



2018/2019

# Community Engagement



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## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Ulster University actively seeks to build and engage in sustainable partnerships with the primary aim of positively influencing individuals and communities across the region through encouraging achievement, recognising success and improving educational attainment.**

This year we celebrated the 30-year partnership of the Science Shop between Ulster University and Queens University Belfast, supporting staff and students from both institutions to engage in action-based research projects put forward by community and voluntary partners.

We introduced the Civic Ambassador Scheme for Ulster staff to access widening access monies to support community engagement and school partnership activity.

The department also launched and appointed 13 Community Fellows to ensure that the community needs and voices continue to be heard by the University. The Community Fellows

represent the University in all of our local district council areas. Acting as Companions the Fellows deliver presentations and workshops, participant in community based forums and celebrate talent, to increase the visibility and shared understanding of the University's impact at a local level, while strengthening our civic networks across Northern Ireland

This Annual Review records the wide range of activities the team have engaged in 2018-2019.

If you require any further information on these activities, please contact [community@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:community@ulster.ac.uk)

Claire Mulrone  
Community Engagement Manager



# Science Shop 30th Anniversary


The Science Shop in Northern Ireland is a joint initiative between Ulster University and Queen's University Belfast and have celebrated a thirty year partnership.

This high impact partnership between the two institutions, has been successful in continuing to support the community and voluntary sector, with one joint access point to the knowledge base and rich dynamic resources, which exist across two of the Universities in Northern Ireland.

The Science Shop provides a platform for a mutually beneficial partnership between the University and the community and voluntary sector,

whereby community partners propose research ideas that undergraduate or postgraduate students complete as course work.

The Northern Ireland Science Shop is member of the Living Knowledge Network the International Network for Science Shops.

 **707**  
Students  
undertook  
projects

 **74**  
Community  
Partners

 **191**  
Science Shop  
projects  
completed

**429** Jordanstown  
**217** Magee  
**39** Coleraine  
**32** Belfast

 **Annual Science Shop  
Awards - Prize fund  
£1000 won by  
Communication and  
Conselling Students**





# Social Justice Hub

As part of Ulster University's commitment to civic society in Northern Ireland, the legal talents of our student body are mobilised, through staff governance, to meet the needs of community-based clients, illustrating the commitment of increasing access to justice for the public.

University staff and students work with the Law Centre (NI), Foyle Women's Aid, Citizen's Advice Bureau and the Labour Relations Agency to provide advice and support in the fields of employment, social security and family law.

Providing the 'law clinic' as a civic gateway, Ulster University's School of Law strives to:

- Deliver a mission to 'enhance effective participation', a core element of the 'fair trial' right guaranteed by international human rights law.
- Supervise undergraduate and post-graduate students to support community-based clinical activity with 'Real People, Real Problems, in Real Time'.



# Diversity through Education

Ulster University's Belfast Campus has hosted the Joint Education Conference held in partnership with the Association of Bulgarian Culture & Education and Engineers Ireland.

The focus of the educational event is to support pupils, parents and educators, from ethnic backgrounds, including different language supplementary schools in Northern Ireland. The theme of the conference was 'Diversity through education is key to success' and its strategic objective is to provide access information to all levels of education in Northern Ireland.

This event explores and explains Northern Ireland's education systems, covering issues from

transfer tests to choosing subjects at GCSE and A Level, routes to FE/HE including a session on the Skills Barometer and accessing engineering at University level, and the requirements for this. Key Speakers included educators within Early Years, Principals from both Primary and Post Primary and Special Education, alongside University academics and Head of Admissions, providing a rich environment for parents and young people to discuss and ask questions to the areas of interest to them.





A group of four people (three men and one woman) are standing in a large, empty stadium. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The stadium seating is visible in the background, and the floor appears to be a light-colored surface, possibly ice or a temporary floor.

# Project Social

Interactive Media student's complete compulsory interactive media projects with Science Shop community partners/clients. The range and impact of the student projects for Science Shop partners can be viewed on [www.project-social.co.uk](http://www.project-social.co.uk)

The projects on this website are indicative of the eleven-year partnership between Interactive Media students at Ulster University and Science Shop community partners. This work engages students in a collaborative learning process simulating Interactive Media industry practices.

The Science Shop provides an invaluable learning experience, an opportunity for students to develop materials for their professional design portfolios while meeting unmet Interactive Media needs for the

community and voluntary partners across Northern Ireland.

This year's students worked with Belfast Giants, Endeavour, Badminton NI, #123GP, Carers NI, Foyle Search and Rescue, Kidz Club Ballymoney, SAFER, Tollymore National Outdoor Centre


*Project Social was shortlisted for Irish Education Outreach Award 2019 and won Ulster University Distinguished Education Excellence Award.*

# Unblocking Potential

'Unblocking Potential' is a module, which provides participants with an opportunity to return to education.

The module is flexible in that it can take place over a twelve-week period, one evening per week or in a way, that suits most of the class. It is for many, the first step towards entering into third level education. 'Unblocking Potential' is unique, in that it provides the student, with an opportunity as part of the course to reflect on their previous experiences of learning.

The course content and class activities allow the student to identify their learning strengths and weaknesses. In doing so, students identify how they learn and how they can best manage their time to enter into third level education.

A close-up shot of a young woman with short brown hair, wearing large orange headphones, looking down at a laptop screen. She is sitting at a desk with various items like a water bottle and papers. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in a classroom or workshop setting.

// This course has given me the opportunity to go on to do third level education. I left school with no qualifications, I disliked school, and I believed what I was told, that I would never amount to very much.

//  
**Sarah Anne**  
a former student of the 'Unblocking Potential' course



# Access to Education Photography Competition

As part of the University Access Plan we are committed to supporting the wellbeing and educational attainment of communities who traditionally would not have direct access to Higher Education.

We launched our first Access to Education Photography Competition, partnering with PwC Belfast and supported by Belfast City Council, where entrants were invited from across Northern Ireland to Celebrate Life and Learning in Belfast City.

Photographs from our shortlisted entrants celebrated:

- Positive Mental Health,
- History and Heritage,
- Sport for Life,
- Health Innovation and Policy
- Ageing



Belfast  
City Council





# The FINAL

Photographs from the Access to Education Photography Competition final at the Belfast Campus.

Pictured below (L-R) Professor Raffaella Folli, Hayden Walsh, Professor Alastair Adair and Clare Kennedy, Director at PWC Belfast.





# Ceramics First Step

## Reaching into the local communities of North and West Belfast

The Ceramics First Step workshops delivered by Michael Moore, Reader, Fine and Applied Arts, Ceramics, from Ulster University's Belfast School of Art and Eimear O'Caoilte, the Duncairn Centre for Culture and the Arts Artist in Residence, and a graduate of Ceramics at Belfast School of Art. In collaboration with Ulster University, the

Duncairn Centre for Arts and Culture welcomed participants from across Belfast.

Ulster University's Belfast campus was the proud host of all the inspiring artwork, produced by contributors who enjoyed engaging in creative practice, using materials within the discipline of ceramics.



# One City, One Story

## Celebrate World Book Day with Schools and Community

Ulster University joined with children, parents and carers from integrated, controlled and maintained primary schools in the North West in launching the 'One City, One Story' reading project on World Book Day.

Aimed at increasing literacy skills for adults and children together, the initiative, which focused around R.J. Palacio's novel Wonder, promoted messages of resilience, kindness and acceptance through active learning activities within a school and community setting.





# ACE Celebrations

## Supporting Local Charities through Fundraising at Ulster University's Magee Campus

**211** students from Ulster Business School at Magee campus engaged in Science Shop projects with six community partners completing needs lead research for partners in the City.

Enhancement Module (ACE) designed to support students to transition into higher education and in getting to know their campus and the city, carry out fundraising activities for local charities.

The Business students in partnerships with Ulster's Science Shop undertake an Academic and Career

Over the past five years, Students have raised a phenomenal £60,000.



Working with the students from the Ulster University Science Shop over the past few years have been very helpful for us here at Foyle Hospice. We have engaged with the students through various fundraising initiatives from planning, implementing and delivering their events.



Noel McMonagle,  
Community Fundraising Manager,  
Foyle Hospice



# Architecture

12 Undergraduate students engaged in two projects through Science Shop partners in North Belfast capturing both drawings and architectural models for the Cavehill, Limestone and Shore Road cultural and historical route and the development of plans for the St Patricks church in Sailortown.





# Care Experienced Students

Ulster University encourages applications from students from a care background and will advise those young people who have been looked after by their local authority either in foster or residential care.

If you are leaving care, or have previously spent time in care for three months or more, and are thinking of applying to the University, there are a range of services and provision that Ulster University can offer you.

For example, we may be able to provide financial support, year round accommodation, and advice and guidance from our Community Outreach Officer. Those full-time undergraduates who meet the above criteria are eligible for £1,000 care leavers' bursary per year whilst studying at Ulster University.

//

Very happy to have graduated and secured a full time job. Thanks for all the help and support, much appreciated

//

//

Thank you so much for the support over the last 4 years. I just started a graduate leadership programme through Ulster University

//

# The Songbirds

The Inspired study (Individual Specific Reminiscence in Dementia) was led by Professor Ryan from the School of Nursing. Dr Claire McCauley was the Lead Research Associate on the study which was completed in 2018.

After hearing a conference presentation on the study, Guy LeJeune, Theatre Artist in Residence (An Grianán Theatre, Donegal) expressed an interest in writing a play to reflect the real-life stories of individuals living with dementia and their families. The InspiredD team provided information about the proposed play to study participants and facilitated introductions for those interested in collaborating with Mr LeJeune. This collaboration and the reminiscences of people living with dementia and their carers culminated in 'The Songbirds', a piece of drama that captures the shared journey and resilience of people living with dementia in a respectful, educational and honest way.

'The Songbirds' is a play about memory, about humanity, about love and life. It is also a play that celebrates the lives and stories, and the multitude of ways the diagnosis has been navigated. Its ultimate aim is to increase public awareness and understanding of a life with dementia and to challenge the stigma and

attitudes associated with the word 'dementia'. To this end, it has been written to appeal to a broad audience ranging from post primary school children upwards.

'The Songbirds' is an aspiration and awareness raising drama piece, informed by people living with dementia who participated in an Ulster University research study on reminiscence. The piece reflects the voices and stories of people living with dementia with the aim of impacting public awareness and understanding of a life with dementia.

Student groups will be provided with an invaluable opportunity to self-reflect and challenge their perspectives and attitudes towards people living with dementia in our society. The increased understanding and awareness will facilitate a more inclusive environment for people living with dementia within their families, communities and wider society.



# Aspirations and telling tales

Include Youth based in Derry - Londonderry is a regional rights-based charity for young people in or leaving care, from disadvantaged communities or whose rights are not being met to improve their employability and personal development.

Supported by funding through the Centre for Flexible Education and in partnership with colleagues from ADDL, young people aged between 16-21 participated in telling their story through digital storytelling activities, recorded both on campus and through a residential experience.



# Sociology Trip to Windsor Park

Each year the UG first year cohort of students competing the Introduction to Sociology module in partnership with the Science Shop actively engage with sociology in authentic real-world settings and develop a wide range of transferable skills.

The Science Shop facilitated the collaboration between academics and Irish Football Association culminating in a student field trip to the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park in Belfast. The students went on to develop a poster exhibition exploring the innovative programme for young people 'The Game of Three Halves'

Public Relations students from the Jordanstown campus also worked with worked with IFA

PG students worked on writing strategy to support local female football clubs who are run by volunteers to develop their media coverage to increase engagement in the local clubs and leagues

UG students developed strategies for the shooting stars campaign encouraging primary aged children you engage in football

**//** This experience has had a positive impact on my own practice, making me more willing to try out innovative teaching methods and engage in collaborations with partners outside the university.

**//**  
Ciaran Acton,  
Course Director, BSc (Hons) Sociology





# My Laces

The MY LACES (Mentoring Young Looked-after Children with Educational Support) programme, in which Ulster Social Work students help children with a range of activities including numeracy and literacy along with exploring new subjects including sport, computing and engineering, started its second year cohort of students and children.

In March 2018, the program won the NI Social Work Awards Learning and Development Award and was Finalist in the All Ireland Education Awards 2018 and Times Higher Education Awards November 2017.

The transition to post primary school was key for these children, and the children's

social workers indicated that they believed that the programme helped in building the confidence to do so. The success of the program was disseminated at the Regional Pathways to HE and FE Education Forum for Care Experienced Young People which is made up of all partners in the relevant sector.



# Tick the Box



'Tick the Box' is a Fostering network campaign encouraging young people to Tick the box on their UCAS form. we encourages and welcome applications from students who have experienced care and will advise young people who have been looked after by their Local Authority in foster or residential care.

If you are leaving care or have previously spent time in care for three months or more and are thinking of applying to the University, there is a range of services and provision that the University can offer you. Those full-time undergraduate students who meet the criterion are eligible for £1000 Care Leavers Bursary per year whilst studying at Ulster.

If you would like further information, contact us through [community@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:community@ulster.ac.uk) requesting an email or phone number for the Community Outreach Officer.



# Fostering Aspirations

## Summer residential for Care experienced young people aged 14 -17 yrs

In partnership with Fostering Network NI, Ulster University offers an on campus experience to help raise aspirations for our young people in Northern Ireland. Held each July since 2010, participants have enjoyed sessions in a range of courses such as Psychology, Optometry, Food Innovation, Social Work, Law, and Nursing.

Careers Service NI and our own Careers teams have successfully engaged as part of the program, with participants researching skills and qualifications required to get to their career of choice by way of various FE and HE institutions.

By staying 4 nights on University accommodation the young people get to sample student life, which includes budgeting skills, cooking, mixing with others and getting to know their way around campus. Other sessions inform the young people of the student support and wellbeing services that are available to them at Ulster as well as arming them with the financial information required to sustain student life.

In 2019, the tenth year of the residential summer school Ulster University's Chancellor, Dr James Nesbitt met with the young people and discussed their aspirations and career choices for the future.



# Community Big Day Out

Ulster University's Coleraine campus hosted a Community Big Day Out inviting the local community unto campus for a range of fun activities for all the family.

The Big Day Out showcased the fantastic facilities on offer on the Coleraine campus including state-of-the-art sports facilities and the Riverside Theatre. With live music, food, sports and theatre there was something for everyone!

Supported by the Community Engagement team, the local community availed of free transportation to and from the event, funded through Widening Access.





# Santa/Elf Run at Christmas

Participants of MYLACES (Mentoring Young Looked After Children) accompanied by foster carers, parents, siblings and Western Area Trust Social Workers, joined the Community Engagement Staff to partake in a Santa/ Elf run. The event organised by Ulster's residential services was aimed at raising awareness and raising funds for MindYourMood campaign.

# Creative Arts

Through the Science Shop in partnership with the Social Justice Hub on the Magee campus engaged with the staff from the Belfast School of Art, working with BA (Hons) Textile Art, Design and Fashion, MSc in Art Therapy, MFA Design and residents engaged with Foyle Women's Aid (FWA).

Using FWA premises in Derry, survivors of domestic abuse, Ulster staff, students and technician developed an art instillation launched at an Women's Aid International Conference – "From Hurt to Hope" held at Ulster University Magee campus June 2019

Undergraduate Cinematic students from Magee captured the process and through personal interviews recorded the development of the art instillation. This short film was also launched at the "From Hurt to Hope" conference. The film was also short listed at a film festival in Donegal.

Photo right: Alison Gault ,Senior lecturer Belfast School of Art with two workshop participants.



# Care Zone

The Care Zone project which formed as part of the agreed actions emerging from a suicide prevention workshop.

The project was established as a community development pilot to tackle poor mental health and reduce suicide in the Sacred Heart Parish in North Belfast, an area with a high prevalence of mental health issues and high suicide rates.

In 2018 through the Centre for Flexible Education, Community Conversations

Workshops were provided to train Care Zone Community Champions exploring how to facilitate focus groups and techniques listening and recording issues that local residents are experiencing. The photograph captures this first cohort celebrating their achievements at the Belfast Campus.



# Ulster Business School

175 Ulster Business school students from the Jordanstown campus have engaged with Marie Curie and Greater Village Regeneration partnership to completed bespoke business projects.

GVRT explore how best to market a new playing field facility in the heart of the community to local workers and families.

- Examine Marie Curie's marketing collateral to understand who their target market is for fundraising and volunteering, and how they reach this target market.
- Based on this research develop a brand awareness business model that will allow Marie

Curie Northern Ireland to grow its donation base by developing new and engaging target markets.

- Test out your business model by developing and implementing fundraising campaigns to raise brand awareness and test your new markets.
- Evaluate the success of your new business model and identify any areas for improvement.





# Student Placement Experience

## Jenny Lindsay, an Interactive Media Student discusses her experience of being a Placement Student for the Community Engagement team

During my year as a Community Engagement Placement Student, I have worked in a variety of roles. I worked developing the new Science Shop Website. I have also been responsible for developing high quality design material for use by the Community Engagement team and the Centre for Flexible Education, in doing so I used a range of media including digital and print. I have assisted the Community Engagement team by providing photograph and capturing footage at events and designing pins for the Civic Staff Ambassadors.

I have been involved with assisting the University's School's Outreach team at several events. The events I took part in included; 'A Degree of Danger' held in collaboration with Big Telly on Immersive Theatre attended by year 10 and year 11 Students at Coleraine campus; Healthy Heroes Finale including the Elf dash attended

by Primary school pupils at Magee campus; Lego Challenge event attended by Secondary school students at Magee campus; and World Book Day at Currie Primary School Belfast. My role here involved being a mentor to a group of pupils/students during each event.

As part of my placement, I have been very fortunate to have the opportunity to attend many conferences both, internally within the University and externally. These conferences have provided me with new ideas and techniques, introduced me to new people and have represented a fantastic learning opportunity.

I represented Ulster University at the National Equestrian Inter-Varsitys hosted by Trinity College and was on the winning Dressage team. In recognition of our achievement, I was awarded the Half Colours Award at the UUSU Colours Award.



My placement year has provided an invaluable practical learning experience. I have gained essential transferrable practical and technical skills.

