A Message from the

NCI President

Gina Quin

What an exciting time the academic year 2021-22 has been! After 18 months of Covid-19 restrictions, we emerged cautiously, with a gradual return to campus by students and staff, and very welcome on-campus activities. It was great to see some of the hustle-bustle of college life return.

Returning to campus, we will not lose all the learnings of lockdown: NCI has embedded e-learning into our blended programmes and many of our support services. NCI's innovation and resilience during this time will continue to influence our learning and teaching as we follow our mission to change lives through education.

We look forward to a full academic year ahead when many of our students will be back on campus and taking advantage of both College and Student Union (NCISU) services.

NCI continues to proudly deliver our Early Learning Initiative programmes within our local community and as a national expert in the field of early learning intervention for children and families most at need in Ireland.

We were delighted to sign a formal Partnership agreement with NCISU endorsing our shared commitment to our student body. This collaboration has led to a formal Consent Framework, the provision of free sanitary products on campus and a Gender Identity Policy. Together with our academic and administrative staff Athena SWAN programme, this demonstrates our strong commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

In 2020-21 we had a number of significant achievements.

Our Early Learning Initiative led the Community Mothers' Programme and celebrated a funding award from the Toy Show Appeal.

We gained an Erasmus Charter of Higher Education for 2021-27.

The global HEI benchmark, QS Stars, awarded NCI 5 Stars, the highest possible rating, objectively establishing our academic excellence.

We attained Age Friendly Campus status, alongside our Autism Friendly status, clearly demonstrating our commitment to access for all.

And NCI was once again recognised as a Top 100 Wellbeing Workplace.

I would like to thank each member of staff, faculty and associate faculty for all their hard work and commitment. Also, to thank our Board of Governors for their wisdom and guidance, with special gratitude to the Chair of the Board, Fr Leonard Moloney, SJ.

Gina Quin,
President, NCI

Foreword by the

Chairman of the Governing Body

Fr. Leonard Moloney, SJ

I want to thank my colleagues on the Governing Body and all in National College of Ireland, led by our President, Gina Quin, for their excellent work in 2021-22.

The past year has seen further growth in NCI and continued delivery of our mission to change lives through education. Our academic performance was clearly acknowledged by our 5-Star QS Stars ranking and NCI has continued to develop both local and international collaborations, and industry partnerships. Most importantly it is clear that NCI continues to hold its students and its community at the centre of its focus.

A unique accomplishment in this area is the Partnership Agreement between the College and the Students' Union (NCISU). NCI and NCISU are one of the first HEIs (Higher Education Institutions) in Ireland to publish a formal Partnership Agreement which provides a guide to delivering the needs of current and future students, and the joint commitment of both NCI and NCISU to the student body.

This initiative follows from NCI and NCISU's involvement in the first pilot Higher Education National Student Engagement Programme (NStEP) in 2016, designed to facilitate greater student engagement in decision-making across the sector, working with QQI, the HEA and the USI.

This work demonstrates NCI's dedication to mission and to the whole eco-system of higher education in Ireland. The College prides itself on innovation and accessibility to higher education. NCI continues to open new pathways to education through programmes such as P-Tech, professional Apprenticeships and accelerated degrees, in addition to the strong profile of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Business, Computing, Psychology and Education.

With a clear commitment to community, NCI has further developed its Early Learning Initiative in the inner city of Dublin, and now nationally. ELI addresses the blight of educational and economic poverty through expert interventions with children and families, and a support system that sustains throughout schooling. This programme echoes our commitment to changing lives through education.

I look at 2021/22 and see a student-centred HEI that cares for its staff: I see a community focused institution, delivering the social justice ethos at the heart of NCI, through academic excellence in everything it does.

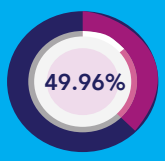
NCI is well positioned to grow and ready to expand our campus to further our mission to change lives through education.

Fr. Leonard Moloney, SJ
Chairman of the Governing Body

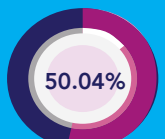
NCI AT A GLANCE

2021/22

6031
Registered Students



Full-Time



Part-Time

School of Business
3383

School of Computing
2264

CELL
384

88
Programmes

97
Nationalities

3070
Female

2952
Male

9
Prefer Not to Say

204
FT Academic Staff

146
Admin and Support Staff

NCI Graduation at the Dublin Convention Centre

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

July 2021

NCI Vice President, Professor Jimmy Hill had his appointment as the new President of the International Association of Jesuit Business Schools ratified at the AGM on Friday 23 July. He will hold this position for two years.

August 2021

We were delighted to welcome Minister Simon Harris to the campus to learn more about our Autism Friendly Initiative and to view our Sensory Room.

September 2021

The library at NCI is named in honour of its patron, Norma Smurfit. She visited NCI to learn about NORMA, the College's e-Repository. This digital archive both showcases and supports the work of NCI staff and students. Multi-media friendly, NORMA currently makes 4,321 items available - and globally searchable. The first nine months of 2021 had already seen nearly 1.9 million downloads worldwide

October 2021

An innovation partnership between NCI and Glantus was shortlisted for a Technology Ireland Industry Award in the category 'Outstanding Academic Achievement of the Year'. Dr Anu Sahni explains the research and links through to the white paper here.

Technology Ireland Ibec
Shortlisted Finalist
INDUSTRY AWARDS
2021

November 2021

NCI joins the Erasmus+ Charter, extending international exchange opportunities for students and staff

Erasmus+

December 2021

The College holds an inclusive, multi-denominational service to commemorate family and friends of NCI staff and students, who passed away in the previous year

January 2022

The removal of most Covid-19 restrictions was significant not just for NCI but the whole country, however it was most visible as the campus began to get its buzz back!

February 2022

Launch of Brigit's Basket, a joint NCI-NCISU initiative to make period products freely available across the College.

March 2022

On International Women's Day, NCI launched a consent framework that puts policy and processes in place to support those targeted and mitigate against sexual harassment and violence in higher education.

April 2022

NCI's Dr David Mothersill contributed to a paper published in the journal Nature, charting the brain through a lifetime.

May 2022

National College of Ireland was proud to welcome Dr Fabio Panetta and Philip Lane of the European Central Bank, along with Minister Paschal Donohoe (President of Eurogroup), Senator Mairéad McGuinness (EU Financial Services Commissioner), Lisa Simpson (Director EMEA Blockchain Lab, Deloitte) and Minister Michael McGrath (Public Expenditure and Reform), moderated by Senator Malcolm Byrne in a discussion titled 'Toward a Digital Euro'.

June 2022

NCI and NCISU became one of the first HEIs in Ireland to sign a Partnership Agreement.

COLLEGE NEWS

National College of Ireland received a 5-star rating from global HEI benchmarking experts, QS Stars. The application for the award was submitted by the International Team, requiring input from support staff across the College, academics and, most especially, the Admissions Team. The College is proud to have objective confirmation of the value of studying at NCI.

QS STARS RATING FOR NATIONAL COLLEGE OF IRELAND

Overall	**5 Stars**
Teaching	4 Stars
Employability	5 Stars
Research	2 Stars
Internationalization	5 Stars
Facilities	5 Stars
Social Responsibility	5 Stars
Inclusiveness	5 Stars
Specialist Criteria: Accounting and Finance	5 Stars

During the 2021/2022 academic year, the College significantly strengthened NCI's planning and decision-making process for NCI academic programmes. Through the Programme Lifecycle Management Executive Sub-Group (PLM-ESG), the QIE (Quality and Institutional Effectiveness) office has supported the Schools and CELL to propose and approve new programmes for development and has provided a framework for programmes which are to be retired. In addition, the QIE office worked alongside the School of Business, School of Computing and CELL in successfully validating and revalidating a large number of Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) accredited programmes and micro-credentials.

NEW PROGRAMMES VALIDATED IN 2021/2022

PROGRAMME TITLE	AWARD TYPE	LEVEL	CREDITS
School of Business			
MSc in Accounting	Major	9	90
Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Accounting	Major	9	60
Certificate in the Science of Decision Making	Special Purpose	9	5
Certificate in Business Analytics	Special Purpose	9	5
Certificate in Sustainable Business Leadership	Special Purpose	9	5
School of Computing			
MSc in Artificial Intelligence	Major	9	90
Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Artificial Intelligence	Major	9	60
MSc in AI for Business	Major	9	90
Postgraduate Diploma in Science in AI for Business	Major	9	60

The College bid a fond farewell to John McGarrigle, with Karen Jones formally taking the position of Registrar. Patricia Maguire joined us as Director of Quality and Institutional Effectiveness. A new EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) and Training Manager, Deirdre McCarthy, also started at NCI this year.

Dr April Hargreaves and Dr Paul Hanly were appointed Vice Deans of the School of Business, taking over from Vivienne Byers. Amanda Kracen joined as a senior lecturer in Psychology.

Dr Paul Stynes was appointed Dean of the School of Computing, replacing Dr Pramod Pathak. Dr Cristina Muntean-Hava took over from Dr Stynes as Vice Dean. The School of Computing also welcomed new senior lecturers: William Clifford, Rohit Verma, Musfira Jilani and Shivani Jaswal.

Consistent with the College's commitment to the area, Alba González-Cebrián is now Open Data Research Associate. You can read more about NCI and Open Data here. Jaswinder Singh joined NCI as eLearning Content Developer and Facilitator.

The Centre for Education and Lifelong Learning welcomed Deirdre Tinnelly as an Educational Specialist.

Through CELL, NCI hosted the inaugural annual Festival of Education and Lifelong Learning in June 2022. The three seminars held over a two-day period covered diverse topics: the first explored the challenges, strategies and emerging innovations in the FET sector in Ireland; the second looked at digital storytelling for early childhood education and a progressive approach to ECEC (Early Childhood Education and Care) professional reflection; and the third event introduced P-TECH to the wider education community.

P-TECH is an innovative model of education-industry collaboration originally developed by IBM in the USA, adopted and adapted as a major social and economic regeneration initiative in Dublin's North-East Inner City. A committed partnership between industry (IBM, CISCO, Virgin media, Irish life, irish Water), secondary schools, the NEIC, government, and NCI as HE partner, it is an exciting educational initiative aiming to provide new pathways for learning for students in areas of disadvantage that can help them to see future educational and career possibilities. CELL created and achieved QQI accreditation for two new curricula, one a level 6 Certificate in P-TECH for students, the other a level 9 Certificate in Educational Practice for P-TECH to prepare second-level teachers to deliver higher education pedagogies.

CELL also developed and achieved QQI accreditation for two series' of micro-credentials: Level 6 and Level 7 micro-credentials in Home Visiting in partnership with Rethink Ireland and ELI, and Level 7 micro-credentials in Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) to accompany existing level 6 and level 7 TEL programmes.

2021/22 also saw the first round of CAO applicants for the BA (Hons) in Early Childhood Education and Care. This QQI level 8 award is approved by the Qualifications Advisory Board (QAB) and supports the 'First Five' government strategy to move progressively towards a graduate-led professional workforce.

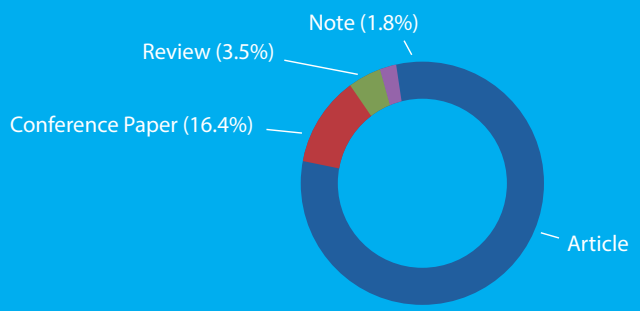
Another first (or firsts!) for NCI was the first intake onto the world's first Honours Degree in Recruitment Practice, an apprenticeship programme developed in partnership with the Employment and Recruitment Federation (ERF).

NCI retained its spot as one of the Top 100 Leaders in Wellness by Business & Finance Magazine in association with Ibec. This honour stands testament to the diligence of our HR Team, under the leadership of HR Director, Mary Connelly.

FOCUS ON RESEARCH

SCOPUS

Scopus is an abstract and indexing database with full-text links that is produced by Elsevier. Elsevier is ranked first among publishers by the number of articles published and second among publishers by the number of open access articles published. Scopus numbers can influence funders. It is noted that relevant publications, typically indexed in Scopus, are some of the criteria used to measure the reputation of an academic institution. For example, The Times Higher Education World University Rankings require a HEI "to publish more than 1,000 relevant publications over the previous 5 years" to be included in their list.



NCI Publications recorded in Scopus in 2021

Sample of research

Dr David Mothersill, Assistant Professor and Director in Psychology, contributed to a research paper published in Nature, one of the world's most prestigious scientific journals. The paper presents research by an international team of researchers who created a series of brain charts spanning our entire lifespan, that show how our brains expand rapidly in early life and slowly shrink as we age. The team hope this research will lead to future clinical tools that could be used to monitor growth and development of the brain and help us better understand conditions such as Alzheimer's disease that can cause degeneration of brain tissue and cognitive decline. Bethlehem, R. A. I., Seidlitz, J., White, S. R., Mothersill, D and et al., - (2022) Brain charts for the human lifespan. Nature. 2022 Apr;604(7906):525-533. doi: 10.1038/s41586-022-04554-y. Epub 2022 Apr 6.

National College of Ireland SAMI

Dr David Mothersill and his colleagues have developed an app for iPad called Computerised Theory of Mind (cTOM) which is freely available. The App provides an innovative method for testing social cognition. David's research is fascinating and laudable in its application towards helping people. The app can be found on the app store, and you can read more on Irish Tech News.

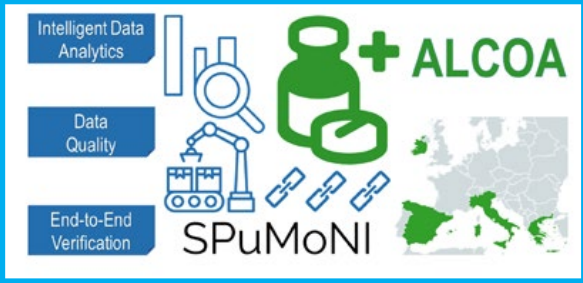
A big problem for many people experiencing mental health conditions is stigma. A new laboratory was established in National College of Ireland to build on this research: the Stigma and Mental health Ireland (SAMI) laboratory, directed by Dr April Hargreaves, Dr David Mothersill, and Dr Gerard Loughnane. it is intended that this research will provide key data for Government policies and campaigns targeting mental health stigma. SAMI is proud to collaborate with Shine, who run the See Change Green Ribbon campaign, working to reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with mental health difficulties, as well as Headline, which is Ireland's national programme for responsible reporting and representation of mental health difficulties across all media platforms. A link to the lab can be found here.

Recent NCI graduate Diana Ursul (BA (hons) in Human Resource Management), together with NCI faculty Dr Paul Hanly, Dr Gerard Loughnane and Michelle Ahern, successfully published in the European Journal of Health Economics an important study valuing the economic costs of premature mortality associated with the first phase of the Covid-19 outbreak across Europe. Results show that the outbreak of Covid in the initial months resulted in 18,614 (77% in men) excess deaths across nine European countries costing the economies €1.07 billion in lost productivity. Spain, Italy and the Netherlands were the most affected countries in this initial phase of the pandemic.

The School of Computing is currently involved in the research projects DataBytes (Science Foundation Ireland – intended to introduce second-level students to Data Science); EI-SMARDY (Enterprise Ireland) and TrainRDM (EC Erasmus+), both of which particularly fit with NCI's embrace of Open Science and Open Data; and CERCIRAS - connecting education and research communities for an innovative resource aware society (EC Horizon 2020).

MSc in Data Analytics student, Abhishek Padalkar, joined former Dean Dr Pramod Pathak and current Dean (then Vice) Dr Paul Stynes to present An Object Detection and Scaling Model for Plastic Waste Sorting at the 2021 International Conference for AI, which had the theme 'Towards Sustainable AI'.

Dr Arghir Moldovan presented SPuMONI "Smart Pharmaceutical MaNufacturIng" at the 9th Data Science Summit, one of only three industry endeavours shortlisted for an international Artificial Intelligence (AI) Impact Award. Funded by the EU and IRC, SPuMoNI has leveraged blockchain technologies to better ascribe and ensure the manufacturing traceability and quality of medicaments. It comprises 2 pharma industrial partners —PQE Group and FAREVA— and 3 academic: National College of Ireland, UP Valencia, and U Thessaly.



Faculty from NCI also contributed their time and expertise as committee members, programme, local and session chairs of a large variety of international conferences, and were reviewers both of conference papers and journal articles, including GWO21, CSEDU22, Elsevier Computers & Security Journal, and Frontiers in Education Journal.

All research work is to be applauded, and all NCI staff research and publications for 2021/22 are available through NORMA.

EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVE

ELI in Numbers:

14,835 people

5,925 children and young people

7,411 parents and extended family

1,426 professionals

93% satisfaction rates across all programmes

165 volunteers

91% indicated learning through ELI

91% interagency meetings

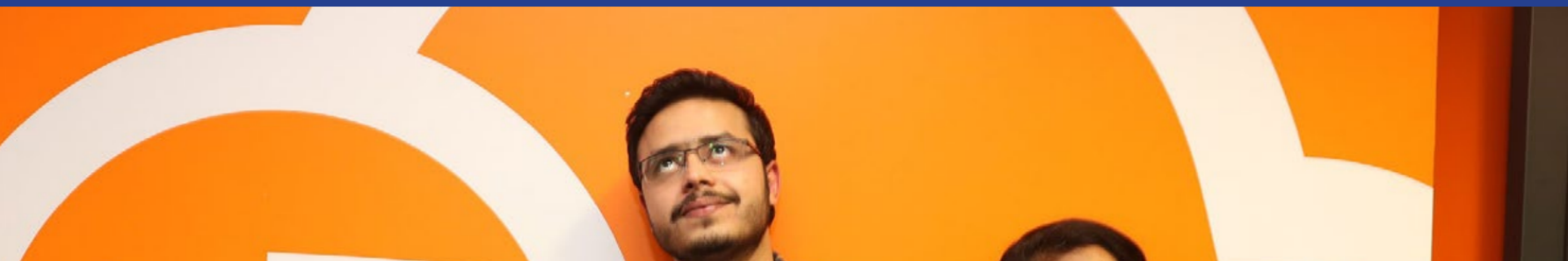
2021/22 was a challenging year as ELI dealt with the continued impact of COVID-19, increased waiting lists for disabilities, the Ukrainian refugee crisis and cost of living increases on children and families across Ireland.

National Centre for Home Visiting and Family Engagement supported 660 professionals in 20+ organisations and communities to deliver Home Visiting programme to 2,130 families across Ireland. ParentChild+ and Home from Home expanded into other communities. The new Sláintecare Community Families Programme was developed.

Dublin's Inner City Centre provided a responsive integrated programme of educational support from antenatal/birth up to third level to 4,071 families in partnership with 766 professionals. New programmes included Parenting365, Stretch Graduate, NEIC Childhood Restored and My Place to Talk.

As chair of the Home Visiting Alliance, we look forward to the development of National Model of Home Visiting as part of the First 5 | A Government Strategy For Babies & Young Children.

In 2022, ELI won funding for Parenting 365, a programme that supports children with disabilities and additional needs, from the RTE Toy Show Appeal, administered by the Community for Ireland. Vlad Yatsenko, founder and CEO of Revolut, had made a personal donation of €1.1m to the Toy Show Appeal, and visited NCI in June 2022 to see some of the work made possible by the generosity of so many people.



INTERNATIONAL

1178
Total number of students

23 different programmes
88 Undergraduate (12 Programmes)
71 Higher Diploma (1 Programme)
1019 Masters Programme (10 Programmes)

331
School of Business

848
School of Computing

46
different countries made up of the following:

3
Argentina

1
Bahrain

5
Bolivia

72
Brazil

7
Chile

29
China

3
Columbia

1
Costa Rica

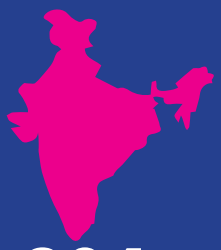
1
Georgia

1
Ghana

1
Congo

1
Equador

1
Honduras



804
India

3
Indonesia

1
Israel

9
Korea

6
Kuwait

1
Malawi

11
Malaysia

1
Mauritius

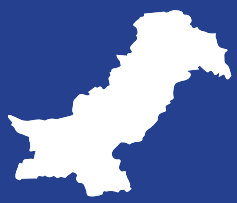
38
Mexico

3
Mongolia

1
Mozambique

1
Nicaragua

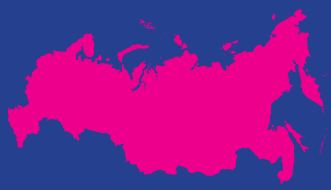
104
Nigeria



9
Pakistan

1
Panama

1
Philippines



2
Russia

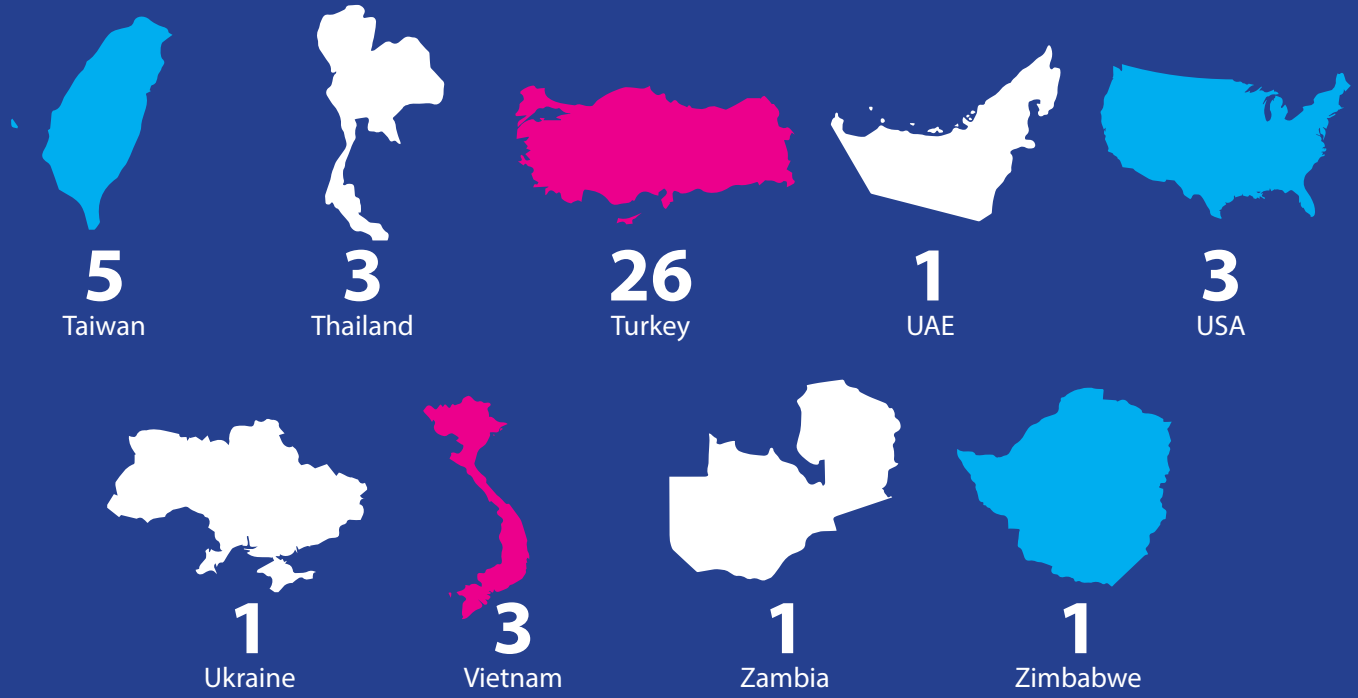
1
Qatar

2
Saudi Arabia

1
Singapore

5
South Africa

1
Sri Lanka



Due to Covid restrictions, most student on-boarding took place online, with a satisfaction rate of over 90% expressed by students. The team did manage some in-person outdoor/limited attendee events, including walking tours of Dublin, a trip to the Botanic Gardens, participation in a canal clean-up and a trip to the National Gallery of Ireland.

When restrictions were lifted in February 2022 the International Support Team organised Coffee & Chat sessions weekly for the month of February, and continued to increase in-person events through to June, some highlights of which included:

Lunar New Year | Dublin City Walking Tours | Hugh Lane Gallery guided Tour | Bray Trip |
Pancake Tuesday in person decorate pancakes competition | Walk and Chat with NCI Mental Health society |
Irish Culture & Trad music workshop | Howth Trip Irish Museum of Modern Art guided tour |
Botanic Gardens | Chester Beatty Library | Glendalough Trip

NCI joined the Erasmus+ Charter this year, an achievement initiated by the International Team at the College, though benefiting all students and staff, in opening up exchange pathways with other European Higher Education Institutes. An articulation was agreed with Jiangsu Vocational College of Electronics and Information (JVCEI) in China. A graduate from the Diploma in Software Technology at JVCEI will be granted progress into the Year 3 of NCI's BSc (Hons) in Computing, subject to meeting the following entry requirements:

- Successfully completing the Diploma in Software Technology with a minimum (average) grade of 75%;
- Completion of elective Applied Mathematics module on the Diploma;
- Completion of elective Software Engineering module on the Diploma; and
- Meeting the English language requirement, IETLS 6.0 or equivalents

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

The National Student Survey revealed NCI students have high satisfaction level with their experience of the College.

Student Survey Results 2022

National College of Ireland

Response Rate: 26%

Overall Satisfaction:

73% rate their overall experience as good or excellent

77% would choose NCI if they were to start their studies again

NCI continued to respond to the covid-tumultuous jobs market by extending the Master's Edge scholarship for 2021/22

From January 2021, campus re-opened without Covid restrictions. Every effort was made to accommodate students who had made plans based on lockdowns, so dual delivery became a feature, even as there was a greater buzz on campus. Semester 2 saw effective communication to students to expect to have some on-campus only classes in Semester 1 2022, to ensure plenty of preparation time.

The easing of restrictions in Autumn 2021 meant the November graduation could take place in person, albeit with greater social distancing and deliberately reduced attendance numbers. Spring graduation benefited from the further lifting of restrictions.

NCI Graduation 2021

NCISU and Clubs & Socs activities also returned to in-person from January 2022, again retaining some online to allow for students not yet resident in Dublin.

NCI's Sports Scholarship continues to attract people from all areas of sport including, this year, show jumping and golf

Dean's/Director's Honour List 2021/2022

- It was also a successful academic year for our students, with a strong showing for the Deans' Honours List as well as external achievements including:
- MSc Data Analytics students, Samarth Dhawan, Rhutujit Paradkar, Souvik Maitra, Akshay Sayar and Rahul Badarinath, placing third in this year's ENFUSE competition
- an honourable mention to final year student Roberta Mandarano Cruz E Silva at PSI's Annual Student Psychology Conference for her research project entitled 'I just wanted a meaningful interaction', exploring the impact of lockdown on women's sexual lives;
- a commendation for first year MBA student, Erica Coen, at the MBA Association of Ireland National Strategy Competition;
- School of Computing Doctoral student David Williams won the best paper award for Measuring Learner Engagement to Create a Gameful Learning Environment at the VI IEEE World Engineering Education Conference.

2021-2022 saw NCI designated an Age Friendly Campus – this achievement is part of our greater proactivity in relation to EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion). These are cross-college initiatives that impact positively on staff as well as students, creating a generally positive environment.

A great achievement this year was the NCI-NCISU Partnership Agreement. NCI and NCISU were one of the first five pilot higher education institutions that joined the National Student Engagement Programme (NStEP) in 2016, helping to build a vision for greater student engagement in decision-making across the sector. The partnership agreement establishes a framework for meaningful, proactive student engagement, and sets out the principles and structures through which the SU and the College will work together to ensure NCI students have the most successful and enjoyable experience possible during their time in the College. The autonomy of the Union to self-direct and self-govern is recognised and respected, and the first funding agreement between College and the SU has been put in place to safeguard the future of the Union.

The cooperation between the College and the SU is reflected in the coordination of consent training and a cross-college process for confidential reporting of bullying and/or harassment, as well as a Gender Expression and Identity policy. NCI and NCISU have co-designed a refreshed Student Complaints procedure and are in the process of co-designing a new Student Hub. Brigit's Basket (the provision of free period products throughout the toilets on-campus) is also an SU-College joint initiative.

2021/22 NCISU executive

Outgoing SU President Conor O'Reilly and incoming SU President Jennifer Treadwell (current VP) were in agreement in acknowledging the effort of previous NCISU executives in establishing the foundations for this level of collaboration and the initial drafting of the partnership agreement.

An ongoing testament to and benefit of the positive experience NCI students have of the college is that, when we contact people to see if they will take part in ads encouraging others to attend NCI, we always get a strong response. In April 2022, we were able to replenish our current run of ads with the following testimonials:

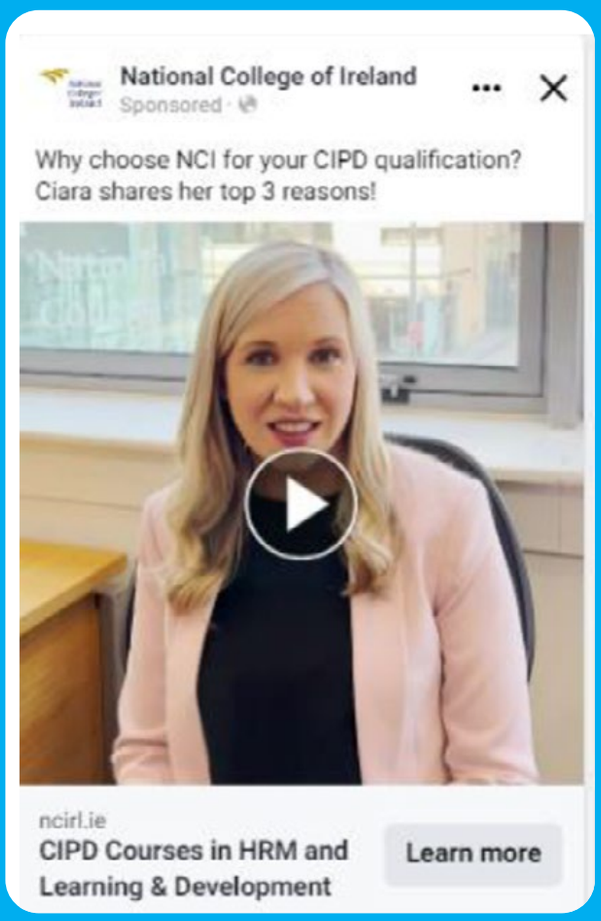
Luas Portrait Panels, including Joanne Breegan, who completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Practice and now teaches at Inchicore College of Further Education.

Mall DPods, including Shay Brady, who undertook both his BA Hons in HRM and MSc in Management at NCI and is now Joint Head of Operations in Waste Management for Dublin City Council.

DigiShelters, including Niamh Hogg, who graduated with a BA Hons in Business Management and is now Marketing Manager at National Broadband Ireland

Dublin Bus T-Sides, including Sinead Conroy, who completed an MSc in International Business at NCI and is Marketing Brand Manager with The Irish Times

Social ads including Ciara Broderick (CIPD Diploma in HRM – now a Human Resources Generalist at Brown Thomas Arnotts) and Andy Byrne (MBA, now Learning Consultant with the Global Operations Learning Team at Meta).



Other alumni who participated, not pictured above, include Corey Hughes, who completed a Higher Diploma in Computing and is now Dream Space Program Manager at Microsoft, and Calvin O'Brien, BSc Hons in Computing, who is now a QA Technician at Amazon and Host on the Talking Bollox podcast.

If you would like to meet all our alumni 'in person', you can view our playlist of ads on YouTube.

FINANCIAL

The college has performed strongly in a year that saw a gradual normalisation of operations following the Covid-19 pandemic. In the financial year, total income grew by 2.5% to €32.3m. In particular, the year saw a strong return of international student income to pre-Covid levels. Operating expenses increased by 13.2% in the year due to increased staffing costs, technology provision and expenses associated with upgrading and refurbishment of the NCI campus. The net result was an operating surplus of €1.2m. The full audited financial statements are available on our website

National College of Ireland

National College of Ireland, Mayor Street, IFSC, Dublin 1.

W: www.ncirl.ie | P: 01 4498500 | E: info@ncirl.ie