

While considerable investment was required to ensure both the smooth transition of our teaching and functions online, and the preparation of our campus for the safe return of staff and students, we maintained





a strong student recruitment drive. In addition, we successfully validated new programmes and revalidated existing programmes to meet contemporary learning and learner needs. NCI remains in a secure position both academically and financially. COVID-19 did not distract us from our mission 'to change lives through education' and, in this report, you will see many achievements: Education Awards' success, funding secured, award winning papers published, thousands of students happily pursuing their studies, completing assignments, and participating in work placements, fully supported by NCI. NCI also continued to deliver its full programme of Early Learning Initiatives (ELI) with considerable innovation, adapting and modifying to meet ever-increasing and new needs among children and families living in disadvantage.



Foreword by the

Chairman of the

Governing Body

Fr. Leonard Moloney, SJ

National College of Ireland became only the second HEI in Ireland to receive the AsIAm designation of learner-centric environment with a truly valued staff.

an Autism Friendly HEI. This is a matter of some pride to the whole NCI Team and adds to our QStars and Athena SWAN awards of the previous period. Our HR Team succeeded in placing NCI in the Business & Finance Top 100 Companies Leading in Wellbeing, a most remarkable attainment in a very challenging time. NCI remains committed to operate at the highest HEI standards, delivering academic excellence in a The last 12 months brought expertise and experience for us all in online communications, as we taught, learned, strategized, planned, chatted, laughed, and quizzed together online. In particular, our celebrations moved online; most importantly our Graduation ceremonies, which demonstrated the deep respect and

admiration the College has for our graduands and our commitment to their continuing success in career COVID-19 restrictions undoubtedly increased the speed at which we embraced NCI's digital transformation, and this will continue to be a unique and progressive feature of our future pedagogy and student services. Preparing for a return to campus life has very much been our focus in the latter half of this academic

year, while continuing to meet HSE guidance and the strategy of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation, and Science (DFHERIS).

The academic year 2020-21 has been a time of solidarity, adjustment and productivity, giving us much to build on for the year ahead. Be certain of one thing: we will not fail in our mission to change lives through education. Gina Quin,

National College of Ireland's governing body, Executive and staff of the College, led by our President, Gina Quin, have continued to respond with excellence to the needs of our students during the challenge of a global pandemic. The College adapted quickly and professionally, with academic and support teams going

out of their way to ensure that no student was left behind, and HR providing guidance and back-up for employees. The last 12 months have been a time of global uncertainty with the continuing COVID-19 situation. For NCI, this has meant remaining highly flexible and innovative, preparing and implementing plans in response to a changing external environment. To be in this state for so long and continue to deliver on the College's mission 'to change lives through education' is admirable. I want to, once again, compliment the NCI community for its resilience, and the President and Executive team for their leadership and guidance.

Looking back on the past 12 months, the determination not to lose focus on our main mission, 'to change

What is most gratifying about this award, I believe, is that it demonstrates that NCI has successfully developed and the successful developed and ta culture of paying close attention to everyone who comes under its roof. According to the philosopher and novelist Iris Murdoch, who was born in Phibsboro, not very far from the College, attention of this kind serves

lives through education' has been rewarded by external validation, with NCI becoming only the second HEI in Ireland to receive AsIAm's Autism Friendly HEI Award. This award reflects the core ethos of NCI as an access- and student-centric College. It also reflects the immense effort of many people on a College-wide committee, all working together to prioritise the inclusion of autistic students and staff in college life. Also, of course, to ensure that every last student is

to clear our minds of "selfish care", of those "self-centred aims and images" that blind us.

suitably prepared to meet the challenges of the workplace.

School

100%

90%

34%

July 2020

NCI launches a world-first honours

recruitment, developed in

partnership with the National

Recruitment Federation (NRF).

November 2020

Responding to the Government's

increase in Covid restrictions, NCI

ensures that student experience

is centred in the actions the College takes.

of Business

Programmes

46%

Female

13%

Education programmes, and programmes in the School of Business and School of Computing, when

introduced.

"The direction of attention," she wrote "is... outward, away from self" and "the ability so to direct attention is love." It is loving attention of this kind, it seems to me, that the AsIAm award is honouring. NCl's ELI has maintained and extended its remarkable services to children and families living in disadvantage, developing literacy and numeracy and life skills in children, by adapting and innovating its services to deal with all the challenges of the pandemic. ELI continues to be one of the most impactful community outreach services in the field of education. Approaching the end of the Academic Year, the NCI Team turned their attention to reopening the campus under constrained COVID-19 conditions. This followed a year that saw the revalidation of many of our

In a year when the delivery of education and support to students presented significant demands, it is very gratifying to see so much success. We are thankful to be able to positively look forward to College life after COVID-19. It has continued to be a pleasure to work with my fellow Directors on Governing Body and I thank them for their dedication and support.

also new programmes were developed and validated, and when several new services for students were

Fr. Leonard Moloney, SJ Chairman of the Governing Body

NCI AT A GLANCE 2020/21

6354 Students **Postgraduate** of Computing **Education Professional**

Undergraduate

Full-Time

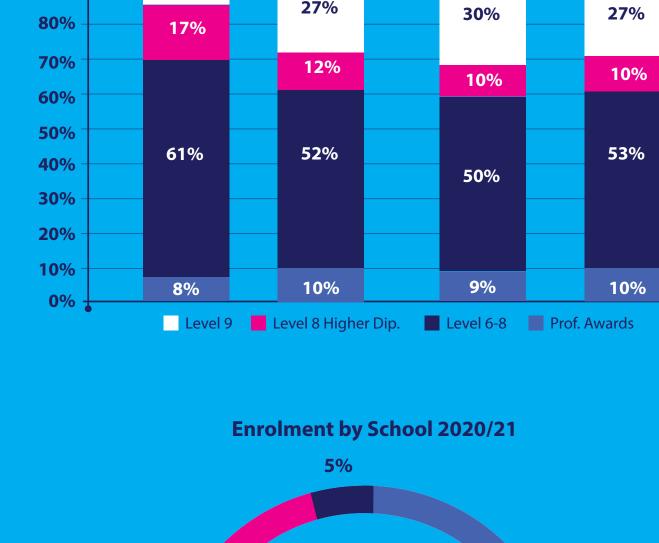
Part-Time

175 mm FT Academic Staff Admin and Support Staff Associate Faculty **Enrolment by NFQ Level**

Nationalities

54%

Male





August 2020

NCI's IFS Apprentices take first prize

in the consortia-led category of the

2020 Generation Apprenticeship

Competition, announced by MFHERIS

Simon Harris, TD.

October 2020 NCI proudly takes part in the

December 2020

The College holds an inclusive,

multi-denominational service to

commemorate family and friends

of NCI staff and students, who

the previous year.

September 2020

National College of Ireland is

thrilled to have earned a Bronze

Athena Swan Award, with specific

acknowledgement of the College's

intersectional approach to EDI.

Revalidated 2

Analytics

World first – validation

degree apprenticeship

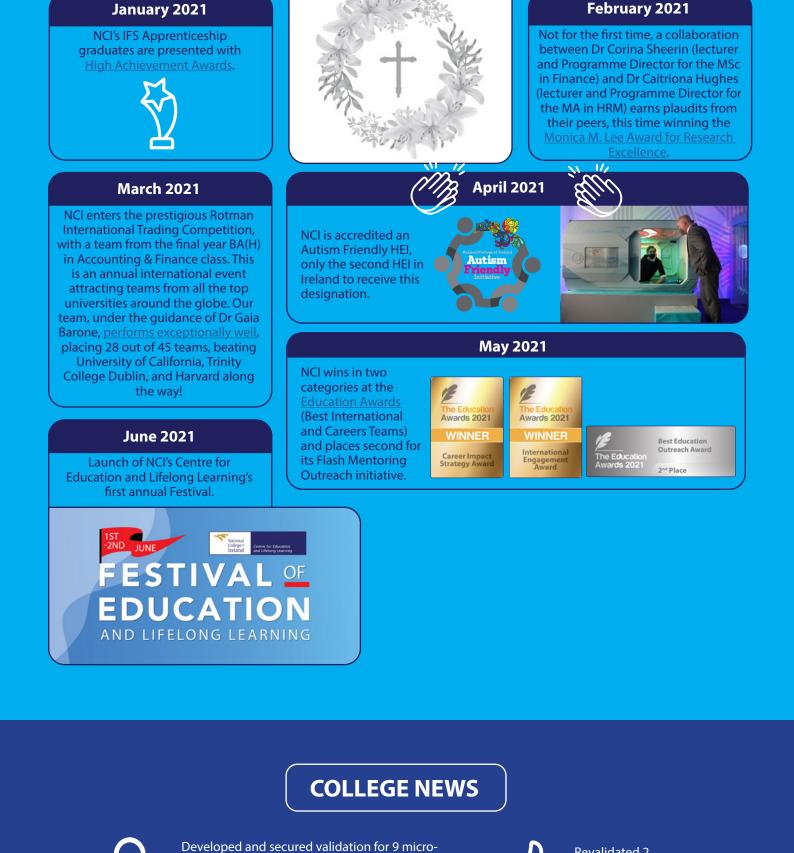
first intake commencing September 2020

of a Level 8 honours

in Recruitment, with

new programmes in the School of

Computing – Data



credential programmes. These are new short online programmes validated by QQI for online

delivery to meet identified needs to learners and industry, including online programmes for

In August, NCI submitted its first Institutional Annual Quality Report (AQR) to QQI - our awarding body, published

on the QQI website as well as on NCI's website. The AQR included nine case studies demonstrating the whole-of-institutional commitment to embrace the challenges of the COVID pandemic to strengthen our digitisation agenda, by building on our expertise in blended and online delivery for teaching, learning, assessment and support services for

President's Awards 2020 - to acknowledge the effort made across the board by all staff at NCI, during a time of global pandemic that demanded so much recalibration and adjustment, in 2020, rather than rewarding a small number of specific projects, President Gina Quin sent a letter of commendation and a gift token to every member of faculty,

April saw NCI recognised as one of the Top 100 Leaders in Wellness by Business & Finance Magazine in association with Ibec. This honour stands testament to the hard work of our HR Team, under the leadership of HR Director, Mary

Dr Horacio González-Vélez, Head of NCI's Cloud Competency Centre, was appointed a Senior Member of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), joining an illustrious body of fellow <u>academics and professionals</u> from

On the first occasion ever that NCI entered the ENEUSE competition (Dublin City LEO) Team At It Again (Celine Moran, Shveta Srivastava, Debratna Dhali, Vishnu Valluri), placed second, winning prizes for themselves and the business that

This year the School of Business recognised the academic achievement of 525 students through the Dean's Honours

All research work is to be applauded, and all NCI staff research and publications for 2020/21 is

This year, we would like to highlight Dr Gerard Loughnane and colleagues published in Nature, a top-ranking journal with

Brosnan, M.B., Sabaroedin, K., Silk, T., Genc, S., Newman, D.P., Loughnane, G.M., Fornito, A., O'Connell, R.G., Bellgrove, M.A. (2020) Evidence accumulation during perceptual decisions in humans varies as a function of dorsal frontoparietal

EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVE

ELI in Numbers:

2020-21 was the year of innovation when we developed hybrid home learning models to supports children and parents in an ever-changing Covid-impacted world.

Stretch Graduate Programme – follow-on support for former ParentChild+ families SFI STEM Family Learning Project in collaboration with NCI's School of Computing Listening Circles for Young People – input into ELI's programmes First QQI accredited professional qualifications in home visiting in partnership with Rethink Ireland and NCI's Centre for Education and Lifelong Learning

INTERNATIONAL

The International Support Team won an award at the Education Awards 2021 for International Engagement. At the ceremony, the judges specifically mentioned how impressed they were with our Welcome Programme and the testimonials from our students on their experience of joining NCI. Moving thousands of miles away from the comforts of home is a daunting task in normal times and even more overwhelming during the uncertainty of a global pandemic. NCI rose to the challenge and has

Overview of NCI International

Student Engagement 2020/2021

Strategic initiatives to help students feel part of the NCI community

mentors to 25 to support

students and events

What the International Students have to say:

"Covid has pretty much-spoiled

everything! But I'm so glad

you guys are making sure the

new students are involved as

much as possible."

To see full International Student Engagement application for the Education Awards click here.

NCISU EXECUTIVE 2019/201

54%

Attendance

per event

80%

Attendance

per event

the year 20/21

Virtual Student Community

Online cultural events for International students

throughout the academic year

Coffee & Chat **Netflix Parties Art Competition**

Instagram Staff & Student Takeovers **Instagram Live Chats**

Nigerian Independence Day

Halloween

Facebook Group

Members: 1.6K

Instagram

Followers: 2,137

"I think the school does an

incredible effort on keeping their

Instagram account updated with

new content almost every day."

NCI Library

[National College

of Ireland Library

College Irelar

gone above and beyond to welcome and support students virtually, since March 2020.

1. Pre-arrival Communications

students transition into

life at NCI and Ireland

11

Students

per event

43

Students

per event

10 15 20

September '20

120 Events

6 Weeks

September '21

62 Events

4 Weeks

3. Social Media

NCI_Int

NCI International Instagram Page

Followers Growth Rate

Engagement

per post

Instagram

Average

"I received full support ranging

from 'welcome to NCI' to

arranging an airport shuttle,

which was very helpful to say

the least."

improving student experience.

Wellness Workshops, Connect Café.

consistently access library materials.

postponed.

5,914 children and young **6,702** parents and extended

167 corporate volunteers

an impact factor in excess of 12. We congratulate Ger and his colleagues on a wonderful publication.

Leanne Kelly, who was awarded the Regional Winner from the island of Ireland in the Psychology

our colleagues in ELI.

Major new programme validated in the Centre for Education and Lifelong Learning - the Level

6 P-TECH Programme (Pathways in Technology),

a unique programme nationally that provides a

Level 6 HE award within the secondary school

environment for students participating in the P-TECH Pilot initiative within the Northeast

Dublin Inner City (NEIC) Area from September

associate faculty, administrative, support and facilities staff.

13 NCI faculty and staff were recognised as 'Teaching Heroes' in 2021.

Dr Colette Darcy, Dean of the School of Business, and lecturer Jonathan Brittain were awarded Honorary Fellowships of the National Recruitment Federation in light of their work on the recently launched BA(H) in Recruitment Practice. This is the first time a fellowship has been awarded to anyone from outside of the

Dr Pramod Pathak, Dean of the School of Computing, was invited to join the

the world's leading universities, research institutions and corporations.

Our students too, performed with excellence this year, including:

2021 onwards

staff and students.

Connelly.

List.

available through **NORMA**.

recruitment industry.

Global Engineering Deans Council, making

category of the Global Undergraduate Awards.

benefited from their application of Data Analytics.

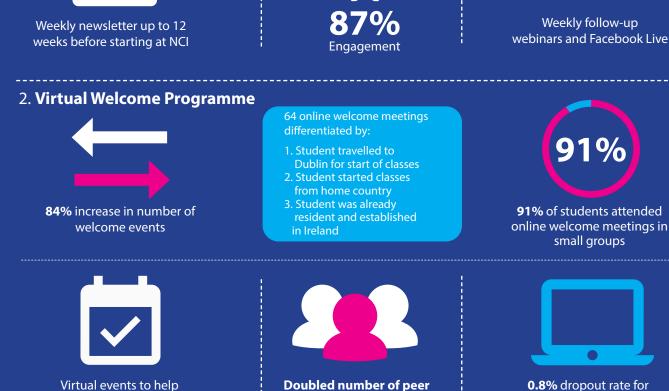
Project Showcase Winners 2021, can be viewed <u>here</u>.

organization Nature Human Behaviour (link), 4 (8), pp. 844-855.



Strategic Innovation

International Students at NCI

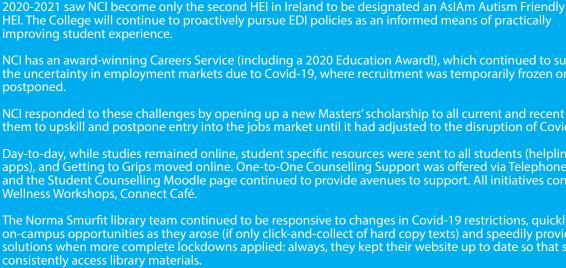


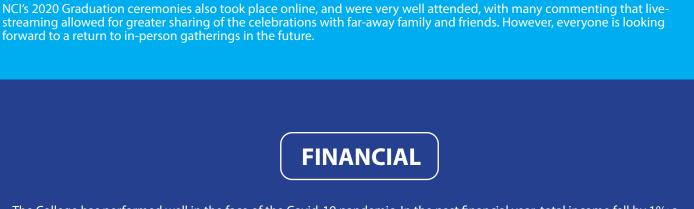


HEI. The College will continue to proactively pursue EDI policies as an informed means of practically NCI has an award-winning Careers Service (including a 2020 Education Award!), which continued to support students through the uncertainty in employment markets due to Covid-19, where recruitment was temporarily frozen or graduate programmes NCI responded to these challenges by opening up a new Masters' scholarship to all current and recent graduates, allowing them to upskill and postpone entry into the jobs market until it had adjusted to the disruption of Covid Day-to-day, while studies remained online, student specific resources were sent to all students (helplines, websites, blogs, apps), and Getting to Grips moved online. One-to-One Counselling Support was offered via Telephone and Microsoft Teams and the Student Counselling Moodle page continued to provide avenues to support. All initiatives continued online: Chillout, The Norma Smurfit library team continued to be responsive to changes in Covid-19 restrictions, quickly opening up any on-campus opportunities as they arose (if only click-and-collect of hard copy texts) and speedily providing alternatives and solutions when more complete lockdowns applied: always, they kept their website up to date so that students were able to

Looking back on a challenging year through the eyes of StudentSurvey.ie, 92.3% of NCI's first year respondents said they were able to sufficiently engage with their studies online, compared to an 87.6% national average for this question, and 54.6% felt connected to NCI, despite restricted access to campus, compared with a national average of 47.7%.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE



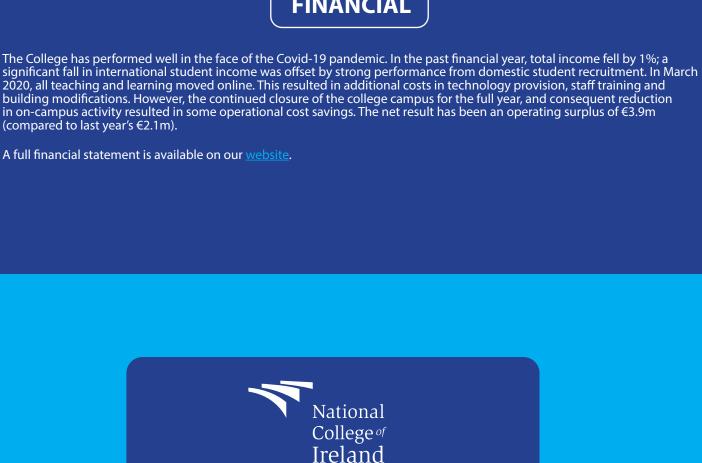




NCISU continued to represent on behalf of NCI students during Covid restrictions and to engage at a national level through participation with the Union of Students of Ireland. Collaborating with Student Services, student inductions successfully moved online, as did clubs and socs and a variety of social

events. A highlight for many was the online Clubs and Socs Awards.

forward to a return to in-person gatherings in the future.



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