn't think possible. So I finally got into MTU, studying visual communications and there was a huge difference. The staff were friendly and the students in my course immediately made me feel welcome. I finally felt like I was in the right place and was learning so much more.

The best thing that happened in college so far are the friends I've made and the skills I've learned. The people in my course are friendly and since my fiance is in the digital media course, I got to meet his classmates too! Everyone there was so welcoming and I'm so glad I chose to switch colleges. Plus my course also teaches a little bit of animation which was a bonus for me. I was really happy that I could keep studying animation. In Visual Communications, our projects mainly consist of logo design, branding, typography and illustration. We are also given the option to use film, photography and animation in our assignments. There's something for everyone. This course suits those who either prefer digital or traditional art. Even though students today are more used to digital, we are always encouraged to use traditional aspects in our projects such as painting or mixed media. It's great if you don't specialise in just one medium of art.

After graduating, I hope to achieve my goals of learning more about motion graphics and branding such as logo design. These are the areas that I have enjoyed the most in college. I would still love to work in animation as I'm studying that in my spare time. I now love graphic design and animation which I have been told would look great on my CV. Employers have said that an interest in animation is a bonus for graphic designers. My advice to students who are interested in this course would be, always try to study independently. Most lecturers here will expect you to study the subject further on your own as they will only teach you the bare basics, but they will always be happy to give feedback and help you in your studies. It's always good to make this a habit as graduates and guest speakers have told us to never stop learning as it keeps your skill levels going strong.

One great piece of advice they gave us for after graduation was to never give up and love what you do. As long as you love what you do, you'll go far. I learned that the hard way. I still love animation but I ignored the core reason why I love art and that's being given a concept or idea and expanding it into something visual. That's why I love graphic design and I have also put that love into animation which has made it even more fun.

Amy's instagram: [@aimsleymc.art](https://www.instagram.com/aimsleymc.art) [linkedin.com/in/amy-mccarthy-49b5aa1a1](https://www.linkedin.com/in/amy-mccarthy-49b5aa1a1)



Visual Communications, 3rd Year

Give us your insights into your college course,
get published and WIN €50! See page 2 for details

COURSE PROFILE

AOIFE JAMES

Hiya! I'm a final year student in Creative Digital Media, a course offered by the Media Communications Department across multiple campuses. Since I was very young, my biggest passions have been music, photography, film and design, and I always knew my future career would focus on a blend of all four. This course has allowed me to incorporate everything I love into one field of study, making it the perfect choice for those who like to mix and match what they do. I found out about the degree while working as an extra on RTÉ pilot "Ronanism", directed by course alumni Seán O'Connor who told me all about his studies in the degree formerly known as Multimedia. Two years later, I put it as the number one spot on my CAO.

The Creative Digital Media course is incredibly versatile, and that's honestly what's so amazing about it. I came into the degree with a vast range of knowledge from years of self-learning, but you'd be surprised how much more your knowledge can be expanded. On top of my speciality fields of photo, video, audio and graphics, I can now properly animate, storyboard, create in 3D and even code web pages.

For the most part (in a typical year), we are situated in the Bishopstown campus, but for certain classes we've been lucky enough to have access to state of the art facilities in Cork School of Music, Crawford College of Art and Design, and even the Blackrock Castle Observatory. It's great to change up your scenery from time-to-time like this on satellite campuses, and it just makes the experience more interesting (and saves a little Leap Card money since I can comfortably walk to them instead!).

Second semester of third year was a favourite of mine - work placement. Being a relatively new addition to the course (I believe we were only the third year group to do so) it allowed us to go out into the working world of digital media and experience what it's like. Some companies let the college know they want interns and arrange interviews for students, but we were also encouraged to search for opportunities ourselves in places that could really do with a media intern. I myself went to The Academy of Popular Music, knowing from eight years studying voice there that a dedicated media content creator would be an asset to them. I spent my time there taking photos, recording performances, making posters, filming interviews, and even creating an Instagram filter. This just solidified for me that I work best as an all-rounder, not restricting to one particular skill. The entire semester really lets you explore what you want for the future, so definitely take your time looking into businesses and positions ahead of your placement year so you can use it to your advantage.

Throughout my four years in college, I have been very involved with Societies, holding ten committee positions in total alongside being a Student Societies Rep. Through Societies, I've been able to engage with so many students from across all campuses, making some of my closest friends along the way. I've had the opportunity to represent the college on a national level, travel to conventions, meet some remarkable figures, and even expand my media portfolio through photo, video and design work done for my various committees as well as the Societies Office. It's an amazing community to be part of here in MTU Cork, and I would 100% recommend it to everyone - there's so much choice available that you'll certainly find the society for you.

My dream working industry has always been music, and various modules within my degree have allowed me to work towards just that. I've had access to state of the art facilities in School of Music for sound, and I even took a free choice elective in 70s Popular Music History to immerse myself further in origins and stories. I was very excited recently to receive an offer of a place in the Masters of Music and Technology for next year (MTU you haven't seen the last of me yet), and from there I hope to one day complete a PhD in the field of Musicology. As for my career in the more distant future, the goal is to work in music production both home and abroad, maybe even travelling to Seoul to experience one of the world's fastest progressing music hubs.

As far as advice goes, I would highly recommend taking a free choice elective at some point in your college journey. Whether it's in a similar degree so you can expand on your current learning or in a completely different degree because you just want something new and exciting, go for it! For me, popular music history was something I've always had great interest in, and I knew it would be beneficial in my future studies. Knowing classes in this area would be under the Popular Music degree, I simply looked through the list for that course and found the 70s History module in no time. The [courses.cit.ie](https://www.courses.cit.ie) website is a fantastic resource for finding a wide range of electives, so have a look through it in first year and make a note of what you might be interested in. Remember, if it clashes with another class time-wise, you can always try again the following year; I wanted that 70s module from day one and didn't get a chance to do it until final year, so don't give up. Free choices are a fantastic way of expanding your education and meeting more people!

I'll be cheesy here and say the best aspect of my course has been my class itself. It's been amazing spending the last four years studying with a fantastic group of diverse, multi-talented and very sound individuals. We get along really well, and a lot of us share common interests that allow us to push our collaborative work in fun and interesting directions. It's strange that I haven't been in a room with these people since December 2019 just before we went off on placement, but here's hoping for a big graduation reunion!



Creative Digital Media, 4th Year

**Give us your insights into your college course,
get published and WIN €50! See page 2 for details**

MTU CORK SU
**PHOTO
 GRAPHY**
Competition



For the past five years the Students' Union has run an annual Photographic Competition and this year the prize fund is €500, with thanks to Anseo, The Student Engagement Office. First prize is a whopping €300 One-4-All, whilst second receives €100 One-4-All. Third and fourth placed receive €50 One-4-Alls.

We received a wonderful array of entries, all clearly holding a meaning for their photographers and which give us, the viewer, a few moments of pleasure in pensively exploring the story behind the image.

**THANKS TO ALL
 WHO ENTERED!**

Winner!

TANMAYEE SURYAWANSHI
 Third year BSc Hons Software Development



"Together Apart"

Runner Up

Adarsh Ananthachar, Doctoral Student, Nanophotonics Group



"Let there be light!"

A SELECTION OF THE GREAT ENTRIES

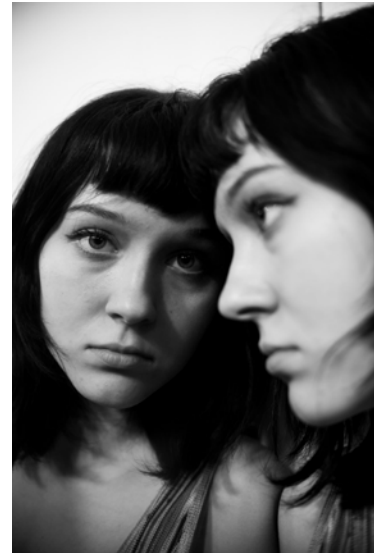
Third place

Aoife James



Fourth place

Lauren Cannon



Caroline Foley



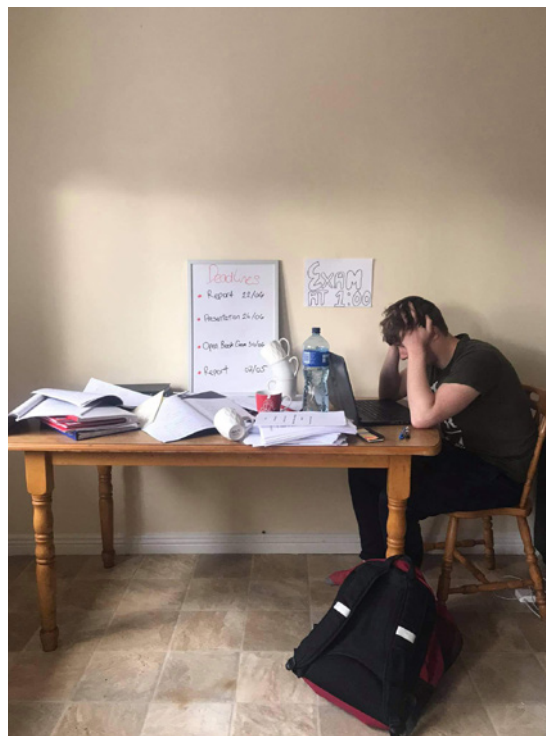
Daniel Keaney



Niamh McEvoy



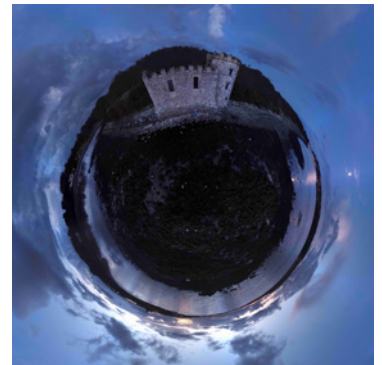
Simona Jezikova



Darragh O'Shea



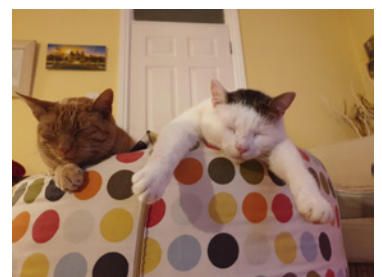
Tomas Ruskonis



Colm Shanahan



Maura Godley



Sam Mc Cormack



By Niamh Cronin,
Students' Union Communications Officer

COVID-19 THE STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE

From the beginning of this pandemic, students have been continuously dragged in the media for holding house parties, breaking guidelines and not caring. While there are students who are continually breaking restrictions, they are part of a loud minority. It's time we hear from the majority of students which is why we want to recognise the part you have played in slowing the spread of COVID-19. We want to applaud the work you, as front line workers have done to keep this country going. We want to thank all of you, for your incredible effort and to do so, we wanted to share your stories to capture a glimpse of the student experience during these crazy times.

So take the time today to read some of your fellow MTU Cork's student experiences, which may resonate with you and your journey throughout this pandemic. Thank you all who submitted their story, we are so proud of you.

OISÍN GAHAN

3rd Year Recreation & Leisure Management

Studying during Covid-19 has been an enjoyable challenge for me, I know that might sound strange, but I proved to myself that even in these circumstances I could prevail and maintain a high standard of work. I miss the social aspect that college gives, seeing friends, interacting with lecturers, and just in-person learning. My course, Recreation & Leisure Management has a large practical aspect and the adjustment of those modules online has allowed our course to keep its practical aspect in some way albeit over Zoom!

From the Covid-19 pandemic I can take away many positives from my college and studying experience and I believe it has prepared me even more for the working world as I learned how to work independently and also how important timelines, guidelines and deadlines are and the benefits to making a good plan and sticking to it. I am looking forward to being back on campus and the college experience however I will take many new lessons that I've learnt from the pandemic forward with me in life, and I'm glad of that!



“

...I will take many new lessons that I've learnt from the pandemic forward with me in life, and I'm glad of that

”

LOREN O'DRISCOLL

3rd Year Business



It's fair to say like everyone else's stories, Covid-19 has turned my life around. Not all my reasons for this statement are sad, but it has put a different perspective on life for me. Before Covid-19, I did not spend much time at home. I did not give a lot of attention to my family. I would come home maybe twice a week even though I still technically 'lived' at home.

When Covid-19 hit this situation did a 360 spin. There are four people at home including myself, two are high risk; my brother who is a quadriplegic and my mom who is diabetic. On the other hand, my dad and I are essential workers and have been working through it all. The risk that my dad and I have taken is huge. I remember having a serious conversation one night with my dad, where I was at the point that I considered quitting my job. The last thing I wanted to do was bring something into the house that would cause serious harm to my brother or mom.

My thought process was if one of us stays at home then there is less of a chance to bring Covid-19 to our door. I stayed out of work for as long as I could but there was only so long that I could do this before my job would have let me go. My dad made a good point that stuck with me, we don't know when or if this would ever end, and I specifically remember him saying "we can't hide away at home forever" so, I made the decision to keep working.

I now juggle working at home on placement five days a week, working in a grocery store at night and on the weekend and trying to protect the ones I love. I am beyond tired. But my family keep me going. We are all safe, we have not been affected, and we are closer than we have ever been before. I could choose to look at the negative side of this pandemic, but I think if I did, I would drive myself insane. I'm healthy, I'm happy and every day is a step closer to normality and for me, a step closer to sitting in a beer garden with friends while the sun shines!

“

I am beyond tired. But my family keep me going. We are all safe, we have not been affected, and we are closer than we have ever been before

”

ISOBEL KAVANAGH

3rd Year International Business with French

I am currently studying abroad as part of my International Business with French course, and I am living in Lyon, France. My experience with living abroad and Covid-19 has been relatively positive so far. Naturally, it is a shame that we aren't getting the full Erasmus experience because pubs, restaurants, museums, etc are closed, but we are making the most of our experience regardless. There are four of us here from Ireland, and we are all in the same accommodation which definitely has made things easier.

In France, at time of press a curfew was in place between 7pm and 6am, so we cannot be outside during these times. However, this has been a blessing in disguise because we have made so many friends in our residence from various different backgrounds. Luckily, we have been able to travel to different parts of France but we have now gone into lockdown, so we can only stay in our city.

If Erasmus has taught me one thing, it is that life is what you make it and once you surround yourself with good friends then you will have a good time. Of course, I am missing my family and friends at home, but I am glad that I was able to have this experience.



“

If Erasmus has taught me one thing, it is that life is what you make it and once you surround yourself with good friends then you will have a good time

”

RUAIRÍ M^cCLINTOCK

1st Year Electronic Engineering

No one would have guessed that our last days in school would be due to a pandemic. It was all meant to be over in two weeks. Just two weeks of studying at home. But those two weeks turned into months, and now I'm about to finish my first year in MTU from home. Some think it'll be over by the summer, while others think we might never get to have a college experience.

"College Experience". It's an odd phrase to hear, but I never really know if we'll have this experience. I don't think I'll ever be able to say I had a "normal" college experience, with my entire first year being online. Constant Zoom calls, never going outside and wearing headphones almost 24/7 and that's considered "normal" for us at the present time.

I did try and make do, after all, when life gives you lemons... you know the rest... for the first month or so we had labs once a week. A luxury I realise not every student had. Doing Electronic Engineering, I had that lovely perk, but once semester two hit, it was entirely online. I didn't realise at first how not normal this entire experience was until talking to past students.

You'd think it would be easier doing all our work from home, and it does have its perks. But motivation hit an all-time low for most students when we went completely online.

It's a lot easier to be in person in class, especially for such a hands-on course as Engineering, and it's a struggle for many to be alone in a dark room without friends to encourage you. Some people have told me they haven't made one friend in their entire first year in college. This is something that's extremely difficult.

As for me, I didn't want that to happen, so I created a Discord for my class and ended up becoming Class Rep. I currently strive to make sure everyone in my class has as much of a social life as they can, from late night calls to playing cards games online. Some of my class spend all their time on discord, which may sound sad, but it is the only source of a social



life they have. But even with the extra help of bonding over the virtual space, many of my class (myself included) have struggled with this new way of learning. It's so impersonal talking to a screen for 8+ hours a day, your "life" reduced to a screen. There are no nights out, no meet ups, "College Life" has resorted to the ever distant hope that this seemingly endless tunnel has a light at the end of it, and yet I know many have it far worse than I could imagine.

But it's not all doom and gloom. Covid-19 has not managed to take away the opportunities to make lifelong friends. I've made friends, using discord and other social media platforms, as have my class, which means others can too. As humans, we can learn to adapt, and we'll hold onto the hope that we'll be able to see each other beyond the screens in the future, and we'll come out all the stronger for it.

Just for now, I guess I'll have to invest in a better pair of headphones.

“

Some people have told me they haven't made one friend in their entire first year in college. This is something that's extremely difficult

”

EMMA JANE O'DONNELL

3rd Year Marketing

Like many third-year students, I am currently completing work placement. And again, like many, I am doing that remotely. Personally, I have found this to be a blessing in disguise. I am very grateful to be in 3rd year of college rather than any other year, as it has meant that I have only had to spend one semester studying online rather than the full two terms.

When remote learning went into full swing back in September, I couldn't have been prepared for some of the hardest weeks and months that I was about to face. Some people really grasped the whole studying from home thing. But unfortunately, I wasn't one of those people. It's not that I didn't have the equipment or space. I did, and still do which is how I am carrying out my internship, and I feel so lucky to be able to do that. However, 15 weeks of work placement and 15 weeks of modules are completely different.

I think the core contrast between the two is that when you are an employee you have the responsibility to be up on time and get things done, because otherwise you'll let people down, right? Whereas when you are a student, and you don't have the motivation to attend classes or put as much effort into your work because the only person that you will affect is yourself.

As I prepare to go into my final year and prepare for the possibility of at least part of the course being online, I will push myself to think of myself as my own boss. I will try to look at the year of learning like a year of working, and to give myself and my education the



same respect and dedication that I would give to an employer. To anyone who has felt the way I did last semester, I encourage you to join me in this change of mindset so that we can all do our best at whatever time we have left in college. It might be hard, but we owe it to ourselves to perform at our greatest potential, pandemic or not. And just know, that you won't be alone. We can all get through it together, even if we must be apart.

“ I will try to look at the year of learning like a year of working, and to give myself and my education the same respect and dedication that I would give to an employer ”

FELIX MILLNER

3rd Year Mechanical Engineering

College during the pandemic can only be described as a rollercoaster. I have never spent so many hours behind a computer screen, and I have never spent so many hours pretending that my computer does not exist. Recorded lectures have facilitated both of these mindsets. When motivated, they allow for hours of well-structured study that can be moulded around what you want from the day and what is due. When not motivated they allow for the *“I'll catch up tomorrow.”* It feels like those calculations you do at night *“if I fall asleep in 15 minutes that means I can sleep for 5 hours as long as I eat breakfast in the car”* but now it's *“okay if I take these three lectures off and work until 7pm instead of 6pm for the next 3 days I can afford it.”*

I think the hardest part about college during this pandemic has been the lack of outlets. It is work hard, play harder... maybe next year? With no distinct split

between college and home the concept of work-life balance has gone out the window.

Not everything has been bad however, because lectures are recorded, I have found I can take my weekend when I needed instead of when it rolls around. If on a Thursday and Friday I just need a break I can trade them for Saturday or Sunday. If there is one module you just really need to get caught up on, you don't have to miss lectures to do this, and I do believe this pandemic will change education for the better in years to come.

“ With no distinct split between college and home the concept of work-life balance has gone out the window ”

AUDREY KANE

3rd Year Business



On March 12th 2020, I would have never imagined that I wouldn't be returning to college in two weeks' time. I sauntered away elated at the thoughts of a two-week break. Fast-forward to March 2021 and my childhood playroom has now been transformed (thanks to Zoom) into my classroom, exam hall, social scene and my office.

Being class rep this year, I've seen the stress that students were under in this new climate – be it the stress of new exam and assignment formats, trying to meet up via Zoom for group projects, trying to remember if class is live or pre-recorded and for my fellow 3rd years, trying to find an internship in the middle of a global pandemic.

From my perspective, Covid-19 has impacted not only my education but also my career journey. I am currently an Intern in Dell Technologies and count myself fortunate on the daily that I received this op-

portunity, as I know the current climate has limited many from this experience.

Working remotely can be challenging – trying to learn a new role via Zoom calls, trying to get to know your colleagues and give yourself a voice from behind a computer screen, not having the chance to swivel in your chair and ask for help – the list goes on.

BUT if Covid-19 taught us nothing else, it is that positivity is vital! Our adaptability and flexibility as a workforce will be second to none when we graduate. We have shown resilience, dedication and determination through this last year and have faced every challenge – every remote interview, every presentation over Zoom, even every 9am remote class log in – we did it and we are almost at the end!

So, fingers crossed in March 2022 we'll all be back to campus: meeting face-to-face with the new friends we made over Zoom, cramming for our exams in the library and crowding the canteen at 1pm!

“ Our adaptability and flexibility as a workforce will be second to none when we graduate ”

STEPHEN FOLEY

3rd Year Business Information Systems,
SU Projects Officer

Living with Covid-19 is beginning to feel like the norm for me. Now that is not to say I am enjoying the experience, but after a year of constant news reports of cases and deaths, I am becoming numb to it all.

I have, however found some relief, thanks to my placement this semester. This has forced a routine on me which I've now come to really value. While I will not deny, I'd have much preferred to be able to go into the office and meet the people I'm working with instead of being stuck working from home, with my only contact through Teams or email. I've still found the experience has made this latter part of this college year far more bearable and has allowed me to pass through these past few months of lockdown in a relatively content state.

Last semester, I had been really struggling to stay motivated, like so many others and I began to miss more and more lectures and really did not put the same amount of effort into college as I had in previous years. The lack of social interaction made weekends feel meaningless as they all blurred into one and my mental health began to slide. Thankfully, I passed my



last semester (just) and through the great work done by both the college and other organisations within the college such as Da Silly Heads, I was able to get a handle on my mental health and work to improve it.

“ The lack of social interaction made weekends feel meaningless as they all blurred into one and my mental health began to slide ”

NIAMH CRONIN

3rd Year Business, SU Communications Officer



My nana is my whole world. A 69-year-old force to be reckoned with, who adores her crochet classes, lives for our day trips to Youghal and holidays to Australia to visit her son. But my nana, like us all, has had her entire life put on hold because of Covid-19. My nana is part of my household and is part of the vulnerable community due to a weakness in her lungs. Since day one of the pandemic, my family have done everything, aside from wrapping her up

in cotton wool to protect her from contracting this virus, that would quite truthfully kill her.

Living with the thought that my actions could cause serious harm to my nana has radically altered my lifestyle. As a result, I haven't seen any of my friends in over 6 months, I celebrated my 21st birthday having a few

cans with the family (like many of us!) and have done everything in my power to abide by all restrictions.

At times, truth be told, it can be extremely lonely sitting in my room all alone trying to study and work. It can be deeply overwhelming to see cases rise and at times, it can have you feeling completely hopeless.

However, for every bad day there are countless great days to make up for it. The Zoom chats with the girls, exploring almost every beach in Ireland, movie nights with the family, tea and chats with my nana, just to name a few. This pandemic has helped me connect with those nearest and dearest to me, because it has given us the time to.

Living with someone who is vulnerable comes with its sacrifices particularly with being a student. But I know that in my heart, I have done everything to protect my nana. And I would do it a million times over because as I said, my nana is my whole world.

“ This pandemic has helped me connect with those nearest and dearest to me, because it has given us the time to ”

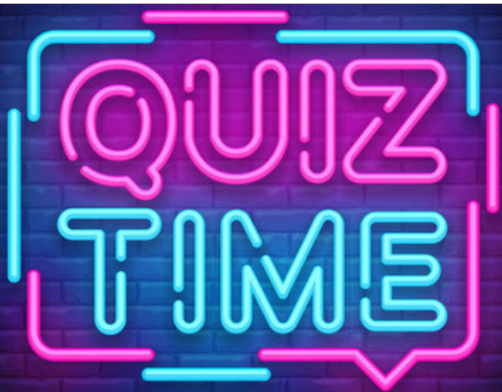
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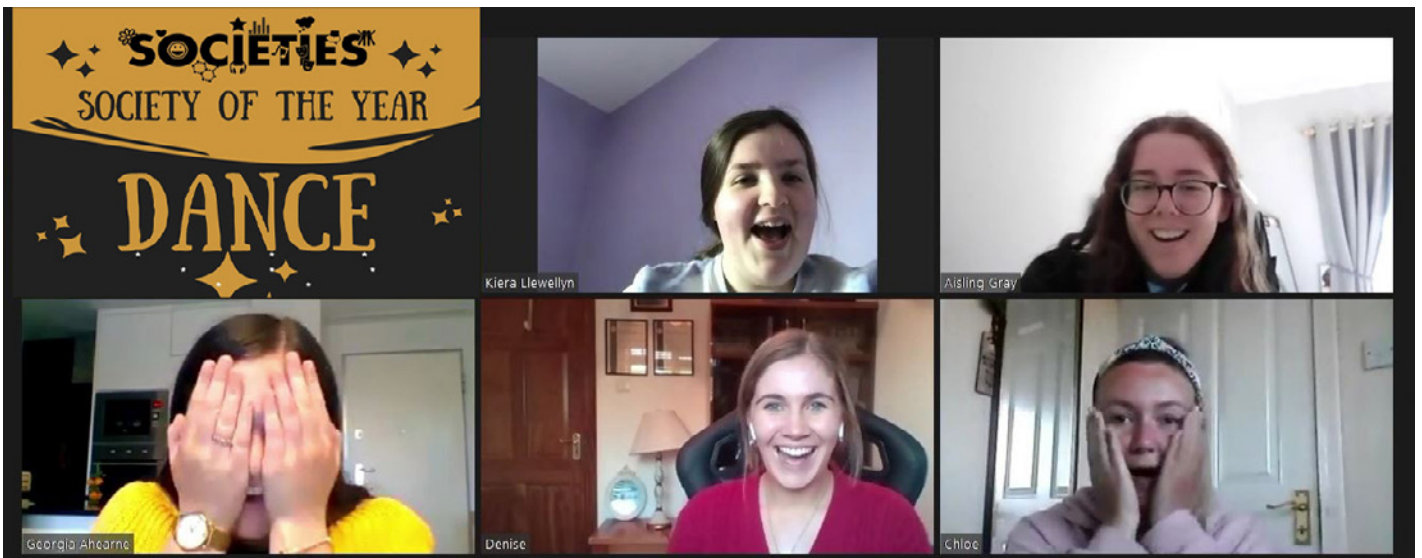
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Student Societies & Activities Award Recipients 2021



SUPREME ACHIEVEMENT IN SOCIETY & COLLEGE-WIDE ACTIVITIES

Aoife James - Chairperson of Sci-Fi Society and Co-Chairperson of the MEAS - Mental and Emotional Awareness Society, 4th year Creative Digital Media student

BEST FRESHER

Neena Thomas – Treasurer of the Indian Society and 1st year Chemical and Biopharmaceutical Engineering

BEST INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Joshua Maniad - Chairperson and Team Project Leader for the Enactus Society, 3rd year Business

Sarah Shaju – Chairperson of the Indian Society, 2nd year Visual Communications

Georgia Ahearne - Chairperson of the Dance Society, 2nd year Business

Ciara Sheehan – Co-Chairperson of the WiSTEM Society, 3rd year Mechanical Engineering

Orlaith McGowan - Co-Chairperson of the WiSTEM society, 3rd year Mechanical Engineering

Eoghan Spillane - Chairperson of the Anime & Manga Society, 3rd year Software Development

Society of the Year	Dance
Best Academic Society	Marketing
Best New Society	WiSTEM
Most Improved	Trad
Most Versatile	CSM Pool & Board Game Society
Supreme Event	Glór All Ireland Choral Intersivity
Best Small Event	Indian Society – Holi
Rísam Uile	Enactus Society

Watch the highlights of this great event on YouTube [HERE!](#)



MTU STUDENTS REIGN NATIONAL SUCCESS FOLLOWING PRIZE FOR INNOVATION

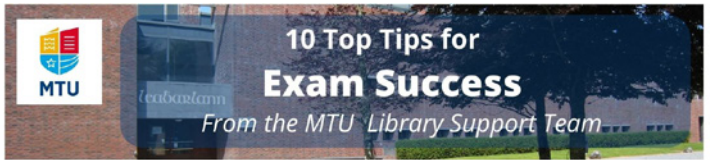
Seven groups have been shortlisted to the **top 50** of the of the **Enterprise Ireland Student Entrepreneur Awards.**



Two of these groups are also in the **top 12** of **The Ireland Funds Competition**



Well done to all students and mentors involved



1. Prepare for exams well in advance. Make a Study Plan & allow for some free time between study Sessions.
2. Carry out your study sessions in bursts of 30 minutes as a suggested minimum.
3. Using your study plan, set targets for the material you need to revise each day.
4. Use past exam papers to prepare for exams. Learn to structure your answers & practice your timing.
5. Get sufficient sleep before the exam. This will allow you to stay sharp & focussed
6. During exam season, get exercise, eat healthy & stay hydrated.
7. Note where exam is being held & the start time. If the exam is online, pay attention to access details.
8. Pay attention to exam regulations. View these on the MTU Exams website. <http://www.mycit.ie/examinations>
9. Check out 'Supports for You' on the MTU Cork library homepage for advice on how to study remotely
10. If you need support, talk to your lecturer or MTU Student Support Services. Library staff are also online Mon. to Fri. from 9am - 5pm. E-mail us at library.info@cit.ie

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