

explicit

MTU STUDENTS' UNION MAG



MTU CORK
STUDENTS' UNION

MTU CORK SU COUNCIL
AWARD WINNERS

LEADERSHIP IN HIGHER
EDUCATION SUMMIT

GLÓR SOCIETY
INTERVIEW

STUDENT SOCIETIES
AWARDS





FINAL ADDRESS



ISOBEL KAVANAGH

I spent the past two years of my life as the President of MTU Cork Students' Union and I can honestly say that they were the best two years of my life! The amount of friends, contacts, knowledge, skills and life lessons that I have gained from this job is immeasurable. I am so proud of the many positive outcomes that myself and the team in the Students' Union have achieved for the students and it shows the power that we as students can hold when we all come together and ensure that our voices are heard. Our main aims were to bring the craic back and create a positive experience for all students of MTU Cork and I hope that we have achieved that. I wish the new Students' Union team the best of luck – believe in yourselves! 'Ní neart go cur le chéile' – There is no strength without unity.

I am so honored to have been a part of the 23/24 MTU Cork SU team in my role as Vice President Welfare! I have really enjoyed my time as VP Welfare, and it is bittersweet moving on. This year has taught me a lot about how important the Students' Union is for the student experience. I am very proud of all that we have achieved as a team this year, we aimed to improve the student experience at MTU, and I think we have done this throughout the year with initiatives such as the Park & Ride service, longer library opening hours, etc. I have had a lot of fun running my events and campaigns throughout the year, collaborating with different businesses and venues, and student groups such as societies, etc. to give students great events.

I have loved my interactions with the students, one-on-one, at events, in the corridor, in meetings, and so on. I am sad to move on from this role, but I feel it has taught me so much and I have gained so much experience that I will carry with me in my future studies and career!



EVA CORCORAN



OISÍN GAHAN

As your Vice President for Education for the past two years, I have been so honoured to represent you alongside the rest of the Students' Union team. It is very bittersweet to be moving on but I am very grateful for the experiences, education, and knowledge that have been afforded to me in this role. Of course, also have the skills and lessons that will stand to me for roles in the future and the many friends I have made. Looking back on the past two years, I am very proud of the work we have pushed for and achieved to aid the improvement of the overall student experience and student life on campus. These positive changes will stand for years to come for the benefit of students and I look forward to watching the SU and the students continuing the good work for years to come. Thank you to you, the students, my fellow officers, Isobel and Eva, and the staff of MTU Cork SU for making every single day enjoyable! For now, that's me Oisín signing out... keep fighting the good fight, up the students!



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CORK



**Young adults and Students
SAVE 50%***

CORK to:	ROUTE	ONLINE SINGLE	ONLINE RETURN
Waterford	40	€7.50	€12.00
Limerick	51	€9.00	€14.40
Galway	51	€11.00	€17.60

CORK to:	ROUTE	ONLINE SINGLE	ONLINE RETURN
Dungarvan	40	€4.00	€6.40
Tralee	40	€11.80	€16.60
Killarney	40	€10.50	€15.60

Fares correct at time of print August 2023.

Tickets must be pre-booked online to avail of the offer.
Simply show your Young Adult or Student Leap Card
along with your booking to the driver when you board.



* Versus standard adult fare. T&Cs apply.



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CORK 2023

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YOUR UNION YOUR VOICE



MTU CORK
STUDENTS' UNION

Students' Union Council Awards Winners

2024

A celebration of
Class Rep achievements



MTU CORK
STUDENTS' UNION

Oisín Gahan
VICE PRESIDENT EDUCATION



The MTU Cork Students' Union Council Awards were held on Thursday 25th April in recognition of Class Reps and their outstanding voluntary contributions to the University and to the Students' Union.

This was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the hard work and dedication of these volunteers. Class Reps play a very important role in the work of the Students' Union and ensure students in their class feel a sense of belonging and are key to fostering a culture of inclusivity for our diverse student population.

Isobel Kavanagh, MTU Cork SU President, Dr Áine Ní Shé, Registrar & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Deirdre Creedon, Academic Administration & Student Affairs Manager and Oisín Gahan, SU VP Education paid tribute to the Class Reps.

A presentation was made to Scott Walsh Murphy, Union Council Chairperson, in recognition of the important role he plays within the Students' Union structure.

The Rag Week 2024 donation of €8390.15 was presented to Jon Spencer who represented this year's beneficiary, The Cork Samaritans. Jon expressed sincere gratitude to the students and staff for their generosity.

Sincere thanks to the Students' Union staff members, Josh Volfango, Mella Leonard, Aaron O'Driscoll and Mick O'Mahony who put so much time and effort into the delivery of this wonderful event. We also very much appreciate the assistance of Shane Falvey, Aoife Kelliher and Mervyn O'Mahony who participated in the selection panel.

The ceremony was held in the Bistro and the ambience created by the staff, Moira, Denise, Liam and Dawid, of Campus Catering was incredible. The food and excellent service was thoroughly enjoyed by the awardees and guests – thank you for making the event so special.

... And even more good news – last night MTU Cork SU were awarded 'Students' Union of the Year' at the Student Achievement Awards Ireland Ceremony.



SCOTT WALSH MURPHY
Union Council Chairperson



ADAM BARNES O'REGAN
Year 1 - Business



AOIFE GOULDING/HANNAH HAYES
Year 3 - Home Economics & Business



EMMA WOLFE
Year 3 - Social Care



TYLER WALSH
Year 1 - Environmental Science and Sustainable



KATE HIGGINS
Year 4 - Biomedical Engineering



KATHY CRONIN
Year 4 - Fine Art



LUKE CARRY
Year 1 - Architectural Technology



RACHAEL SHARKEY
Year 4 - Photography and New Media



OISÍN GAHAN
VP Education - Special Award



ISOBEL KAVANAGH
SU President - Special Award



MOIRA, DENISE, LIAM AND DAWID
Bistro Staff

SEPTEMBER

Volunteered with Safe Gigs Ireland
Registrations – Welcome Desk and Freshers Merchandise
Inductions – Group Addresses
Freshers Handbook
Class Rep Elections and Recruitment
Be Safe Campaign
explicit 1
General Meeting
USI National Council
Freshers Week

OCTOBER

Sexual Health & Guidance Campaign – Roadshow
SEA Art Exhibition – with MTU Art Office
‘Show us Respect’ – Walk Out Protest
explicit 2
Union Council Meeting
CSM Conferring
Mocktails & Drawing – CCAD & CSM Campus
NMCI Freshers Soccer Tournament
USI National Council

NOVEMBER

Class Rep Training
Conferrings
Pink Training
Class Rep NStEP Training
NMCI Table Quiz
explicit 3
General Meeting
Positive Body & Mind Campaign – Roadshow
National Voter Registration Drive
Garda Clinic

DECEMBER

Santas Roadshow to all campuses
explicit 4
Christmas Fayre – Santa’s Grotto
NMCI Christmas Dinner
Neighbourhood Forum
Exam De-Stress Campaign
USI National Council

JANUARY

explicit 5
Be Safe Campaign
RAG Week
USI National Council
SU Election Information Evening 1
Work trip with International Business students to Brussels

FEBRUARY

Union Council Meeting
explicit 6
Safety Week
CSM & CCAD Table Quiz
USI National Council
SU Elections Information Evening 2
INGENIUM work trip to Crete

MARCH

Union Council Meeting
General Elections
General Meeting
Annual General Meeting
Seachtain Na Gaeilge Events
explicit 7
Student Race Day

APRIL

General Meeting
USI Congress
Union Council Meeting
explicit 8
Eclectic Picnic (with the Arts Office)
Union Council Awards
BICS (National Societies Awards)
Gníomhaí Gaeilge Awards

MAY

Exam Supports Campaign
SAAI Awards
USI National Council
INGENIUM work trip to Romania

Award Nominees

Aaron Nixon

Adam Barnes Oregan

Adam Cox

Adrian Lapuste

Alex Deady Matthews

Angel Lane

Aoife Goulding

Bailey froo

Bailey Rooney

Benedetta Acciaresi

Candela Cusnider

Chelsea Awaziem

Cheta Obiefuna

Christian Hurst

Cian healy

Damian Gornik

Daria Krawczyk

Davina McGowan

Dawn Crawford

Doan O’Reilly

Edward Wiseman

Ellen Geary

Emma Barry

Emma Wolfe

Ena O’Driscoll

Estelle Neenan

Fawaz Olatunji

Grace Moran

Hannah Hayes

Boards & Committees

MTU Cork SU are members of:

Ian Roche

Ilona Wojciechowska

Jack Long

James Lysaght

Jamie Carroll

John Fitzgerald

John Fitzsimons

Karen Fitzgerald

Kate Higgins

Kathy Cronin

Kian Farmer

Lara Quinn

Lauren Sheehan

Luke Carry

Marie Moran

Mary Mannix

Matthew Kearney

Nathan Twomey Carroll

Oleksiy Borshchevskyy

Pat McGrath

Pierce McEvoy

Rachael Sharkey

Ruairi McClintock

Salomé Maher Bordalo

Sara Fitzgerald

Sean Cronin

Tyler Walsh

Xeno Byrne

Zoe Aitchison

GOVERNING BODY & SUBCOMMITTEES

Arts, Sport, and Culture

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Finance

Strategic Development

ACADEMIC COUNCIL & SUBCOMMITTEES

Academic Council Executive

Academic Planning & Review

Admissions & Student Affairs

Learning Resources/Infrastructure

Research Council

Regulations/Quality Assurance
& Enhancement

Standing Orders

OTHER COMMITTEES

Academic Calendar Working Group

ACE (Accelerated Campus
Entrepreneurship)

Appeals Board

Arena Steering Committee

ASSAM Meetings

ASUA (Association of Union Administrators)

Athena Swan

BICS Adjudicating Panel

Campus Watch

CINNTE Institutional Review

Conferrings Committee

Consent /PROPEL

Creative Colleges Working Group

Exploring Quiet Zones Path 4 Committee

EDI Steering Committee

Faculty Boards

Gníomhaí Gaeilge

Infringements Board

INGENIUM Student Advisory Board

INGENIUM Academic Committee

IT Steering Committee

Internal Communications Working Group

International Women's Day

Joint Boards (UCC/MTU)

Joint Operations Committee
(Cork & Kerry SU)

Learning Resource Committee

Library Work Stream

Mental Health Framework Committee

MTU Events and Hospitality Committee
(Directors)

NStEP National Working Group

Neighbourhood Forum

Night Time Economy Steering Group

One Cork Movement

Parking Workshop/Mobility Planning
Workshop

Registrar's Meetings

SAF Allocation Review Committee

Safety Committee

Societies Board

Sports Board

Student Accommodation Scoping Group

Student Assistance Fund

Student Disciplinary Committee

Student Engagement WG

Student Finance Committee

Student Numbers Working Group

Student Services Planning and Finance
Committee

Student Administration Services

Students Affairs Ireland

USI National Council

USI Governance Committee

Universal Design Framework
Implementation Steering Committee

Volunteer Abroad

VP AA & Registrar meetings

White Ribbon Group

Leadership in Higher Education Summit

On Thursday May 2nd, MTU held the Leadership in Higher Education Summit at MTU, Bishopstown. This was an opportunity for 'time to think' for those of us involved in the third level sector with a view to supporting students and other stakeholders. We were delighted to have attendees from across the university sector in Ireland and Europe as well as some excellent contributions from:

- Thomas Estermann (European University Association),
- Peter Felten (Elon University),
- Maggie Cusack (MTU),
- Professor Christian Harrison (The University of Bolton),
- Catherine Andersen (University of Baltimore),
- Philippa Collin and Senka Rebac (Inholland University of Applied Sciences),
- Manuel Joao Costa (Universidade do Minho) and
- Michael J Morley (University of Limerick).

SU PRESIDENT ISOBEL KAVANAGH

Delivered 5 'mini reflections' on my tenure as Students' Union President which also served to further the debate. I spoke about the importance of incorporating the student voice into all conversations and decision making and ensuring that a student-centred approach is always taken into account. I also spoke about how covid has had an impact on students and how they now have different expectations of their University, which need to be addressed by all higher education leaders.

The sessions underlined the challenges and opportunities that are ahead of us all in the sector as we contend with societal and technological changes. The speakers gave plenty of food for thought – but it is clear that Higher Education needs to continue to consider its role in how it assists in shaping and supporting society at large.

This event was managed by Debbie Shine and the Teaching and Learning Unit.



– Submitted by Pío Fenton





MTU

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Mumhan
Munster Technological University





Welcome to the MTU Irish Society



Welcome to The MTU Irish Society!
MTU's first Irish society was founded in Semester 1 in 2023. The goal of the Irish Society is to encourage students to speak more Irish around campus. The community is a place for students with every level of Irish to come together to appreciate the language, and of course make friends!

We've hosted a number of successful events around MTU campuses, including NMCI! We took part in Gaeilge 24 where we spoke Irish for 24 hours to raise money. We took part in Seachtain na Gaeilge, where we visited NMCI, had an Oíche Scannán, and a Pop Up Gaeltacht x Trad Session in collaboration with the MTU Trad Society from CSM.

This society is a brilliant place to make friends with shared interests, and we encourage anyone with any level of Irish to join us!





The Boosting INGENIUM for Excellence Project and its Impact on Empowering Young Researchers

- Interview w/Alba Morán Álvarez

The [Boosting Ingenium for Excellence](#) project (BI4E) is a complementary initiative to the [INGENIUM European University](#) that seeks to enhance the capacity of the INGENIUM partners, especially those in widening countries, to address major challenges such as the green and digital transition, climate change and global problems related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Alba Morán Álvarez is a 27-year-old researcher at the University of Oviedo's Institute of Oncology. In addition to her doctoral research focusing on cancer, Alba is also a passionate science communicator. She recently secured European backing to launch a TikTok channel where she explains oncological research in a clear and engaging way, aiming to combat the rise of pseudoscience. Specifically, her research delves into the connection between prostate cancer and diabetes.

By collaborating, sharing experiences and supporting one another, BI4E seeks to transform our institutions and increase their global competitiveness, making them more attractive to international talent.

WHAT IS THE BI4E PROJECT?

Boosting INGENIUM for Excellence (BI4E) is a three-year project funded under the HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-05 call within the Horizon Europe Framework Programme. It brings together leading universities from eight European member states, all partners in the INGENIUM network. BI4E's core mission is to strengthen these institutions' research and innovation capacities by fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and mutual support.

This approach aims to transform the partner universities, enhance their global competitiveness, and make them more attractive to international talent.

One of BI4E's key objectives is to support the development of young researchers' careers. The project achieves this by fostering high-quality research cooperation, identifying obstacles faced by early-career researchers, and supporting talent attraction and

retention. It also promotes technology transfer, research commercialisation, and entrepreneurship – all crucial aspects for a thriving research environment.

As BI4E reaches its halfway point, having completed 18 of its 36 months and already demonstrating progress in work packages related to these areas, we spoke with Alba Morán to learn about her experience as a young researcher, the challenges she faces, and how she believes the project's objectives and advancements can be useful for young researchers seeking to forge successful careers like hers.

Alberto Espaza Hueto, BI4E Communications and Project Officer, University of Oviedo in conversation with Alba about the BI4E Project...

Alba, could you shed some light on your research project as part of the Biomedicine and Molecular Oncology Ph.D. programme?

My work primarily revolves around exploring the connection between prostate cancer and diabetes. While diabetes is generally a negative prognostic factor in most tumour types, it surprisingly acts inversely in prostate cancer. The molecular reasoning behind this remains unknown. We utilise cellular models and patient samples to delve into the molecular intricacies that could explain this correlation.

Throughout your research journey in the Ph.D. programme, have you had the opportunity to collaborate with researchers from other disciplines or institutions?

Indeed, I have. Our research group frequently collaborates with researchers from hospitals across Asturias and Spain. I also had the privilege of spending six months under the guidance of Dr. Daniel E. Frigo at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. Within my doctoral programme,

I work alongside clinical oncologists and endocrinologists. Our research group at the University of Oviedo, REDOX Biology, has also participated in a European project studying the effects of certain chemicals produced in high-sugar diets. Each group brought their unique expertise to the table, ours being three-dimensional cell culture.

The BI4E project recently launched CONNECT, an AI-powered platform that links researchers with shared interests from different disciplines within the INGENIUM network. How do you envision this platform aiding your research?

Given my research interests, I believe it could be incredibly beneficial. Besides the preclinical research I conduct in the lab, I am deeply committed to scientific outreach. I am particularly intrigued by society's perception of our lab work, especially in oncology and biomedicine. I would love to investigate societal understanding of these fields, but I lack the Social Sciences strategies required for such research. To embark on a project exploring societal understanding of cancer, I would need to collaborate with professionals who approach such studies from a more humanistic perspective. CONNECT could also be useful for researchers at career

crossroads, like myself, who are about to complete their doctoral thesis. For those seeking research groups for a pre-doc or postdoc stage, CONNECT could be a highly valuable platform.

Last December, INGENIUM launched the first call for the formation of joint research groups within the Alliance. The budget is limited, but the aim is to foster the initial steps of new research projects. If you were to apply for a future edition of this programme, what aspects of the call would be most significant to you?

Calls of this nature can be extremely useful if they clearly communicate that they expect researchers to present a proposal or a pilot experiment, not to execute a complete project with a limited four-year budget. A preliminary result that encourages the continuation of the project with additional funding would be ideal.

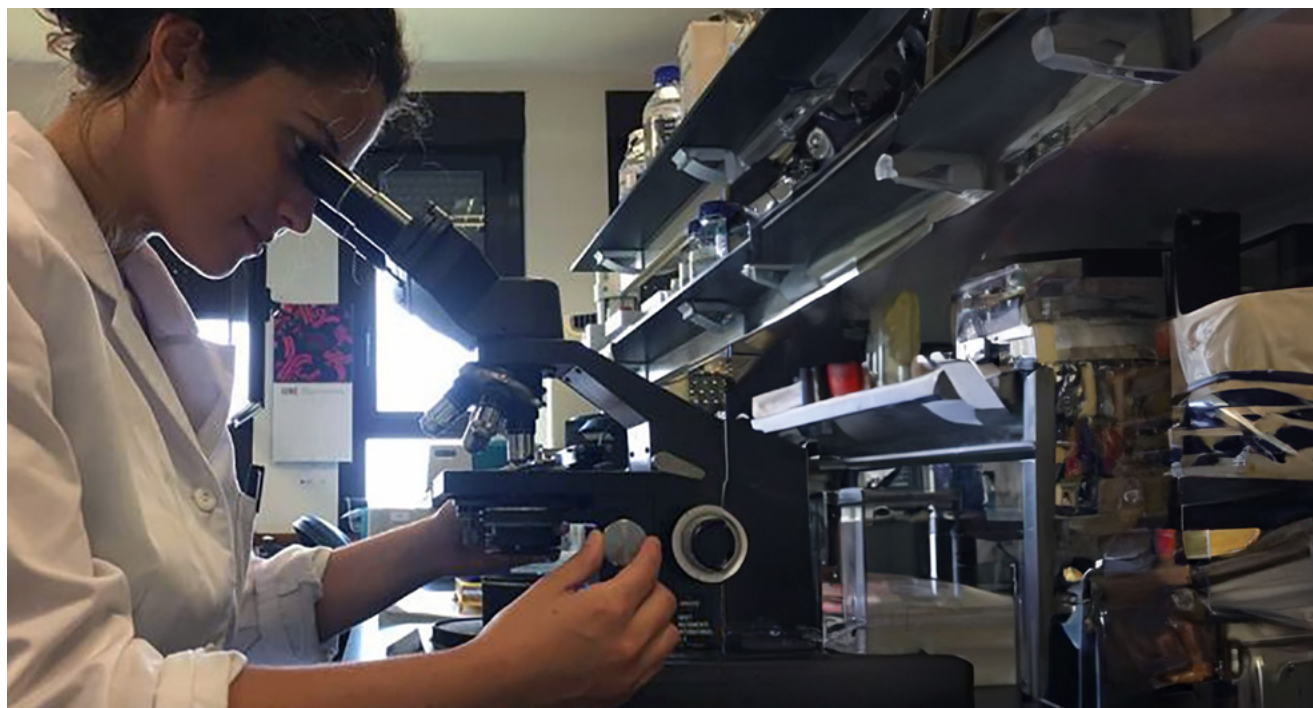
Besides facilitating research collaboration, another challenge of Boosting INGENIUM for Excellence is to identify barriers to attracting and retaining young researchers' talent in the European context. What have been your greatest challenges or frustrations in your case?

Precariousness, inevitable periods of unemployment, and the necessity to continue working during those periods of unemployment pose significant challenges. Pursuing a research career requires continuous progress and results production, even during periods of unemployment or instability, making it difficult to sustain it.

As life progresses, there are economic needs that must be met, regardless of one's passion for their job as a researcher. If you remain in academia, precariousness and slow hiring processes make it challenging for researchers to stay. Additionally, the excessive administrative workload detracts from research time. In the private sector, research centres offer a more attractive economic package, facilitating professional continuity or growth. Ultimately, one must truly value working in the public sector to remain in academia under these conditions.

Despite these challenges, would you choose to remain in academia?

Yes, I would. I am passionate about teaching. I relish the opportunity to share our lab research with students and inspire vocations. Having been educated in a public university, I feel a sense of obligation to give back to the community. A few months ago, BI4E conducted a [study on incentives and obstacles to academic careers](#). The study found that researchers at partner universities generally value their work but desire improvements in workload, work-life balance, and professional development opportunities.



What changes would make an academic career at the university more appealing to you?

Firstly, administrative procedures need to be streamlined. It should be easier for us to process invoices for the products we purchase, justify projects, or input our CVs into grant or aid application program interfaces. It's unreasonable to expect us to maintain 14 different CV formats depending on the situation, without a standard format. These minor issues consume a significant amount of our time.

Secondly, mechanisms need to be implemented to oversee the work of research support personnel to ensure that everyone fulfils their part, both the researcher in the lab and the technician in a facility. Sometimes, you encounter facilities that function exceptionally well, while others struggle to get off the ground, resulting in wasted resources that cannot be converted into results.

Perhaps another priority would be to improve working conditions through reconciliation or salary offerings. If there's limited scope for reconciliation or telecommuting, at least the pay should be commensurate.

In terms of professional guidance, what kind of professional support do you believe researchers like you require at this stage of your career?

Primarily, contacts. I have been fortunate to leverage my professors and the scientists I have worked with within the lab, but it requires extraordinary outgoingness and proactivity to achieve that, to take the initiative. Unlike private education, public education often lacks pre-existing networking.

BI4E is also working on improving mechanisms for technology transfer and commercialisation of research results. Have you ever considered the potential commercial applications of your research?

My research investigates a stage so preliminary to clinical practice that I currently don't foresee a direct application through a patent. My research promotes knowledge upon which others can then base strategies for patents.

However, I am intrigued by the commercial challenge and entrepreneurial aspect, and I have experienced it firsthand because a spin-off was developed in our lab. This company analyses how free radicals affect health and develops technology to measure these free radicals in biological samples.

Do you believe universities generally facilitate the creation of companies and spin-offs?

No, perhaps because there aren't as many people linked to the business world who are also in academia, and that's a shame because most of our students will work in the industry, not in academia, and it's crucial to bridge these worlds. Sometimes, in academia, researchers have perfect ideas to patent that can work, but logically, they lack knowledge about marketing or how to communicate or sell them because that's not their area of expertise. Why isn't there agile legal or financial advisory to which you can turn? Why isn't there a well-functioning, competitive, university-affiliated business incubator? The absence of an easy structure to turn to when someone wants to start a spin-off and having to outsource it is counterintuitive if the goal is to encourage entrepreneurship.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE BI4E PROJECT:

Universitatea tehnica gheorghe asachi din iasi
lead partner, tuiasi (ro) – ROMANIA

Universidad de oviedo (es), UNIOVI – SPAIN

Hochschule karlsruhe (de), HKA – GERMANY

Universita delgi studi gabriele d’annunzio di
chietipescara (it), UDA – ITALY

Medical university of sofia (bg), MUS – BULGARIA

Universite de rouen normandie (fr),

URN – FRANCE

Munster technology university (ie),

MTU – IRELAND

Hogskolan i skovde (se), HIS – SWEDEN

The two other partners – the south-eastern Finland
university of applied sciences (XAMK) and the
university of Crete, Greece (UOC) make up the
ten INGENIUM partners.

MTU AND IT'S LEAD IN BI4E

MTU has a proven track record in supporting Technology Transfer,
Innovation and Entrepreneurship development. MTU's Innovation
and Enterprise Office is leading the BI4E project's work on
Entrepreneurial Universities: Best Practice in Technology Transfer and
Commercialisation (including Staff Entrepreneurship by way of Spin-
Offs) And also is leading out on the work for the INGENIUM European
University with Entrepreneurial INGENIUM.

MTU recently published the **Entrepreneurship in the University
Environment ebooklet** – a compilation of success stories in University
entrepreneurship and innovation among the BI4E partners.

You can find out further details
email: kyra.dunne@mtu.ie

You can find out further details
email: INGENIUM@mtu.ie

Meet the MTU BI4E WP5 Team:



John McAleer
EU PROJECTS CONSULTANT



Kyra Dunne
MTU BI4E PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR



Josette O'Mullane
MTU INNOVATION AND
ENTERPRISE MANAGER



Glór Society Interview

Jane O'Donovan Cowhey

Q

Can you tell me about your society (what activities you do, how often you meet, etc.)?

Glór usually consists of weekly rehearsals. Around times where we have concerts or competitions, we usually have more rehearsals both as a whole choir and as sections to practice for whatever event we will be singing at. Glór also has a great social scene though as well, with a lot of fun social events planned and the choir spends a lot of time together outside of rehearsals.

Q

Why did you decide to join?

I decided to join on the advice of a friend who was already in the choir. I was already heavily involved in music and had gone to music lessons for years in the Cork School of Music already. Glór really appealed to me as it was a fun, engaging and social way to get involved in performing music. I had also heard about their huge win of the title of Ireland's Choir of the Year and realised that it would be an amazing experience to take part in a choir of that level of talent.

Q

What do you think is special about this society?

This choir is a really close-knit group of people who really care about the choir and everyone who is in it. The committee do an absolutely amazing job of organising amazing events for us to take part in, organising all our music and what pieces we learn, while also ensuring rehearsals go smoothly and everyone has a good time. They also organised our amazing trip away to Vienna which made this year in Glór so special. It is a really relaxed and fun atmosphere, yet everyone is very driven to do their best and to perform well both for themselves and for the choir as a whole.

Q

Why should students join your society?

It is a fantastic way to make new friends who are also interested in music. It's a really enriching experience, a nice time during the week to forget about study or college work and get surrounded by music. It also opens up opportunities to sing in fantastic concerts, competitions, or even go abroad as a group.





Q

Tell us about your Vienna concert?

The concert took place in Klosterneuberg Abbey, just outside the edge of the city. We performed for a sold-out audience of 150 people, and the performance was also recorded and then the whole concert was broadcast on the radio in Vienna on St. Patrick's Day. It was an unreal experience, everyone in the choir worked so hard to ensure that we sounded good and the hard work that we had put in for the previous months paid off so well. Everyone was able to relax and enjoy performing and everyone had an amazing time. The committee had put in so much hard work for so long in trying to not only ensure the performance went well, but in trying to get the choir to Vienna in the first place, so it was so rewarding for everyone that the work that had been put in paid off so well. It was a truly unforgettable experience.

Q

Can you tell us about your society's proudest achievement?

Last year, Glór won Ireland's Choir of the Year at the Cork International Choral Festival, which was a huge achievement for a college choral society. The trip to Vienna was also a huge achievement for the choir. The fact that the choir was able to make it to Vienna was all due to the hard work of the committee in fundraising and organising. The fact that the performances were a huge success just added to how much of an achievement the trip to Vienna was.

This year we have also been invited to take part in the Fleischmann International Trophy Competition at the Cork International Choral Festival, which is a huge deal for the choir. The year at the MTU Societies Awards, Glór won awards for Society of the Year, Supreme Event, and our Chairperson, Lucy O'Dwyer won an Individual Award. These awards meant so much to us, and it was really rewarding to see the hard work put in reflected in the awards won.

Q

Tell us why you love being a part of the Glór Choral Society?

I have made so many new friends this year who I got to spend time with doing what we all love which is performing music. The trip to Vienna was one of the most fun weekends ever and I'll never forget it. I always look forward to Glór rehearsals, not only is the music so much fun to take part in, but the people are so lovely and so much fun.

Q

What is the best way for students to get in contact with you?

Instagram [@MTU_GLORCHOIR_CORK](https://www.instagram.com/MTU_GLORCHOIR_CORK)



Student Societies Awards



Kicking things off with our own Societies Awards, which took place on the 20th March in the Student Centre. We would like to thank all the societies who came to the ceremony and celebrated another wonderful year of societies in MTU.

"On behalf of Student Services, and all of us here to say thank you to all of you for filling each building here and so many other buildings across our expanding campuses with life after 6 o'clock, and with energy and enthusiasm." Said Keith Ricken, Head of Student Services during the Awards Ceremony.

We were delighted to congratulate the following Individuals in their victories on the night:

NATHAN MURPHY – BEST PICTURE

Civil & Structural Engineering Society

HEATHER MCCARTHY

– BEST FRESHER & BEST POSTER

Anime & Manga Society

ALAN O'SULLIVAN – INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Formula Student Society

BEN MCCARTHY – INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Chess, Guild Gaming & Sci-Fi Society

EOIN BOURKE – INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Anime & Manga Society

HANNAH SIMMONS – INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Anime & Manga Society

LUCY O'DWYER – INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Glór Choral Society

RACHAEL NÍ SHEARCAIGH – INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Cumann Gaelach Society

ZUZANNA GAWALKO – INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Civil & Structural Engineering Society

MICHELLE BUTLER

– SUPREME INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Dance Society

TAYLOR-ANN ROCHE

– SUPREME CONTRIBUTION AWARD

Sci-Fi Society

We were also delighted to present the following Societies their awards:

FORMULA STUDENT SOCIETY

– BEST NEW SOCIETY

DESIGN & MEDIA SOCIETY

– BEST SMALL EVENT & MOST IMPROVED SOCIETY

ANIME & MANGA SOCIETY

– RÍSAM UILE AWARD

CIVIL & STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING SOCIETY

– BEST ACADEMIC SOCIETY

GLÓR CHORAL SOCIETY

– SUPREME EVENT & SOCIETY OF THE YEAR

The work didn't stop there however, as many of our award winners elected to proceed to the next stages, The Board of Irish Colleges Societies (BICS) Awards, which took place in the Clayton Hotel, Galway on the 11th April.



IMAGE 1
Formula

IMAGE 2
Civil

IMAGE 3
Glór

We were delighted to enter 11 categories this year at BICS! Representing the MTU Cork Campuses at BICS this year were:

GLÓR CHORAL SOCIETY – BEST SOCIETY (ACADEMIC/ CULTURAL/SOCIAL) & BEST EVENT // CIVIL & STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING SOCIETY – BEST SOCIETY (DEPARTMENTAL) // DESIGN & MEDIA SOCIETY – MOST IMPROVED SOCIETY // FORMULA STUDENT SOCIETY – BEST NEW SOCIETY // ANIME & MANGA SOCIETY – BEST INTERVARSITY (COSPLAY INTERVARSITY) // SCI-FI SOCIETY – BEST MENTAL HEALTH EVENT // LUCY O'DWYER – BEST INDIVIDUAL // HEATHER MCCARTHY – BEST FRESHER & BEST POSTER // NATHAN MURPHY – BEST PICTURE

The Societies and Individuals spent the 2 weeks over Easter break working tirelessly on their applications & portfolios, attending workshops (ran by Societies Intern Kelley & MTU Alumni Megan Cronin), and preparing for their interviews. The gang then headed up to Galway in the early morning on Thursday 11th April, where they each attended their respected interviews with a panel of judges from all over Ireland. Afterwards, they all attended the Peer-to-Peer Session, where they got the opportunity to meet and network with other societies from other colleges around Ireland.

Afterwards, it was time to glam up for the 2024 BICS Awards Ceremony! We are so thrilled to announce that MTU Cork took home 3 awards this year! Formula Student Society won Best New Society (Small College), Civil & Structural Engineering Society won Best Society

(Departmental) (Small College) and Glór Choral Society won Best Society (Academic/Cultural/Social) (Small College).

We are so incredible proud of our societies for taking home the most awards MTU Societies Cork has won in recent years!

"We just want to thank everyone here tonight, for putting so much effort in and making this great event happen. Thank you to the adjudicators and officials, everyone in MTU and the Societies Office!" Said Shannon Hegarty during Glór's acceptance speech.

As always, MTU Cork was praised for our high quality of work, with many other colleges congratulating us on a spectacular year of Societies. We are so proud of every student that represented us brilliantly up in Galway. Our victories up at BICS are a true testament to the work that you all put into your Societies, and we couldn't be happier that you are all MTU Students!

The Societies Office would like to thank all our Societies here in MTU Cork. You are all the life and soul of the university, fostering communities and enhances the 3rd-level experience for all our students. We would also like to thank the Societies Board members for all their work that they do to support societies throughout the year. We are MTU Societies Cork – and we are all winners!



Flynnner's Flying Column

| James Flynn

The implementation of the Deposit Return Scheme on February 1st, 2024, has revealed that several million euros worth of deposits have been missed by consumers who have failed to return their bottles and cans. Understandably, it took some time for businesses to adjust to the new system. Reports of malfunctioning recycling machines surfaced, and some people expressed dissatisfaction with the seemingly small deposit amounts of 15 to 25 cents. Moreover, there's the undeniable truth that laziness sometimes prevails when it comes to recycling. After all, what's a few cents, right? However, when those few cents add up, the average number of bottles and cans one recycles can easily cover the cost of a packet of biscuits—perfect for relaxing over a cup of tea in the evening. This alone is a compelling reason not to dismiss the scheme.

Furthermore, with Diageo and Heineken Ireland announcing price increases from mid-April, putting further pressure on the already strained pub sector, consumers might appreciate the extra change in their wallets. This could save them a significant amount of money in the long run, especially after a night out. For many students, this could make a substantial difference.

Using Moloko's classic House anthem 'Sing It Back' (1999) as the campaign tune across TV, radio, and social media was a clever move. However, perhaps it's time to recall Moloko's earlier hit, 'The Time Is Now' from 1996, and sing that tune to remind everyone to wake up to the moment.

THE FULL MUNSTER DERE...

On a lighter note, imagine adding a bit of Taylor Swift to the curriculum at MTU-Cork. While it might sound unusual, it's exactly what's happening at Harvard. Recently, I watched a report on RTÉ News about Harvard University offering a course titled

'Taylor Swift And Her World'. Despite initial misconceptions, this is actually a challenging course, partially an English class, where students study works by literary figures like Alexander Pope, Sappho, and Willa Cather alongside Swift's songs.

This course, taught by English Professor Stephanie Burt, has gained significant attention. Weekly writing assignments and three longer-form essays throughout the course are part of the curriculum. The classes involve analyzing Swift's songs alongside literary works throughout history. The course has garnered increased interest, especially after a Harvard student and self-proclaimed Swiftie, Mary Catherine Hanafée LePlante, posted a typical class on TikTok, earning over 1.1 million views.

The course not only explores Swift's music but also delves into the qualities that have made her such a dominant figure in pop culture. Swift has become an icon for feminism, equality, and mental health awareness, particularly from a female perspective. By studying Swift, students learn about determination, resilience, and the importance of validating their feelings, especially from a woman's point of view.

The course has sparked students' interest in various literary and musical works they might not have considered before. Ms. LePlante believes that introducing modern artists and cultural figures into academic contexts could be highly beneficial. Several other universities, notably in Texas and Arizona, have already followed Harvard's lead.

This would actually be a great idea if MTU-Cork might at least consider introducing Taylor Swift or similar artists and figures into the list of courses to come. The Institute has also done great work from the Societies to the Support Bodies regarding the various issues that Tay-Tay represents

through her work, and its Schools of Music and Art are certainly not in short musical and artistic supply. Now if such classes became reality, it would have the potential to supercharge all this into a new awareness and enlightenment that would involve everybody in the University from lecturers to students, and the knock-on effects can only be positive. Such proactivity will never go out of style!

You can follow the links below:

What is it like to study 'Taylor Swift and Her World'? ([rte.ie](https://www.rte.ie))

TikTok: [@MaryCatherine78](https://www.tiktok.com/@MaryCatherine78)

FINALLY, ON A LIGHTER NOTE

let's not forget the old saying about oak and ash trees predicting the weather: "If the Oak is out before the Ash, then be ready for a splash. If the Ash is out before the Oak, then be ready for a soak." Last summer was a washout, and the winter was wet and miserable. Hopefully, this year, the Mountain Ash tree, with its promise of white flowers in summer and red berries by August, will be the first to bloom, bringing us sunshine instead of rain. Just a thought!



MTU Prize for Innovation, 2024 Winners

EXPLICIT MAG

The Prize for Innovation 2024 saw an impressive record number of 65 applications consisting of over 200 students across both Cork and Kerry MTU campuses. Each year, the competition showcases an impressive array of innovative and creative projects from students across all disciplines, with some ideas done in conjunction with module work, while others are completed in the students' own time.

This year, the Rubicon Centre, with sponsorship from the Local Enterprise Office Cork, awarded a total of €14,600 across 14 different competitive categories, which celebrated titles such as Best Social Enterprise, Best Concept, Most Positive Environmental Impact, and many many more.

MTU ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

Spinsure, 3rd Year Biomedical and Mechanical Engineering

THEIR IDEA:

A device designed to test the on-set of scoliosis and does so non-invasively. Its aim is to combat long waiting lists and reduce the number of expensive surgeries each year.

BEST CONCEPT WINNER & BEST STAND

ScrewSaver, 3rd Year Biomedical and Mechanical Engineering and 4th Year Marketing

THE IDEA:

ScrewSaver is a screwdriver designed to make dental implants safer and more convenient.

BEST MARKET / BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

MyNoteNarrator, 4th Year Computer Science and Software Development

THE IDEA:

MyNoteNarrator uses AI software to summarise students notes in various forms, and outputs them as a podcast for the student to be able to listen to and revise from.

BEST SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

An Teach Glas, 3rd Year, BA Home Economics and Business

THE IDEA:

A food delivery and recipe service for second level Home Economics classes. The aim is to take pressure off parents buying last minute ingredients and is more sustainable in the long run.

BEST PITCH

Brownie Bán, 3rd Year Food Business Innovation

THE IDEA:

A white chocolate and raspberry brownie that is unique to the Irish market.

MOST POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ReThread Designs, 4th Year Marketing

THE IDEA:

A company that repurposes clothing that is no longer wanted, with the help of AI.

MOST POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Syncup, 3rd Year Biomedical Engineering

THE IDEA:

A menstrual cup enhanced with smart technology and a unique one-way valve, that helps the user stay aware of their flow rate and reduces the risk of toxic shock syndrome.



MOST POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Earthly Eats, Year 3 Home Economics and Business

THE IDEA:

Vegetable cakes that explore ingredients that are non-traditional in the Irish cakes market, such as courgette and beetroot. They also utilise the wonky and/or discoloured vegetables that cannot be sold in the market.

BEST VIDEO SHOWN ON DAY

Baelin, Biomedical and Mechanical Engineering

THE IDEA:

A revolutionary way for farmers to handle silage, while livestock and the environment.

BEST VIDEO SHOWN ON DAY

Léigh, 1st Year Marketing

THE IDEA:

An E-Reader akin to a kindle that is specifically designed for assisting visually impaired students.

BEST DESIGN

LPG (Lumbar Puncture Guide), 3rd Year Biomedical Engineering

THE IDEA:

A non-invasive lumbar puncture medical device, that would reduce the need to use intense radiation procedures while limiting the number of re-tests.

BEST PROTOTYPE

OptiScan 360, 3rd Year Biomedical Engineering

THE IDEA:

Smart glasses used to detect strabismus, especially in children, by tracking eye movement and will help with early-stage detection and reducing surgeries.

BEST PROTOTYPE

Safeguard Pro, 3rd Year Biomedical and Mechanical Engineering

THE IDEA:

A novel forklift safety device that enhances the safe operations of forklifts in the workforce.

We are thrilled to say that a number of these projects have placed in the top 50 of Enterprise Ireland's Student Entrepreneurship Awards, 2024. It's safe to say that the future of innovation and entrepreneurship in MTU is bright! Well done to all participants.

Thinking of travelling? Things to consider...

DO I NEED TO GET VACCINATED?

Confirm immunity to measles – due to the world-wide outbreak of measles it is important to ensure that you have immunity – 2 confirmed doses of MMR vaccine or history of measles.

MMR vaccine Catch-up Programme – HSE.ie

Check out “Fit for Travel” website to review specific vaccines recommended for your destination and malarial zones. If possible, book an appointment at a travel health centre at least 6-8 weeks prior to travel. Home – Fit for Travel

REVIEW DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION ON SAFETY AND SECURITY ISSUES AND SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS.

DFA – Department of Foreign Affairs

Consider getting comprehensive travel insurance.

DO YOU HAVE AN UNDERLYING CHRONIC MEDICAL ISSUE?

Consider booking an appointment with your GP to ensure fitness to travel and that you have an adequate supply of medication.

TO STAY HEALTHY AND SAFE WHEN TRAVELLING:

- Remember to practice good respiratory and hand hygiene.
- Practice safe food and water precautions.
- Avoid insect and animal bites.
- Practice safe sex, always use condoms.
- Practice sun safety – avoid sun exposure between 11am and 3pm; wide brimmed hat, sunglasses; use sunscreen properly.
- Be aware of passport safety tips and replacement process in event of being lost or stolen.
- Be aware of how to access help and services from the Irish government when abroad.

If you have any questions regarding Travel, you can schedule an appointment at MTU Medical centre or Grand Parade Medical Practice.