

HEA

Higher Education Authority
An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas



HEA Reports and Accounts 2005 and 2006
Tuarascáil agus Cuntais an tÚdaras um Ard Oideachas

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Foreword

The Higher Education Authority was established by the Higher Education Authority Act 1971 and it has the following principal functions:

- To further the development of higher education
- To maintain a continuous review of the demand and need for higher education
- To assist in the co-ordination of state investment in higher education and to prepare proposals for such investment
- To review proposals from Universities and designated institutions for capital and recurrent funding
- To allocate among the institutions the grants voted by the Oireachtas
- To promote an appreciation of the value of higher education and research
- To promote the attainment of equality of opportunity in higher education and the democratisation of its structures.

This Report covers the activities of the Higher Education Authority over a two year period, 2005-2006.



HEA Mission Statement

To foster the development of a higher education sector which is:

- accessible to all potential students;
- recognised internationally for the
- high quality of teaching, learning and research; and
- has the capacity to address the changing needs and challenges in our society.

A Period of Further Achievement – Higher Education 2005 – 2006 - some highlights

- *Who Goes to College?* study published in 2006. Key figures show that higher education participation rate in Ireland has grown from 20% in 1980 to 55% in 2004.
- Enrolment in higher education increased by 17% from 2000/1 to 2004/5; undergraduate enrolments by 14% while postgraduate enrolments grew by 30%.
- The phasing in of a revised Recurrent Grant Allocation Model (RGAM) for the universities began in 2006.
- A range of key statistical publications released, including *Key Facts and Figures*, *An Overview of Applications and Acceptances* and *Discipline Choices and Trends for High Points CAO Acceptors*.
- Conclusion of the Cross-Border Programme of Research and Education Contributing to Peace and Reconciliation. Five projects had been funded, a publication launched and a major dissemination event held in 2006 to communicate findings to all stakeholders.
- Fund for Digital Research – 12 successful programmes in 2005 and 5 in 2006.
- Award of funding for the development of an National Digital Research Centre (NDRC) to Liberty (DCU, IADT, NCAD, TCD and UCD).
- HEA-hosted Graduate Education Forum agreed guidelines for the development of graduate education.
- Irish Aid funded programme established to promote research partnerships between Irish institutions and those in developing countries.
- Irish Research Library (IReL) established.
- Strategic Innovation Fund established by the Minister for Education and Science. €42m allocated to 12 institutions under the first call. A specific focus is on institutional collaboration.
- Work on implementing the Action Plan on Access to Higher Education began in 2005. Audiovisual materials on access produced and sent to over 900 schools and education centres.
- National policy on recognition of prior learning agreed and published.
- 14% increase in 2005 and further 20% increase in 2006 in students benefiting from the Disability Fund.
- Publication of the Fottrell Report on Undergraduate Medical Education and Training which recommended significant changes in the sector, including an increase in the number of EU undergraduate numbers for the first time since the 1970s.
- Publication of the Worthington Report on Architectural Education with the Royal Institute of Architects in Ireland (RIAI) that set out guidelines for colleges wishing to establish schools of architecture. UCC and CIT successfully used the model outlined.
- €12.7m allocated to 11 institutions under the Strategic Initiatives Scheme which supported proposals on areas such as widening access, student progression, teaching and promoting the Irish language.
- HEA Performance Management and Development System introduced to improve efficiency of the organisation.
- 1,571 students went abroad under Erasmus organised by HEA and €1.5 m was awarded in student travel grants. This increased to €1.8 m in 2005/6 when 1,560 went abroad.

Chairman's Introduction



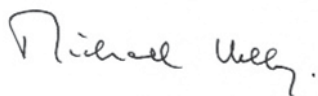
There is a broad consensus that our continued economic and social development is crucially dependent on knowledge. To achieve our goals we need a higher education and research system which is world class in terms of the quality of teaching and research and which is composed of autonomous institutions operating within a robust accountability framework; governed and managed effectively; supportive of development and innovation; open to all potential students on the basis of ability only and resourced adequately to meet its many objectives. The period covered by this Report saw a continuation of a trend of impressive performance by our higher education system. Some of the main developments are set out in this Report.

In carrying out its work, the HEA works with a large number of other bodies and I would like to thank them for their support during the period covered by the Report. They include Government Departments, especially the Department of Education and Science, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and the Department of Finance, and agencies such as the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences, the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology, Forfas, Science Foundation Ireland, the Health Research Board, Enterprise Ireland, the National Qualifications Authority, and others. The success of the HEA is of course also crucially dependent on our working relationship with those institutions we work closest with and I would like to thank them for their constructive and positive engagement with us.

I would also like to acknowledge the achievements of the team at HEA and to thank them for their commitment, energy and enthusiasm in implementing the work programme of the Authority.

There were a number of changes in the membership of the Authority during the period, with some members retiring and being replaced. On behalf of the Authority,

I would like to thank all those who served on the Authority and for their contribution to Irish higher education. I would like to say a special thanks to Dr. Don Thornhill who retired as Chairman of the Authority in early 2005 after a period of seven years in the post. Dr. Thornhill's contribution to Irish education, and to higher education and research in particular, has been exceptional and a great debt of gratitude is owed to him.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Michael Kelly, HEA Chairman

Developing the Higher Education Sector – Infrastructure, Research and Teaching

“Improving the existing infrastructure of our third level institutions is a necessary first step in ensuring we have a solid platform on which to progress key national objectives in relation to research and innovation.” Minister of Education and Science, Mary Hanafin, TD, welcoming €1.2bn for third-level in Budget 2006 (7 December 2005)

“Empower the institutions - to develop the highest quality of teaching, learning, scholarship and research and enhance their contribution to society and to economic development.” Key strategic priority of HEA outlined in the Strategy Statement 2004-2007 (p.25)

“We have found a research system in impressive transition as a result of the major injection in funds over the past few years. This investment is beginning to transform the research base in Ireland, supporting a growing influence and recognition in the now-global research enterprise.” Report of the International Steering Committee ‘Research Infrastructure in Ireland Building for Tomorrow’ (p.10)

Higher education is a central component in developing and sustaining an advanced society. Participation in higher education supports personal growth, as well as national, social, cultural and economic development. It has a vital role to play in Ireland – in educating and training the knowledge workers of the future; in functioning as the central resource for research, development and innovation; in creating the innovation capacity to develop new businesses, services and products; in furthering cultural development; and in enhancing social cohesion and understanding in our society. In short, the higher education sector is a national resource.

The Higher Education Authority (HEA) fosters the development of a higher education sector that can collectively support national development in all its dimensions: economic, social and cultural. We do this by supporting the public institutions involved in higher education and research.

1.1 Developing quality infrastructure

Building Infrastructure: General Capital Funding

The HEA's capital grant supports the provision of physical facilities in the universities and a number of designated, higher education institutions¹. Responding to the pressing infrastructure needs of the sector, 2005 and 2006 saw a tremendous surge in building projects within higher education and research institutions.

Following publication of the *Report of the Capital Review Group* in 2004, the Department of Education and Science (DES) approved a number of key projects for the third level sector. December 2005 saw the approval of 35 capital projects as part of a €900m five-year funding package. Of these, 17 projects fall within the €270m Public Private Partnership programme (PPP), while the remaining 18 projects will be procured through conventional, direct-Exchequer funding of €305m. Payments made under the General Capital heading totalled €32m and €38m in 2005 and 2006 respectively.

In 2005–2006, General Capital works were approved to a value of over €52 million, with Exchequer allocation of over €38 million. Table 1, General Capital Works Projects Approved 2005-2006, presents a summary of these.

TABLE 1: GENERAL CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS APPROVED 2005-2006

Funding package	Institution	Total Cost of Project (€)	Exchequer Allocation (€)
PPP Programme	UL Library Phase 2	23,800,000	17,300,000
	NUIM Mathematical Sciences and Computer Centre	11,000,000	11,000,000
Direct Exchequer Funding	UL Engineering Skills and Research Building	14,100,000	7,100,000
	TCD Social Workers	1,020,000	1,020,000
	DCU Library Information Resource Centre (to meet a funding shortfall)	2,462,000	2,462,000
		52,382,000	38,882,000

¹ HEA-funded institutions are UCC, UCD, NUIG, NUIM, TCD, UL, DCU, RCSI, NCAD, RIA, Mater Dei, Mary Immaculate Limerick, St. Patrick's Drumcondra and St. Angela's Sligo. The HEA will begin to fund the institutes of technology and the Dublin Institute of Technology in 2007 in accord with the Institutes of Technology Act, 2006.

Transforming the Research Landscape: PRTLl

Under the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTLl) capital funding of €404m has been invested to date. Payments in 2005 totalled €45m, and those in 2006 totalled €41m.

A total of sixteen PRTLl-funded centres were launched in 2005–2006 – these are summarised in Table 2.

TABLE 2: PRTLl-FUNDED CENTRES LAUNCHED 2005 AND 2006

Full Title	Lead Institution	Partner Institutions	Recurrent Funding Cost (€)	Capital Funding Cost (€)
Analytical and Biological Chemistry Research Facility and Mass Spectrometry Lab	University College Cork		1,536,000	6,192,000
Biopharmaceutical Sciences Network	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	UCC, NUIM, TCD	7,004,000	13,359,00
The Centre for Biopolymer and Biomolecular Research	Athlone IOT	NUIG, University of Ulster Coleraine	973,000	1,281,000
Centre for Innovation and Structural Change	National University of Ireland, Galway	DCU, UCD	1,954,000	901,000
Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology	University College Dublin	TCD, RCSI	10,562,000	15,360,000
Environmental Research Institute	University College Cork	NUIG, UL, ITT, ITC, UCD, DIT, CIT	10,207,000	16,791,000
Institute for Information Technology and Advanced Computation	Trinity College Dublin		4,312,000	14,663,000

TABLE 2: continued overleaf

TABLE 2: PRTL-FUNDED CENTRES LAUNCHED 2005 AND 2006 (continued)

Full Title	Lead Institution	Partner Institutions	Recurrent Funding Cost (€)	Capital Funding Cost (€)
Marine Research Programme	National University of Ireland, Galway	TCD, UCC, UL	8,713,000	10,421,000
Moore Institute (formerly the Centre for the Study of Human Settlement and Historical Change)	National University of Ireland, Galway	UL, UCC, TCD	2,523,000	1,224,000
The Materials and Surface Science Institute	University of Limerick	WIT, UCC, NUIG	3,279,000	12,473,000
M-Zones	Waterford Institute of Technology	CIT, TCD	3,360,000	1,592,000
National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science	National University of Ireland, Galway	UCC, UL, UCD, TCD, GMIT, IT Sligo, AIT	8,857,000	23,459,000
National Institute for Cellular Biotechnology	Dublin City University	NUIM, IT Tallaght	15,745,000	18,538,000
Programme for Human Genomics	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland / Trinity College Dublin / University College Dublin		26,284,000	18,538,000
Trinity Centre for Bio-Engineering	Trinity College Dublin	NUIG	3,036,000	2,393,000
Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience	Trinity College Dublin	UCC, UCD	10,450,000	18,208,000

A Strategy of Reform: Medical Education and Training

In January 2006, the report of the Working Group on Undergraduate Medical Education and Training (chaired by Professor Pat Fottrell) and the Report of the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Group (chaired by Dr. Jane Buttimer) were presented to Government. The broad thrust of the recommendations contained in both reports was accepted by Government, and the reports were formally launched² on 1 February 2006 by the two sponsoring Ministers.

One of the core recommendations of the Fottrell Report was that the annual intake of Irish/EU students into Medicine should increase to 725 over a four-year period from its current level of 305. The higher figure should cover both graduate and undergraduate places. It also recommended that a four-year graduate entry programme to medical education should be introduced, and that this should provide an annual intake of up to 240 students after four years, with 60 additional places being introduced each year over the four-year period.

The implementation of the recommendations of the Fottrell report commenced in 2006, and the number of EU undergraduate medical places was increased by 70.

The medical schools were also invited to submit proposals for curriculum reform and for additional academic clinicians. Funding has now been allocated in respect of both these objectives.

In November 2006 the HEA issued a call for proposals to establish a graduate entry programme in Medicine in November. The call was issued to all universities and institutes of technology, with a closing date of 31 January 2007.

² Reference: <http://www.heai.ie>

1.2 Sustaining Quality through Recurrent Funding

“The new system, which has been welcomed by the universities, brings greater clarity and fairness to the process of budget allocation, with institutions across the system receiving the same levels of core grant funding in the same broad areas. Under the new model, an element of the grant will be reserved for performance-related initiatives that are coherent with institutional and Government strategies.”

HEA Chief Executive Tom Boland, explaining the new Recurrent Grant Allocation Model.

Improving Funding – Recurrent Grant Allocation Model

In addition to capital funding, the HEA is also responsible for the provision of recurrent funds to universities and designated education and research institutions. This amounted to nearly €1.4bn over the period in this report (2005 and 2006).

In 2004 the HEA commissioned a task force to conduct an in-depth review of its funding mechanisms, and after a period of extensive study and consultation came the new Recurrent Grant Allocation Model (RGAM). Under this model, recurrent funding becomes the key mechanism through which accountability can be ensured and quality can be sustained. Initially the RGAM applied to universities only, but it will be extended to the NCAD and to colleges of education in 2007. The model was introduced on a phased basis in the case of the universities – 10 per cent applied in 2006, with a further 45 per cent to be applied in both 2007 and 2008.

In the current allocation, over €7.6m has been included as part of the mainstream grant for access initiatives. A further 5 per cent, or just over €20m (€20 m equal to 10 per cent phased introduction), has been ‘top-sliced’ from the core grant in respect of research and is reflected in the 2006 allocation.

Development of the (RGAM) model and its extension to the other HEA institutions continues. In the light of the Government’s decision to designate the institutes of technology (IOTs) to the HEA in 2006, a pilot, unit-cost scheme was launched in the following IOTs: Blanchardstown, Cork, Dublin, Limerick and Waterford; it will be extended to the entire sector in 2007.

Table 3 and 4 summarise the core funding grants paid by the recurrent grants section of HEA to universities (table 3) and to other institutions in 2005 and 2006 (table 4).

TABLE 3: CORE GRANT TO UNIVERSITIES 2005 AND 2006

Institution	2005 €m	2006 €m
UCD	112.5	118.6
UCC	69.9	74.2
NUIG	51.5	55.7
NUIM	24.2	25.8
TCD	81.9	86.9
UL	37.3	39.6
DCU	28.6	30.5
University Total (Recurrent Grant Allocation Model)	405.9	431.3

TABLE 4: CORE GRANT TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS 2005 AND 2006

Institution	2005 €m	2006 €m
Mary Immaculate College, Limerick	6.5	7.0
St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra	6.8	7.3
Educational Resource Centre, SPD	1.3	1.3
Oscail	1.0	1.0
NCAD	8.8	9.4
Mater Dei, Dublin	2.1	2.3
Royal Irish Academy	3.2	3.4
National University of Ireland	0.013	0.013
HEAnet	0.8	1.3
AHEAD	0.1	0.13
Total	30.5	33.1

Verification of Financial Governance

In April 2006, the HEA set up a Working Group of Financial Governance to update the procedures for university governance. The outcome of this work was a revised Code of Governance of Irish Universities that recognises the rights and freedoms conferred by the Universities Act, while at the same time taking account of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. It also provides for the inclusion in annual financial statements of a Statement of Internal Control, which may be inspected as part of the Comptroller and Auditor General's audit procedure.

Quality Assurance (QA)

The HEA and the Irish Universities Quality Board (IUQB) jointly commissioned an extensive and independent study of quality assurance (QA) procedures in Irish higher education. The review gave the Irish university QA system a strong endorsement and made recommendations in relation to organisation and planning of the QA process (in particular for the self-assessment and peer-review phases), to quality improvement, and to strategic governance and management. A concluding seminar was held in Autumn 2005.



At the launch of Irish Universities Quality Board (IUQB) publication "Good Practice in the organization of Student Support Services in Irish Universities". Left to right in picture Michael Kelly, HEA Chairman, Ruth Barrington, Chief Executive Office, Health Research Board, Professor Brendan Whelan, ESRI and Drew Lodge, Consultant. (another timely report on REVIEW OF QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES IN IRISH UNIVERSITIES is available in PDF on web www.heai.ie)

Working Group on Pensions

The HEA established a Working Group on Pensions to consider the future funding arrangements for pension schemes in the HEA sector and held its first meeting in November 2005. The major issues identified were the historical levels of pay awards, increased longevity of staff; and deficits in funded schemes – which are largely due to falls in global equity markets. Other issues considered by the Working Group included:

- Current benefits available under the schemes (some of which are above standard public sector benefits);
- The introduction of the New Model Schemes for staff recruited since January 2005; and
- The pension costs arising from the Protection of Employees (Part-time Work) Act 2001 and (Fixed Term Work) Act, 2003.

1.3 Allocations to Institutions: Recurrent Grants, 2005–2006

In 2005 the total annual financial allocation to institutions increased by 6.5 per cent, from €630.5m in 2004 to €671.6m. In 2006, the total annual financial allocation increased by 9.5 per cent, to €735.3m. In addition, the HEA funded St. Angela's College of Education, Sligo for the first time in 2006.

Core Grant

The grants allocated to the HEA designated institutions in 2005 and 2006 are shown below in Tables 5 and 6.

TABLE 5: RECURRENT GRANT AND FEES TO HEA INSTITUTIONS 2005

	Recurrent Grant	Free Fees	Strategic Initiatives	Total
UCD	111,523,350	45,137,312	2,092,500	158,753,162
UCC	69,683,000	36,687,485	1,864,000	108,234,485
NUIG	50,652,530	31,087,860	1,594,000	83,334,390
NUIM	23,958,880	14,792,350	1,385,000	40,136,230
TCD	81,490,170	31,126,915	1,700,500	114,317,585
UL	40,481,000	23,794,508	1,340,000	65,615,508
DCU	29,726,200	15,151,914	1,386,114	46,264,228
NCAD	9,163,000	2,830,470	236,700	12,230,170
SPD	10,395,000	5,689,947	365,000	16,449,947
MIC	8,780,000	6,545,473	669,000	15,994,473
MDei	2,475,000	1,013,995	98,000	3,586,995
RCSI	604,000	1,622,532		2,226,532
NUI	12,697			12,697
HEANET	1,250,000			1,250,000
AHEAD	110,000			110,000
RIA	3,163,200			3,163,200
Unallocated				883
Total	443,468,027	215,480,761	12,730,814	671,680,485

Notes to Table 5

- 1 Recurrent Grant includes Core Grant, Minor Works, Increased Intake, IT Investment Fund and Miscellaneous
- 2 The allocation for UCC includes provision of €1M for the IReL (Irish Research Electronic Libraries) Initiative.
- 3 The Strategic Initiatives (SI) includes Quality Assurance and Training of Trainers Programmes. The allocation for DCU includes provision for the Irish Universities Quality Board and the Irish Universities Training Network.

TABLE 6: RECURRENT GRANT AND FEES TO HEA INSTITUTIONS 2006

	Recurrent Grant	Free Fees	Strategic Initiatives	Total
UCD	130,764,900	46,600,984	909,000	178,274,884
UCC	82,084,400	38,723,388	944,000	121,751,788
NUIG	61,553,260	31,613,760	795,000	93,962,020
NUIM	27,696,880	17,646,026	782,000	46,124,906
TCD	94,529,520	31,607,581	710,000	126,847,101
UL	43,668,000	26,682,614	585,000	70,935,614
DCU	34,537,900	16,271,943	888,000	51,697,843
NCAD	10,308,000	2,189,575	224,000	12,721,575
SPD	11,210,600	5,727,687	290,000	17,228,287
MIC	10,422,400	7,887,394	641,285	18,951,079
MDei	2,529,000	1,038,745	88,715	3,656,460
RCSI	787,000	1,698,275		2,485,275
St Angela's	3,092,000	557,000		3,649,000
NUI	12,697			12,697
HEANET	2,000,000			2,000,000
AHEAD	150,000			150,000
RIA	3,416,700			3,416,700
Unallocated				57 ¹
Total	518,763,257	228,244,972	6,857,000	753,865,800

Notes to Table 6

- 1 Recurrent Grant includes Core Grant, Minor Works, Increased Intake, IT Investment Fund and Miscellaneous.
- 2 The allocation for UCC includes provision of €2M for the IReL (Irish Research Electronic Libraries) Initiative.
- 3 The Strategic Initiatives (SI) includes Quality Assurance and Training of Trainers Programmes. The SI allocation for DCU includes provision for the Irish Universities Quality Board. The SI allocation for NUIG includes provision for the Irish Universities Training Network.

Grant in lieu of Undergraduate Tuition Fees

The HEA paid €215m as a grant in lieu of tuition fees in 2005. The Department of Education and Science sanctioned a 7 per cent increase in tuition fees for the academic year 2005/06 and an increase in the student service charge from €750 in 2004/2005 to €775 for 2005/2006. There was a 6.5 per cent increase in tuition fees sanctioned for 2006/07, and the student services charge was increased to €800. The HEA paid out a total amount of €228m as a grant in lieu of tuition fees in 2006.

Information Technology Investment Fund

Following the publication of the Third Report of the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs, the Minister for Education & Science and the Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment established the Information Technology Investment Fund for the higher education sector.

The fund is administered by the HEA, with the support of an Advisory Group consisting of third-level institutions, the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs, the Skills Initiative Unit, the Department of Education & Science and the Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC). A dedicated unit within the HEA was established in 2002 for this purpose. Table 7 summarises the payments that have been from the fund so far.

TABLE 7: IT INVESTMENT FUND - FUNDS ROLL-OUT APPROVED TO DATE

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
€8m	€3m	€3m	€3.25m	€4m

Improving Enrolments on ICT Courses

During the period from 1996 to 2001, new enrolments in computing and electronic engineering courses more than doubled. Since 2002, however, there has been a fall off in enrolments in these courses, and this is a matter of concern to the HEA, to the higher education institutions and to industry.

The HEA has been cooperating with ICT Ireland, the Irish Computer Society, and the Discover Science and Engineering division of Forfás, Engineers Ireland and third-level institutions on a number of initiatives to improve enrolments on ICT courses.

Internship Programme

The HEA, in association with ICT Ireland (the IBEC body representing the high-tech sector) launched a major initiative, "ICT Ireland Undergraduate Internship Programme". This is an ICT industry-wide programme with the long-term aim of creating a pool of graduates from specific disciplines for the ICT industry. Under the programme, students spend two days a week in a work placement in an area of relevance to their studies.

Flexible Timetabling Innovation

The HEA collaborated with the Institute of Technology, Tallaght on the design of a pilot course in electronic engineering, called FLASHE (Flexible Access to Higher Education). This programme gives provides flexibility in attendance times and progression rates and enables students to integrate their studies with work, family and other commitments.

1.4 Enabling and Supporting Research

Thanks to unprecedented levels of financial support from the Government under the National Development Plan (2000-2006) and other initiatives, the HEA is supporting the development of a vibrant research sector in Ireland. Increasingly, the higher education sector is becoming the key player underpinning the national innovation system. The years 2005-2006 saw a wide range of initiatives, which enabled and encouraged collaboration between institutions and disciplines in the conduct of research.



“The PRTLII, as the largest single investment in research infrastructure and capacity in Ireland since the foundation of the State, is transforming the Irish research landscape.”

PRTLII: Transforming the Irish Research Landscape 2006, p 12

“The focus for the higher education system now needs to be on producing talented researchers in the numbers required and on providing an environment in which research excellence can flourish. The next cycle of PRTLII will have a significant role in helping to bridge research performance to the targets set out in our national action plan. A key challenge moving forward will be to ensure the long-term sustainability of our research infrastructure.” Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin TD, addressing the implementation of the OECD Review of Higher Education in Ireland (April 2005)

Programme for Research in Third-Level Institutions (PRTLII)

The PRTLII was established in 1998 and it continues to have a major impact on the research infrastructure of the higher education sector. Currently some 1,700 researchers are engaged under the Programme in groundbreaking work across all disciplines. The next phase of development of the Programme, Cycle 4, will be provided over the period 2007-2010. In February 2007, the HEA invited higher education institutions across the country to submit proposals under this phase. Table 8 summarises PRTLII funding allocations under the National Development Plan (2000-2006).

TABLE 8: PRTLTI ALLOCATIONS UNDER THE NDP



	Announced	Funding Period	Buildings and Equipment (€M)	Research Programmes & People (€M)	Total (€M)
Cycle 1	1999	2000-2003	177.5	28.6	206.1
Cycle 2	2000	2001-2004	48.8	29.7	78.5
Cycle 3	2001	2002-2006	178.0	142.4	320.4
Total			404.3	200.7	605.0

It is crucial for the future economic and social development of Ireland that the gains made under PRTLTI and other research programmes are consolidated and expanded. Important advances have been made, and the HEA welcomes the establishment of the Cabinet Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation as a focal point at the heart of Government where future strategies can be agreed.

An online guide to PRTLTI-funded centres is available on the HEA website. This includes an interactive map that groups the research programmes funded by the PRTLTI under five thematic areas:

- Environment and Natural Resources;
- Biosciences and Biomedicine;
- Physical sciences and Technology;
- Social Sciences and Humanities; and
- Library.

Further information on each funded centre is available by following the link to the centre's own website.

Further information Online guide to PRTLTI: www.hea.ie/PRTLTI.

The North–South Programme for Collaborative Research

The North–South Programme for Collaborative Research, funded under the Government’s National Development Plan (2000-2006), supports research and development between higher education institutions in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The 21 funded projects have established collaboration between nine higher education institutions throughout the island of Ireland. Figures reported to mid-2006 indicate that the 21 projects have produced 100 publications, with researchers presenting their findings at 165 conferences.

Significant evidence of the Programme’s success can be demonstrated in the leverage the NDP investment gives the projects to secure further funding from other sources.

Further information: Details of individual projects are available at: www.heai.ie/PRTL1.

Establishment of a National Digital Research Centre—NDRC

In 2006, the HEA administrated a tender process for the Establishment of a National Digital Research Centre (NDRC). The successful tenderer was the Liberty Consortium, which is a partnership of five higher education institutions – DCU, IADT, NCAD, TCD and UCD.

Further information: See the NDRC website: www.ndrc.ie

Fund for Digital Research

The HEA administers the Fund for Digital Research on behalf of the Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources (DCMNR), and since the inception of the fund in 2000, it has allocated over €7m. Following the closure in 2004 of Media Lab Europe (one of the partners in the fund), the DCMNR and the HEA made a commitment to fund the existing projects to completion.

The objective of the fund is to encourage academic staff and researchers in Irish higher education institutions to develop digital research projects, and cooperation between researchers from more than one institution is encouraged. The projects funded to date span a wide range of areas of interest, including sensor technology in education, tactile displays based on nanotechnology, computer-based health initiatives and new forms of artistic learning.

The HEA ran closed calls for applications for funding from the Fund for Digital Research in 2005 and 2006. The 2005 programme had twelve successful applications, five of which were funded under the 2006 programme. The projects funded span a wide range of areas, such as sensor technology in education, tactile displays based on nanotechnology, computer based health initiatives and new forms of artistic learning.

Further information: See the Research Programmes page on the HEA website for details of successful projects. www.heai.ie/research

Improving Research Infrastructure: IreL – Irish Research Library

As a result of the greatly enhanced levels of research funding made available through PRTL and Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), there was a sharp increase in research activity in Irish higher education institutions from the closing years of the twentieth century. This in turn created a need for access to a much wider range of e-journals among academic



At the launch of the Irish Research eLibrary in June 2006, a joint HEA/SFI initiative were Marie Reddan (Librarian, NUIG), Paul Sheehan (Director of Library Services, DCU) Dr Eucharua Meehan (HEA Head of Research Programmes), Dr Mark Keane (SFI Director General) Mary Kerr (HEA Deputy Chief Executive) and John Fitzgerald (Librarian UCC)

researchers. In 2005, the HEA, in conjunction with SFI, established IreL, the Irish Research Library, an online resource that makes a wide range of electronic journals available to the libraries of Irish higher education institutions. The estimated cost of this initiative will be €37m for the period up to 2009.

The holdings in the IReL have been favourably compared with major university research libraries such as MIT, Columbia University, the Finnish Consortium — FinELIB and Imperial College London. The IReL is supervised by the Librarians Group of the Irish Universities Association and is managed by IRIS Ltd, a not-for-profit company owned by the universities.

Pilot Transport Research Programme

The National Development Plan 2000-2006 facilitated the growth of academic research in areas of interest to the surface transport sector. It was envisaged that research would support and inform policy on transportation, in addition to problem solving and investigating specific transport issues relating to Ireland. (Although not exclusively so).

Four of the projects that received funding from 2002 reached completion in 2005.

Further information: For details of projects send an email to research@hea.ie.

Graduate Education Forum

Ireland is continuing to develop graduate schools to enhance graduate training and education, and it is essential that this be done to the highest standards. The HEA, in partnership with the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (IRCSET) and the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS), organised a Graduate Education Forum that took place on 28 February and 1 March 2006.

The purpose of the Forum was to attempt to share and embed best practice across the postgraduate level, and to elicit input from key stakeholders on the issues that affect graduate education. One of the outcomes of the Forum was a set of key guiding principles relating to graduate education.

Further information The Graduate Education Forum's Key Guiding Principles are available at research@hea.ie.

See also www.ircset.ie and www.irchss.ie.

Research Infrastructure Review

In 2006, the HEA and Forfás undertook an assessment of the research infrastructure in Ireland in order to identify gaps in this area and to benchmark it against international standards. The review process took on board goals, objectives and enhanced investment proposed in the Government's Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation (SSTI), 2006–2013 and in the new National Development Plan 2007–2013. A key feature of the process was the appointment of an independent, international steering committee and the subsequent creation of a database of existing research infrastructure in Ireland.

Following completion of this study, the HEA was appointed as the National Contact Point for Research Infrastructures in the European Framework Programme 7 (FP7). The HEA is also involved at a strategic level in the Higher Education Research Group (HERG), which was set up in June 2006. The HERG works under the aegis of the Interdepartmental Committee for Science.

Further information: The final report of the assessment is now available to view at: www.hea.ie/research.



Promoting Inclusion

2

In its Strategy Statement 2004–2007, the HEA outlined certain key objectives among which was that of widening participation in higher education. This is particularly important because access to higher education gives citizens the opportunity to develop to their full potential, and furthers wider ambitions of enhanced social inclusion and economic and cultural development.

A number of major initiatives on the part of the HEA in 2005 and 2006 will ensure that equity of access remains an integral part of higher education policy and practice in Ireland. The key guiding reference for these initiatives is *Achieving Equity of Access to Higher Education*, published by the HEA's National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education at the end of 2004. This is an action plan for 2005-2007 that outlines the actions required for the achievement of further improvements in equity of access to higher education for under-represented groups.

In 2005-06, the HEA also introduced important funding initiatives, such as the new Recurrent Grant Allocation Model and the Strategic Innovation Fund. The HEA's National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education looks forward to coordinating the effort and commitment of all those involved in this vital task of achieving equitable access to higher education.



Launch of the report
'Progressing the Action Plan:
Funding to Achieve Equity of
Access to Higher Education'
. Pictured left to right, Mr
Michael Kelly, Chairman HEA,
Mary Hanafin T.D. Minister
for Education and Science,
Dr Mary Liz Trant, Head of
National Office for Equity of
Access to Higher Education,
Mr Tom Boland, Chief
Executive HEA.

Achieving Equity of Access to Higher Education in Ireland – Action Plan 2005–2007

Implementation of the three-year national action plan began in 2005, led by the National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education of the HEA. Prior to then, considerable work had already been done to achieve equity of access, but this was more fragmented and lacking in strategic direction. The *Action Plan* provides a more structured framework for coordinated work and sets out six major goals, each of which has a number of practical action points.

There were a number of key outcomes in the area of equity of access in 2005-06:

Under the goal of *communicating the rationale for equity of access to higher education*, the National Office produced and launched an audio-visual DVD, which has been sent to over 900 schools and education centres. Throughout 2005 and 2006, there has been continuing dialogue and engagement with a wide range of education stakeholders on equity of access to higher education.

Under the goal of *developing a national framework of policies and initiatives*, work got underway in 2005 to complete the first national evaluation of access programmes in Irish higher education institutions. The evaluation was published in October 2006³. It provides a comprehensive framework of what works best and also sets out recommendations for action by higher education institutions and policy-makers. The recommendations of this evaluation will be implemented by the National Office and its partners in the higher education sector from 2007 onwards. In particular, the development by each higher education institution of a three-year access plan will be a requirement for the allocation of core, strategic and performance-related funding by the HEA. Such plans must include targets for the entry and graduation of students from hitherto under-represented groups.

³ HEA *Towards the Best Education for All: An Evaluation of Access Programmes in Higher Education in Ireland*, HEA, 2006

Under the goal of *creating routes of access and progression to higher education*, the National Office continued to promote the national framework of qualifications through meetings, briefings and publications. 2005-2006 has seen a number of new arrangements and progression routes from further to higher education.

Under the goal of *introducing a broader range of teaching and learning strategies*, both the Strategic Initiatives Scheme of 2005 and the Strategic Innovation Fund of 2006 have supported the development of such strategies. Over the same period, the National Office has established contacts with teaching and learning coordinators and networks, facilitating ongoing dialogue and interaction.

Under the goal of *providing the necessary financial support and resources*, the National Office continued to manage and develop three access funding programmes (see below for further information). In addition, the National Office published in 2005 a major review of funding programmes to achieve equity of access to higher education⁴. The review contained ten recommendations and work on implementation of those commenced in 2006. Among the initiatives being implemented are a study of the costs of participating in college for non-traditional students, a pilot regional assessment centre for students with disabilities and a comprehensive information campaign on financial support at further and higher education. The review also recommended the establishment of two projects, one urban and one rural, focusing on developing a community-based approach to equity of access to higher education. Following a tender process, two projects in Clondalkin and County Offaly got underway in 2006 funded on a pilot basis by the National Office.

Under the goal of *learning from what works*, the National Office coordinated further development of the new student records database to gather data on the social, economic and cultural background of higher education entrants. In addition, progress has been made during 2005-2006 on defining and targeting students from underrepresented groups in higher education.

⁴ HEA *Progressing the Action Plan: Funding to Achieve Equity of Access to Higher Education*, HEA, 2005

Access Funding Programmes

The HEA National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education allocated access funding of approximately €16m in 2005. Funding is allocated through three different programmes:

Programme	Description
The Student Assistance Fund	The Student Assistance Fund is available to students experiencing particular or unexpected hardship during their course of study. The fund is allocated on a per capita basis; in 2005 thirty-five institutions were allocated a total of €5.8m. This allocation increased to €6m in 2006.
The Fund for Students with Disabilities	The Fund for Students with Disabilities is allocated to students with a disability who require additional support and services. Institutions apply for funding directly to the National Access Office on behalf of individual students or groups of students. In 2005 the applications process for the Disability Fund was refined so that students would not have to submit a fresh application each year for ongoing requirements, and funding rates for equipment and services were increased in a number of areas. In 2005 approximately 2,000 students were supported through the fund, at a cost of €8.1m. In 2006 the figures rose to approximately 2,440 students approved at a cost of €9.9m.
Millennium Partnership Fund	The Millennium Partnership Fund provides community-based funding in support of retention and participation in higher education of under-represented groups of students. An evaluation of this fund was completed in April 2005 and the recommendations are currently being implemented, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective targeting of students in need of support; • Identifying and agreeing good administrative practice; and • Ensuring that the Fund complements other sources of funding. In 2005 a total of €2m was allocated to 57 community groups and partnerships. In 2006 €2.1m was allocated to 56 community groups and partnerships.

“Irish young people and other learners now have access to a range of educational and training opportunities that hitherto were not available in this country.” Mr Michael Kelly, HEA Chairman

Who Went to College in 2004

The HEA published *Who Went to College in 2004? A National Survey of New Entrants to Higher Education* in March 2006, the fifth in a series of surveys examining the profile of new entrants to higher education⁵. The progress of the five surveys shows an exceptional increase in the higher education participation rate in Ireland, from 20% in 1980 to 55% in 2004. Importantly, there have been significant increases in participation from groups that were significantly under-represented in higher education. Table 8 summarises changes in selected groups from 1998 to 2004.

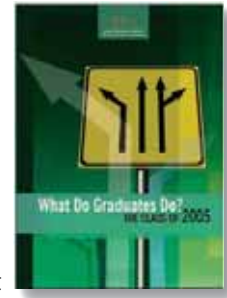


TABLE 8: PARTICIPATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION AMONG SELECTED SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS

	1998	2004
Skilled Manual	32%	60%
Semi-skilled / Unskilled	23%	40%
Non-manual	29%	25%

Against the general trend, there is a declining rate of participation among those in the non-manual socio-economic group. This is a matter of serious concern, and the HEA is commissioning a research study (in 2007) to determine the reasons for the continued low participation of this group in higher education. The key aim of the study will be to produce a more thorough understanding of educational participation among young people from the non-manual group and to understand better how students from that group can be supported in gaining access to and successfully completing higher education. In addition, the findings of this report will be valuable to the HEA and particularly the National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education in future policy formation.

⁵ The five surveys on new entrants to higher education were conducted in 1982, 1988, 1992, 1998 and 2004. Prof. Pat Clancy conducted the first three surveys and the ESRI carried out the more recent surveys on behalf of the HEA.

Strategic Initiatives Scheme

Since 1996, the HEA has operated a Strategic Initiatives Scheme targeted at particular policy goals of national or sectoral interest, including widening access to and progression through higher education. In 2005, €12.7m was allocated to eleven higher education institutions under the scheme; and of that, €8.2m was designated for the continuation and development access programmes for socio-economic groups that are currently under-represented in higher education.

In 2006, the HEA decided that strategic funding would in future be allocated under the new funding model and channelled through the core grant to institutions. For that reason, only activities and programmes that were already in train received funding under the Strategic Initiative Scheme in 2006. Programmes relating to the Irish language were treated separately to other programmes for the purposes of the Scheme.

Further information: For more information on strategic initiatives, see the Programmes page on: www.hea.ie

Architecture Education

The HEA, in conjunction with the Royal Institute of Architects in Ireland (RIAI), commissioned Professor John Worthington to compile an independent study of the future for architectural education in Ireland. Professor Worthington's report⁶ was published following extensive consultation with key stakeholders including the higher education institutions. A key recommendation of the report was the establishment of a set of guidelines to assist higher education institutions wishing to provide



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John Worthington, A future for Architectural Education in Ireland, HEA, 2006

architecture education. The report also sets out the criteria that institutions establishing architecture education must meet. One of these requires institutions to submit proposals to the HEA, which will then manage an independent evaluation process based on the criteria set out in Professor Worthington's report.

The first submission to the HEA under the new arrangements came in 2006 from UCC and Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) who proposed jointly to establish a School of Architecture in Cork. The HEA appointed an independent, expert review panel to assess the proposal. And following a recommendation to proceed from the expert panel, the Cork Centre for Architectural Education opened to students in September 2006.

Submission to the Task Force on Active Citizenship

In April 2006, the Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, TD established a Task Force on Active Citizenship to advise on strategies for the development and maintenance of a healthy civic society. As higher education holds the potential to bring enormous benefits to society in the form of increased civic engagement, it was appropriate for the HEA to become involved.

On behalf of the Task Force, the HEA hosted a consultation event for higher education stakeholders, who expressed considerable enthusiasm for further work in this



The HEA made a submission to the Government Task Force on Active Citizenship. At the consultation meeting were (from left) Michael Kelly, HEA Chairman, Mary Davis, Chair, Government Task Force on Active Citizenship and Richard Riley, former US Secretary of Education. At the recommendation of the Task Force, the HEA will lead an initiative to promote, support and link together citizenship initiatives across the higher-education sector, especially in areas such as 'service learning.'

area. Higher education provides a critically important social and civic contribution to our society, and this contribution must continue to be nurtured and developed for the benefit of our communities.

Through its various funding programmes, the HEA has supported projects and initiatives that have a particular emphasis on the development of civil society; these include North–South programmes such as that described below.

Cross Border Programme for Research and Education contributing to Peace and Reconciliation

The Cross Border Programme for Research and Education contributing to Peace and Reconciliation marks the first time that the Department of Education & Science in Dublin and the Department for Employment & Learning in Belfast have participated in a joint research programme. Launched in 2003, the Programme funded five projects, with a total of €3m being made available (until closeout 2006) under the EU's PEACE II initiative. The Special EU Programmes Body based in Omagh is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the PEACE II programme.

A showcase event for the programme took place in June 2005 in Dundalk and involved guest speakers, workshops and an exhibition. The large audience for this event



left to right Michael Kelly, Sile DeValera former Minister for state; Mrs. Catherine Bell, Deputy Secretary, Department for Employment and Learning and Pat Colgan, Chief Executive, Special EU programmes body

included researchers, media groups, community and voluntary groups from both sides of the border, policy makers, NGOs and cross-border charities. Details of the ongoing work were outlined and the workshops focused on the contribution of research and education to cross border cooperation.

The programme reached completion in 2006, and the HEA hosted a 'Close-Out' Conference in Armagh in 2006, attended by Síle de Valera TD, Minister of State at the Department of Education & Science, Dublin and Catherine Bell, Deputy Secretary, Department for Employment & Learning, Belfast. Also featured were presentations of Programme outputs by the project leaders and an exhibition of the research undertaken under the Programme.

Further information: A Programme overview was published in 2006, and any updates since going to print are available on the HEA website at <http://www.heai.ie>

"This unique programme has engaged two major government departments on the island, as well as more than eight third-level institutions and other agencies, North and South, in a collaborative cross-border effort. As such, it has created a new community of people and institutions dedicated to professional and research based investigation and validation of new mechanisms to promote peace and reconciliation."

*Catherine Bell, Deputy Secretary, Department for Employment & Learning,
Northern Ireland*



Beyond Borders: Higher Education in an International Context

3

"The experience of living and working with students from other cultures and with different world views should promote understanding and tolerance." Minister for Education & Science, Mary Hanafin TD, speaking at the opening of a conference on the Internationalisation of Irish education in Dublin on 16 May 2005

Promoting Ireland Globally

As in the rest of Europe, the higher education sector in Ireland is facing great changes. These include the obligations imposed by the Lisbon strategy objectives for research and development, and the Bologna process reforms in higher education structures. Also, there is increasing internationalisation of teaching, learning and research, and this presents many opportunities and challenges for higher education in Ireland and beyond.

Globally, the provision of third-level education to overseas students is an increasingly important activity. Current levels of participation by overseas students show that Ireland is an increasingly popular destination for students from all over the world. The years 2004/2005 saw the number of international students enrolled on full-time programmes in HEA Designated Institutions increase by 15 per cent from 2003/2004, with the greatest percentage of overseas students coming from North America. (See Table 9 for a summary of the origin of full-time enrolments in 2004–05.) Irish higher education has a reputation for its spirit of inquiry, discovery and creativity, and also for its state-of-the-art teaching and research infrastructure – and these are the qualities that are attracting more and more international students. This is a very welcome development, and we need to build on it.

TABLE 9: DOMICILIARY ORIGIN OF ALL FULL-TIME ENROLMENTS '04/'05 FOR HEA INSTITUTIONS

Country of Origin	M	F	Total	% Total
Ireland	29,828	42,391	72,219	89.56
Other Europe (EU)	1,073	1,277	2,350	2.91
Europe (Non EU)	165	206	371	0.46
Africa	293	157	450	0.56
America North	867	1,654	2,521	3.13
America South	19	20	39	0.05
Asia	1,247	1,126	2,373	2.94
Oceania	32	28	60	0.07
Unknown	104	145	249	0.31
Other	2	5	7	0.01
Total	33,630	47,009	80,639	100

Towards a Greater Europe of Greater Knowledge

The Socrates Programme is the European Community programme of action in the field of education. Its main objective is to build a Europe of knowledge and so provide a better response to the major challenges of this new century:

- To promote lifelong learning;
- To encourage access to education for all; and
- To help people acquire recognised skills and qualifications.

It seeks to achieve these objectives and to improve the quality of education by promoting cooperation between schools, higher education institutions and other educational/training institutions.

The second phase of the programme, Socrates II, ran from 2000 to 2006, building on the success of the first phase. In 2006 the number of students studying abroad under Socrates II (Erasmus⁷) programmes was over 150,000, and since 1987, over 1.5 mil

⁷ Erasmus is the higher education programme within Socrates II. Its successor is the European Union Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013. Both programmes are organised in Ireland by the National Agency at the HEA

lion students (including almost 25,000 Irish) have taken part in Erasmus exchanges in participating European member states. See below for more details relating to Irish students and Erasmus.

The HEA has the following roles in relation to the Socrates II programme and its actions:

- Ireland's National Agency (NA) for the Erasmus Action – see below;
- Ireland's National Agency (NA) for the Minerva Action – this relates to open and distance learning (ODL) and information and communication technologies (ICT) in education – see below;
- Ireland's National Structure for Erasmus Mundus – this is a parallel Action to Erasmus for countries outside the EU – see below; and
- Ireland's National Contact Point for the Tempus Programme – this is designed to facilitate university modernisation and mutual learning between Europe and partner countries in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, North Africa and the Middle East.

Erasmus: Mobility of Students and Teachers

Open to all types of higher education institutions, all academic disciplines and all levels of higher education study, the Erasmus Programme's main objective is the promotion of 'physical mobility', mainly of students. It also aims to improve the quality of higher education and develop its 'European dimension' within the entire range of higher education academic programmes.

In 2004-2005, a total of 1,571 Irish students travelled abroad under Erasmus programmes and the National Agency at the HEA allocated a total of €1,523,416 for Student Mobility Grants. The average grant per student was €970. In 2005-2006, the National Agency at the HEA allocated €1,808,450 in Student Mobility Grants. In that year 1,560 students travelled and received an average grant of €1,159⁸.

⁸ *Figures for 2005-2006 are provisional refer to <http://www.heai.ie> for updates*

TABLE 10. STUDENT GRANTS, 2004-05 AND 2005-06

	Students	Average Grant	Total Grant Allocated
2004-05	1,571	€970	€1,523,416
2005-06	1,560	€1,159	€1,808,450

Minerva: Learning in a Digital Age

Minerva was conceived as an action to support cross-cutting measures relating to open and distance learning (ODL) and the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the field of education. In October 2006, the Minerva action was enlarged to become Minerva EC, a thematic network in the areas of culture, scientific information and scholarly content.

Minerva EC now brings together stakeholders and experts from all over Europe, capitalising the results achieved by the earlier Minerva action, and supporting the European Commission's initiative i2010 – *A European Information Society for growth and employment*⁹, as well as the *Dynamic Action Plan for the EU Co-Ordination of Digitisation of Cultural and Scientific Content*¹⁰ – this was launched in Bristol in November 2005 by the European Union Member States.

As part of its remit to promote the aims and objectives of Minerva, Information and Public Affairs at the HEA organised a Contact Seminar in Dublin Castle on 1-2 September 2005. The event drew an attendance of over



At the Minerva Learning in the Digital Age conference, Gearóid Ó Súilleabháin - DEIS Department of Education Development, Ray Coughlan - CIT, Judy Nix - Ericsson, Dr Jim Devine - IADT Dún Laoghaire, Mr Michael Kelly HEA

9 http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/eeurope/i2010/index_en.htm

10 <http://www.minervaeurope.org/publications/dap/dap.pdf>

100, with delegates from Germany, France, Portugal, Norway, Sweden, Poland, Turkey, as well as Irish participants.

The purpose of the event was to raise awareness of the use of ICT in education and to encourage partnerships between practitioners in this country and other eligible member states.

Erasmus Mundus: Beyond EU Borders

In 2002, the European Commission announced a new European higher education scheme to attract more students from countries outside the EU and to enable European students to study in other countries. Known as Erasmus Mundus, the scheme strengthens links between higher education institutions in Europe and those in other parts of the world.

The duration of the programme is five years (2004-2008) with a planned budget of €230m, of which 90 per cent will be spent on the mobility of students and researchers.

There are four actions to the Erasmus Mundus programme:

- ACTION 1: Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses
- ACTION 2: Erasmus Mundus scholarships
- ACTION 3: Erasmus Mundus Partnerships
- ACTION 4: Erasmus Mundus Enhancing attractiveness

Of the targeted one hundred Erasmus Mundus masters courses, thirty-six have been operational since autumn 2005 and five of these have Irish higher education institutions as partners (UCD, TCD, UL, DIT, UCC). Three Irish HEIs (UCC, UCD, UL) are also involved in 'partnerships' with other higher education institutions world-wide. Irish higher education institution (UCD) is included in one of the projects to 'Enhance Attractiveness' e.g. Attractiveness of Masters programmes in Agricultural studies at University.

Further information: Further information about Action 3 and Action 4 in Ireland is available by email from erasmus@hea.ie.

IRELAND AMONG TOP PERFORMERS IN IMPLEMENTING 'BOLOGNA' REFORMS

An expert report presented to Ministers places Ireland in the leading group of countries in terms of progress in implementing the Bologna advances. Ireland's performance, which is described as 'excellent' in the report, reflects the commitment of a great many people across our higher education system.

Friday 20 May 2005

The Minister for Education and Science Mary Hanafin TD yesterday attended a meeting of European Ministers with responsibility for higher education from 45 countries in Bergen, Norway, to progress the creation of a common European Higher Education Area by 2010.

The Ministers agreed to deepen co-operation to achieve closer compatibility between national higher education systems. It is intended that this will provide greater ease of mobility for students and improved transparency of qualifications for employers across Europe. The Bergen conference is the fourth meeting of Ministers under the 'Bologna Process' that commenced in 1999.

Ministers agreed to adopt common standards and guidelines for quality assurance and to create an overarching framework of qualifications in the European Higher Education Area. The Ministers underlined the importance of enhancing research in higher education for economic, cultural and social development across Europe. They also renewed their commitment to promoting equity of access to higher education. In addition, Ministers agreed to a number of priority actions over the next two years. These include the development of national frameworks of qualifications, similar to that already in place in Ireland, further developments in quality assurance, developments in the awarding and recognition of joint degrees and the creation of opportunities for more flexible, non-traditional, learning paths in higher education. The Ministers agreed to meet again in London in 2007 to review the further progress made and to set further priorities in the approach to 2010.



Bologna Agreement promoters: back (left to right) Danny Brennan (Letterkenny Institute of Technology), Diarmuid Hegarty (Griffith College, Dublin) middle (left to right) Thomas Duff (Dublin Institute of Technology), John O'Brien (University of Limerick) front (left to right) Mary Kerr (HEA Deputy Chief Executive), Heledd Fychan (Union of Students in Ireland), Norma Ryan (University College Cork)

Research in a Global Context

IA HERO: Advancing Cross-National Exploration

In 2005, the HEA and George Mason University, Virginia (GMU) established the Irish American Higher Education Research Organisation (IA HERO). Its objective is to provide a medium through which research, publications and conferences will examine challenges in higher education in both Ireland and the United States, thereby benefiting both countries. IA/HERO has a small Advisory Board chaired by The Hon. Richard Riley, former US Secretary for Education and Mr Michael Kelly, Chairman, HEA.

IAHERO at Barberstown Castle

An inaugural colloquium for IA HERO was held on 21-23 September 2005 at Barberstown Castle on themes relating to how the public interest in higher education can be assured. A series of study tours followed on subjects which



Irish American Higher Education Research Organisation

included funding, access and philanthropy, with Irish groups visiting American officials in Washington, DC and Colorado. An Irish contingent attended the annual meeting of the Association of Governing Boards in Orlando, Florida. In addition, Irish and American delegations were prominent participants in a multinational forum on higher education held in Wellington, New Zealand in March 2006.

The Second General Meeting of IA/HERO was held in Washington DC on 13-16 September 2006 and focussed on improved performance in areas such as institutional performance, access and success; fund raising and implications for institutional mission, and managing research and stimulating innovation. Key priorities identified for further exploration include higher education funding approaches, private fundraising, commercialisation of research and governance and management of higher education institutions.

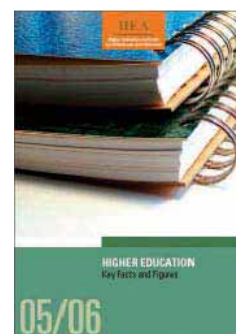
Further information: Click the IA HERO (link) on the HEA home page: www.heai.ie



Student Statistics

4

The HEA has been producing detailed reports on student statistics on an annual basis since 1974. These reports are important tools in their analyses of year on year changes within the higher education system. Likewise, they function as convenient reference documents for higher education institutions, interested public-service bodies, Government departments, research organisations and the wider public.



Statistics on	Description
Students attending HEA institutions	Focus on the enrolment of students in HEA institutions, including details such as field of education, type of course and age distribution of new entrants – these statistics are presented by academic year rather than by calendar year.
Graduates of HEA institutions	Breaks down the awards obtained by students according to type – certificate, diploma, degree and so on, and by the field of education in which the award was obtained.
Students attending all third level institutions	The Department of Education & Science (DES) is responsible for collecting data on other third level institutions, such as the institutes of technology. For convenience, a selection of the DES statistics are presented in the Statistics section of the HEA website, including summary enrolments by institution, and tables examining the age and other breakdowns of the entire third-level student body. From September 2007 the HEA will be responsible for the collection of this data.
First Destination Reports	The First Destination Reports (FDR) survey the initial employment, further study and training patterns of award recipients nine months after graduation. All third-level graduates of full-time courses are surveyed.

HEA statistics has also published Key Facts and Figures for 2006/2007 available in PDF on HEA website since going to print

Further information: The full range of HEA statistics are available on the HEA website at: <http://www.heai.ie>

Higher Education Key Facts and Figure 2005-2006

Enrolments 2001/2002 – 2005/2006

This section outlines the enrolment trends for both full and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate courses in HEA institutions. Table 11 shows the numbers enrolled in full- and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate courses in HEA institutions ¹¹; it also shows the percentage increase in enrolments between 2001/2002 and 2005/2006.

TABLE 11. ENROLMENT TRENDS '01/'02 – '05/'06 FOR HEA INSTITUTIONS

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	% Increase '01/'02/ '05/'06
Undergraduate Enrolment						
Full-time	61,804	63,209	64,531	65,300	66,834	8.1%
Part-time	7,148	7,504	7,204	9,727	8,742	22.3%
Subtotal	68,952	70,713	71,735	75,027	75,576	9.6%
Postgraduate Enrolment						
Full-time	12,536	14,078	15,350	15,339	15,688	25.1%
Part-time	6,795	7,338	6,689	6,977	7,573	11.4%
Subtotal	19,331	21,416	22,039	22,316	23,261	20.3%
TOTAL	88,283	92,129	93,774	97,343	98,837	12.0%

Research Postgraduate Enrolments 2001/2002 to 2005/2006

Table 12 shows the number of research postgraduates enrolled for PhD and research masters programmes full and part-time from 2001/2002 to 2005/2006. The percentage increase in enrolments in that time period is also shown.

11 Future reports will include statistical data on the Institutes of Technology and the Dublin Institute of Technology.

TABLE 12. RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE ENROLMENT TRENDS '01/'02 – '05/'06 FOR HEA INSTITUTIONS

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	% Increase '01/02 – '05/06
Full-time Research Postgraduate						
PhD	2,687	3,173	3,625	3,998	4,151	54%
Masters Degree Research	1,961	2,297	2,629	2,203	2,177	11%
Subtotal	4,648	5,470	6,254	6,201	6,328	36%
Part-time Research Postgraduate						
PhD	566	489	505	576	632	12%
Masters Degree Research	405	396	444	529	511	26%
Subtotal	971	885	949	1,105	1,143	18%
TOTAL	5,619	6,355	7,203	7,306	7,471	33%

New Entrants 2001/2002 – 2005/2006

Table 13 shows the numbers of male and female new entrants in HEA institutions from 2001/2002 to 2005/2006. A new entrant is defined as a student entering third level for the first time.

TABLE 13. FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE NEW ENTRANT GENDER TRENDS '01/'02 – '05/'06 FOR HEA INSTITUTIONS

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	% Increase '01/02 – '05/06
Male	6,833	6,971	7,224	7,243	7,157	4.7%
Female	10,418	10,388	10,793	10,678	10,956	5.2%
Total	17,251	17,359	18,017	17,921	18,113	5.0%

Graduate Data 2001 to 2005

Table 14 shows the number of full- and part-time graduates by level and the percentage increase in graduate numbers from 2001/02 to 2005/06.

TABLE 14. GRADUATE TRENDS 2001 – 2005 FOR HEA INSTITUTIONS

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	% Increase '01/'05
Undergraduate						
Full-Time / Part-time	16,624	17,944	18,487	19,659	19,273	16%
Postgraduate						
Full-Time / Part-time	9,406	9,080	10,793	11,570	11,645	24%
Total	26,030	27,024	29,280	31,229	30,918	19%

First Destination of Graduates: Class of 2005

The first destination of graduates report outlines the destination of graduates 9 months after graduation. Table 12 outlines the first destination of graduates from 1995 to 2005.

TABLE 15. PERCENTAGE FIRST DESTINATION OF GRADUATES 1995-2005

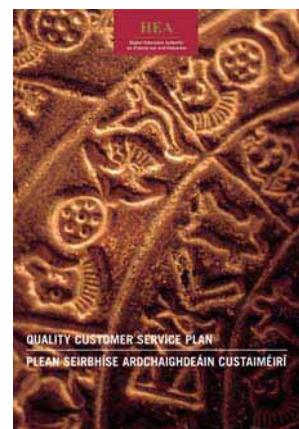
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
In Employment - Ireland	43	45	46	51	49	51	47	45	46	49	54
In Employment - Overseas	10	9	10	8	7	7	6	6	5	7	5
Further Studies/ Training ‡	40	39	39	35	38	35	41	42	40	35	33
Work Experience Schemes	2	1	1	1	0	0	-†	-†	-†	-†	-†
Seeking Employment	4	4	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3
Unavailable for work/ study	2	2	2	3	4	4	4	4	5	6	5
Number of respondents	19,101	20,160	17,698	24,094	24,103	23,276	28,054	27,046	27,331	26,465	23,496

† Work Experience Schemes – no corresponding category after 2000

‡ Ireland and Overseas combined

Quality Customer Service Plan

In July 2005, following a consultation process with HEA stakeholders, the HEA published its Quality Customer Service Plan. In the foreword to the plan, CEO Tom Boland indicated that the plan represents a 'statement of the standards by which we in the Higher Education Authority want our service to be judged and it is our pledge to everyone to whom we provide a service of quality at all times'.



In July 2006, the HEA invited stakeholders to forward comments on how the HEA might further improve its services to clients. The HEA is committed to keeping its service plan under review and with this in mind is considering producing a separate plan for clients of the National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education having regard to the fact that the customer profile of that office is different from that of other parts of the HEA.

Freedom of Information Act

With effect from January 2001, the HEA is covered by the provisions of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, 1997. This Act established three new statutory rights:

- A legal right for each person to access information held by public bodies;
- A legal right for each person to have official information relating to him/herself amended where it is incomplete, incorrect or misleading; and
- A legal right to obtain reasons for decisions affecting oneself.

To date (December 2006), the HEA has received forty three requests covering the period October 2001 to December 2006.

The HEA has produced Section 15 and Section 16 manuals, in line with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act – these are available on the FOI page of the HEA website.

Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies

The HEA continued to take steps necessary to ensure that it complied with best practice as set out in the *Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies*¹².

Audit Committee

The HEA Audit Committee's primary function is to assist the Authority to fulfil its oversight responsibilities. It does so by reviewing the following:

- Financial information provided in the HEA's audited accounts;
- The systems of financial internal control and risk management that have been established; and
- The HEA's internal audit function.

During 2005 and 2006, the Committee reviewed work carried out by the internal audit function and the Executive in the following areas:

- Use of spreadsheets in the HEA;
- Review on value for money;
- System of internal financial controls;
- HEA risk assessment framework; and
- IT disaster recovery plan.

12 Department of Finance, latest revision, 2001

The Committee also reviewed its own terms of reference which were subsequently approved by the Authority. The HEA's internal audit service was provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

It was with deep regret that the HEA learned of the death in October 2005 of Mr Jim Caves, Chairman of the Audit Committee. A former Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Schools Examinations and Assessment Council, Jim had been appointed for a five-year term as a Member of the HEA from 1 November 2000.

Code of Business Conduct

At its meeting in December 2004, the Authority adopted a Code of Business Conduct. A similar Code for Employees was agreed following consultation with the HEA Partnership Committee.

Strategic Plans

The HEA published its Strategy Statement 2004-2007 in June 2004. Work on a new statement for 2008-2010 commenced in June 2006, and a consultation forum to discuss this took place with key HEA stakeholders in October 2006.

The National Office for Equity of Access to Higher

Education published its

Action Plan 2005-07 in November 2004 and is currently developing a new action plan following consultation with its stakeholders.



A consultation seminar in respect of the strategic plan was held in the Westin Hotel. Left to right: Art Hauptman, independent consultant; Jane Williams, Sia Group Ltd.; Jon File, CHEPS; Tom Boland, HEA CEO and Caitriona Ryan, Head of Policy and Planning, HEA.

Action Plan for the Modernisation of Public Services

The HEA, in consultation with its Partnership Committee, has agreed an action plan for modernisation and flexibility as required under the Sustaining Progress and Towards 2016 agreements. Progress reports have been submitted to the Department of Education & Science who in turn have sanctioned pay increases provided for under the agreements.

Appendix A: HEA Members

	January 2005
Dr Don Thornhill	Chairman, HEA
Mr. Ben Archibald	President, Union of Students in Ireland
Professor Tom Boylan	National University of Ireland, Galway
Dr Maurice Bric	Department of Modern History, University College Dublin
Mr William James Caves	Former Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Schools Examinations and Assessment Council (CEFA)
Cllr Maria Corrigan	Member, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
Mr Michael Cronin	Chief Executive, Forf s
Dr Honor Fagan	Department of Sociology, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
Ms Maura Grant	Advisor to the President of Ireland
Professor Gary Granville	Faculty of Education, National College of Art and Design
Ms Carol Marie Herron	Home School Community Coordinator, Co. Cavan VEC
Mr Paul Hannigan	Director, Letterkenny Institute of Technology
Mr Patrick J. Kirby	Group Commercial Director, Alphyra
Ms Monica Leech	Communications Consultant
Professor Tom McCarthy	Chief Executive Irish Management Institute
Professor Sarah Moore	Dean of Teaching and Learning, University of Limerick
Professor Ciaran Murphy	Department of Accounting, Finance and Information Systems, University College Cork
Ms Antoinette Nic Gearailt	Principal, The Donahies Community School, Dublin
Mr Barry O'Brien	Director (Estates and Support Services), Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

	December 2006
Michael Kelly	Chairman, HEA
Dr. Sarah Moore	Deputy Chairperson, Dean of Teaching and Learning, University of Limerick
Professor Tom Boylan	National University of Ireland, Galway
Dr. Maurice Bric	Department of Modern History, University College Dublin
Dr. Thomas Cooke	Head of Community Links Programme, Dublin Institute of Technology
Cllr. Maria Corrigan	Member, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
Mr. Michael Cotter	School of Education Studies, Dublin City University
Mr. Michael Cronin	Chief Executive, Forfás
Ms. Doreen Delahunty	Self-employed business person
Mr. Louis Dockery	Solicitor
Ms. Sheila Drum	Principal, Dominican College, Sion Hill, Co. Dublin
Dr. Honor Fagan	Department of Sociology, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
Mr. Colm Hamrogue	President, Union of Students in Ireland
Ms. Carol Marie Herron	Home School Community Coordinator, Co. Cavan VEC
Dr. Pat Kelleher	Former Director, Cork Institute of Technology
Mr. Patrick J. Kirby	Group Commercial Director, Alphyra
Professor Elizabeth Meehan	Former Head, Institute of Governance, Queen's University Belfast
Professor Ciaran Murphy	Department of Accounting, Finance and Information Systems, University College Cork

Appendix B: HEA Executive Staff

	January 2005	December 2006
Secretary/Chief Executive	Tom Boland	Tom Boland
Deputy Chief Executive	Mary Kerr	Mary Kerr
Head of Research Programmes	Eucharía Meehan	Eucharía Meehan
Head of Policy and Planning	Fergal Costello	Caitríona Ryan
Head of Institutes of Technology Unit	N/A	Fergal Costello
Head of National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education	Mary-Liz Trant	Mary-Liz Trant
Head of Administration	Padraic Mellett	Padraic Mellett
Head of Information and Public Affairs	Gerry O'Sullivan	Gerry O'Sullivan
Management Accountant	Stewart Roche	Stewart Roche
Capital Projects Consultant	Dick Sweeney	Dick Sweeney
Head of IT Skills Project Team	Pat O'Connor	Pat O'Connor
Assistant Secretary – Recurrent Grants	Mary Armstrong	Mary Armstrong
	Jennifer Gyga	Jennifer Gyga
Assistant Secretary – Physical Development	George Ryan	George Ryan
Assistant Secretary – Research, Socrates/Erasmus	Sheena Duffy	Sheena Duffy
Assistant Secretary – Research Programmes	Lisa Higgins	Tim Conlon
Assistant Secretary – Institutes of Technology Unit	N/A	Louise Sherry
Senior Policy Analyst – Policy and Planning	Caitríona Ryan	Muiris O'Connor
Senior Policy Analyst – Access Office	Orla Christle	Orla Christle
Programme Manager - Access Office	Peter Brown	Peter Brown
Personnel and Accounts	Niall O'Connell	Emer McMullin
	Emer McMullin	Shabbir Hussain
	Sharon O'Rourke	Sharon O'Rourke
	Charlotte Farrell	Paula Christie
Policy and Planning	Leonora Harty	Maria O'Brien
	Oliver Mooney	Deirdre Stritch
Institutes of Technology Unit	N/A	Justin Sinnott
		Mary Daly

	January 2005	December 2006
Recurrent Grants	Jane Sweetman	Valerie Harvey
	Mary May	Jane Sweetman
	Valerie Harvey	Fergal Noone
European Programmes	Louise Sherry	Mary May
	Eileen O'Connell	Eileen O'Connell
Industrial Relations Unit	Maura O'Shea	Maura O'Shea
	Justin Sinnott	Neil McDermott
Physical Development	Ciaran Dolan	Niall O'Connell
	Patricia Carroll	Patricia Carroll
Information and Public Affairs	Cliona Buckley	Cliona Buckley
Statistics	Barbara Carr	Oliver Mooney
	Frank Condon	Adrian O'Donoghue
	Adrian O'Donoghue	
Research Programmes	Fiona Davis	Olive Walsh
	Emer Cunningham	Sorcha Carthy
	Sorcha Carthy	Abigail Chantler
National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education	Olive Walsh	Alan McGrath
	Alan McGrath	Brian Johnston
	Brian Johnston	Justin Synnott
	Justin Synnott	Diane Swanton
	Modesta Mawarire	Modesta Mawarire
Information Technology	John Muldoon	John Muldoon
	Marie O'Sullivan	Marie Wall
Secretarial Services	Jacintha Healy (Secretary to Chairman and CEO)	Jacintha Healy (Secretary to Chairman and CEO)
	Mary Dunne	Mary Dunne
	Mary Meade	Mary Meade
Reception	Shauna Brennan (Marine House)	Shauna Brennan
	Graham Barry (Brooklawn House)	Graham Barry
Services	Bridget Kelly	Bridget Kelly
	Caroline Curtis	Caroline Curtis

Appendix C: HEA Publications 2005/6

Publication Title	Date of Publication
Achieving Equity of Access to Higher Education: Setting an Agenda for Action in Ireland. Conference Proceedings	February 2005
Evaluation of the Millennium Partnership Fund for Disadvantage	March 2005
A Review of Higher Education Participation in 2003	March 2005
“Opportunities for All” Package including audio visual DVD and educational support material	April 2005
Review of Quality Assurance in Irish Universities	April 2005
HEA Customer Service Plan	July 2005
Health Promotion in the Irish Third-Level Setting	July 2005
Progressing the Action Plan: Funding to Achieve Equity of Access to Higher Education	December 2005
Eurostudent Survey II: Irish Report on the Social and Living Conditions of Higher Education Students 2003/2004	January 2006
PRTL: Transforming the Irish Research Landscape 2006	January 2006
Annual Report 2002-2004	January 2006
National Access Office: Annual Report 2005 and Outline Plans 2006	February 2006
Who Went to College in 2004? A National Survey of New Entrants to Higher Education	March 2006
Higher Education Key Facts and Figures (HEA-funded Institutions)	August 2006
Cross Programme for Research and Education contributing to Peace and Reconciliation	September 2006
Towards the best education for all: An evaluation of Access Programmes in Higher Education in Ireland	October 2006
OECD: Ireland Report	November 2006
Programme of Strategic Cooperation between Irish Aid and Higher Education and Research Institutes 2007-2011 Strategy Document	December 2006
An Overview of Applications and Acceptances to Higher Education	December 2006
What Do Graduates do? The Class of 2004	December 2006



Accounts 2005



An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN TÚDARÁS

Paragraph 20 (1) of the Schedule to the Higher Education Authority Act 1971 requires An tÚdarás to prepare financial statements in such form as may be approved by the Minister for Education & Science after consultation with the Minister for Finance for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Higher Education Authority.

In preparing those financial statements, An tÚdarás is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that An tÚdarás will continue in operation.
- Disclose and explain any material departures from applicable accounting standards

An tÚdarás is responsible for keeping proper books of account which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with paragraph 20 (1) of the Schedule to the Act. An tÚdarás is also responsible for safeguarding its assets and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Chairman:



Secretary:



Date: 29/09/06

STATEMENT OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROLS.

1. On behalf of the members of the Higher Education Authority I acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial controls is maintained and operated.
2. The system of internal financial controls can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely period.
3. **Key Control Procedures**
The Authority has taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment by: Clearly defining management responsibilities, including segregation of duties;
 - Adopting the principles of corporate governance contained in the *Code of Practice for Governance of State bodies*
 - Establishing formal procedures for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action is taken; and
 - Establishing formal procedures to monitor the activities and safeguard the assets of the organisation.

The system of internal financial controls is based on a framework of regular management information, a system of delegation and accountability, a set of financial and administrative procedures and rigorous ongoing checks by the finance function. In particular it includes:

- A comprehensive budgeting system with an annual budget, which is reviewed and approved by the members of the Authority;
- Regular review by the members of the Authority of periodic and annual financial information and reports which indicate financial performance against budgets; and
- Setting authorisation limits for expenditure in relation to requisition of funds and disbursement of funds.

The Authority has an Audit Committee who meet on a regular basis to review the work of Internal Audit. The Audit Committee report to the Authority. The work of the Internal Audit is outsourced and Internal Audit plans are based on a risk analysis profile. A medium term audit plan has been prepared and approved by the Audit Committee.

The Authority's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control is informed by the work of the internal auditor, the Audit Committee, the executive management team of the Authority which has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the financial controls framework, and comments made by the Comptroller and Auditor General in his report as applicable.

PricewaterhouseCoopers carried out a full Internal Audit Review of Internal Financial Controls in March 2006.

4 **Annual Review of Controls**

I confirm that for the year ended 31 December 2005, the Authority conducted a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control.



Chairperson of the HEA Date: 29/09/06

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN TÚDARÁS

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas was established on 15th May 1972 to perform functions assigned to it by Acht an Údaráis um Ard-Oideachas 1971. The format of its financial statements has been approved by the Minister for Education and Science with the concurrence of the Minister for Finance and comprises Income and Expenditure Accounts, Balance Sheet and a Cash Flow Statement.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. **Basis of Accounting**
The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. These Statements are prepared on an accruals basis, except as stated below and are in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice. Financial Reporting Standards, recommended by the Accounting Standards Board, are adopted as they become effective.
2. **Oireachtas Grants**
Income from Oireachtas grants represents actual cash receipts in the year.
3. **Fixed Assets**
The fixed assets of the Authority comprising furniture and equipment and computers are stated in the financial statements at cost or valuation less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation
Computers are depreciated at a rate of 33 ¹/₃ % per annum straight line method. All other fixed assets are depreciated at a rate of 10% per annum straight line method.
4. **Capital Funding**
The assets of the Authority are financed out of administration grants. The Capital Reserve Account represents the amount of income allocated for capital purposes less the amount released to revenue over the life of the assets.
5. **Grants to Universities, Colleges and Designated Institutions;**
The expenditure under these headings represents the grants which had been allocated to Institutions in respect of the year. These grants are applied by institutions on the following basis:
 - (a) **Recurrent Grants**
In addition to meeting the running expenses of the Institution these grants may also be applied for certain other purposes, including the purchase of furniture, the replacement of equipment or the carrying out of minor capital projects.
 - (b) **Building Grants**
In certain instances grants reported under this heading may be used to fund initial issues of library stock, equipment or furniture.
 - (c) **Research Initiative Grants**
These grants comprise:
 - Funding of Institutions under the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL) for recurrent and capital purpose schemes.
 - Payments under the Research Schemes of the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Science (IRCHSS) and the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (IRCSET)
 - Payments under the North/South Programme for Collaborative Research
 - Payments under the fund for Collaborative Research between MediaLab Europe and Irish Third Level Institutions

- Payments under the Transport Research Programme.
- Payments since 1 October 1999 on behalf of the Department of Education and Science under a post doctoral fellowship scheme.

(d) The National Office for Equality of Access to Higher Education.

These grants comprise:

- Funding of institutions under the Student Assistance Programme
- Funding of Institutions under the fund for Students with Disabilities.
- Funding of Community organisations under the Millenium Partnership Fund through Area Development Management Ltd.

6. SUPERANNUATION

A superannuation scheme under section 5(3) of the Higher Education Act 1980 has been approved.

The Higher Education Authority operates a defined benefit pension scheme under Section 5(3) of the Higher Education Act, 1980 which is funded annually on a pay as you go basis from monies provided by the Department of Education and Science and from contributions deducted from staff salaries.

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees in the period and are shown net of staff pension contributions which are retained by the Higher Education Authority. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable, and offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments.

Actuarial gains or losses arising on scheme liabilities are reflected in the Statement of Recognised Gains and Losses and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department of Education and Science.

Pension liabilities represent the present value of future pension payments earned by staff to date. Deferred pension funding represents the corresponding asset to be recovered in future periods from the Department of Education and Science.

7. MEMBERS' INTERESTS.

The Board adopted procedures in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Finance in relation to the disclosure of interests by Board Members and these procedures have been adhered to in the year.

There were no transactions in the year in relation to the Board's activities in which the Board Members had any beneficial interest.

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2005

	Notes	2005 €	2004 €
INCOME			
Oireachtas Grants	1.	838,067,206	756,487,805
Chest	2,14	9,879	61,398
Interest Earned	3.	6,629	7,298
Net deferred funding for Pensions		567,611	210,038
Other Income	3A.	<u>161,907</u>	<u>490,082</u>
		838,813,232	757,256,621
Less			
Amounts allocated for Capital Purposes	8.	<u>(195,299)</u>	<u>(224,924)</u>
		838,617,933	757,031,697
EXPENDITURE			
Recurrent Grants	4.	684,218,065	644,507,977
Capital Grants		32,000,000	19,998,501
Research Grants		114,655,037	85,135,644
Administration Overheads	5.	5,834,759	5,715,28
IRCHSS Overheads	6.	665,354	672,740
IRCSET Overheads	7.	709,451	673,437
Access Office Overheads	7A.	<u>596,967</u>	<u>529,084</u>
		<u>838,679,633</u>	<u>757,232,669</u>
		(61,700)	(200,972)
Transfer from Capital Reserve	8.	373,921	434,957
Net Surplus for the year		<u>312,221</u>	<u>233,985</u>

The Statement of Accounting Policies, notes 1-23 and Schedules I – VI form part of the Financial Statements.



Chairperson



Secretary

Date: 29/09/06

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachás

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2005
STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

	Note	2005 €	2004 €
Surplus for the year		312,221	233,985
Actuarial Loss/(Gain) on Pension Liabilities	22e	975,000	2,107,000
Adjustment to Deferred Pension Funding		(975,000)	(2,107,000)
Total Recognised Gain for the year		<u>312,221</u>	<u>233,985</u>

The Statement of Accounting Policies, notes 1-23 and Schedules I – VI form part of the Financial Statements.

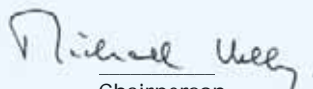

Accounts 2005

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachás

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2005

	Note	2005 €	2004 €
Fixed Assets	9.	<u>963,384</u>	<u>1,142,006</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and Prepayments	10.	6,915,602	486,325
Bank and Cash Balances		<u>12,996,415</u>	<u>13,542,931</u>
		19,912,017	14,029,256
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors and Accrued Expenditure	11.	<u>(18,709,907)</u>	<u>(13,139,367)</u>
Net Current Assets		1,202,110	889,889
Total Assets before Pensions		<u>2,165,494</u>	<u>2,031,895</u>
Deferred Pension Funding		8,881,721	7,340,110
Pension Liabilities		<u>(8,881,721)</u>	<u>(7,340,110)</u>
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Assets		<u>2,165,494</u>	<u>2,031,895</u>
Represented By:			
Capital Reserve	8.	963,384	1,142,006
General Reserve	12.	<u>1,202,110</u>	<u>889,889</u>
		<u>2,165,494</u>	<u>2,031,895</u>

The statement of Accounting Policies, Notes 1-23 and Schedules I – VI form part of the Financial Statements.



 Chairperson Secretary

Date: 29/09/06

Accounts 2005

AN tÚDARÁS UM ARD-OIDEACHAS

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2005

Reconciliation of Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the year to Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities

	2005 €	2004 €
Surplus/(Deficit) on Income and Expenditure Accounts		
- Administration and General Expenses	160,483	277,882
- Recurrent Grants	(70,200)	(195,268)
- Capital Grants	359	(493)
- Research Initiative	174,588	147,156
- IRCHSS Administration	47,554	(15,729)
- IRCSET Administration	(48,596)	(11,361)
- Access Administration	<u>48,033</u>	<u>31,798</u>
	<u>312,221</u>	<u>233,985</u>
Adjustment for Non Operating Items		
Interest Received	(6,629)	(7,298)
Allocation to Fund Capital Items	<u>195,299</u>	<u>224,924</u>
	500,891	451,611
Adjustment for Non-Cash Items		
Depreciation	373,921	434,957
Transfer from Capital Reserve Account	(373,921)	(434,957)
Movement in Debtors	(6,429,277)	131,780
Movement in Creditors	<u>5,570,540</u>	<u>(301,700)</u>
Net Cash (Outflow)/Inflow from Operating Activities	<u>(357,846)</u>	<u>281,691</u>

Cash Flow Statement

Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities	(357,846)	281,691
Finance Servicing		
Interest Received	6,629	7,298
Investing Activities		
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(195,299)	(224,924)
Net (Decrease)/Increase in Cash	<u>(546,516)</u>	<u>64,065</u>
Reconciliation of Net Cash Flow to Movement in Net Funds		
Cash at 1 January	13,542,931	13,478,866
Cash at 31 December	<u>12,996,415</u>	<u>13,542,931</u>
Change in Net Funds	<u>(546,516)</u>	<u>64,065</u>

The Statement of Accounting Policies, notes 1-23 and Schedules I – VI form part of the financial statements.



 Chairperson Secretary

Date: 29/09/06

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2005
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2005	2004
	€	€
1. Oireachtas Grants		
Recurrent Grants	672,758,682	632,770,700
Access Office Grants	11,377,371	11,479,253
Capital Grants	31,999,218	19,996,841
Research Grants	114,826,935	85,279,129
Administration Grants	5,210,000	5,219,000
IRCHSS Grants	600,000	582,000
IRCSET Grant	650,000	600,000
Access Office Grants Administration	645,000	560,882
	<u>838,067,206</u>	<u>756,487,805</u>
2. Chest Receipts	<u>9,879</u>	<u>61,398</u>
3. Interest Earned		
Recurrent	1,933	1,358
Capital	1,141	1,167
Research	2,690	3,671
Administration	865	1,102
Total	<u>6,629</u>	<u>7,298</u>
3A. Other Income		
Department of Health & Children		
- Undergraduate Medical Study	44,736	108,850
Department of Education & Science		
- PRTL Impact Assessment	0	257,000
- DG Conference	0	40,853
European Project Financing	117,171	83,379
	<u>161,907</u>	<u>490,082</u>
<p>These amounts are contributions towards the costs which are disclosed in note 5 under Education Research and Development.</p>		
4. Recurrent Grant Payments		
Grants to Universities and designated institutions	672,758,560	633,031,440
Access Office Grants	11,429,505	11,427,319
Chest Payments	30,000	49,218
	<u>684,218,065</u>	<u>644,507,977</u>

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2005

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

	Note	2005 €	2004 €
5. ADMINISTRATION OVERHEADS			
STAFF COSTS			
Salaries and Wages		2,232,180	2,066,069
Superannuation	22c.	626,763	488,156
Travel and Subsistence Expenses:			
Home		133,889	141,046
Foreign		60,157	65,051
Salary Recoupment		<u>274,223</u>	<u>314,423</u>
		<u>3,327,212</u>	<u>3,074,745</u>
Premises - Upkeep and Overheads			
Light and Heating		28,266	23,579
Maintenance		140,763	125,028
Rent and Insurance		720,634	727,734
Depreciation		<u>298,203</u>	<u>316,483</u>
		<u>1,187,866</u>	<u>1,192,824</u>
General Administration Costs			
Office Expenses		180,284	162,317
Postage and Telephone		64,428	82,188
Bank Charges		386	425
Information Technology		44,239	47,890
Staff Development		49,043	21,506
Audit Fees		15,600	13,000
Miscellaneous		<u>1,162</u>	<u>5,238</u>
		<u>355,142</u>	<u>332,564</u>
Education Research and Development			
Publications		75,450	150,742
Seminars		53,770	77,304
Research and Survey Fees		700,572	753,000
Grants to Universities, Colleges and designated Institutions towards the Expenses of Careers and Appointments Services		<u>24,770</u>	<u>30,550</u>
		<u>854,562</u>	<u>1,011,596</u>
Members' fees		<u>109,977</u>	<u>103,557</u>
Total		<u>5,834,759</u>	<u>5,715,286</u>

Accounts 2005

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2005

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

	2005	2004
	€	€
6. IRCHSS OVERHEADS		
Staff Costs		
Salaries and Wages	185,664	201,088
Travel and Subsistence Expenses:		
Home	5,205	3,903
Foreign	<u>810</u>	<u>25,582</u>
	<u>191,679</u>	<u>230,573</u>
Premises - Upkeep and Overheads		
Depreciation	9,710	8,740
Rent and Insurance	38,473	35,223
Maintenance	<u>3,364</u>	<u>3,364</u>
	<u>51,547</u>	<u>47,327</u>
General Administration Costs		
Office Expenses	11,298	15,032
Bank Charges	15	95
Information Technology	12,378	7,612
Postage and Telephone	15,342	13,657
Staff Development	10,800	9,725
Accountancy Fees	<u>6,000</u>	<u>4,800</u>
	<u>55,833</u>	<u>50,921</u>
Education Research and Development		
Publications	0	2,700
Research and Survey Fees	37,835	6,634
ESF Membership and Networks	39,510	39,513
Seminars	2,229	0
Assessors Expenses	187,579	186,521
Council Members' Expenses	<u>2,565</u>	<u>20,000</u>
	<u>269,718</u>	<u>255,368</u>
European Projects	<u>96,577</u>	<u>88,551</u>
Total	<u>665,354</u>	<u>672,740</u>

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2005

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

	2005	2004
	€	€
7. IRCSET OVERHEADS		
Staff Costs		
Salaries and Wages	211,778	201,300
Travel and Subsistence Expenses:		
Home	18,362	17,782
Foreign	<u>14,994</u>	<u>7,042</u>
	<u>245,134</u>	<u>226,124</u>
Premises - Upkeep and Overheads		
Depreciation	66,008	109,734
Rent and Insurance	38,473	35,223
Maintenance	<u>3,364</u>	<u>3,364</u>
	<u>107,845</u>	<u>148,321</u>
General Administration Costs		
Office Expenses	12,652	9,212
Bank Charges	30	30
Information Technology	41,192	24,481
Postage and Telephone	5,592	2,830
Staff Development	5,265	6,910
Accountancy Fees	<u>6,000</u>	<u>4,800</u>
	<u>70,731</u>	<u>48,263</u>
Educational Research and Development		
Publications	0	975
Research and Survey Fees	120,745	111,876
ESF Membership and Networks	19,890	16,534
Assessors Expenses	62,240	37,175
Quality Initiatives	21,643	2,150
Seminars	<u>61,223</u>	<u>82,019</u>
	<u>285,741</u>	<u>250,729</u>
Total	<u>709,451</u>	<u>673,437</u>

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2005

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

	2005 €	2004 €
7A. ACCESS OFFICE OVERHEADS		
Staff Costs		
Salaries and Wages	389,477	342,770
Travel and Subsistence Expenses:		
Home	12,020	10,373
Foreign	<u>2,632</u>	<u>2,346</u>
	<u>404,129</u>	<u>355,489</u>
Premises – Upkeep and Overheads		
Rent and Insurance	53,193	48,650
Maintenance	<u>5,670</u>	<u>5,670</u>
	<u>58,863</u>	<u>54,320</u>
General Administration Costs		
Office Expenses	13,090	8,465
Information Technology	0	324
Postage and Telephone	11,761	2,809
Staff Development	5,285	2,845
Accountancy Fees	<u>6,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>
	<u>36,136</u>	<u>17,443</u>
Education Research and Development		
Publications	57,348	46,006
Research and Survey Fees	34,009	26,179
Seminars	<u>6,482</u>	<u>29,647</u>
	<u>97,839</u>	<u>101,832</u>
Total	<u>596,967</u>	<u>529,084</u>

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2005

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

	2005	2004
	€	€
8. Capital Reserve		
Balance at 1 st January	1,142,006	1,352,039
Grants Allocated for Capital Purposes		
IRCHSS/IRCSET Grant	69,126	64,766
Oireachtas Grant	<u>132,797</u>	<u>169,772</u>
	201,923	234,538
Net Book Value of Disposals	<u>(6,624)</u>	<u>(9,614)</u>
	195,299	224,924
	1,337,305	1,576,963
Less		
Amount released to Income		
IRCHSS/IRCSET Depreciation	(75,718)	(118,474)
Oireachtas Depreciation	<u>(298,203)</u>	<u>(316,483)</u>
	<u>(373,921)</u>	<u>(434,957)</u>
Balance at 31st December	<u>963,384</u>	<u>1,142,006</u>

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2005

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUEDD

	Furniture & Equipment	Computer Equipment	2005 Total	2004 Total
	€	€	€	€
9. FIXED ASSETS				
Cost				
Cost or Valuation				
at 1 st January	1,843,767	1,134,369	2,978,136	2,880,337
Additions during the year	73,518	59,279	132,797	169,772
Disposals during the year	(13,248)	0	(13,248)	(136,739)
IRCHSS/IRCSET Additions	0	69,126	69,126	64,766
	<u>1,904,037</u>	<u>1,262,774</u>	<u>3,166,811</u>	<u>2,978,136</u>
Depreciation				
Balance at 1 st January	908,505	927,625	1,836,130	1,528,298
Charge for the year	191,241	106,962	298,203	316,483
Less Depreciation on Disposals	(6,624)	0	(6,624)	(127,125)
IRCHSS/IRCSET Depreciation	910	74,808	75,718	118,474
	<u>1,094,032</u>	<u>1,109,395</u>	<u>2,203,427</u>	<u>1,836,130</u>
Net Book Value at				
31 st December 2005	<u>810,005</u>	<u>153,379</u>	<u>963,384</u>	
Net Book Value at				
31 st December 2004	<u>935,262</u>	<u>206,744</u>	<u>1,142,006</u>	

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2005

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

	2005	2004
	€	€
10. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS		
HEA Prepayments	395,738	419,433
IRCHSS Prepayments	36,288	39,510
IRCSET Prepayments	23,161	27,382
Research Grants	<u>6,460,415</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>6,915,602</u>	<u>486,325</u>
11. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS		
Socrates/Erasmus	94,884	94,884
Accruals		
- General	1,151,760	994,557
- Recurrent	255,000	280,724
Research Grants Payable	9,518,277	5,937,769
Access Grants Received in Advance	<u>7,689,986</u>	<u>5,831,433</u>
	<u>18,709,907</u>	<u>13,139,367</u>

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2005

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

	2005	2004
	€	€
12. GENERAL RESERVE		
Balance 1st January		
Administration and General Expenses	293,107	15,225
Recurrent Grants	95,200	290,468
Capital Grants	49,486	49,979
Research Initiative	248,954	101,798
IRCHSS	102,775	118,504
IRCSET	68,569	79,930
Access Office	<u>31,798</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>889,889</u>	<u>655,904</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for year.		
Administration and General Expenses	160,483	277,882
Recurrent Grants	(70,200)	(195,268)
Capital Grants	359	(493)
Research Initiative	174,588	147,156
IRCHSS	47,554	(15,729)
IRCSET	(48,596)	(11,361)
Access	<u>48,033</u>	<u>31,798</u>
	<u>312,221</u>	<u>233,985</u>
Balance 31st December		
Administration and General Expenses Account	453,590	293,107
Recurrent Grants	25,000	95,200
Capital Grants	49,845	49,486
Research Initiative	423,542	248,954
IRCHSS	150,329	102,775
IRCSET	19,973	68,569
Access	<u>79,831</u>	<u>31,798</u>
	<u>1,202,110</u>	<u>889,889</u>

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2005
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

13. OIREACHTAS GRANTS

The Oireachtas grants received by the Authority in 2005 and their classification by purpose were as follows:

Vote	Administration €	Recurrent €	Capital €	Research €
Third Level and Further Education	5,732,000	684,136,053	31,999,218	114,826,935

14. COMBINED HIGHER EDUCATION SOFTWARE TEAM (CHEST)

CHEST refers to a purchasing agreement operated by Irish Universities which enables individual colleges to benefit from the economies of bulk purchasing of computer software. The HEA collects subscriptions from each college and forwards such amounts to University of Limerick which has been contracted to undertake the running of CHEST. Payments to University of Limerick in the year are included in that College's Recurrent Grant.

15. SOCRATES PROGRAMME - EU

The HEA is the national agency in Ireland for the EU funded Socrates programme.

a) ERASMUS GRANTS SCHEME

This scheme provides grants for transnational student mobility with the member states of the EU, covering a period between three and twelve months. To be eligible a person must be a fully registered student pursuing a full time course in an approved third level institution.

Funding is received from the EU and paid out to the Universities and Colleges on an academic year basis. Allocations to Universities and Colleges for the 2004/2005 and 2005/2006 academic years were €2,221,545 and €1,918,772 respectively.

Unexpended amounts are refundable to the EU at the end of each academic year.

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2005 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

At 31 December 2005, an amount of €222,073 was refundable to the EU in respect of academic years up to 2004/2005. For the academic year 2005/2006 the amount, if any, refundable to the EU will be established on finalisation of all claims.

	2005	2004
	€	€
Balance 1 January	555,357	524,642
INCOME		
Grant	2,368,036	2,027,152
Bank Interest	9	298
Miscellaneous Income	<u>9,600</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>2,933,002</u>	<u>2,552,092</u>
LESS		
EXPENDITURE		
Grants to Universities, Colleges and designated institutions (See Schedule V)	2,221,545	1,918,772
Bologna Costs	9,495	0
Travel Costs	2,964	0
Refund to EU	13,352	77,963
	2,247,356	1,996,735
Balance 31st December	<u>685,646</u>	<u>555,357</u>

b) PROMOTION OF ERASMUS GRANTS SCHEME

A once-off programme funding of €109,616 was received from the EU in 1996 to run an information programme on the Erasmus grants scheme. The balance of €94,884 is treated as deferred income and included in Creditors and may be refundable in whole or in part to the EU.

16. ORTELIUS DATABASE

The Higher Education Authority has been designated as the Irish partner for the development of a database of higher education courses available in Irish Universities and Colleges, which will be included in an overall database being developed on higher education at a European level.

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2005
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

17. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The amount of capital commitments under contract and approved by the Authority at 31st December 2005 amounted to €116,230,680 (2004 - €116,813,984). Commitments not under contract but approved by the Authority are estimated at €91,418,206 at 31st December 2005 (2004 - €176,766,567).

18. TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE

The travel and subsistence expenses of members of the Authority are included under the heading staff costs.

19. OPERATING LEASE

Premises at Marine House are held under a 25 year tenancy agreement from March 1997 at an annual cost of €233,637 with a five year review. The rent was reviewed in 2002. Premises at Brooklawn are held under two separate tenancy agreements.

The first floor is held under a 25 year agreement from May 2001 with a 5 year review at an annual cost of €520,593

The ground floor is held under a 25 year agreement from November 2001 with a 5 year review at an annual cost of €322,513. This floor is totally sublet to HEAnet Limited.

20. HEAnet Ltd

This company was incorporated on 12 November, 1997. The company is limited by guarantee and the Higher Education Authority is an ordinary member of the company. The company provides internet services to subscriber higher educational and research Institutions. There was an accumulated surplus of €911,261 on the company's activities as at 31 December 2005.

21. POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

The total expenditure on this scheme in the year was €4,951,470 which was paid out of the Research Initiatives Account.

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2005
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

22. SUPERANNUATION

a. Composition of the scheme

The Higher Education Authority operates a defined benefits scheme which is unfunded.

The valuation used for FRS17 disclosures has been based on a full actuarial valuation by a qualified independent actuary to take account of the requirements of FRS17 in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31 December 2005. The financial assumptions used to calculate scheme liabilities under FRS17 are

	At 31/12/05	At 31/12/04	At 31/12/03
Discount Rate	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
Rate of Expected Salary Increases	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%
Rate of increase in Pension Payment	4.25%	4.80%	5.25%
Inflation	2.25%	2.25%	2.25%

b. Net Deferred Funding for Pensions in year

	2005 €	2004 €
Funding recoverable in respect of current year Pension costs	762,494	610,345
State Grant applied to pay pensioners	(194,883)	(400,307)
	567,611	210,038

c. Analysis of total pension costs charged to Expenditure

	2005 €	2004 €
Current service cost	414,494	354,345
Interest on Pension Scheme Liabilities	348,000	256,000
Employee Contributions	(135,731)	(122,189)
	626,763	488,156

d. Deferred Funding Asset for Pensions.

The Higher Education Authority recognises these amounts as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for pensions on the basis of the set of assumptions described above and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the superannuation scheme, and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including contributions by employees and the annual estimates process. While there is no formal agreement regarding these specific amounts with the Department of Education and Science, the Higher Education Authority has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice. The deferred funding asset for pensions as at 31st December 2005 amounted to €8,881,721(2004: €7,340,110)

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2005
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

e. Analysis of amount recognised in statement of total recognised gains and losses

	2005 €	2004 €
Experience Losses/(Gains) on Pension Scheme liabilities	(212,000)	,208,000
Changes in assumptions underlying The present value of Pension Scheme Liabilities	<u>1,187,000</u>	<u>899,000</u>
Actuarial Loss/(Gain) on Pension Liabilities	<u>975,000</u>	<u>2,107,000</u>

f. Movement in deficit during the year

Deficit in scheme at beginning of year	(7,340,110)	(5,120,502)
Movement in year:		
(current service cost)	(414,494)	(354,345)
Employer contributions	194,883	497,737
Interest on Pension Scheme Liabilities	(348,000)	(256,000)
Actuarial Gain/(Loss)	<u>(975,000)</u>	<u>(2,107,000)</u>
Deficit in Scheme at end of year	<u>(8,882,721)</u>	<u>(7,340,110)</u>

g. History of experience gains and losses

	2005	2004	2003	2002
Experience gains and losses on scheme liabilities: amount (€)	212,000	(1,208,000)	(18,000)	(120,000)
Percentage of Scheme Liabilities	2.4%	(16.5%)	(0.4%)	(2.7%)
Total amount recognised in statement of Total recognised gains and losses: Amount (€)	(975,000)	(2,107,000)	(257,000)	(519,000)
Percentage of Scheme Liabilities	(11.0%)	(28.7%)	(5.0%)	(11.5%)

23. The financial accounts were approved by the Board on 28th March 2006.

Summary of All Grants 2005 SCHEDULE I

	RECURRENT GRANTS	CAPITAL GRANTS	ERASMUS GRANTS	RESEARCH GRANTS	ACCESS GRANTS	2005 TOTAL €	2004 TOTAL €
National University of Ireland	12,697					12,697	12,697
University College, Dublin	158,915,128	5,260,829	358,813	25,537,948	890,689	190,963,407	177,386,170
University College Cork	108,271,085	6,185,428	224,280	23,945,566	1,088,292	139,714,651	117,180,241
NUI, Galway	83,375,090	6,785,303	307,345	13,614,784	858,401	104,940,923	86,780,178
NUI, Maynooth	40,551,630		73,121	2,665,722	268,885	43,559,358	40,517,246
Trinity College Dublin	114,362,085	513,295	254,506	20,743,926	813,973	136,687,785	133,527,482
Dublin City University	46,350,528	1,500,000	139,045	6,370,261	452,729	54,812,563	53,549,798
University of Limerick	65,835,200	8,860,914	239,940	3,049,476	541,660	78,527,190	68,493,031
National College of Art and Design	12,230,170		55,241		147,183	12,432,594	11,623,738
Royal Irish Academy	3,166,500		3,008			3,169,508	2,998,326
Mary Immaculate College	15,999,073	1,787,928	46,802	71,700	56,865	17,962,368	14,745,173
St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra	16,452,347	268,205	26,255	83,755	348	16,830,910	15,458,933
Athlone Institute of Technology	16,500		14,274	23,762	265,652	320,188	718,872
Blanchardstown Institute of Technology			16,650	21,299	66,548	104,497	207,677
Institute of Technology, Carlow			6,590	42,863	65,530	114,983	231,264
Cork Institute of Technology	40,000		53,043	175,306	215,487	483,836	445,666
Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies				2,523,416		2,523,416	1,292,909
Dublin Institute of Technology			159,966	231,881	381,984	773,831	1,340,045
Dundalk Institute of Technology	15,000		67,190	42,762	172,138	297,090	140,707
Dunlaoghaire Institute of Technology				19,000	89,870	108,870	212,759
Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology			34,353	38,100	313,295	385,748	512,668
Letterkenny Institute of Technology			12,146	23,813	151,923	187,882	303,847
Limerick Institute of Technology	31,500		1,293	19,050	288,302	340,145	151,061
Institute of Technology, Sligo	13,500		12,746	427,421	135,195	588,862	525,114
Institute of Technology, Tallaght			48,921	26,574	141,930	217,425	211,855
Institute of Technology, Tralee			12,084		242,230	254,314	108,884
Waterford Institute of Technology			30,025	2,491,237	301,972	2,823,234	1,150,573
Froebel College of Education			4,900			4,900	23,907
HEANET	1,250,000			8,700,000		9,950,000	6,999,517
Mater Dei Institute of Education	3,586,995		18,394		11,990	3,617,379	2,981,574
National College of Ireland	57,000		(5,808)		11,867	63,059	65,387
Royal College of Surgeons	2,226,532	838,098		3,184,581	24,136	6,273,347	8,019,126
St. Angela's College			224		12,757	12,981	11,664
St. Catherine's College of Education for home economics			3,086			3,086	1,442
Tipperary Institute of Technology			856		16,029	16,885	61,736
St Patrick's College Maynooth							12,700
Marino Institute of Education							19,000
UK Institutions				540,726	226,400	767,126	711,609
Irish institutions					1,111,048	1,111,048	764,147
Pontifical University					14,197	14,197	12,953
Area Development Management					2,050,000	2,050,000	2,000,000
Norface				16,032		16,032	
St. Nicholas Montessori School			2,256			2,256	
Teagasc				24,076		24,076	
TOTAL	672,758,560	32,000,000	2,221,545	114,655,037	11,429,505	833,064,647	751,511,676

Recurrent Grant Expenditure **SCHEDULE II**

	ANNUAL GRANTS	MINOR WORKS GRANT	FEE RECOUPMENT	(a) INCREASED INTAKE	(b) STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	(c) ITIF	(d) ITIF DEFE	2005 TOTAL €	2004 TOTAL €
National University of Ireland	12,697							12,697	12,697
University College, Dublin (e)	108,255,200	200,000	45,137,312	2,822,000	2,337,376	84,750	78,490	158,915,128	152,942,246
University College Cork	63,606,600	200,000	36,687,485	4,787,000	2,864,000	126,000		108,271,085	100,937,986
NUI, Galway	47,220,700	100,000	31,087,860	3,046,000	1,642,140	278,390		83,375,090	77,125,368
NUI, Maynooth	22,622,400	50,000	14,792,350	1,076,000	1,785,000	225,880		40,551,630	37,089,982
Trinity College Dublin	77,274,500	200,000	31,126,915	3,637,000	1,860,500	263,170		114,362,085	107,781,672
Dublin City University	25,034,300	50,000	15,151,914	4,541,000	1,386,114	137,200	50,000	46,350,528	45,571,700
University of Limerick (f)	35,188,000	75,000	23,794,508	5,104,000	1,340,000	140,000	193,692	65,835,200	62,369,500
National College of Art and Design	9,057,000		2,830,470	67,000	236,700	39,000		12,230,170	11,037,948
Royal Irish Academy	3,166,500							3,166,500	2,998,326
Mary Immaculate College (g)	6,771,600		6,545,473	2,013,000	669,000			15,999,073	14,168,420
St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra (g)	8,408,400		5,689,947	1,989,000	365,000			16,452,347	15,336,610
Mater Dei Institute (g)	2,475,000		1,013,995		98,000			3,586,995	2,957,744
HEAnet/HIBER	1,250,000							1,250,000	750,000
Royal College of Surgeons			746,000	1,480,532				2,226,532	1,751,241
Athlone Institute of Technology							16,500	16,500	24,000
Institute of Technology, Sligo							13,500	13,500	18,000
National College Ireland							57,000	57,000	49,000
Cork Institute of Technology							40,000	40,000	40,000
Dundalk Institute of Technology							15,000	15,000	22,500
Waterford Institute of Technology									16,500
Limerick Institute of Technology							31,500	31,500	30,000
TOTAL	410,342,897	875,000	214,604,229	30,562,532	14,583,830	1,294,390	495,682	672,758,560	633,031,440

Notes

- (a) The increased Intake heading includes funding in respect of the Post Graduate Skills Conversion Programme and the increase in the number of students in areas where particular manpower shortages have been identified e.g. ICT, Education, and the Health Sector.
- (b) Strategic Initiatives include the following: Improved Access/Progression €5,715,614, Irish €1,140,000, Student Retention €805,000, Support for Teaching €1,034,200, Technology in Higher Education €850,000, Training of Trainers €1,089,000 and Quality Assurance €2,097,000, E Journals €1,000,000, Outreach Centre €400,000, and Miscellaneous €453,016.
- (c) This refers to the Information Technology Investment Fund.
- (d) This funding is provided to the Information Technology Investment Fund by the Department of Enterprise Trade & Employment (National Training Fund)
- (e) Included in the UCD annual grant is €110,000 paid to AHEAD (Association for Higher Education Access and Disability).
- (f) Included in the UL annual grant are monies paid to the National Coaching and Training Centre on behalf of the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism.
- (g) Mary Immaculate College is paid through the University of Limerick, St. Patrick's College Drumcondra and Mater Dei Institute are paid through Dublin City University.

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas
 SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2005

CAPITAL GRANTS 2005 SCHEDULE III

	BUILDING GRANTS	EQUIPMENT GRANTS	MAINTENANCE GRANTS	2005 TOTAL	2004 TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€
Institution					
University College, Dublin	5,260,829			5,260,829	7,562,858
University College Cork	6,185,428			6,185,428	5,449,142
National University of Ireland, Galway	6,785,303			6,785,303	5,000
Trinity College Dublin		513,295		513,295	2,316,701
Dublin City University	1,500,000			1,500,000	397,401
University of Limerick	8,687,533	173,381		8,860,914	2,177,080
National College of Art and Design					421,177
St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra	268,205			268,205	18,366
Mary Immaculate College	1,787,928			1,787,928	453,393
Royal College of Surgeons		838,098		838,098	1,197,383
Total	30,475,226	1,524,774		32,000,000	19,998,501

RESEARCH INITIATIVE GRANT EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE IV

	PRTL RECURRENT & TRANSPORT PROGRAMME	DES POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP	MEDIA LAB EUROPE	IRCSET RESEARCH SCHEMES	IRCHSS RESEARCH SCHEMES	NORTH SOUTH	HEANET RECURRENT	PRTL BUILDING GRANTS	PRTL EQUIPMENT GRANTS	2005 TOTAL	2004 TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
INSTITUTION											
University College, Dublin	6,110,399		417,387	2,505,877	2,182,950	861,189		10,667,243	2,792,903	25,537,948	15,529,502
University College Cork	4,120,000			2,261,619	957,539	565,000		10,504,251	5,537,157	23,945,566	9,292,159
National University of Ireland, Galway	4,435,000		120,250	2,167,006	1,027,515			3,046,821	2,818,192	13,614,784	9,088,964
National University of Ireland, Maynooth			174,455	778,292	1,359,598	155,000		198,377		2,665,722	2,928,678
Trinity College Dublin	9,461,312		451,378	3,082,293	1,775,565	516,000		2,713,320	2,744,058	20,743,926	22,161,625
Dublin City University	2,970,000		64,424	1,357,202	157,682	543,815		1,277,138		6,370,261	6,779,945
University of Limerick	635,000		(4,331)	1,827,013	368,296	95,000		128,498		3,049,476	3,228,877
Royal College of Surgeons	2,335,000			256,729		117,000		37,138	438,714	3,184,581	5,031,482
Athlone institute of technology				4,762	19,000					23,762	111,197
Cork institute of technology				175,306						175,306	236,133
Dublin institute of technology				43,724	52,050			136,107		231,881	1,110,850
Dublin institute of advanced studies	1,825,000			144,384					554,032	2,523,416	1,292,999
Dundalk institute of Technology				4,762	38,000					42,762	57,000
Dunlaoghaire institute of Technology					19,000					19,000	57,000
Galway - Mayo Institute of technology				38,100						38,100	70,550
Institute of technology, Blanchardstown				2,299	19,000					21,299	38,050
Institute of technology, Carlow				42,863						42,863	140,451
Institute of technology, Tallaght				26,574						26,574	19,050
Institute of technology, Tralee										-	19,000
Institute of technology, Sligo	240,000							187,421		427,421	268,690
Letterkenny institute of technology				23,813						23,813	38,100
Limerick institute of technology				19,050						19,050	23,812
Waterford institute of technology	1,150,000			123,825	25,350			1,100,062	92,000	2,491,237	646,994
HEANET									8,700,000	8,700,000	6,249,517
National College Of Art And Design										-	22,222
Mary Immaculate College					71,700					71,700	69,700
St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra			23,000		60,755					83,755	82,633
St. Patrick's College, Maynooth										-	12,700
Marino Institute Of Education										-	19,000
Teagasc				24,076						24,076	
Queen's University Belfast						540,726				540,726	508,854
Norface					16,032					16,032	
TOTAL	33,281,711	-	1,246,563	14,909,569	8,150,032	3,393,730	-	29,996,376	23,677,056	114,655,037	85,135,644

SOCRATES - ERASMUS GRANTS 2005**SCHEDULE V**

INSTITUTION	2005 TOTAL	2004 TOTAL
	€	€
University College, Dublin	358,813	321,236
University College Cork	224,280	221,960
National University of Ireland, Galway	307,345	210,230
National University of Ireland, Maynooth	73,121	43,220
Trinity College Dublin	254,506	203,235
Dublin City University	139,045	177,787
University of Limerick	239,940	185,192
National College of Art And Design	55,241	61,086
Mary Immaculate College	46,802	40,280
St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra	26,255	19,703
Athlone Institute of Technology	14,274	8,733
Blanchardstown Institute Of Technology	16,650	21,720
Institute of Technology, Carlow	6,590	27,508
Cork Institute of Technology	53,043	22,497
Dublin Institute of Technology	159,966	132,838
Dundalk Institute of Technology	67,190	41,180
Galway – Mayo Institute of Technology	34,353	38,092
Letterkenny Institute of Technology	12,146	1,160
Limerick Institute of Technology	1,293	10,179
Institute Of Technology, Sligo	12,746	26,104
Tipperary Institute of Technology	856	(324)
Institute of Technology, Tallaght	48,921	37,946
Institute of Technology, Tralee	12,084	6,372
Waterford Institute of Technology	30,025	29,288
Froebel College of Education	4,900	9,802
Mater Dei Institute of Education	18,394	11,420
National College of Ireland	(5,808)	6,674
St. Angelas College	224	2,212
St. Catherine's College of Education for Home Economics	3,086	1,442
Royal Irish Academy	3,008	
St. Nicholas Montessori College	2,256	
Total	2,221,545	1,918,772

NATIONAL OFFICE FOR EQUALITY OF ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

SCHEDULE VI

	Students with Disabilities	Student Assistance Fund	Millennium Partnership Fund	2005 Total	2004 Total
	€	€	€	€	€
National University Of Ireland					
University College Dublin	193,215	697,474		890,689	1,030,328
University College Cork	536,288	552,004		1,088,292	1,278,994
National University Of Ireland, Galway	398,402	459,999		858,401	350,616
National University Of Ireland, Maynooth	64,112	204,773		268,885	455,366
Trinity College Dublin	355,230	458,743		813,973	1,064,249
Dublin City University	175,988	276,741		452,729	622,965
University Of Limerick	181,551	360,109		541,660	532,382
National College of Art and Design	147,183			147,183	81,305
Mary Immaculate College	5,913	50,952		56,865	13,380
St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra	348			348	1,621
Athlone Institute of Technology	114,400	151,252		265,652	574,942
Blanchardstown Institute of Technology	28,887	37,661		66,548	147,907
Institute of Technology, Carlow	11,163	54,367		65,530	63,305
Cork Institute of Technology	55,767	159,720		215,487	147,036
Dublin Institute of Technology	381,984			381,984	96,357
Dundalk Institute of Technology	48,501	123,637		172,138	20,027
Dunlaoghaire Institute of Technology	41,525	48,345		89,870	155,759
Galway – Mayo Institute of Technology	182,267	131,028		313,295	404,026
Letterkenny Institute of Technology	65,976	85,947		151,923	264,587
Limerick Institute of Technology	163,860	124,442		288,302	87,070
Institute of Technology, Sligo	63,389	71,806		135,195	212,320
Institute of Technology, Tallaght	37,875	104,055		141,930	154,859
Institute Of Technology, Tralee	136,861	105,369		242,230	83,512
Waterford Institute Of Technology	46,968	255,004		301,972	457,791
Froebel College of Education					14,105
Mater Dei Institute of Education		11,990		11,990	12,410
National College of Ireland		11,867		11,867	9,713
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	16,063	8,073		24,136	39,020
St. Angela's College		12,757		12,757	9,452
Tipperary Institute of Technology		16,029		16,029	62,060
Uk Institutions	226,400			226,400	202,755
Irish Institutions	1,102,103	8,945		1,111,048	764,147
Pontifical University		14,197		14,197	12,953
Area Development Management			2,050,000	2,050,000	2,000,000
Total	4,782,219	4,597,286	2,050,000	11,429,505	11,427,319

AN tÚDARÁS UM ARD-OIDEACHAS

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

I have audited the financial statements of An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas for the year ended 31 December 2005 under the Higher Education Authority Act, 1971.

The financial statements, which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein, comprise the Statement of Accounting Policies, the Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes.

Respective Responsibilities of the Údarás and the Comptroller and Auditor General

The Údarás is responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with the Higher Education Authority Act, 1971, and for ensuring the regularity of transactions. The Údarás prepares the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland. The accounting responsibilities of the Members of the Údarás are set out in the Statement of Responsibilities of An tÚdarás.

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

I report my opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland. I also report whether in my opinion proper books of account have been kept. In addition, I state whether the financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

I report any material instance where moneys have not been applied for the purposes intended or where the transactions do not conform to the authorities governing them.

I also report if I have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of my audit.

I review whether the Statement on Internal Financial Control reflects the Údarás's compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies and report any material instance where it does not do so, or if the statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information of which I am aware from my audit of the financial statements. I am not required to consider whether the Statement on Internal Financial Control covers all financial risks and controls, or to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the risk and control procedures.

A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a dark jacket, is shown in profile from the chest up, looking towards the right. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. The text 'Accounts 2006' is centered in the upper half of the image.

Accounts 2006



An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN TÚDARÁS

Paragraph 20 (1) of the Schedule to the Higher Education Authority Act 1971 requires An tÚdarás to prepare financial statements in such form as may be approved by the Minister for Education & Science after consultation with the Minister for Finance for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Higher Education Authority.

In preparing those financial statements, An tÚdarás is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that An tÚdarás will continue in operation.
- Disclose and explain any material departures from applicable accounting standards

An tÚdarás is responsible for keeping proper books of account which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with paragraph 20 (1) of the Schedule to the Act. An tÚdarás is also responsible for safeguarding its assets and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Chairman:



Secretary:



Date: 27/11/07

STATEMENT OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROLS.

1. On behalf of the members of the Higher Education Authority I acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial controls is maintained and operated.
2. The system of internal financial controls can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely period.
3. **Key Control Procedures**
The Authority has taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment by:
 - Clearly defining management responsibilities, including segregation of duties;
 - Adopting the principles of corporate governance contained in the *Code of Practice for Governance of State bodies*;
 - Establishing formal procedures for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action is taken; and
 - Establishing formal procedures to monitor the activities and safeguard the assets of the organisation.

The system of internal financial controls is based on a framework of regular management information, a system of delegation and accountability, a set of financial and administrative procedures and rigorous ongoing checks by the finance function. In particular it includes:

- A comprehensive budgeting system with an annual budget, which is reviewed and approved by the members of the Authority;
- Regular review by the members of the Authority of periodic and annual financial information and reports which indicate financial performance against budgets; and
- Setting authorisation limits for expenditure in relation to requisition of funds and disbursement of funds.

The Authority has an Audit Committee who meet on a regular basis to review the work of Internal Audit. The Audit Committee report to the Authority. The work of the Internal Audit is outsourced and Internal Audit plans are based on a risk analysis profile. A medium term audit plan has been prepared and approved by the Audit Committee.


The Authority's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control is informed by the work of the internal auditor, the Audit Committee, the executive management team of the Authority which has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the financial controls framework, and comments made by the Comptroller and Auditor General in his report as applicable.

PricewaterhouseCoopers carried out a full Internal Audit Review of Internal Financial Controls in March 2006. They also carried out a review of the Audit Committee's terms of reference, provided training on the role of the Audit Committee and advised on the scheduling of work for the committee throughout the year. A workshop on governance, risk and compliance for the senior management team took place in 2006. A final report was agreed and issued in January 2007. PricewaterhouseCoopers provided advice on the risk management framework which will be submitted to the Authority for approval on 27th March 2007.

Following an invitation to tender Mazars were appointed as the HEA's new internal auditors in March 2007. Mazars carried out a review of internal financial controls in May 2007. The Authority approved a risk management framework in July 2007 and Mazars are currently assisting the HEA with its implementation

4 **Annual Review of Controls**

I confirm that for the year ended 31 December 2006, the Authority conducted a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control.



Chairperson of the HEA

Date: 27/11/07

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas was established on 15th May 1972 to perform functions assigned to it by Acht an Údaráis um Ard-Oideachas 1971. The format of its financial statements has been approved by the Minister for Education and Science with the concurrence of the Minister for Finance and comprises Income and Expenditure Accounts, Balance Sheet and a Cash Flow Statement.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. **Basis of Accounting**
The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. These Statements are prepared on an accruals basis, except as stated below and are in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice. Financial Reporting Standards, recommended by the Accounting Standards Board, are adopted as they become effective.
2. **Oireachtas Grants**
Income from Oireachtas grants represents actual cash receipts in the year.
3. **Fixed Assets**
The fixed assets of the Authority comprising furniture and equipment and computers are stated in the financial statements at cost or valuation less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation
Computers are depreciated at a rate of 33 ¹/₃ % per annum straight line method. All other fixed assets are depreciated at a rate of 10% per annum straight line method.
4. **Capital Funding**
The assets of the Authority are financed out of administration grants. The Capital Reserve Account represents the amount of income allocated for capital purposes less the amount released to revenue over the life of the assets.
5. **Grants to Universities, Colleges and Designated Institutions;**
The expenditure under these headings represents the grants which had been allocated to Institutions in respect of the year. These grants are applied by institutions on the following basis:
 - (a) **Recurrent Grants**
In addition to meeting the running expenses of the Institution these grants may also be applied for certain other purposes, including the purchase of furniture, the replacement of equipment or the carrying out of minor capital projects.
 - (b) **Building Grants**
In certain instances grants reported under this heading may be used to fund initial issues of library stock, equipment or furniture.
 - (c) **Research Initiative Grants**
These grants comprise:
 - Funding of Institutions under the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTLII) for recurrent and capital purpose schemes.
 - Payments under the Research Schemes of the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Science (IRCHSS) and the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (IRCSET)
 - Payments under the North/South Programme for Collaborative Research
 - Payments under the fund for Collaborative Research between MediaLab Europe and Irish Third Level Institutions

- Payments under the Transport Research Programme.
- Payments since 1 October 1999 on behalf of the Department of Education and Science under a post doctoral fellowship scheme.

- (d) The National Office for Equality of Access to Higher Education.
These grants comprise
- Funding of institutions under the Student Assistance Programme
 - Funding of Institutions under the fund for Students with Disabilities.
 - Funding of Community organisations under the Millenium Partnership Fund through Area Development Management Ltd.

6. SUPERANNUATION

A superannuation scheme under section 5(3) of the Higher Education Act 1980 has been approved.

The Higher Education Authority operates a defined benefit pension scheme under Section 5(3) of the Higher Education Act, 1980 which is funded annually on a pay as you go basis from monies provided by the Department of Education and Science and from contributions deducted from staff salaries.

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees in the period and are shown net of staff pension contributions which are retained by the Higher Education Authority. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable, and offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments.

Actuarial gains or losses arising on scheme liabilities are reflected in the Statement of Recognised Gains and Losses and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department of Education and Science.

Pension liabilities represent the present value of future pension payments earned by staff to date. Deferred pension funding represents the corresponding asset to be recovered in future periods from the Department of Education and Science.

7. MEMBERS' INTERESTS.

The Board adopted procedures in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Finance in relation to the disclosure of interests by Board Members and these procedures have been adhered to in the year.

There were no transactions in the year in relation to the Board's activities in which the Board Members had any beneficial interest.

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006

	Notes	2005 €	2004 €
INCOME			
Oireachtas Grants	1.	938,931,433	838,067,206
Chest	2,14.	32,189	9,879
Interest Earned	3.	377,357	6,629
Net deferred funding for Pensions	22B.	856,255	567,611
Other Income	3A.	<u>329,770</u>	<u>161,907</u>
		940,527,004	838,813,232
Less			
Amounts allocated for Capital Purposes	8.	<u>(421,825)</u>	<u>(195,299)</u>
		940,105,179	838,617,933
EXPENDITURE			
Recurrent Grants	4.	785,389,874	684,218,065
Capital Grants		36,986,379	32,000,000
Research Grants		109,000,725	114,655,037
Administration Overheads	5.	6,986,880	5,834,759
IRCHSS Overheads	6.	689,816	665,354
IRCSET Overheads	7.	797,609	709,451
Access Office Overheads	7A.	<u>657,896</u>	<u>596,967</u>
		940,509,179	838,679,633
		(404,000)	(61,700)
Transfer from Capital Reserve	8.	<u>413,949</u>	373,921
Net Surplus for the year.		<u>9,949</u>	<u>312,221</u>

The Statement of Accounting Policies, notes 1-23 and Schedules I – VI form part of the Financial Statements.


 Chairperson


 Secretary

Date: 27/11/2007

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006 STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

	Note	2006 €	2005 €
Surplus for the year		9,949	312,221
Actuarial Loss/(Gain) on Pension Liabilities	22e	(641,255)	975,000
Adjustment to Deferred Pension Funding		641,255	(975,000)
Total Recognised Gain for the year		9,949	312,221

The Statement of Accounting Policies, notes 1-23 and Schedules I – VI form part of the Financial Statements.



Accounts 2006

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oid eachas

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2006

	Note	2006 €	2005 €
Fixed Assets	9.	<u>971,260</u>	<u>963,384</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and Prepayments	10.	536,207	6,915,602
Bank and Cash Balances		<u>18,272,807</u>	<u>12,996,415</u>
		18,809,014	19,912,017
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors and Accrued Expenditure	11.	(17,596,955)	(18,709,907)
Net Current Assets		<u>1,212,059</u>	<u>1,202,110</u>
Total Assets before Pensions		<u>2,183,319</u>	<u>2,165,494</u>
Deferred Pension Funding		9,097,721	8,881,721
Pension Liabilitie		<u>(9,097,721)</u>	<u>(8,881,721)</u>
		0	0
Net Assets		<u>2,183,319</u>	<u>2,165,494</u>
Represented By:			
Capital Reserve	8.	971,260	963,384
General Reserve	12.	<u>1,212,059</u>	1,202,110
		<u>2,183,319</u>	<u>2,165,494</u>

The statement of Accounting Policies, Notes 1-23 and Schedules I – VI form part of the Financial Statements.



 Chairperson Secretary

Date: 27/11/2007

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006

Reconciliation of Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the year to Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities

	2006 €	2005 €
Surplus/(Deficit) on Income and Expenditure Accounts		
- Administration and General Expenses	(104,043)	160,483
- Recurrent Grants	107,900	(70,200)
- Capital Grants	22,195	359
- Research Initiative	123,552	174,588
- IRCHSS Administration	(35,552)	47,554
- IRCSET Administration	(75,707)	(48,596)
- Access Administration	<u>(28,396)</u>	<u>48,033</u>
	9,949	312,221
Adjustment for Non Operating Items		
Interest Received	(377,357)	(6,629)
Allocation to Fund Capital Items	421,825	195,299
	54,417	500,891
		1
Adjustment for Non-Cash Items		
Depreciation	413,949	373,921
Transfer from Capital Reserve Account	(413,949)	(373,921)
Movement in Debtors	6,379,395	(6,429,277)
Movement in Creditors	<u>(1,112,952)</u>	<u>5,570,540</u>
Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities	<u>5,320,860</u>	<u>(357,846)</u>

Cash Flow Statement

Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities	5,320,860	(357,846)
Finance Servicing		
Interest Received	377,357	6,629
Investing Activities		
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	<u>(421,825)</u>	<u>(195,299)</u>
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash	5,276,392	(546,516)
Reconciliation of Net Cash Flow to Movement in Net Funds		
Cash at 1 st January	12,996,415	13,542,931
Cash at 31 st December	18,272,807	12,996,415
Change in Net Funds	5,276,392	(546,516)

The Statement of Accounting Policies, notes 1-23 and Schedules I – VI form part of the financial statements.



 Chairperson Secretary

Date: 27/11/2007

Accounts 2006

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2006 €	2005 €
1. Oireachtas Grants		
Recurrent Grants	769,795,256	672,758,682
Access Office Grants	15,495,937	11,377,371
Capital Grants	36,971,558	31,999,218
Research Grants	108,966,682	114,826,935
Administration Grants	5,732,000	5,210,000
IRCHSS Grants Administration	600,000	600,000
IRCSET Grants Administration	700,000	650,000
Access Office Grants Administration	<u>670,000</u>	<u>645,000</u>
	<u>938,931,433</u>	<u>838,067,206</u>
2. Chest Receipts	<u>32,189</u>	<u>9,879</u>
3. Interest Earned		
Recurrent	77,791	1,933
Capital	37,016	1,141
Research	157,596	2,690
Access	96,600	0
Administration	8,354	865
Total	<u>377,357</u>	<u>6,629</u>
3A. Other Income		
Department of Health & Children - Undergraduate Medical Study	0	44,736
Forfís Research Infrastructural Review	118,395	0
Fís Modular Programme	150,000	0
European Project Financing	<u>61,375</u>	<u>117,171</u>
	<u>329,770</u>	<u>161,907</u>
<p>These amounts are contributions towards the costs which are disclosed in note 5 under Education Research and Development.</p>		
4. Recurrent Grant Payments		
Grants to Universities and designated institutions	769,799,685	672,758,560
Access Office Grants	15,495,937	11,429,505
Chest Payments	<u>94,252</u>	<u>30,000</u>
	<u>785,389,874</u>	<u>684,218,065</u>

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

	Note	2006 €	2005 €
5. ADMINISTRATION OVERHEADS			
STAFF COSTS			
Salaries and Wages		2,595,960	2,232,180
Superannuation	22c.	884,812	626,763
Travel and Subsistence Expenses:			
Home		138,848	133,889
Foreign		110,701	60,157
Salary Recoupment		295,327	274,223
		<u>4,025,648</u>	<u>3,327,212</u>
Premises - Upkeep and Overheads			
Light and Heating		28,607	28,266
Maintenance		212,214	140,763
Rent and Insurance		824,826	720,634
Depreciation		349,433	298,203
		<u>1,415,080</u>	<u>1,187,866</u>
General Administration Costs			
Office Expenses		243,524	180,284
Postage and Telephone		65,291	64,428
Accountancy Fees		0	0
Bank Charges		492	386
Information Technology		72,023	44,239
Staff Development		61,639	49,043
Audit Fees		16,500	15,600
Miscellaneous		52,350	1,162
		<u>511,819</u>	<u>355,142</u>
Education Research and Development			
Publications		65,956	75,450
Seminars		11,697	53,770
Research and Survey Fees		671,770	700,572
Grants to Universities, Colleges and designated Institutions towards the			
Expenses of Careers and Appointments Services		29,770	24,770
Modular Programme		97,666	0
		<u>876,859</u>	<u>854,562</u>
Members fees		157,474	109,977
Total		<u>6,986,880</u>	<u>5,834,759</u>

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

	2006	2005
	€	€
6. IRCHSS OVERHEADS		
Staff Costs		
Salaries and Wages	196,051	185,664
Travel and Subsistence Expenses:		
Home	5,122	5,205
Foreign	<u>16,556</u>	<u>810</u>
	<u>217,729</u>	<u>191,679</u>
Premises - Upkeep and Overheads		
Depreciation	9,251	9,710
Rent and Insurance	38,598	38,473
Maintenance	<u>3,364</u>	<u>3,364</u>
	<u>51,213</u>	<u>51,547</u>
General Administration Costs		
Office Expenses	22,633	11,298
Bank Charges	32	15
Information Technology	25,266	12,378
Postage and Telephone	18,286	15,342
Staff Development	5,400	10,800
Accountancy Fees	6,000	<u>6,000</u>
	<u>77,617</u>	<u>55,833</u>
Education Research and Development		
Publications	6,260	0
Research and Survey Fees	29,223	37,835
ESF Membership and Networks	55,870	39,510
Seminars	275	2,229
Assessors Expenses	184,456	187,579
Council Members' Expenses	<u>10,558</u>	<u>2,565</u>
	<u>286,642</u>	<u>269,718</u>
European Projects	<u>56,615</u>	<u>96,577</u>
Total	<u>689,816</u>	<u>665,354</u>

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

	2006	2005
	€	€
7. IRCSET OVERHEADS		
Staff Costs		
Salaries and Wages	273,275	211,778
Travel and Subsistence Expenses:		
Home	30,540	18,362
Foreign	34,805	14,994
	<u>338,620</u>	<u>245,134</u>
Premises - Upkeep and Overheads		
Depreciation	50,765	66,008
Rent and Insurance	38,598	38,473
Maintenance	3,364	3,364
	<u>92,727</u>	<u>107,845</u>
General Administration Costs		
Office Expenses	13,101	12,652
Bank Charges	30	30
Information Technology	27,376	41,192
Postage and Telephone	8,654	5,592
Staff Development	8,774	5,265
Accountancy Fees	6,000	6,000
	<u>63,935</u>	<u>70,731</u>
Educational Research and Development		
Publications	0	0
Research and Survey Fees	114,263	120,745
ESF Membership and Networks	34,911	19,890
Assessors Expenses	88,569	62,240
Quality Initiatives/Council Expenses	498	21,643
Seminars	47,555	61,223
	<u>285,796</u>	<u>285,741</u>
European Projects	<u>16,531</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	<u>797,609</u>	<u>709,451</u>

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

	2006	2005
	€	€
7A. ACCESS OFFICE OVERHEADS		
Staff Costs		
Salaries and Wages	408,168	389,477
Travel and Subsistence Expenses:		
Home	12,650	12,020
Foreign	<u>8,314</u>	<u>2,632</u>
	<u>429,132</u>	<u>404,129</u>
Premises – Upkeep and Overheads		
Depreciation	4,500	0
Rent and Insurance	53,366	53,193
Maintenance	<u>5,670</u>	<u>5,670</u>
	<u>63,536</u>	<u>58,863</u>
General Administration Costs		
Office Expenses	8,902	13,090
Bank Charges	0	0
Information Technology	1,083	0
Postage and Telephone	10,590	11,761
Staff Development	2,990	5,285
Accountancy Fees	<u>6,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>
	<u>29,565</u>	<u>36,136</u>
Education Research and Development		
Publications	48,982	57,348
Research and Survey Fees	76,208	34,009
Seminars	<u>10,473</u>	<u>6,482</u>
	<u>135,663</u>	<u>97,839</u>
Total	<u>657,896</u>	<u>596,967</u>

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

	2006	2005
	€	€
8. Capital Reserve		
Balance at 1 January	963,384	1,142,006
Grants Allocated for Capital Purposes		
IRCHSS/IRCSET Grant	91,394	69,126
Oireachtas Grant	<u>383,940</u>	<u>132,797</u>
	475,334	201,923
Net Book Value of Disposals	<u>(53,509)</u>	<u>(6,624)</u>
	<u>421,825</u>	<u>195,299</u>
	1,385,209	1,337,305
Less		
Amount released to Income		
IRCHSS/IRCSET Depreciation	(64,516)	(75,718)
Oireachtas Depreciation	<u>(349,433)</u>	<u>(298,203)</u>
	<u>(413,949)</u>	<u>(373,921)</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u>971,260</u>	<u>963,384</u>

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

	Furniture & Equipment €	Computer Equipment €	2006 Total €	2005 Total €
9. FIXED ASSETS				
Cost				
Cost or Valuation				
at 1 st January	1,904,037	1,262,774	3,166,811	2,978,136
Additions during the year	282,056	101,884	383,940	132,797
Disposals during the year	(475,018)	(91,310)	(566,328)	(13,248)
IRCHSS/IRCSET/Access Additions	<u>49,247</u>	<u>42,147</u>	91,394	<u>69,126</u>
	<u>1,760,322</u>	<u>1,315,495</u>	<u>3,075,817</u>	<u>3,166,811</u>
Depreciation				
Balance at 1 st January	1,094,032	1,109,395	2,203,427	1,836,130
Charge for the year	249,524	99,909	349,433	298,203
Less Depreciation on Disposals	(421,509)	(91,310)	(512,819)	(6,624)
IRCHSS/IRCSET/Access Depreciation	<u>5,835</u>	<u>58,681</u>	<u>64,516</u>	<u>75,718</u>
	<u>927,882</u>	<u>1,176,675</u>	<u>2,104,557</u>	<u>2,203,427</u>
Net Book Value at 31 st December 2006	<u>832,440</u>	<u>138,820</u>	<u>971,260</u>	
Net Book Value at 31 st December 2005	<u>810,005</u>	<u>153,379</u>	<u>963,384</u>	

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

	2006	2005
	€	€
10. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS		
HEA Prepayments	456,003	395,738
IRCHSS Prepayments	80,204	36,288
IRCSET Prepayments	0	23,161
Research Grants	<u>0</u>	<u>6,460,415</u>
	<u>536,207</u>	<u>6,915,602</u>
11. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS		
Socrates/Erasmus	94,884	94,884
Accruals		
- General	1,597,768	1,151,760
- Access	601,360	0
- Recurrent	275,000	255,000
Research Grants Payable	464,516	9,518,277
Access Grants Received in Advance	6,498,912	7,689,986
Research Grants received in advanced	5,050,894	0
Capital Grants received in advanced	<u>3,013,621</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>17,596,955</u>	<u>18,709,907</u>

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

	2006 €	2004 €
12. GENERAL RESERVE		
Balance 1st January		
Administration and General Expenses	453,590	293,107
Recurrent Grants	25,000	95,200
Capital Grants	49,845	49,486
Research Initiative	423,542	248,954
IRCHSS	150,329	102,775
IRCSET	19,973	68,569
Access Office	<u>79,831</u>	<u>31,798</u>
	<u>1,202,110</u>	<u>889,889</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for year.		
Administration and General Expenses	(104,043)	160,483
Recurrent Grants	107,900	(70,200)
Capital Grants	22,195	359
Research Initiative	123,552	174,588
IRCHSS	(35,552)	47,554
IRCSET	(75,707)	(48,596)
Access	<u>(28,396)</u>	<u>48,033</u>
	<u>9,949</u>	<u>312,221</u>
Balance 31st December		
Administration and General Expenses Account	349,547	453,590
Recurrent Grants	132,900	25,000
Capital Grants	72,040	49,845
Research Initiative	547,094	423,542
IRCHSS	114,777	150,329
IRCSET	(55,734)	19,973
Access	<u>51,435</u>	<u>79,831</u>
	<u>1,212,059</u>	<u>1,202,110</u>

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006

13. OIREACHTAS GRANTS

The Oireachtas grants received by the Authority in 2006 and their classification by purpose were as follows:

Vote	Administration €	Recurrent €	Capital €	Research €
Third Level and Further Education	5,732,000	769,795,256	36,971,558	108,966,682

14. COMBINED HIGHER EDUCATION SOFTWARE TEAM (CHEST)

CHEST refers to a purchasing agreement operated by Irish Universities and Institutes of Technology which enables individual colleges to benefit from the economies of bulk purchasing of computer software. The HEA collects subscriptions from each college and forwards such amounts to University of Limerick which has been contracted to undertake the running of CHEST. Payments to University of Limerick in the year are included in that College's Recurrent Grant.

15. SOCRATES PROGRAMME - EU

The HEA is the national agency in Ireland for the EU funded Socrates programme.

a) ERASMUS GRANTS SCHEME

This scheme provides grants for transnational student mobility with the member states of the EU, covering a period between three and twelve months. To be eligible a person must be a fully registered student pursuing a full time course in an approved third level institution.

Funding is received from the EU and paid out to the Universities and Colleges on an academic year basis. Allocations to Universities and Colleges for the 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 academic years were €2,221,545 and €2,515,012 respectively.

Unexpended amounts are refundable to the EU at the end of each academic year.

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006

At 31 December 2006, an amount of €264,447 was refundable to the EU in respect of academic years up to 2005/2006. For the academic year 2006/2007 the amount, if any, refundable to the EU will be established on finalisation of all claims

	2006	2005
	€	€
Balance 1 st January	685,646	555,357
INCOME		
Grant	2,662,503	2,368,036
Bank Interest	14,116	9
Miscellaneous Income	<u>0</u>	<u>9,600</u>
	<u>3,362,265</u>	<u>2,933,002</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Grants to Universities, Colleges and designated institutions (See Schedule V)	2,515,012	2,221,545
Bologna Costs	380	9,495
Travel Costs	3,191	2,964
Refund to EU	<u>56,577</u>	<u>13,352</u>
	<u>2,575,160</u>	<u>2,247,356</u>
Balance 31 st December	<u>787,105</u>	<u>685,646</u>

b) PROMOTION OF ERASMUS GRANTS SCHEME

A once-off programme funding of €109,616 was received from the EU in 1996 to run an information programme on the Erasmus grants scheme. The balance of €94,884 is treated as deferred income and included in Creditors and may be refundable in whole or in part to the EU.

16. ORTELIUS DATABASE

The Higher Education Authority has been designated as the Irish partner for the development of a database of higher education courses available in Irish Universities and Colleges, which will be included in an overall database being developed on higher education at a European level.

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006

17. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The amount of capital commitments under contract and approved by the Authority at 31 December 2006 amounted to €60,366,038 (2005 - €116,230,680). Commitments not under contract but approved by the Authority are estimated at €126,315,572 at 31 December 2006 (2005 - €91,418,206).

18. TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE

The travel and subsistence expenses of members of the Authority are included under the heading staff costs.

19. OPERATING LEASE

Premises at Marine House are held under a 25 year tenancy agreement from March 1997 at an annual cost of €233,637 with a five year review. The rent was reviewed in 2002. The HEA exercised the break clause in respect of the Marine House premises and surrendered the lease in October 2006.

Premises at Brooklawn are held under two separate tenancy agreements.

The first floor is held under a 25 year agreement from May 2001 with a 5 year review at an annual cost of €520,593

The ground floor is held under a 25 year agreement from November 2001 with a 5 year review at an annual cost of €319,974. This floor was totally sublet to HEAnet Limited until October 2006 when HEAnet moved to new premises. There was no change in the rent for both floors of Brooklawn House following a rent review in 2006.

20. HEAnet Ltd

This company was incorporated on 12 November, 1997. The company is limited by guarantee and the Higher Education Authority is an ordinary member of the company. The company provides internet services to subscriber higher educational and research Institutions. There was an accumulated surplus of €637,726 on the company's activities as at 31 December 2006.

21. POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

The total expenditure on this scheme in the year was €5,337,671 which was paid out of the Research Initiatives Account.

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006

22. SUPERANNUATION

a. Composition of the scheme

The Higher Education Authority operates a defined benefits scheme which is unfunded.

The valuation used for FRS17 disclosures has been based on a full actuarial valuation by a qualified independent actuary to take account of the requirements of FRS17 in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31st December 2006. The financial assumptions used to calculate scheme liabilities under FRS17 are

	At 31/12/06	At 31/12/05	At 31/12/04
Discount Rate	4.70%	4.25%	4.80%
Rate of Expected Salary Increase	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%
Rate of increase in Pension Payment	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
Inflation	2.25%	2.25%	2.25%

b. Net Deferred Funding for Pensions in year

	2006	2005
	€	€
Funding recoverable in respect of current year	1,029,464	762,494
Pension costs		
State Grant applied to pay pensioners	<u>(173,209)</u>	<u>(194,883)</u>
	<u>856,255</u>	<u>567,611</u>

c. Analysis of total pension costs charged to Expenditure

	2006	2005
	€	€
Current service cost	655,652	414,494
Interest on Pension Scheme Liabilities	373,812	348,000
Employee Contributions	<u>(144,652)</u>	<u>(135,731)</u>
	<u>884,812</u>	<u>626,763</u>

d. Deferred Funding Asset for Pensions.

The Higher Education Authority recognises these amounts as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for pensions on the basis of the set of assumptions described above and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the superannuation scheme, and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including contributions by employees and the annual estimates process. While there is no formal agreement regarding these specific amounts with the Department of Education and Science, the Higher Education Authority has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice. The deferred funding asset for pensions as at 31 December 2006 amounted to €9,097,721 (2005: €8,882,721)

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006

e. Analysis of amount recognised in statement of total recognised gains and losses

	2006 €	2005 €
Experience Losses/(Gains) on Pension Scheme liabilities	302,000	(212,000)
Changes in assumptions underlying The present value of Pension Scheme Liabilities	<u>(943,255)</u>	<u>1,187,000</u>
Actuarial Loss/(Gain) on Pension Liabilities	<u>(641,255)</u>	<u>975,000</u>

f. Movement in deficit during the year

Deficit in scheme at beginning of year	(8,882,721)	(7,340,110)
Movement in year:		
(current service cost)	(655,652)	(414,494)
Employer contributions	173,209	194,883
Interest on Pension Scheme Liabilities	(373,812)	(348,000)
Actuarial Gain/(Loss)	<u>641,255</u>	<u>(975,000)</u>
Deficit in Scheme at end of year	<u>(9,097,721)</u>	<u>(8,882,721)</u>

g. History of experience gains and losses

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Experience gains and losses on scheme liabilities: amount (€)	(302,000)	212,000	(1,208,000)	(18,000)
Percentage of Scheme Liabilities	(3.3%)	2.4%	(15.1%)	(0.4%)
Total amount recognised in statement of Total recognised gains and losses: Amount (€)	641,255	(975,000)	(2,009,000)	(257,000)
Percentage of Scheme Liabilities	7.0%	(11.0%)	(27.4%)	(5.0%)

23. The financial accounts were approved by the Board on 27th March 2007.

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2006

Summary of All Grants 2006 SCHEDULE 1

	Recurrent Grants	Capital Grants	Erasmus Grants	Research Grants	Access Grants	2006 Total €	2005 Total €
National University of Ireland	12,697					12,697	12,697
University College, Dublin	179,031,759	19,984,460	442,246	17,460,805	1,085,360	218,004,630	190,963,407
University College Cork	123,976,675	1,317,105	278,749	15,284,219	1,249,257	142,106,005	139,714,651
National University of Ireland, Galway	96,422,938	1,486,515	323,518	7,547,109	845,831	106,625,911	104,940,923
National University of Ireland, Maynooth	47,507,869		109,969	3,362,300	613,513	51,593,651	43,559,358
Trinity College Dublin	127,750,517	692,290	279,188	21,110,899	1,071,275	150,904,169	136,687,785
Dublin City University	51,747,843	168,330	185,235	18,293,614	501,326	70,896,348	54,812,563
University of Limerick	74,186,177	1,599,707	273,380	2,662,477	730,543	79,452,284	78,527,190
National College of Art and Design	12,721,575	694,068	43,397	-	163,463	13,622,503	12,432,594
Royal Irish Academy	3,416,900		-	-	-	3,416,900	3,169,508
Mary Immaculate College	18,951,079	9,211,406	45,297	33,700	50,599	28,292,081	17,962,368
St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra	17,228,287	1,832,498	34,874	37,510	200	19,133,369	16,830,910
Athlone Institute of Technology	255,257		18,975	235,648	693,432	1,203,312	320,188
Blanchardstown Institute of Technology	-		3,022	-	173,592	176,614	104,497
Institute of Technology, Carlow	-		10,619	125,283	82,727	218,629	114,983
Cork Institute of Technology	996,906		45,320	468,189	431,971	1,942,386	483,836
Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies	-		-	3,687,579	-	3,687,579	2,523,416
Dublin Institute of Technology	5,000		141,049	834,092	1,049,799	2,029,940	773,831
Dundalk Institute of Technology	19,500		43,992	28,146	146,384	238,022	297,090
Dunlaoghaire Institute of Technology	-		-	-	205,513	205,513	108,870
Galway – Mayo Institute of Technology	141,141		47,347	74,988	341,267	604,743	385,748
Letterkenny Institute of Technology	(19,500)		(5,819)	38,290	228,416	241,387	187,882
Limerick Institute of Technology	84,775		12,744	22,146	479,678	599,343	340,145
Institute of Technology, Sligo	111,687		24,264	1,128,231	223,981	1,488,163	588,862
Institute of Technology, Tallaght	686,470		54,841	45,530	265,603	1,052,444	217,425
Institute of Technology, Tralee	-		16,832	24,075	109,669	150,576	254,314
Waterford Institute of Technology	10,000		31,890	645,239	692,519	1,379,648	2,823,234
Froebel College of Education	-		7,748	-	13,339	21,087	4,900
HEANET	2,000,000		-	12,570,678	-	14,570,678	9,950,000
Mater Dei Institute of Education	3,656,460		14,212	-	13,856	3,684,528	3,617,379
National College of Ireland	43,000		-	-	73,268	116,268	63,059
Royal College of Surgeons In Ireland	2,485,275		-	3,159,111	31,813	5,676,199	6,273,347
St. Angelas College	3,649,000		1,844	-	56,588	3,707,432	12,981
St. Catherine's College of Education For Home Economics	-		6,444	-	-	6,444	3,086
Tipperary Institute of Technology	-		10,404	-	64,899	75,303	16,885
St Patricks College Maynooth	-		-	-	-	-	-
Marino Institute of Education	-		-	-	10,023	10,023	
UK INSTITUTIONS	-		-	-	268,088	268,088	767,126
Irish Institutions	-		-	-	1,291,827	1,291,827	1,111,048
Pontifical University	-		-	-	13,796	13,796	14,197
Area Development Management	-		-	-	2,111,500	2,111,500	2,050,000
Norface	-		-	-	-	0	16,032
ESF	-		-	4,500	-	4,500	0
St. Nicholas Montessori School	-		4,672	-	-	4,672	2,256
Teagasc	-		-	(6,882)	-	(6,882)	24,076
Royal Irish Academy of Music	-		3,568	-	-	3,568	0
All Hallows	-		1,040	-	-	1,040	0
Griffith College	-		4,152	-	-	4,152	0
Queen's University Belfast	-		-	123,249	11,022	134,271	0
Irish Institutions Community Initiative	-		-	-	100,000	100,000	0
Irish University Association	1,269,510		-	-	-	1,269,510	0
Codiot	1,450,888		-	-	-	1,450,888	0
TOTAL	769,799,685	36,986,379	2,515,013	109,000,725	15,495,937	933,797,739	833,064,647

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

Recurrent Grant Expenditure SCHEDULE 2

	ANNUAL GRANTS	MINOR WORKS GRANT	FEE RECOUPMENT	INCREASED INTAKE	(b) SIF	(c) STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	(d) ITIF	(e) ITIF DEFE	2006 TOTAL €	2005 TOTAL €
National University of Ireland	12,697								12,697	12,697
University College, Dublin (E)	125,452,800	200,000	46,600,984	3,651,000	540,755	2,468,600		117,620	179,031,759	158,915,128
University College Cork	73,134,400	200,000	38,723,388	5,724,000	2,224,887	3,844,000		126,000	123,976,675	108,271,085
National University of Ireland, Galway	56,455,300	100,000	31,613,760	3,667,000	2,460,918	1,771,140	108,870	245,950	96,422,938	83,375,090
National University of Ireland, Maynooth	26,158,600	50,000	17,646,026	1,242,000	961,923	1,203,040	19,080	227,200	47,507,869	40,551,630
Trinity College Dublin	88,498,500	200,000	31,607,581	4,334,000	903,416	1,770,000	213,170	223,850	127,750,517	114,362,085
Dublin City University	29,156,700	50,000	16,271,943	5,159,000		888,000		222,200	51,747,843	46,350,528
University of Limerick (F)	39,798,000	75,000	26,682,614	3,655,000	3,029,467	585,000		361,096	74,186,177	65,835,200
National College of Art And Design	10,170,000		2,189,575	99,000		224,000		39,000	12,721,575	12,230,170
Royal Irish Academy	3,416,900		7,887,394						3,416,900	3,166,500
Mary Immaculate College (G)	7,595,400		5,727,687	2,827,000		641,285			18,951,079	15,999,073
St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra (G)	9,042,600		1,038,745	2,168,000		290,000			17,228,287	16,452,347
Mater Dei Institute (G)	2,529,000					88,715			3,656,460	3,586,995
Heaney/Hiber	2,000,000		1,698,275						2,000,000	1,250,000
Royal College of Surgeons				787,000					2,485,275	2,226,532
Athlone Institute of Technology					243,257			12,000	255,257	16,500
Institute of Technology Sligo					95,187			16,500	111,687	13,500
National College Ireland								43,000	43,000	57,000
Cork Institute of Technology					956,906			40,000	996,906	40,000
Dundalk Institute of Technology								19,500	19,500	15,000
Waterford Institute of Technology						10,000			10,000	
Limerick Institute of Technology			557,000		35,275			49,500	84,775	31,500
St. Angela's College	3,092,000								3,649,000	--
Galway-Mayo Institute Of Technology					141,141				141,141	--
Tallaght Institute of Technology					686,470				686,470	--
Letterkenny Institute of Technology								(19,500)	(19,500)	--
Dublin Institute of Technology						5,000			5,000	--
Irish Universities Association					1,269,510				1,269,510	--
Council Of Directors of lot's					1,450,888				1,450,888	--
TOTAL	476,512,89	875,000	228,244,972	33,313,000	15,000,000	13,788,780	341,120	1,723,916	769,799,685	672,758,560

Notes

- (a) The increased Intake heading includes funding in respect of the Post Graduate Skills Conversion Programme and the increase in the number of students in areas where particular manpower shortages have been identified e.g. ICT, Education, and the Health Sector.
- (b) Strategic Innovation Fund
- (c) Strategic Initiatives include the following: Improved Access/Progression €530,000, Irish €1,170,000, Support for teaching €1,060,000, Technology in Higher Education €870,000, Training of Trainers €1,089,000, Quality Assurance €2,000,000, E Journals €2,000,000, Outreach Centre €320,000, Medical Education €4,000,000 and Miscellaneous €749,780.
- (d) This refers to the Information Technology Investment Fund.
- (e) This funding is provided to the Information Technology Investment Fund by the Department of Enterprise Trade & Employment (National Training Fund)
- (f) Included in the UCD annual grant is €150,000 paid to AHEAD (Association for Higher Education Access and Disability).
- (g) Mary Immaculate College is paid through the University of Limerick, St. Patrick's College Drumcondra and Mater Dei Institute are paid through Dublin City University. St. Angela's College is paid through NUI Galway.

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2006

CAPITAL GRANTS 2006 SCHEDULE III

	BUILDING GRANTS	EQUIPMENT GRANTS	MAINTENANCE GRANTS	2005 TOTAL	2004 TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€
Institution					
University College, Dublin	19,984,460			19,984,460	5,260,829
University College Cork	956,495	360,610		1,317,105	6,185,428
National University of Ireland, Galway	1,486,515			1,486,515	6,785,303
Trinity College Dublin	692,290			692,290	513,295
Dublin City University	168,330			168,330	1,500,000
University of Limerick	1,340,989	258,718		1,599,707	8,860,914
National College of Art and Design	694,068			694,068	
St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra	1,832,498			1,832,498	268,205
Mary Immaculate College	9,211,406			9,211,406	1,787,928
Royal College of Surgeons					838,098
Total	36,367,051	619,328		36,986,379	32,000,000

An tÚdaráis um Ard-Oideachas

SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2006

RESEARCH INITIATIVE GRANT EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE IV

	PRTL RECURRENT & TRANSPORT PROGRAMME	DES POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP	MEDIA LAB EUROPE	IRCSET RESEARCH SCHEMES	IRCHSS RESEARCH SCHEMES	NORTH SOUTH	HEANET RECURRENT	PRTL BUILDING GRANTS	PRTL EQUIPMENT GRANTS	2006 TOTAL	2005 TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
INSTITUTION											
University College, Dublin	6,450,000		306,957	3,553,963	1,690,979	234,138		2,915,014	2,309,754	17,460,805	25,537,948
University College Cork	3,350,000			3,231,329	654,368	143,260		6,482,173	1,423,089	15,284,219	23,945,566
National University of Ireland, Galway	2,500,000		38,420	2,335,408	767,793			1,201,141	704,347	7,547,109	13,614,784
National University of Ireland, Maynooth			(2,303)	925,427	1,447,506	44,000		766,635	181,035	3,362,300	2,665,722
Trinity College Dublin	7,100,000		71,449	3,605,966	1,645,696	217,000		5,004,043	3,460,745	21,110,899	20,743,926
Dublin City University	4,379,391			1,798,688	118,500	312,444		9,756,476	1,928,115	18,293,614	6,370,261
University of Limerick	(65,262)			2,170,390	421,265	59,900		76,184		2,662,477	3,049,476
Royal College of Surgeons	690,000			214,981		22,000		365,389	1,866,741	3,159,111	3,184,581
Athlone institute of technology				22,146				213,502		235,648	23,762
Cork institute of technology				262,916				93,748	111,525	468,189	175,306
Dublin institute of technology				151,361	6,350			676,381		834,092	231,881
Dublin institute of advanced studies	3,000,000			133,547					554,032	3,687,579	2,523,416
Dundaik institute of Technology				28,146						28,146	42,762
Dunlaoghaire institute of Technology										0	19,000
Galway - Mayo Institute of technology				74,988						74,988	38,100
Institute of technology, Blanchardstown											21,299
Institute of technology, Carlow				84,439				27,724	13,120	125,283	42,863
Institute of technology, Tallaght				45,530						45,530	26,574
Institute of technology, Tralee				24,075						24,075	-
Institute of technology, Sligo	210,000							531,289	386,942	1,128,231	427,421
Lettorkenny institute of technology				38,290						38,290	23,813
Limerick institute of technology				22,146						22,146	19,050
Waterford institute of technology	400,000			175,371	25,400			42,000	2,468	645,239	2,491,237
HEANET									12,570,678	12,570,678	8,700,000
National College Of Art And Design										-	-
Mary Immaculate College					33,700					33,700	71,700
St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra			(46,000)		83,510					37,510	83,755
St. Patrick's College, Maynooth										-	-
Marino Institute Of Education										-	-
Teagasc				(6,882)						(6,882)	24,076
Queen's University Belfast						123,249				123,249	540,726
Norface				4,500						4,500	16,032
TOTAL	28,014,129	-	374,523	18,896,725	6,895,067	1,155,991	-	28,151,699	25,512,591	109,000,725	114,655,037

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2006

SOCRATES - ERASMUS GRANTS 2006

SCHEDULE V

INSTITUTION	2006 TOTAL	2005 TOTAL
	€	€
University College, Dublin	442,246	358,813
University College Cork	278,749	224,280
National University Of Ireland, Galway	323,518	307,345
National University Of Ireland, Maynooth	109,969	73,121
Trinity College Dublin	279,188	254,506
Dublin City University	185,235	139,045
University Of Limerick	273,380	239,940
National College Of Art And Design	43,397	55,241
Mary Immaculate College	45,297	46,802
St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra	34,874	26,255
Athlone Institute Of Technology	18,975	14,274
Blanchardstown Institute Of Technology	3,022	16,650
Institute Of Technology, Carlow	10,619	6,590
Cork Institute Of Technology	45,320	53,043
Dublin Institute Of Technology	141,049	159,966
Dundalk Institute Of Technology	43,992	67,190
Galway – Mayo Institute Of Technology	47,347	34,353
Letterkenny Institute Of Technology	(5,819)	12,146
Limerick Institute Of Technology	12,744	1,293
Institute Of Technology, Sligo	24,264	12,746
Tipperary Institute Of Technology	10,404	856
Institute Of Technology, Tallaght	54,841	48,921
Institute Of Technology, Tralee	16,832	12,084
Waterford Institute Of Technology	31,890	30,025
Froebel College Of Education	7,748	4,900
Mater Dei Institute Of Education	14,212	18,394
National College Of Ireland	0	(5,808)
St. Angelas College	1,844	224
St. Catherine's College Of Education For Home Economics	6,444	3,086
Royal Irish Academy	0	3,008
St. Nicholas Montessori College	4,672	2,256
Royal Irish Academy Music	3,568	0
Griffith College	4,152	0
All Hallows College	1,040	0
Total	2,515,013	2,221,545

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2006

NATIONAL OFFICE FOR EQUALITY OF ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

SCHEDULE VI

	Students with Disabilities	Student Assistance Fund	Millennium Partnership Fund	Comm. Initiative	2006 Total	2005 Total
	€	€	€		€	€
University College Dublin	364,221	721,139			1,085,360	890,689
University College Cork	664,521	584,736			1,249,257	1,088,292
National University of Ireland, Galway	400,226	445,605			845,831	858,401
National University of Ireland, Maynooth	392,056	221,457			613,513	268,885
Trinity College Dublin	531,528	539,747			1,071,275	813,973
Dublin City University	178,479	322,847			501,326	452,729
University Of Limerick	311,464	419,079			730,543	541,660
National College of Art and Design	144,457	19,006			163,463	147,183
Mary Immaculate College	3,382	47,217			50,599	56,865
St. Patrick's College, D.	200				200	348
Athlone Inst. of Technology	546,825	146,607			693,432	265,652
Blanchardstown Inst. of Technology	129,847	43,745			173,592	66,548
Inst. of Technology, Carlow	26,950	55,777			82,727	65,530
Cork Institute of Technology	159,780	272,191			431,971	215,487
Dublin Inst. of Technology	697,180	352,619			1,049,799	381,984
Dundalk Inst. of Technology	19,371	127,013			146,384	172,138
Dunlaoghaire Institute of Technology	148,499	57,014			205,513	89,870
Galway – Mayo Institute of Technology	185,780	155,487			341,267	313,295
Letterkenny Institute of Technology	144,240	84,176			228,416	151,923
Limerick Inst. of Technology	320,701	158,977			479,678	288,302
Institute Of Technology, Sligo	89,034	134,947			223,981	135,195
Inst. Of Technology, Tallaght	158,005	107,598			265,603	141,930
Inst. Of Technology, Tralee		109,669			109,669	242,230
Waterford Inst. of Technology	468,055	224,464			692,519	301,972
Froebel College of Education		13,339			13,339	
Mater Dei Inst. of Education		13,856			13,856	11,990
National College of Ireland	30,825	42,443			73,268	11,867
Royal College Of Surgeons in Ireland	22,204	9,609			31,813	24,136
St. Angela's College	42,709	13,879			56,588	12,757
Tipperary Inst. if Technology	56,347	8,552			64,899	16,029
UK Institutions		268,088			268,088	226,400
Irish Institutions	1,283,184	8,643			1,291,827	1,111,048
Pontifical University		13,796			13,796	14,197
Area Development Management			2,111,500		2,111,500	2,050,000
Irish Institutions Community Initiative				100,000	100,000	
Queen's University	11,022				11,022	
Marine Institute		10,023			10,023	
TOTAL	7,531,092	5,753,345	2,111,500	100,000	15,495,937	11,429,505

AN tÚDARÁS UM ARD-OIDEACHAS

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

I have audited the financial statements of An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas for the year ended 31 December 2006 under the Higher Education Authority Act, 1971.

The financial statements, which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein, comprise the Statement of Accounting Policies, the Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes.

Respective Responsibilities of the Údarás and the Comptroller and Auditor General

The Údarás is responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with the Higher Education Authority Act, 1971, and for ensuring the regularity of transactions. The Údarás prepares the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland. The accounting responsibilities of the Members of the Údarás are set out in the Statement of Responsibilities of An tÚdarás.

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

I report my opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland. I also report whether in my opinion proper books of account have been kept. In addition, I state whether the financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

I report any material instance where moneys have not been applied for the purposes intended or where the transactions do not conform to the authorities governing them.

I also report if I have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of my audit.

I review whether the Statement on Internal Financial Control reflects the Údarás's compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies and report any material instance where it does not do so, or if the statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information of which I am aware from my audit of the financial statements. I am not required to consider whether the Statement on Internal Financial Control covers all financial risks and controls, or to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the risk and control procedures.

I read other information contained in the Annual Report, and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. I consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

Basis of Audit Opinion

In the exercise of my function as Comptroller and Auditor General, I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board and by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures and regularity of the financial transactions included in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Údarás's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations that I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the Údarás's affairs at 31 December 2006 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.



John Purcell
Comptroller and Auditor General
30 November 2007

Réamhrá an ÚAO

Bunaíodh an tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas (ÚAO) faoin Acht um Údarás Ard-Oideachais, 1971. Seo leanas a phríomhfheidhmeanna:

- forbairt a dhéanamh ar an ard-oideachas;
- athbhreithniú leanúnach a dhéanamh ar an éileamh ar an ard-oideachas agus ar an ghá leis;
- cuidiú le comhordú infheistíocht stáit san ard-oideachas agus moltaí a dhréachtú i gcomhair na hinfhesitíochta sin;
- athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar iarratais ó na hOllscoileanna agus ó institiúidí sonrithne ar mhaoiniú caipitil agus ar mhaoiniú athfhillteach;
- deontais a cheadaigh an tOireachtas a dháileadh ar na hinstiúidí;
- tuiscint ar luach an ard-oideachais agus an taighde a leathnú;
- chomhionannas deise a chur chun cinn san ard-oideachas agus daonlathú a dhéanamh ar a chuid struchtúr.

Baineann an Tuarascáil seo le gníomhaíocht an ÚAO thar an tréimhse dhá bhliana 2005–2006.



RÁITEAS MISIN

Tacú le forbairt earnála ardoideachais atá:

- inrochtain ag gach ábhar mac léinn agus a dtugtar
- aitheantas idirnáisiúnta dó
- as ucht ardchaighdeán múinteoireachta, foghlama agus taighde agus
- atá inacmhainn ar aghaidh a thabhairt ar na hathruithe ar riachtanais agus ar dhúshláin inár sochaí

Tréimhse Eile fé Rath – Éachtaí an ÚAO 2005–2006

- Foilsíodh *Who Goes to College?* i 2006. Léiríonn na bunfhiigiúir gur tháinig méadú ar an ráta páirteachais san ard-oideachas ó 20% i 1980 go 55% i 2004.
- Tháinig méadú 17% ar an oll-chlárú san ard-oideachas i 2000/1–2004/5; méadú 14% a tháinig ar an chlárú fochéime agus méadú 30% ar an chlárú iarchéime.
- Tosaíodh ar an Eiseamláir Leithdháilte do Dheontais Athfhillteacha a chur i bhfeidhm de réir a chéile sna hollscoileanna i 2006.
- Eisíodh réimse foilseachán bunstaidrimh, ina measc *Key Facts and Figures, An Overview of Applications and Acceptances agus Discipline Choices and Trends for High Points CAO Acceptors*.
- Tháinig an Clár Trasteorann Taighde agus Oideachais le cur le Síocháin agus Comhréiteach chun críche. Maoíodh cúig thogra, seoladh foilseachán agus bhí oll-chruinniú i 2006 leis na torthaí a chraobhscaoileadh i measc na bpáirtithe leasmhara.
- Ciste don Taighde Digiteach; d'éirigh le 12 clár i 2005 agus 5 i 2006.
- Bronnadh an tIonad Náisiúnta um Thaighde Digiteach (INTD) ar Liberty (Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath, Institiúid Ealaíne, Deartha agus Teicneolaíochta Dhún Laoghaire, Coláiste Náisiúnta Ealaíne is Deartha, Coláiste na Tríonóide agus Coláiste na hOllscoile, Baile Átha Cliath).
- Chuaigh 1,571 mac léinn thar lear faoi chlár Erasmus a riarraigh an tÚAO agus bronnadh €1.5 m i ndeontais taistil i gcomhair mac léinn. Mhéadaigh sé sin go €1.8 m i 2005/6 nuair a chuaigh 1,560 mac léinn thar lear.
- Eagraíodh Fóram um Oideachas Iarchéime faoi choimirce an ÚAO agus socraíodh treoirlínte i gcomhair fhorbairt an oideachas iarchéime.
- Bunaíodh Cúnamh Éireann, clár maoinithe, le comhar taighde a chothú idir ollscoileanna na hÉireann agus a macasamhail i dtíortha i mbéal forbartha.
- Bunaíodh Leabharlann Taighde na hÉireann (IREL).
- Bhunaigh an tAire Oideachais agus Eolaíochta an Ciste Nuálaíochta Straitéisí. Dáileadh €42m ar 12 institiúid faoin chéad-ghairm. Tá béim ar leith ar chomhoibriú idir-institiúide.
- Tosaíodh ar Phlean Gnímh Chothromas Rochtana ar an Ard-Oideachas a chur i bhfeidhm i 2005. Cuireadh ábhair chlos-amhairc ar fáil agus seachadadh iad ar 900 scoil agus ar ionaid oideachais.
- Socraíodh agus foilsíodh polasaí náisiúnta fá aitheantas a thabhairt do réamhfhoghlaim.
- Méadú 14% i 2005 agus méadú 20% eile i 2006 ar líon na mac léinn a ndeachaigh an Ciste Tacaíochta do Lucht Míchumais chun tairbhe dó.
- Tháinig feabhas ar scéimeanna tacaíochta do mhic léinn a ceapadh le rochtain a leathnú.
- Foilsíodh Tuarascáil Fottrell ar Oideachas agus Oilíúint Fhochéimithe Leighis, tuarascáil a mhol athruithe sun-tasacha san earnáil sin; don chéad uair ó bhí na 1970í ann, moladh méadú ar líon fochéimithe de chuid an Aontais Eorpaigh.
- Foilsíodh, i bpáirt le hInstitiúid Ríoga Ailtirí Éireann, Tuarascáil Worthington ar Oideachas Ailtireachta a bhfuil teoracha ann do choláistí ar mhian leo scoileanna ailtireachta a bhunú. Bhain Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh agus Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Chorcaí leas as an eiseamláir sa Tuarascáil.
- Dáileadh €12.7m ar 11 institiúid faoin Scéim Tionscadal Straitéiseach chun cuidiú le tograí i réimsí éagsúla, ina measc leathnú rochtana, dul chun cinn na mac léinn, teagasc agus cur chun cinn na Gaeilge.
- Cuireadh Córas Forbartha agus Bainistíochta Feidhmiúcháin i bhfeidhm le cur le héifeacht an eagrais.

Réamhrá Chathaoirleach an ÚAO



Glactar go forleathan go bhfuil forbairt eacnamaíochta agus sóisialta na hÉireann ag brath ar an léann. Tá córas ard-oideachais agus taighde de chaighdeán idirnáisiúnta, ó thaobh teagaisc agus taighde dó, de dhíth orainn lenár gcuspóirí a bhaint amach — córas d'institiúidí neamhspleácha, ag feidhmiú i ndaingean-fhráma freagarthach, a bhfuil riail agus bainistíocht éifeachtach air; córas


atá i bhfách le forbairt agus úire, atá oscailte don uile dhuine ar bhonn ábaltachta amháin, agus córas a bhfuil sé d'achmainn aige deiseanna éagsúla a thapú. I dtréimhse na Tuarascála seo choinnigh ár gcóras ard-oideachais ag dul chun cinn. Tá achoimhre ar chuid de phríomhéachtaí na tréimhse anseo.

Lena chuid oibre a dhéanamh, bíonn ag an ÚAO plé le heagrais éagsúla, agus ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil leo uile as ucht an chuidiú a thug siad dúinn i dtréimhse na Tuarascála. Ina measc, tá ranna stáit, go háirithe an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta, an Roinn Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostaíochta, agus an Roinn Airgeadais; an Chomhairle um Thaighde sna Dána agus sna hEolaíochta Sóisialta; Comhairle Taighde na hÉireann um Eolaíocht, Innealtóireacht agus Teicneolaíocht; Forfás; Fondúireacht Eolaíochta Éireann; an Bord Taighde Sláinte; Fiontraíocht Éireann; Údarás Náisiúnta Cáilíochtaí na hÉireann, agus eagrais eile. Ar ndóigh, achab é comhar agus comhoibriú na n-institiúidí léinn, ní bheadh rath ar obair an ÚAO, agus ba mhaith liom buíochas croí a ghabháil leo.

Ba mhaith liom, ar son an Údaráis, buíochas a ghabháil le gach baill as an oiread a rinne siad ar son an Údaráis agus ar son an ardoideachais in Éirinn.

Tháinig arthrú ar bhallraíocht an ÚAO le linn thréimhse na Tuarascála, de thairbhe cuid de na baill iarraidh as poist agus baill úra bheith ceapaithe ina n-áit. Ba mhaith liom, ar son an Údaráis, buíochas a ghabháil le Ben Archibold, Maura Grant, Gary Granville, Monica Leech, Tom McCarthy, Antoinette Nic Gearailt, Barry O'Brien agus

Tony McDonnell as an oiread a rinne said ar son an Údaráis agus ar son an ard-oideachais in Éirinn. Ba mhaith liom buíochas speisialta a ghabháil leis an Dr. Don Thornhill a d'éirigh as Cathaoirleacht an Údaráis ag tús na bliana 2005 i ndiaidh seacht mbliana sa phost. Chuir an Dr. Thornhill go mór le forbairt an oideachais in Éirinn, is go háirithe le forbairt an ard-oideachais agus an taighde, agus tá buíochas nach beag dlite dó as a sheirbhís eisceachtúil.



Michael Kelly, Cathaoirleach an ÚAO

Forbairt Earnáil an Ard Oideachais – Bonneagar, Taighde agus Teagasc



1.1 Forbairt Bhonneagair d'Árdchaighdeán

Tógáil an Bhonneagair: Maoiniú Caipitil Ghinearálta

Tacaíonn deontas capítail an ÚAO le soláthar na saoráidí tógtha sna hollscoileanna agus in institiúidí ainmnithe ard-oideachais. Mar fhreagra ar riachtanais na hearnála, tháinig méadú as cuimse ar thionscadail tógála sna hinstitiúidí ard-oideachais agus taighde.

I ndiaidh fhoilsiú Thuarascáil an Ghrúpa Athbhreithnithe Caipitil i 2004, cheadaigh an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta méid áirithe príomhthionscadail san earnáil tríú leibhéal. I Nollaig 2005 cheadaíodh 35 tionscadal caipitil mar chuid de mhaoiniú cúig bliana €900m. Tá 17 tionscadal acu seo taobh istigh den Chlár Páirtnéireachta Príobháidí/Poiblí, agus gheobhaidh an chuid eile acu tacaíocht €305m díreach ón ghnáthmhaoiniú Stáitchiste. €32m ab ea iomlán na n-íocaíochtaí Caipitil Ghinearálta i 2005 agus €38m i 2006.

Cheadaíodh os cionn luach €52m de oibreacha Caipitil Ghinearálta i 2005–2006, agus cheadaíodh leithdháileadh Stáitchiste arb fhiú níos mó ná €38m é. Tá léiriú ar na leithdháiltí sin i dTábla 1, Tionscadail Oibre Caipitil Ghinearálta a Cheadaíodh i 2005–2006.

TÁBLA 1: TIONSCADAIL OIBRE CAIPITIL GHINEARÁLTA A CEADAÍODH I 2005–2006

Ciste	Institiúid	Costas Iomlán an Tionscadail (€)	Leithdháileadh Stáitchiste (€)
Clár PPP	OL Leabharlann Cuid 2	23,800,000	17,300,000
	ONÉMN Ionad Eolaíochta Matamaiticé agus Ríomhaireachta	11,000,000	11,000,000
Direct Exchequer Funding	UL Engineering Skills and Research Building	14,100,000	7,100,000
	CTBÁC Oibríthe Sóisialta	1,020,000	1,020,000
	DCU Library Information Resource Centre (to meet a funding shortfall)	2,462,000	2,462,000
		52,382,000	38,882,000

Ag Athrú Dálaí Taighde: CTITL

Tá infheistíocht €404m de chistíocht chapitil déanta faoin Clár um Thaighde in Instiúidí Tríú Leibhéal (CTITL). I 2005 íocadh €45m, agus i 2006 íocaíodh €41M.

Cuireadh tús le sé ionad-CTITL déag i 2005–2006. Tá léiriú ar na tionscadail sin i dTábla 2.

TÁBLA 2: IONAD CHISTITHE AG CTITL A LÁINSEÁLADH I 2005–2006

Teideal ina Iomlán	Cionn-Instiúid	Páirtneir	Costas Cistíochta Athfhilltí (€)	Costas Chistíocht Caipitil (€)
Ionad Taighde sa Cheimic Anailíseach agus sa Bhithcheimic agus Dánlann Spéictreamadóir Toirte	COC	-	1,536,000	6,192,000
Gréasán Eolaíochta Bithchógaseolaíochta	Coláiste Ríoga na Máinleá in Éirinn	COC, ONÉMN, CTBÁC	7,004,000	13,359,000
Ionad Taighde Bithpholaiméirigh agus Bhithmhóilíneach	Instiúid Teicneolaíochta Áth Luain	ONÉG, OUC	973,000	1,281,000
Ionad na Nuálaíochta agus an Athruithe Struchtúrtha	Ollscoil Naisiúnta na hÉireann, Gaillimh	OCBÁC, COBÁC	1,954,000	901,000
Ionad Sintéisé agus Bitheolaíochta Ceimicí	Coláiste na hOllscoile, Baile Átha Cliath	CTBÁC, CRMÉ	10,562,000	15,360,000
Ionad Taighde an Chomhshaoil	Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh	ONÉG, OL, ITT, ITC, COBÁC, ITBÁC, ITC	10,207,000	16,791,000
Instiúid um Theicneolaíocht na Faisnéise agus an Ard-Ríomhaireacht	Coláiste na Tríonóide	4,312,000	14,663,000	14,663,000

TÁBLA 2: ar lean, 132

TÁBLA 2: IONAIÐ CHISTITHE AG CTITL A LÁINSEÁLADH I 2005–2006 (ar lean)

Teideal ina Iomlán	Cionn-Institiúid	Páirtneír	Costas Cistíochta Athfhilltí (€)	Costas Chistíocht Caipitil (€)
Clár Thaighde Mara	Ollscoil Náisiúnta na hÉireann, Gaillimh	CTBÁC, COC, OL	8,713,000	10,421,000
Ionad Uí Mhórdha (tráth Ionad um Thaighde fá Chónaí Daonna agus Athrú Stairiúil)	Ollscoil Náisiúnta na hÉireann, Gaillimh	OL, COC, CTBÁC	2,523,000	1,224,000
Institiúid Eolaíocht Ábhar agus Dromchla	Ollscoil Luimnigh	ITPL, COC, ONÉG	3,279,000	12,473,000
M-chrios	Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Phort Láirge	ITC, CTBÁC	3,360,000	1,592,000
Ionad Náisiúnta Eolaíocht na hInnealtóireachta Bitheighis	Ollscoil Náisiúnta na hÉireann, Gaillimh	COC, OL, COBÁC, CTBÁC, ITGM, IT, ITA	8,857,000	23,459,000
Ionad Náisiúnta Biththeicneolaíochta Ceallaí	Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath	ONÉMNI, ITT	15,745,000	18,538,000
Clár sa Ghéanómaíocht Dhaonna	Coláiste Ríoga na Máinleá in Éirinn / Coláiste na Tríonóide / Coláiste na hOllscoile, Baile Átha Cliath	-	26,284,000	18,538,000
Ionad Bith-Innealtóireachta na Tríonóide	Coláiste na Tríonóide	ONÉG	3,036,000	2,393,000
Ionad Neareolaíochta na Tríonóide	Coláiste na Tríonóide	COC, COBÁC	10,450,000	18,208,000

Straitéis Leasuithe: Oideachas agus Oiliúint Leighis

In Eanáir 2006, tugadh Tuarascáil Mheitheal um Oideachas agus Oiliúint Fochéimithe Leighis (cathaoirleach: an tOllamh Pat Fottrell) agus Tuarascáil Mheitheal um Oideachas agus Oiliúint Iarchéimithe Leighis (cathaoirleach: an Dr. Jane Buttimer) don Rialtas. D'aontaigh an Rialtas le treoir ghinearálta an dá thuarascáil agus, ar 1 Feabhra 2006, seoladh go hoifigiúil iad; an bheirt Aire a d'urraigh iad a sheol na cáipéisí.

Is é ceann de na príomhmholtaí i dTuarascáil Fottrell ná go ndéantar méadú, thar tréimhse ceithre bliana, ar iontógáil bhliantúil na mac léinn Leighis (as Éirinn agus ón Aontas Eoprach) ó 305, mar a bhí sé ag an am, go 725. Ba cheart go mbeadh áiteanna iarchéime agus fochéime san áireamh sa darna figiúr sin. Moladh fosta go mbunófaí clár iontrála iarchéime ceithre bliana don oideachas leighis, agus measadh go dtiocfadh leis an chlár sin áiteanna a sholáthar d'iontógáil bhliantúil 240 mac léinn i ndiaidh ceithre bliana, dá gcuirfí 60 áit úr ar fáil achan bhliain sa tréimhse sin.

Tosaíodh ar mholtaí Thuarascáil Fottrell a chur i bhfeidhm i 2006, agus cuireadh 70 áit úr do fhochéimithe leighis ar fáil.

Tugadh cuireadh do na scoileanna leighis moltaí a dhéanamh fá leasú curaclaim agus fá mhéadú líon na gclíniceoirí acadúla. Tá maoin i ndiaidh a bheith dáilte leis na cuspóirí sin a chur i gcrích.

I Samhain 2006 d'fhógair an tÚAO go raibh sé ag glacadh le iarratais ó na hollscoileanna agus na hinstiitúidí teicneolaíochta ar chlár iontrála iarchéime sa Leigheas. 31 Eanáir 2007 an spriocdáta

1.2 Cothú Ardchaighdeán le Maoiniú Athfhillteach

Feabhas ar Mhaoiniú — Eiseamláir Leithdháilte do Dheontais Athfhillteacha

Tá ar an ÚAO maoiniú athfhillteach, chomh maith le maoiniú caipitil, a dháileadh ar na hollscoileanna agus ar institiúidí oideachais agus taighde a ainmníodh. Dáileadh chóir €1.4bn thar tréimhse na tuarascála seo (2005-2006).

I 2004 cheap an tÚAO tascfhórsa le hathbhreithniú géar a dhéanamh ar a chuid modhanna maoinithe, agus i ndiaidh dianstaidéar agus plé a dhéanamh thangathas ar an Eiseamláir Leithdháilte do Dheontais Athfhillteacha. De réir na heiseamláire seo, is é an maoiniú athfhillteach an príomhmhodh le freagfracht agus le hardchaighdeán a chinntiú agus a chothú. Cuireadh an Eiseamláir i bhfeidhm i maoiniú na n-ollscoileanna ar dtús, ach tá sé i gceist é a chur i bhfeidhm i maoiniú an Choláiste Náisiúnta Ealaíne agus Deartha agus na coláistí oideachais i 2007. Ba de réir a chéile a cuireadh an Eiseamláir i bhfeidhm sna hollscoileanna; bhain 10% leas aisti i 2006, agus tá 45% eile le leas a bhaint aisti i 2007 agus i 2008.

Maidir leis an dáileadh reatha, tá €7.6m mar chuid den phríomhdheontas i gcomhair tionscadail rochtana. Tá 5% eile, nó rud beag níos mó ná €20m (is ionann €20m agus 10% den dáileadh de réir a chéile) 'bainte den bharr' ón chroí-dheontas i gcomhair taighde mar a léirítear i ndáileadh 2006.

Tá an Eiseamláir fós á forbairt agus á leathnú go hinstiúidí eile an ÚAO. De thairbhe gur shocraigh an Rialtas na hinstiúidí teicneolaíochta a ainmniú don ÚAO i 2006, cuireadh tús le scéim phiolótach aonad-chostais in institiúidí teicneolaíochta Bhaile Bhlainséir, Chorcaí, Bhaile Átha Cliath, Luimnigh, agus Phort Láirge; cuirfear an scéim i bhfeidhm ar fud na hearnála seo i 2007.

Léiríonn Tábla 3 na príomhdheontais athfhillteacha a d'íoc an tÚAO leis na hollscoileanna i 2005 agus i 2006, agus léiríonn Tábla 4 na deontais athfhillteacha a íocadh leis na hinstiúidí eile.

TÁBLA 3: CROÍDHEONTAS DO NA hOLLSCOILEANNA I 2005 AGUS 2006

Institiúid	2005 €m	2006 €m
COBÁC	112.5	118.6
COC	69.9	74.2
ONÉG	51.5	55.7
ONÉMNI	24.2	25.8
CTBÁC	81.9	86.9
OL	37.3	39.6
OCBÁC	28.6	30.5
Na hOllscoileanna Uile (Eiseamláir Leithdháilte do Dheontais Athfhillteacha)	405.9	431.3

TÁBLA 4: CROÍDHEONTAS DO hINSTITIÚIDÍ EILE I 2005 AGUS 2006

Institiúid	2005 €m	2006 €m
Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál, Luimneach	6.5	7.0
Coláiste Phádraig, Droim Chonrach	6.8	7.3
Ionad Achmainní Oiliúna, CPD	1.3	1.3
Oscail	1.0	1.0
CNED	8.8	9.4
Mater Dei, Baile Átha Cliath	2.1	2.3
Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann	3.2	3.4
Ollscoil Náisiúnta na hÉireann	0.013	0.013
HEAnet	0.8	1.3
AHEAD	0.1	0.13
Iomlán	30.5	33.1

Fíorú Rialú Airgeadais

In Aibreán 2006 bhunaigh an tÚAO Meitheal Rialú Airgeadais le modhanna rialuithe na n-oillscoileanna a thabhairt suas chun dáta. Is é an príomhthoradh ar obair an Mheithil ná Cód Cleachtais do Rialú Oillscoileanna na hÉireann, a dheimníonn na cearta agus na saoirsí a bhronn Acht na nOillscoileanna, agus a chuireann Cód Cleachtais do Rialú na gComhlachtaí Stáit san áireamh fosta. De réir an Chóid, beidh Ráiteas Smachta Inmheánaigh i dtuarascálacha bliantúla airgeadais agus beidh cead ag an Ard Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste iniúchadh a dhéanamh orthu mar chuid dá ghnó tuarascála.

Dearbhú Caighdeán

Rinne an tÚAO agus Bord Caighdeán Oillscoileanna na hÉireann staidéar leathan agus neamhspleách a choimisiniú ar mhodhanna le caighdeán a dhearbhú in ard-oideachas na hÉireann. De réir an staidéir seo, tá dearbhú caighdeán ar leith ag oillscoileanna na tíre; bhí moltaí ann fosta fá eagrú agus pleanáil an dearbhuithe, go háirithe ó thaobh féin-mheastúcháin agus meastúchán lucht diongbhála; feabhsú caighdeán; agus rialú agus bainistíocht straitéiseach. Bhí seimínear clabhsúir i bhFómhar 2005.

Meitheal na bPinsean

Bhunaigh an tÚAO Meitheal na bPinsean le machnamh a dhéanamh ar mhodhanna maoinithe scéimeanna pinsin san earnáil ard-oideachais. Bhí an chéad-chruinniú ag an Mheitheal um Nollaig 2005. Ba iad leibhéil stairiúla arduithe pá agus easnaimh i scéimeanna a maoiníodh na príomhábhair a pléadh; tórthaí iad seo, a bheag nó a mhór, den easnamh i margaí domhanda cothromais. I measc na n-ábhar eile a phléigh an Meitheal, bhí na hábhair seo leanas:

- sochair atá ar fáil faoi láthair faoi na scéimeanna (tá cuid de na sochair seo níos fearr ná na sochair chaighdeánacha san earnáil phoiblí);
- tionscnamh Scéimeanna Eiseamláire Úire do bhaill foirne a ceapadh i ndiaidh Eanáir 2005; agus

- costais na bpinsean de thairbhe an Achta um Chosaint Fostaithe (Obair Pháirtaimseartha) 2001 agus an Achta um Chosaint Fostaithe (Obair Théarma Socraithe) 2003.

Táthar ag dréim go gcríochnóidh Meitheal na bPinsean a chuid oibre i 2007.

1.3 Leithdháileadh ar Institiúidí: Deontais Athfhillteacha 2005–2006

I 2005 tháinig méadú 6.5% ar an leithdháileadh iomlán airgeadais ar na hinstiúidí; is ionann é sin agus méadú ó €630.5m i 2004 go dtí €671.6m an bhliain dár gcionn. I 2006 tháinig méadú eile 9.5% ar an leithdháileadh iomlán, go dtí €753.3m. Lena chois sin, thosaigh an tÚAO ag maoiniú Choláiste Oideachais N. Aingil, Sligeach, don chéaduair i 2006.

Croídheontas

Tá na deontais a leithdháileadh do instiúidí ainmnithe an ÚAO i 2005 agus i 2006 léirithe thíos i dTáblaí 5 agus 6.

TÁBLA 5: DEONTAS ATHFHILLTEACH AGUS TÁILLÍ A LEITHDHÁILEADH AR INSTIÚIDÍ AN ÚAO I 2005

	Deontas Athfhillteach	Táillí Saor in Aisce	Tionscnaimh Straitéiseacha	Iomlán
COBÁC	111,523,350	45,137,312	2,092,500	158,753,162
COC	69,683,000	36,687,485	1,864,000	108,234,485
ONÉG	50,652,530	31,087,860	1,594,000	83,334,390
ONÉMNI	23,958,880	14,792,350	1,385,000	40,136,230
CTBÁC	81,490,170	31,126,915	1,700,500	114,317,585
OL	40,481,000	23,794,508	1,340,000	65,615,508
OCBÁC	29,726,200	15,151,914	1,386,114	46,264,228
CNED	9,163,000	2,830,470	236,700	12,230,170
CPDC	10,395,000	5,689,947	365,000	16,449,947
CMGS	8,780,000	6,545,473	669,000	15,994,473
MD	2,475,000	1,013,995	98,000	3,586,995
CRMÉ	604,000	1,622,532		2,226,532
ONÉ	12,697			12,697
HEANET	1,250,000			1,250,000
AHEAD	110,000			110,000
ARÉ	3,163,200			3,163,200
Nár Leithdháileadh				883
Total	443,468,027	215,480,761	12,730,814	671,680,485

Nótaí Tábla 5

1. Cuirtear Croídheontas, Mion-oibreacha, Iontógáil Níos Airde, Ciste Infheistíocht do Theicneolaíocht na Faisnéise agus Éagsúil san áireamh sa Deontas Athfhillteach.
2. Tá €1m i gcomhair Thionscnamh IReL (Leabharlanna Taighde Leictreonaigh na hÉireann) san áireamh i leithdháileadh COC.
3. Tá Cláir Oiliúint Oiliúnaithe agus Dearbhú Caighdeán mar chuid de na Tionscnaimh Straitéiseacha (TS).

Tá maoiniú i gcomhair Bhord Caighdeán Ollscoileanna na hÉireann agus i gcomhair Ghréasán Oiliúna Ollscoileanna na hÉireann mar chuid de leithdháileadh OCBÁC.

TÁBLA 6: DEONTAS ATHFILLTEACH AGUS TÁILLÍ A LEITHDHÁILEADH AR INSTITIÚIDÍ AN ÚAO I 2006

	Deontas Athfhillteach	Táillí Saor in Aisce	Tionscnaimh Straitéiseacha	Iomlán
COBÁC	130,764,900	46,600,984	909,000	178,274,884
COC	82,084,400	38,723,388	944,000	121,751,788
ONÉG	61,553,260	31,613,760	795,000	93,962,020
ONÉMNI	27,696,880	17,646,026	782,000	46,124,906
CTBÁC	94,529,520	31,607,581	710,000	126,847,101
OL	43,668,000	26,682,614	585,000	70,935,614
OCBÁC	34,537,900	16,271,943	888,000	51,697,843
CNED	10,308,000	2,189,575	224,000	12,721,575
CPDC	11,210,600	5,727,687	290,000	17,228,287
CMGS	10,422,400	7,887,394	641,285	18,951,079
MD	2,529,000	1,038,745	88,715	3,656,460
CRMÉ	787,000	1,698,275		2,485,275
CONA	3,092,000	557,000		3,649,000
ONÉ	12,697			12,697
HEANET	2,000,000			2,000,000
AHEAD	150,000			150,000
ARÉ	3,416,700			3,416,700
Nár Leithdháileadh				57 ¹
Iomlán	518,763,257	228,244,972	6,857,000	753,865,800

Nótaí Tábla 6

1. Cuirtear Croídheontas, Mionoibreacha, Iontógáil Níos Airde, Ciste Infheistíocht do Theicneolaíocht na Faisnéise agus Éagsúil san áireamh sa Deontas Athfhillteach.
2. Tá €2m i gcomhair Thionscnamh IReL (Leabharlanna Taighde Leictreonaigh na hÉireann) san áireamh i leithdháileadh COC.
3. Tá Cláir Oiliúint Oiliúnaithe agus Dearbhú Caighdeán mar chuid de na Tionscnaimh Straitéiseacha (TS).

Deontas in ionad Táillí Teagaisc Fhochéime

D'íoc an tÚAO €215 mar dheontas in ionad táillí i 2005. Cheadaigh an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta méadú 7% ar tháillí teagaisc sa bhliain acadúil 2005/06 agus méadú ar tháille seirbhíse na mac léinn ó €750 i 2004/2005 go €775 i 2005/2006. Cheadaíodh méadú 6.5% ar tháillí teagaisc do 2006/07, agus méadaíodh táille seirbhíse na mac léinn go €800. D'íoc an tÚAO €228m ina iomláine mar dheontas in ionad táillí teagaisc i 2006.

Ciste Infheistíochta do Theicneolaíocht na Faisnéise (CITF)

I ndiaidh an Tríú Tuarascáil ón tSainghrúpa um Riachtanais Scileanna sa Todhchaí, bhunaigh an tAire Oideachais agus Eolaíochta agus an tAire Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostaíochta an Ciste Infheistíochta do Theicneolaíocht na Faisnéise.

Deánann an tÚAO riaradh ar an Chiste, le tacaíocht ó Ghrúpa Comhairleach ar a bhfuil instiúidí tríú leibhéal, an Sainghrúpa, an tAonad Tionscnaimh Scile, an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta agus Cónaidhm Ghnólachtaí agus Fhostóirí na hÉireann (CGFÉ). Bunaíodh aonad tiomnaithe taobh istigh den ÚAO chuige seo i 2002. Léiríonn Tábla 7 na híocaíochtaí atá déanta ón Chiste go dtí seo.

TÁBLA 7: ÍOCAÍOCHTAÍ ÓN CITF A CEADAÍODH GO DTÍ SEO

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
€8m	€3m	€3m	€3.25m	€4m

Feabhas ar Iontógáil ar Chúrsaí TFC

Bhí an iontógáil ar chúrsaí ríomhaireachta agus cúrsaí innealtóireachta leictreonaí níos mó ná an dá oiread níos airde i 2001 ná mar a bhí sí i 1996. Cibé ar bith, thit an iontógáil sna cúrsaí sin ón am sin, agus is cúis imní í an titim sin don ÚAO, do na hinstitiúidí ard-oideachais agus do earnáil na tionsclaíochta.

Tá an tÚAO ag comhoibriú le ICT Ireland, Cumann Ríomhaireachta na hÉireann, rannóg 'Faigh Amach faoin Eolaíocht agus Innealtóirteacht' Forfás, Innealtóirí na Éireann agus na hinstitiúidí tríú leibhéal ar thionscnaimh éagsúla leis an iontógáil ar chúrsaí TFC a dhéanamh níos fearr.

Clár Intéirneachta

Sheol an tÚAO in éineacht le ICT Ireland, eagraíocht de chuid CGFÉ in ionannas na hearnála ardteicneolaíochta, mórthionscnamh 'Clár Intéirneachta Fochéime ICT Ireland'. Is clár forleathan i dtionscal an TFC é seo chun líon céimithe a chruthú ó dhisciplíní ar leith don tionscal sa fhadtéarma. Faoin chlár seo, caitheann mic léinn dhá lá sa tseachtain i bpost-shocrúcháin a bhfuil baint acu lena gcúrsaí léinn.

Socrú Amchláir Sholúbtha

Bhí comhoibriú idir an ÚAO agus Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Thamhlachta i ndearadh cúrsa pólótaigh san innealtóireacht leictreónach. FLASHE (Rochtain Sholúbtha ar an Ard-Oideachas) is ainm dó. Tá amchlár agus dul chun cinn sa chúrsa seo solúbtha agus tugann sé deis do na mic léinn cúrsa léinn a chur in oiriúnt do dhualgais oibre agus baile.

1.4 Cur chun Cinn agus Cothú Taighde

De thairbhe thacaíocht airgeadais as cuimse ón Rialtas faoin Phlean Forbartha Náisiúnta (2000–2006) agus tionscnaimh eile, tá an tÚAO ag cuidiú le forbairt earnáil taighde den chéadscóth in Éirinn. Tá earnáil an ard-oideachais anois ina heilimint lárnach i gcóras náisiúnta nuálaíochta. Bhí an iliomad tionscnamh éagsúil i 2005–2006 a chothaigh comhoibriú idirinstiúide agus comhar idirdisciplíneach sa taighde.

Clár um Thaighde in Instiúidí Tríú Leibhéal (CTITL)

Bunaíodh an CTITL i 1998 agus tá sé ag dul chun tairbhe do bhonneagar taighde earnáil an ard-oideachais ó shin. Fé láthair, tá 1,700 taighdeoirí ag tabhairt faoi bhunobair cheannródach sna disciplíní uile faoin Chlár seo. Beidh Timthriall 4 den Chlár faoi sheol i 2007–2010. I bhFeabhra 2007 thug an tÚAO cuireadh do na hinstiúidí ard-oideachais ar fud na tíre iarratais ar mhaoiniú a chur isteach sa Timthriall seo. Tá léiriú ar mhaoiniú ón CTITL faoin Phlean Forbartha Náisiúnta (2000–2006) i dTábla 8.

TÁBLA 8: MAOINIÚ ÓN CTITL FAOIN PHLEAN FORBARTHA NÁISIÚNTA



	Fógraithe	Timthriall	Foirgneamh agus Trealamh	Cláir Thaighde agus Daoine	Iomlán (€M)
Timthriall 1	1999	2000-2003	177.5	28.6	206.1
Timthriall 2	2000	2001-2004	48.8	29.7	78.5
Timthriall 3	2001	2002-2006	178.0	142.4	320.4
Iomlán			404.3	200.7	605.0

Tá sé ríthábhachtach do fhorbairt eacnamaíochta agus sóisialta na hÉireann go mbaintear leas as na héachtaí móra a rinneadh faoin CTITL agus cláir taighde eile. Cuireann an tÚAO fáilte roimh an Choiste Idir-Rannach Eolaíochta Teicneolaíochta agus Nuálaíochta, coiste a bhéas i gcroílár an Rialtais agus straitéisí úra á mbeartú aige.

Tá treoir idirlíne do na hionaid a mhaoinigh CTITL ar shuíomh idirlíne an ÚAO. Tá léarscáil idirghníomhach ann agus an rangnú téama seo ann ar na cláracha taighde a mhaoinigh an tÚAO:

- Comhshaol agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha;
- Bitheolaíochtaí agus Bithleigheas;
- Eolaíochtaí Fisiciúla agus Teicneolaíocht;
- Eolaíochtaí Sóisialta agus na Dána; agus
- Leabharlann.

Tá tuilleadh eolais faoi achan ionad maoinithe le fáil trén cheangal a leanstan chuig suíomh an ionaid féin.

Tuilleadh eolais: Treoir Idirlíne CTITL www.hea.ie/PRTL

Clár Thuaidh-Theas um Thaighde Comhoibríoch

Tugann an Clár Thuaidh-Theas um Thaighde Comhoibríoch, maoinithe faoi Phlean Forbartha Náisiúnta an Rialtais (2000–2006), tacaíocht do thaighde agus tionscnaimh idir-institiúide in institiúidí ard-oideachais in Éirinn agus i dTuaisceart na hÉireann. Tá comhar idir naoi n-institiúid ard-oideachais ar fud an oileáin de thairbhe 21 tionscnamh a maoiníodh. Léiríonn na figiúir a tuairscíodh i gcomhair na tréimhse roimh lár 2006 gur eisigh na 21 tionscnamh 100 foilseachán, agus gur chuir taighdeoirí torthaí a gcuid oibre i láthair ag 165 comhdháil.

Tá fianaise den oiread atá curtha i gcrích ag an Chlár le feiceáil sa rath a bhíos ar iarratais ó thionscnaimh a maoiníodh faoin Phlean Forbartha Náisiúnta ar mhaoiniú ó fhoinsí eile.

Tuilleadh eolais: Tá sonruithe na dtionscnamh le fáil ag www.hea.ie/PRTL

Bunú Ionad Náisiúnta um Thaighde Digiteach

Reachtáil an tÚAO próiséas iomaíoch tairscintí i 2006 leis an Ionad Náisiúnta um Thaighde Digiteach a bhunú. D'éirigh leis an chomhlacht Liberty san iomaíocht: is comhar cúig institiúid ard-oideachais é Liberty, mar atá, OCBÁC, IEDT, CNED, CTBÁC agus COBÁC.

Tuilleadh eolais: Feic suíomh an Ionaid: www.ndrc.ie

Ciste don Taighde Digiteach

Riarann an tÚAO an Ciste don Taighde Digiteach thar ceann Roinn Cumarsáide, Mara agus Acmhainní Nadúrtha, agus ó bunaíodh an ciste i 2000, tá níos mó ná €7m leithdháilte aige. Nuair a druideadh Media Lab Europe, ceann de pháirtneir an chiste, shocraigh an Roinn agus an tÚAO tionscadail a bhí faoi sheol a mhaoiniú go mbeadh siad críochnaithe.

Is é príomhchuspóir an chiste ná foireann acadúil agus taighdeoirí in institiúidí ard-oideachais na hÉireann a ghríosadh le forbairt a dheanamh ar thionscadail taighde digitigh; is cuspóir eile é gríosadh comhair idir taighdeoirí in institiúidí difriúla.

Maoiníodh réimse leathan tionscadal go dtí seo, mar atá, an teicneolaíocht chéadfaíoch san oideachas, léiriú mothaithe bunaithe ar nanaitheicneolaíocht, tionscnaimh shláinte bunaithe ar an ríomhaireacht agus foghlaim ealaíne de chineál úr.

Bhí iomaíocht dhruidte ag an ÚAO i gcomhair maoiniú ón Chiste don Taighde Digiteach i 2005 agus i 2006. D'éirigh le dhá iarrathóir déag agus fuair cúig iarratas acusan maoiniú faoi chlár 2006. Baineann na tionscadail a maoiníodh le réimse leathan saineolais, mar atá, an teicneolaíocht chéadfaíoch san oideachas, léiriú mothaithe bunaithe ar nanaitheicneolaíocht, tionscnaimh shláinte bunaithe ar an ríomhaireacht agus foghlaim ealaíne de chineál úr.

Tuilleadh eolais: Feic Cláir Thaighde ar shuíomh an ÚAO, áit a bhfuil eolas fá na tionscadail mhaoinithe: www.hea.ie/research

Feabhas ar Bhonneagair Taighde: IreL Tionscnamh eLeabharlainne Taighde na hÉireann

Mar thoradh ar an mhéadú mór atá ar leibhéal an chistiúcháin taighde atá curtha ar fáil tríd CTITL agus Fundúireacht Eolaíochta Éireann (FEÉ), tháinig méadú gear ar ghníomhaíocht thaighde in institiúidí ard-oideachais na hÉireann ó bhí deireadh an chéid seo caite ann. Chruthaigh sé seo, dá réir sin, éileamh ó thaighdeoirí acadúla ar réimse níos leithne e-irisí. I 2005, bhunaigh an tÚAO, i bpáirt le FEÉ, IreL, eLeabharlann Taighde na hÉireann, foinse idirlíne le réimse leathan e-irisí a chur ar fáil do leabharlanna na n-institiúidí ard-oideachais in Éirinn. Meastar go gcosnóidh an tionscnamh seo €37m roimh 2009.

Tá na saothair i seilbh IreL inchurtha leo siúd i leabharlanna móra taighde in institiúidí mar MIT, Columbia University, an comhar Fionlannach FinELIB agus Imperial College London. Tá IreL faoi chúram Ghrúpa Leabharlannaithe Chumann Ollscoileanna Éireann, agus tá sé faoi riar IRIS Teo., comhlacht neamhbhrabúis de chuid na n-ollscoileanna.

Clár Píolótach Taighde Iompair

Chuidigh an Plean Náisiúnta Forbartha 2000–2006 le taighde acadúil ar ábhair a raibh suim ag an earnáil iompair dhromhchlach iontu. Bhítear ag súil go rachadh an taighde i gcion ar pholasaí iompair, go gcuideodh sé le réiteach fadhbanna agus le himscrúdú a dhéanamh ar chúrsaí iompair in Éirinn (agus in áiteanna eile).

Tháinig ceithre cinn de na tionscnaimh a fuair maoiniú ó 2002 chun críche i 2005.

Tuilleadh eolais: Cuir ríomhphost chuig research@hea.ie

Fóram um Oideachas Iarchéime

Tá forbairt fós á déanamh ar scoileanna iarchéime in Éirinn le feabhas a chur ar oiliúint iarchéime, agus tá sé ríthábhachtach go mbeidh na scoileanna seo den chaighdeán is airde. D'eagraigh an tÚAO, i bpáirt le Comhairle Taighde na hÉireann um Eolaíocht, Innealtóireacht agus Teicneolaíocht agus leis an Chomhairle um Thaighde sna Dána agus na hEolaíochtaí Sóisialta, Fóram um Oideachas Iarchéime ar 28 Feabhra agus 1 Márta 2006.

Is í an aidhm a bhí ag an Fhóram ná leathnú agus daingniú an deachleachtais ag an leibhéal iarchéime, agus le tuairimí na bpríomhpháirtithe leasmhara a fháil faoi chúrsaí oideachas iarchéime. I measc nithe eile, socraíodh méid áirithe treoirphrionsabal don ard-oideachas.

**Tuilleadh eolais: Tá Treoirphrionsabail an Fhórait le fáil ó research@hea.ie
Feic fosta www.ircset.ie agus www.irchss.ie**

Athbhreithniú ar Bhonneagar Taighde

I 2006 thug an tÚAO agus Forfás faoin bhonneagar taighde in Éirinn a mheas le heasnamh agus laigí a thabhairt faoi deara agus le tagarmharcú a dhéanamh air de réir caighdeán idirnáisiúnta. Cuireadh na haidhmeanna agus an méadú infheistíochta molta i Straitéis an Rialtais i gcomhair na hEolaíochta, na Teicneolaíochta agus na Nuálaíochta 2006–2013 san áireamh; cuireadh an Plean Forbartha Náisiúnta 2007–2013 san áireamh fosta. Gné ar leith den phróiseas ab ea ceapadh coiste stiúrtha a bhí neamhspleách agus idirnáisiúnta agus cur le chéile bunachair fán bhonneagar taighde in Éirinn.

Nuair a bhí an staidéar seo críochnaithe, ceapadh an tÚAO ina Phointe Teagmhála Náisiúnta um Bhonneagar Taighde i gClárchreatlach na hEorpa 7. Tá an tÚAO páirteach ag leibhéal straitéiseach sa Ghrúpa Thaighde Ard-Oideachais a ceapadh i Meitheamh

2006. Oibríonn an Grúpa faoi choimirce an Choiste Idirranna um Eolaíocht.

Tuilleadh eolais: Tá an tuarascáil dheireanach ar fail anois ag www.hea.ie/research



Cothú Comhionannais



I Ráiteas Straitéise 2004–2007, léirigh an tÚAO bunaidhmeanna áirithe, ina measc leathnú rannpháirtíochta san ard-oideachas. Tá tábhacht ar leith ag baint leis seo mar tugann rochtain ar an ard-oideachas deis do shaoránaigh forbairt iomlán a dhéanamh ar acmhainní s’acu, agus cuireann sé le comhtháthú sóisialta agus forbairt chultúrtha agus eacnamaíochta.

Déanfaidh cuid de mhórtionscnamh an ÚAO i 2005 agus 2006 cinnte go mbeidh cothromas rochtana fós mar ghné lárnach de pholasaí agus de chleachtas an ard-oideachais in Éirinn. Is é Cothromas Rochtana ar Ard-Oideachas a Bhaint Amach in Éirinn, a d’fhoilsigh Oifig Náisiúnta um Chothromas Rochtana an ÚAO ag deireadh 2004 an bhuntreoir do na tionscnaimh sin. Is plean gnímh é seo a léiríonn a bhfuil le déanamh le rochtain ghrúpaí tearcionadaithe ar an ard-oideachas a fheabhsú.

I 2005–2006 sheol an tÚAO tionscadail thábhachta cistíochta, cosúil le hEiseamláir an Deontais Athfhilltigh agus an Ciste Straitéiseach Nuálaíochta. Tá Oifig Náisiúnta um Chothromas Rochtana an ÚAO ag súil le comhordú a dhéanamh ar iarrachtaí na bpáirtithe leasmhara sa ghnó tábhachtach seo, sé sin, baint amach cothromas rochtana ar an ard oideachas.

Cothromas Rochtana ar Ard-Oideachas a Bhaint Amach in Éirinn - Plean Gnímh 2005–2007

Thosaigh Oifig Náisiúnta um Chothromas Rochtana an ÚAO ag cur *Cothromas Rochtana ar Ard-Oideachas a Bhaint Amach in Éirinn — Plean Gnímh 2005–2007*, plean náisiúnta trí bliana, i bhfeidhm i 2005. Bhí go leor oibre déanta cheana féin le cothromas rochtana a bhaint amach, ach bhí na hiarrachtaí scaipthe agus gan stiúir straitéiseach ar bith leo. Cuireann an Plean Gnímh creatlach struchtúrtha ar fáil i gcomhair oibre comhorduithe agus leagann sé amach sé mhórchuspóir, agus pointí praiticiúla gnímh ag achan cheann acu.

Bhí méid áirithe buntórthaí ar an obair i gcomhair chothromas rochtana i 2005–2006.

Scaipeadh eolais fá réasúnaíocht chothromas rochtana ar an ard-oideachas:

d'fhoilsigh an Oifig Náisiúnta DVD clos-amhairc agus cuireadh chuig 900 scoil agus ionad oideachais é. Bhí comhráití agus plé leanúnach le réimse leathan de pháirtithe leasmhara an oideachais fá chothromas rochtana ar an ard-oideachas.

Tógáil chreatlach náisiúnta polasaithe agus tionscnamh: tosaíodh i 2005 ar an chéad mheastóireacht náisiúnta de chlár rochtana in institiúidí ard-oideachais na hÉireann. Foilsíodh an mheastóireacht i nDeireadh Fómhair 2006. Cuireann sé creatlach chuimsitheach deachleachtas ar fáil agus leagann sé amach moltaí gnímh do na hinstiúidí ard-oideachais agus do lucht déanta polasaf. Cuirfidh an Oifig Náisiúnta agus a cuid páirtneir san earnáil ard-oideachais na moltaí seo i bhfeidhm ó 2007 ar aghaidh. Go speisialta, beidh dréachtú phlean rochtana trí bliana ina choinníoll riachtanach ag an ÚAO i gcomhair leithdháileadh croídheontas, maoiniú straitéiseach agus maoiniú atá ag brath ar fheidhmíocht. Caithfidh spriocanna iontógála agus baint amach céimeanna a bheith sna pleananna seo i gcomhair grúpaí tearcionadaithe.

Cruthú bealtaí rochtana agus dul chun cinn: choinnigh an Oifig Náisiúnta ag cur na creatlaí náisiúnta chun tosaigh tré chruinnithe, cruinnithe eolais agus foilseacháin. Ceapadh go leor socruithe úra agus bealtaí dul chun cinn ón oideachas tríú leibhéal go dtí an t-ard-oideachas i 2005–2006.

Leathnú réimse na straitéisí teagaisc agus foghlama: thug Scéim na dTionscnamh Straitéiseach 2005 agus Ciste Straitéiseach Nuálaíochta 2006 tacaíocht do fhorbairt straitéisí den chineál sin. Sa tréimhse chéanna, rinne an Oifig Náisiúnta teagmháil le heagrais agus le comhordaitheoirí teagaisc agus foghlama, rud a chuidigh le comhrá agus imoibriú.

Cur ar Fáil Tacaíocht Chuí Airgeadais agus Acmhainní Eile: choinnigh an Oifig Náisiúnta ag riaradh agus ag forbairt trí chlár maoinithe rochtana (feic thíos i gcomhair tuilleadh eolais).

Lena chois sin, d'fhoilsigh an Oifig Náisiúnta athbhreithniú cuimsitheach ar na cláir chistíochta sin a bhfuil sé de chuspóir acu cothromas rochtana a bhaint amach san ard-oideachas. Bhí deich moladh san athbhreithniú agus tosaíodh ar an deich moladh sin a chur i bhfeidhm i 2006. I measc na dtionscnamh atá á gcur i bhfeidhm, tá staidéar ar chostas rannpháirtíocht coláiste ag mic léinn neamhthraidisiúnta, ionad réigiúnda meastóireachta píolótach i gcomhair mac léinn atá faoi mhíchumas agus feachtas cuimsitheach eolais fá thacaíocht airgeadais ag an tríú leibhéal agus san ard-oideachas. Moladh fosta go mbunófaí dhá thionscadal, ceann acu i gcathair agus an ceann eile i gceantar tuaithe, le chur chuige pobail a fhorbairt i gcomhair rochtana ar an ard-oideachas.

I ndiaidh iomaíocht tairscintí, tosaíodh ar thionscadail i gCluain Dolcáin agus in Uíbh Fháilí, maoinithe ar bhonn píolótach ag an Oifig Náisiúnta.

Foghlaim ón Rud a Éiríonn Leis: rinne an Oifig Náisiúnta comhordú ar fhorbairt bhreise ar an bhunachar sonraí mac léinn le heolas a chruinniú ar dhálaí sóisialta, eacnamíochta agus cultúrtha na hiontógála tríú leibhéal. Rinneadh dul chun cinn fosta i 2005–2006 ar mhic léinn ó ghrúpaí tearcionadaithe a aithint agus eolas níos fearr a fháil fúthú.

Maoiniú na gClár Rochtana

Rinne Oifig Náisiúnta um Chothromas Rochtana an ÚAO maoiniú rochtana tuairim is €16m a leithdháileadh i 2005. Leithdháiltear maoin tré thrí chlár ar leith:

Clár	Cur Síos
Ciste Chúnamh Mac Léinn	Tá cuidiú le fáil ag mic léinn i gcruachás ar leith nó cruachás nach raibh coinne ar bith leis ón Chiste Chúnamh Mac Léinn. Leithdháiltear maoin ar bhonn per capita. I 2005 leithdháileadh €5.8m ina iomláine ar 35 institiúid. Meadaíodh an leithdháileadh go €6m i 2006.
Ciste do Mhic Léinn faoi Mhíchumas	<p>Leithdháiltear airgead ón Chiste do Mhic Léinn faoi Mhíchumas do mhic léinn faoi mhíchumas a bhfuil tacaíocht nó seirbhísí breise de dhíth orthu. Cuireann institiúidí iarratais ar mhaoiniú díreach chuig an Oifig Náisiúnta um Chothromas Rochtana ar son daoine aonair nó grúpaí; bronnar an maoiniú ar dhaoine ainmnithe.</p> <p>I 2005 athraíodh an córas sa dóigh nach mbeadh ag mic léinn iarratais úra a dhéanamh achan bhliain ar mhaithe le riachtanais leanúnacha, agus méadaíodh rátaí maoinithe i gcomhair trealaimh agus seirbhísí i réimsí áirithe. I 2005 fuair tuairim is 2,000 mac léinn tacaíocht ón Chiste, ar chostas €8m. I 2006 fuair líon níos mó mac léinn, 2,440, tacaíocht ar chostas €9.9m.</p>
Ciste Pháirtnéireacht na Mílaoise	<p>Tugann Ciste Pháirtnéireacht na Mílaoise maoiniú pobalbhunaithe le tacú le freastal agus rannphairtíocht grúpaí tearcionadaithe san ard-oideachas. Rinneadh meastóireacht ar an chiste seo i Mí Aibreáin 2005 agus tá moltaí na meastóireachta á gcur i bhfeidhm, ina measc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iarracht níos éifeachtaí a dhéanamh ar mhic léinn a bhfuil anás orthu a phiocadh amach; • teacht ar réiteach mar gheall ar dhea-chealtachas riaracháin; • déanamh cinnte go n-oibríonn an Ciste i bpáirt le foinsí eile maoinithe. I 2005 leithdháileadh €2m ina iomláine ar 57 grúpa pobail agus páirtnéireacht. I 2006 leithdháileadh €2.1m ar 56 grúpa pobail agus páirtnéireacht

Cé Chuaigh chun an Choláiste i 2004?

D'fhoilsigh an tÚAO *Who Went to College in 2004? A National Survey of New Entrants to*

Higher Education i Marta 2006, an cúigiú suirbhé i sraith fá chomharthaí sóirt iontógáil an ard-oideachais. Léiríonn an cúig shuirbhé seo go bhfuil méadú as cuimse tagtha ar rannpháirtíocht san ard-oideachas in Éirinn, méadú ó 20% i 1980 go 55% i 2004. Tá sé tábhachtach a thabhairt fá deara go bhfuil méadú suntasach tagtha ar rannpháirtíocht grúpaí a bhí tearcionadaithe san ordoideachas. Tá cur síos i dTábla 8 ar na hathruithe i ngrúpaí fé leith ó 1998 go 2004.

TÁBLA 8: RANPHÁIRTÍOCHT SAN ARD-OIDEACHAS I NGRÚPAÍ SOCHEACNAMAÍOCHTA FÉ LEITH

	1998	2004
LÁMH-OIBRITHE OILTE	32%	60%
LEATHOILTE /NEAMHOILTE	23%	40%
OBAIR NACH OBAIR LÁIMHE Í	29%	25%

In aineoinn an bhunchlaonta sin, tá an ráta rannpháirtíochta ag titim i measc na n-oibrithe nach ndéanann obair láimhe. Is cúis mhór imní í seo, agus tá an tÚAO ag coimisiúnú shaothar taighde (i 2007) le teacht ar na fáthanna atá le rannpháirtíocht íseal an ghrúpa seo san ardoideachas. Is í an bhunaidhm a bhéas ag an taighde seo ná tuiscint níos fearr a fháil ar rannpháirtíocht oideachais i measc na nóg sa ghrúpa socheacnamaíochta nach ndéanann obair láimhe agus le tuiscint níos fearr a fháil ar an dóigh is fearr le cúidiú le hógánaigh ón ghrúpa sin fáil isteach san ard-oideachas agus cursaí léinn a chríochnú. Lena chois sin, beidh conclúidí na tuarascála seo ina gcuidiú mór ag an ÚAO is go háirithe ag an Oifig Náisiúnta um Chothromas Rochtana i bhforbairt polasaí.

‘Tá deiseanna oiliúna agus traenála ag aos óg agus ag foghlaimoirí eile na hÉireann nach raibh le fáil riamh roimhe sa tír seo.’

Michael Kelly, Cathaoirleach an ÚAO

Scéim Thionscnamh Straitéiseach

Ó bhí 1996 ann, tá Scéim Thionscnamh Straitéiseach ag an ÚAO dírithe ar chuspóirí áirithe polasaí de thábhacht náisiúnta nó eárnalach, ina measc leathnú rochtana ar an ard-oideachas agus dul chun cinn ann.

I 2005 leithdháileadh €12.7m ar aon institiúid ard-oideachais déag faoin scéim; bhí €8.2m den mhéid sin dírithe ar chothú agus ar chur chun cinn chlár rochtana i gcomhair grúpaí socheacnamaíochta atá tearcionadaithe fé láthair san ard-oideachas.

I 2006 shocraigh an tÚAO go mbainfí feidhm feasta as eiseamláir úr maoinithe le leithdháileadh a dhéanamh ar mhaoiniú straitéiseach agus go gcuirfí an maoiniú sin chuig na hinstitiúidí mar chuid den chroídheontas. Ar an ábhar sin, ní bhfuair clár ná gníomhaíocht ar bith aon mhaoiniú faoin Scéim Thionscnamh Straitéiseach i 2006 ach iad siúd a bhí ag feidhmiú cheana féin.

Caitheadh leis na cláir Ghaeilge mar chlár iontu féin ar mhaithe le polasaithe teanga na Scéime.

Tuilleadh eolais fá thionscnaimh straitéiseacha, feic leathanach na gclár ar www.hea.ie

Oideachas Ailtireachta

Rinne an tÚAO, i bpáirt le hInstitiúid Ríoga Ailtirí na hÉireann, an tOllamh John Worthington a choimisiúnú le staidéar neamhspléach a dhéanamh ar thodhchaí oideachas ailtireachta in Éirinn. Foilsíodh Tuarascáil Worthington i ndiaidh plé cuimsitheach leis na hinstitiúidí ard-oideachais agus páirtithe leasmhara eile.

Bunmholadh de chuid na tuarascála ab ea bunú sraith treoirlínte le cuidiú leis na hinstitiúidí ard-oideachais ar mhian leo oideachas ailtireachta a chur ar fáil. Leagann an tuarascáil síos na coinníollacha ar ghá do na hinstitiúidí a chomhlíonadh. Cionn

de na coinníollacha seo ná go gcaithfidh na hinstiúidí moltaí a chur chuig an ÚAO. Cuirfidh an tÚAO na moltaí fríd phróiséas meastóireachta neamhspleácháí bunaithe ar na coinníollacha i dTuarascáil Worthington.

Tháinig an chéad iarratas faoi bhráid an ÚAO faoi na socruithe úra seo i 2006 nuair a mhol COC agus Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Chorcaí, i bpáirt lena chéile, go mbunófaí Scoil Ailtireachta i gCorcaigh. Cheap an tÚAO painéal saineolaithe neamhspléacha leis an mholadh a mheas. Mhol an painéal saineolaithe go nglacfaí leis an iarratas agus i Meán Fómhair 2006 thosaigh Ionad Oideachas Ailtireachta Chorcaí ag glacadh le mic léinn.

Moladh a Cuireadh faoi Bhráid an Tascfhórsa um Shaoránacht Ghníomhach

In Aibreán 2006 bhunaigh an Taoiseach Parthalán Ó hEachthairn, TD Tascfhórsa um Shaoránacht Ghníomhach le comhairle a thabhairt ar fhorbairt agus ar chothú sláinte na sochaí sibhialta. De thairbhe go dtéann an t-ard-oideachas chun tairbhe don tsochaí tré ghníomhaíocht shibhialta a mhéadú, bhí sé ceart agus cuí baint a bheith ag an ÚAO leis. Thar ceann an Tascfhórsa, thug an tÚAO afocht d'ócáid chomhairleoireachta i comhair na bpáirtithe leasmhara san ard-oideachas; bhí siad i bhfách go mór le tuilleadh oibre ar an ábhar seo. Cuireann an t-ard-oideachas go mór le neart sóisialta agus neart sibhialta ár sochaí, agus caithfear a chothú agus a chur chun cinn ar mhaithe lenár bpobail.

Tríd a chuid clár éagsúil maoinithe, thug an tÚAO tacaíocht do thionscnaimh agus do thionscadail a bhfuil baint ar leith acu le forbairt na sochaí sibhialta; ina measc, tá cláir Thuaidh-Theas, cosúil leis na cláir a bhfuil tuairisc orthu thíos.

Clár Taighde agus Forbartha Trasteorann ag cur le Síocháin agus Athmhuintearas

Is é Clár Taighde agus Forbartha Trasteorann ag cur le Síocháin agus Athmhuintearas an chéad chlár taighde a thug an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta i mBaile Átha Cliath agus an Roinn Fostaíochta agus Foghlama i mBéal Feirtse faoi i gcuideachta a chéile. Ó sheoladh an Chláir i 2003, tá cúig thionscadal maoinithe aige agus €3m curtha ar fáil aige (roimh chlabhsúr 2006) faoi Shíocháin II, tionscnamh de chuid an Aontais Eorpaigh. Lonnaithe ar an Ómaigh, tá Foras um Chláir Speisialta an AE freagrach as riaradh agus as feidhmiú Síocháin II.

Bhí ócáid ardphoiblíochta i gcomhair an Chláir i nDún Dealgan i Meitheamh 2005 le haoíchainteoirí, ceardlanna agus taispeántas. D'fhreastail slua mór ar an ócáid, ina measc lucht taighde, grúpaí meánchumarsáide, grúpaí pobail agus grúpaí deonacha ó dhá thaobh na teorainne, lucht polasaí, eagraíochtaí neamhrialtasacha, agus carthannachtaí trasteorannacha. Tugadh léiriú ar an obair atá idir lámha agus dhírigh na ceardlanna ar thábhacht an taighde agus an oideachais don chomhoibriú trasteorainne.

Tháinig an Clár chun críche i 2006, agus thug an tÚAO aíocht do Chomhdháil 'Chlabhsúir' in Ard Macha i 2006. Bhí Síle de Valera, TD, Aire Stáit i Roinn an Oideachais agus na hEolaíochta, Baile Átha Cliath, agus Catherine Bell, Rúnaí Cúnta, Roinn na Fostaíochta agus na Foghlama, Béal Feirste, i láthair. Thug cinnirí tionscadail léiriú ar thórthaí an Chláir agus taispeántas den taighde a rinneadh faoina choimirce.

Tuilleadh eolais: Foilsíodh achoimre ar an Chlár i 2006, agus tá leaganacha a foilsíodh ó shin i leith le fáil ar shuíomh idirlíne an ÚAO, www.hea.ie

Seoladh Clár Chomhoibriú Straitéiseach Chúnamh Éireann, na nInstitiúidí Ard-Oideachais agus na nInstitiúidí Taighde i Mí na Nollag 2006, agus fógraíodh go raibh tograí á nglacadh. Tá sé d'aidhm ag an Chlár seo, a mhaoinigh Cúnamh Éireann agus a forbraíodh i bpáirt leis an ÚAO, toilleadh níos mó a dhéanamh in institiúidí ard-oideachais na hÉireann, agus in institiúidí i dtíortha i mbéal forbartha. Déantar páirtnéireachtaí idir na h-institiúidí chun taighde de chineál úr a chur chun tosaigh sna disciplíní éagsúla le go gcuideodh sé le maolú na bochtaineachta agus le baint amach spriocanna forbartha na Mílaoise.



Taobh Amuigh de na Teorannacha: An tArd-Oideachas i gComhthéacs Idirnáisiúnta

3

Ag Cur na hÉireann Chun Cinn ar Fud na Cruinne

Tá athruithe móra i ndán don earnáil ard-oideachais in Éirinn, dáлта áiteanna eile san Eoraip. I measc na nathruithe seo, tá cúraim Straitéis Lisbon i gcomhair taighde agus forbartha, agus leasuithe Phróiséas Bhologna ar struchtúir an ard-oideachais. Lena gcois sin, tá méadú ag teacht ar idirnáisiúnú teagaisc, foghlama agus taighde, agus cruthaíonn sé sin deiseanna agus dúshláin don ard-oideachas in Éirinn agus thar lear.

Ar fud na cruinne, tá tábhacht níos mó anois le hard-oideachas i gcomhair mic léinn ón iasacht. Léiríonn na rátaí rannpháirtíochta reatha go bhfuil níos mó mic léinn ón iasacht ag roghnú Éireann mar cheann scríbe. I 2004–2005 tháinig méadú 15% (ó 2002–2004) ar líon na mac léinn ón iasacht a bhí cláraithe ar chúrsaí lánaimseartha in Institiúidí Ainmnithe an ÚAO. Tháinig an céadatán is airde de na mic léinn ón iasacht ó Mheiriceá Thuaidh. (Léiríonn Tábla 9 áiteanna tionscnaimh na mac léinn lánaimseartha i 2004–2005.) Tá cáil ar mheanma fhiosrach, fhoghlamach agus chruthaitheach an ard-oideachais in Éirinn, agus tá cáil fosta ar a bhonneagar taighde agus teagaisc den chéad scoth. Tá an cháil seo ag tarraingt tuilleadh mac léinn ón iasacht. Is rud maith é seo, agus b'fhiú a chothú.

TÁBLA 9: TÍR TIONSCNAIMH IOMLÁN NA MAC LÉINN CLÁRAITHE '04/05 IN INSTITIÚIDÍ AN ÚAO

Tír	F	B	Iomlán	Céadatan
Éire	29,828	42,391 ¹	72,219	89.56
Áit Eile san Eoraip (AE)	1,073	1,277	2,350 ⁰	2.91
An Eoraip (nach AE)	165	206	371	0.46
An Afraic	293	157	450 ⁰	0.56
Méiriceá Thuaidh	867	1,654	2,521	3.13
Méiriceá Theas	19	20	39	0.05
An Áis	1,247	1,126	2,373	2.94
An Aigéine	32	28	60	0.07
Ní Fios	104	145	249	0.31
Eile	2	5	7	0.01
Iomlán	33,630	47,009	80,639	100

Eoraip Níos Mó — Eolas Níos Mó

Is é Clár Socrates clár gnímh an Aontais Eorpaigh san oideachas. Is é an príomhchuspóir atá aige ná Eoraip an Eolais a fhorbairt le freagra níos fearr a thabhairt ar dhúshlán na haoise úire seo:

- cláir fhoghlaim-ar-feadh-an-tsaol a chur chun tosaigh;
- rochtain uileghabhálach a chothú;
- cuidiú le daoine cáilíochtaí agus scileanna aitheanta a fháil.

Déanann sé iarracht na cuspóirí sin a bhaint amach agus caighdeán an oideachais a fheabhsú tré chomhoibriú a chur chun tosaigh idir scoileanna, institiúidí ard-oideachais agus institiúidí oideachais/oiliúna eile.

Cuireadh an darna céim den chlár, Socrates II, i bhfeidhm ó 2000 go 2006, rud a chuir leis an obair a rinneadh sa chéad chéim. I 2006 bhí níos mó ná 150,000 mac léinn ag staidéar thar lear faoi chlár Socrates II (Erasmus), agus, ó bhí 1987 ann, tá páirt glactha i gcláir mhalairte Erasmus ag 1.5m mac léinn (25,000 Éireannach san áireamh)

ó bhall-stáit rannpháirteacha an Aontais Eorpaigh. Feic thíos i gcomhair rannpháirtíocht mac léinn na hÉireann in Erasmus.

Tá na cúraim seo leanas ag an ÚAO maidir le feidhmiú Socrates II:

- Gníomhaireacht Náisiúnta na hÉireann i gcomhair Action Erasmus — feic thíos;
- Gníomhaireacht Náisiúnta na hÉireann i gcomhair Action Erasmus — baineann sé le cianfhoghlaim agus foghlaim oscailte agus teicneolaíocht na cumarsáide agus na faisnéise — feic thíos.
- Struchtúr Náisiúnta na hÉireann i comhair Erasmus Mundus — is Gníomhach chomhthreomharach le hErasmus é seo do thíortha taobh amuigh den AE — feic thíos; agus
- Pointe Náisiúnta Teagmhála na hÉireann i gcomhair Chlár Tempus — ceapadh é seo chun cuidiú le nuachóiriú ollscoile agus le comhfhoghlaim idir an Eoraip agus tíortha comhpháirtíochta in Iarthar na mBalcán, Oirthear na hEorpa, Lár na hÁise, Tuaisceart na hAfraice agus an Meánoirthear.

Erasmus: Soghluaiseacht Mac Léinn agus Muinteoirí

Tá cuidiú Chlár Erasmus ar fáil do na hinstitiúidí ard-oideachais uile, do na disciplíní acadúla uile agus ag achan leibhéal staidéir san ard-oideachas. Is é a phríomhchuspóir ná cur chun cinn na 'soghluaiseachta fisicí', is go háirithe cur chun cinn shoghluaiseacht mac léinn. Tá sé mar chuspóir eile aige feabhas a chur ar an ard-oideachas agus 'diminsean Eorpach' a fhorbairt taobh istigh de réimse iomlán na gclár acadúil ard-oideachais.

I 2004–2005 chuaigh iomlán de 1,571 mac léinn thar lear faoi chlár de chuid Erasmus agus rinne an Ghníomhaireacht Náisiúnta san ÚAO leithdháileadh iomlán de €1,523,416 i gcomhair na nDeontas do Shoghluaiseacht Mac Léinn. Meándeontas de €970 an mhic léinn a íocadh. I 2005–2006, rinne an Ghníomhaireacht Náisiúnta san ÚAO leithdháileadh €1,808,450 i gcomhair na nDeontas do Shoghluaiseacht Mac Léinn. Sa bhliain sin, chuaigh 1,560 mac léinn thar lear agus meándeontas €1,159 acu.

TÁBLA 10: DEONTAS MAC LÉINN, 2004-05 AGUS 2005-06

	Micléinn	Meándeontas	Deontas Iomlán
2004-05	1,571	€970	€1,523,416
2005-06	1,560	€1,159	€1,808,450

Minerva: Foghlaim i Ré Dhigiteach

Ceapadh Minerva le tacaíocht a thabhairt do bheartanna trasghearruithe a bhfuil baint acu le foghlaim oscailte agus cianfhoghlaim agus úsáid theicneolaíochtaí na faisnéise agus cumarsáide san oideachas. I nDeireadh Fómhair 2006, méadaíodh beart Minerva agus tugadh Minerva EC air; is gréasán téamach é i réimsí an chultúir, sonraí eolaíochta agus ábhar léannta. Cruinníonn Minerva EC páirtithe leasmhara agus saineolaithe ó gach cearn den Eoraip, le dlaoi mhullaigh a chur ar thorthaí ghníomhaíocht dheireanach Mhinerva, agus le tacaíocht a thabhairt do i2010 — Sochaí Eorpach Faisnéise i gcomhair Fáis agus Fostaíochta, tionscnamh de chuid Choimisiún na hEorpa, agus Plean Gnímh Bhríomhair an Aontais Eorpaigh.

Comhordú ar Dhigitiú Ábhar Cultúrtha agus Eolaíochta — sheol Ballstáit an Aontais Eorpaigh é seo i mBristol i Samhain 2005.

D'eagraigh Oifig Eolais agus Gnóthaí Poiblí an ÚAO Seiminéar Teagmhála i gCaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath ar 1-2 Meán Fómhair 2005 le haidhmeanna agus cuspóirí Minerva a chur chun cinn; is cuid de chúram an ÚAO é sin. D'fhreastail os cionn 100 duine ar an tseimineár; bhí toscairí ann ón Ghearmáin, ón Fhrainc, ón Phortaingéil, ón Iorua, ón tSualainn, ón Pholainn, ón Tuirc, mar aon le rannpháirtithe Éireannacha.

Is í an aidhm a bhí ag an ócáid seo ná aird a tharraingt ar úsáid Theicneolaíochta na Cumarsáide agus na Faisnéise agus le páirtnéireachtaí a spreagadh idir cleachtóirí na hÉireann agus cleachtóirí i mballstáit cháilithe eile.

Erasmus Mundus: Taobh Amuigh de Theorainneacha an AE

I 2002 d'fhógair Coimisiún na hEorpa clár úr Eorpach ard-oideachas le tuilleadh mac léinn a mhealladh ó thíortha taobh amuigh den AE agus le cur ar chumas mhic léinn na hEorpa staidéar a dhéanamh i dtíortha eile. Tugtar Erasmus Mundus ar an chlár seo agus neartaíonn sé na ceangail idir institiúidí ard-oideachais san Eoraip agus in áiteanna eile ar fud an domhain. Mairfidh an clár cúig bliana (2004–2008) agus beidh buiséad €230m aige; caithfear 90% den bhuiséad ar shoghluaiseacht mac léinn agus taighdeoirí.

Tá ceithre ghníomh i gclár Erasmus Mundus:

- GNÍOMH 1: Cúrsaí Máistreachta Erasmus Mundus
- GNÍOMH 2: Scoláireachtaí Erasmus Mundus
- GNÍOMH 3: Páirtnéireachtaí Erasmus Mundus
- GNÍOMH 4: Cothú Tarraingteachais

Tá sé i gceist 100 cúrsa máistreachta a chruthú faoi Erasmus Mundus. Tá 36 cúrsa acusan ag feidhmiú ó bhí fóimhar 2005 ann, agus tá institiúidí ard-oideachais de chuid na hÉireann ina bpáirtnéirí i gcúig chúrsa acusan (COBÁC, CTBÁC, OL, ITDD, COC). Tá trí institiúid ard-oideachais de chuid na hÉireann (COC, COBÁC, OL) i bpáirtnéireachtaí le hinstitiúidí ard-oideachais ar fud an domhain. Tá baint ag institiúid ard-oideachais amháin (COBÁC) le ceann de na tionscadail Cothú Tarraingteachais, mar atá, Tarraingteachas Chláir Mháistreachta i Léann na Talmhaíochta san Ollscoil.

Tuilleadh eolais faoi gníomh 3 agus Gníomh 4 in Éirinn: cuir ríomhphoist chuig erasmus@hea.ie

ÉIRE I MEASC NA MBALLSTÁT IS FEARR A CHUIREANN LEASUITHE BHOLONGA I BHFEIDHM

De réir thuarascáil saineolaithe a bronnadh ar Airí, tá Éire ar cheann de na ballstáit is faide chun tosaigh i gcur i bhfeidhm leasuithe Bholonga. Is léiriú é sin — tugtar ‘ar fheabhas’ ar iarrachtaí na hÉireann sa tuarascáil — ar dhíograis an iliomad daoine ar fud ár gcóras ard-oideachais.

Ar 20 Bealtaine 2005, d’fhreastail an tAire Oideachais agus Eolaíochta Máire Ní Ainifín TD ar chruinniú i mBergen na hIorua d’Airí Eorpacha, a raibh cúram ard-oideachais orthu i 45 tír, le dul chun cinn a dhéanamh i gcruthú Limistéar Comhchoiteann Ard-Oideachais na hEorpa roimh 2010.

‘Shocraigh na hAirí comhoibriú níos mó a dhéanamh le córais náisiúnta ard-oideachais a chur in oiriúint níos fearr dá chéile. Tá sé i gceist go gcuirfidh sé seo le soghluaiseacht mac léinn agus le trédhearcacht cáilíochtaí do fhostóirí ar fud na hEorpa. Ba í comhdháil Bhergen an ceathrú cruinniú Airí faoi Phróiseas Bholonga ó bhí 1999 ann.

Shocraigh na hAirí caighdeán agus treoirlínte chomhchoiteanna dearbhú caighdeán a ghlacadh agus ollchrealtach cáilíochtaí a chruthú i Limistéar Comhchoiteann Ard-Oideachais na hEorpa. Chuir na hAirí béim ar an dlúthbhaint idir feabhsú an taighde san ard-oideachas agus forbairt eacnamaíochta, sóisialta agus cultúrtha ar fud na hEorpa. Rinne na hAirí a ngealltanas fá leathnú áirithe cuspóirí don dá bhliain dár gcionn. Ina measc siúd, tá forbairt chreatlacha náisiúnta cáilíochtaí, dálta na creatlaí atá in Éirinn cheana féin; tuilleadh forbartha ar dhearbú caighdeán; forbairtí i mbronnadh agus in aithint céimeanna agus i gcruthú deiseanna do bhealtaí foghlama solúbtha, neamhthraidsiúnta san ard-oideachas. Shocraigh na hAirí go mbeadh cruinniú eile acu i Londain i 2007 le hathbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar dhul chun cinn breise agus le cuspóirí eile a leagadh amach agus muid ag druidim le 2010.’ *Ráiteas Nuachta de chuid an ÚAO, 20 Bealtaine 2005*

Tuilleadh eolais: Tá an Tuarascáil le fáil ar www.bologna.ie

Taighde i gComhthéacs Domhanda

IA HERO: Borradh faoi Thaiscéalaíocht Trasnáisiúnach

I 2005 bhunaigh an tÚAO agus George Mason University, Virginia, Eagrais na hÉireann agus Mheiriceá um Thaighde Ard-Oideachais (IA HERO). Is í an aidhm atá aige ná corás a chruthú le tacú le taighde, foilseacháin agus comhdhálacha fá na dúshláin roimh an ard-oideachas in Éirinn agus sna Stáit Aontaithe; meastar go rachadh corás den chineál sin chun tairbhe don dá thír.

IA HERO i gCaisleán Bhaile

Bhí comhdháil oirnithe IA HERO ar 21–23 Meán Fómhair 2005 i gCaisleán Bhaile an Bharbóra le plé a dhéanamh ar an dóigh is fearr le suim an phobail san ard-oideachas a dhearbhu. Bhí sraith de thuras staidéir ar na hábhair a pléadh — maoiniú, rochtain agus daonchairdeas, san áireamh; thug grúpaí Éireannacha cuairt ar oifig Mheiriceánacha i Washington, DC, agus i gColarado. D'fhreastail baicle Éireannach ar chruinniú cinn bliana Chumann na mBord Rialachais in Orlando, Florida. Lena chois sin uile, bhí páirt lárnach ag toscaireachtaí Éireannacha i bhfóram ilnáisiúnta ar an ard-oideachas a tionóladh i Wellington, New Zealand, i Márta 2006.

Tionóladh an darna Cruinniú Ginearálta de IA HERO i Washington, DC, ar 13–16 Meán Fómhair 2006. Bhí an fócas ar fheidhmiú a fheabhsú, go háirithe i réimsí ar nós feidhmiú, rochtain agus rath institiúide; cruinniú cistí agus na himpleachtaí atá aige do mhisean institiúide, riaradh taighde agus spreagadh nuálaíochta. Tá straitéisí maoinithe an ard-oideachais, cruinniú cistí ó bhronntóirí príobháideacha, leas trachtála a bhaint as an taighde, agus riaradh agus bainistíocht institiúidí ard-oideachais.

Tuilleadh eolais: Cniog IA HERO ar shuíomh an ÚAO: www.hea.ie



Staidreamh Mac Léinn

4

Tá an tÚAO ag foilsiú tuarascálacha beachta ar staidreamh mac léinn ar bhonn bliantúil ó 1974. Baineann oifigh an ÚAO úsáid as na tuarascálacha seo le hanailís a dhéanamh ar na hathruithe a thagann ar chorás an ard-oideachais bliain i ndiaidh bliana. Lena chois sin, is áis mhaith tagartha iad na tuarascálacha ag na hinstitiúidí ard-oideachais, eagrais leasmhara de chuid na seirbhíse poiblí, ranna stáit, eagrais taighde agus an pobal.

Staidreamh	Cur Síos
Rolluithe Mac Léinn in Institiúidí ÚAO-mhaoinithe	Tabhair faoi deara rolluithe mac léinn in institiúidí ÚAO-mhaoinithe, go háirithe réimse oiliúna, cineál cúrsa agus dáileadh aoise na hiontógala úire; cuirtear an staidreamh seo ar fáil de réir na bliana acadúla ní de réir na bliana féilire.
Céimithe Institiúidí ÚAO-mhaoinithe	Tugann sé léiriú ar na cineálacha cáilíochta a bronnadh ar mhic léinn — teastas, diplóma, céim agus mar sin de — agus ar an réimse den oideachas ar bronnadh an cháilíocht ann.
Mic Léinn ag Freastal ar na hInstitiúidí Ard-Oideachais go Léir	Tá an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta freagrach as cruinniú sonraí ó na hinstitiúidí tríú leibhéal eile; na institiúidí teicneolaíochta, mar shampla. Mar áis, tá rogha de staidreamh na Roinne ar fáil i leathanach an Staidrimh de shuíomh an ÚAO; tá rolluithe samplacha de réir institiúide agus táblaí fá dháileadh aoise agus dáiltí eile an chomlachta mic léinn ansin. Ó Mheán Fómhair 2007, beidh cruinniú na sonraí seo mar chuid de chúram an ÚAO.
Tuarascála Túscheann Scríbe	Tugann na Tuarascálacha Túscheann Scríbe spleachadh ar phátrúin fhostaíochta, staidéir bhreise agus oiliúna bliain i ndiaidh bhronnta na gcéimeanna. Cuirtear gach céimí de chuid chúrsaí lánaimseartha na hearnála tríú-leibhéal san áireamh.

Tuilleadh Eolais: Tá staidreamh uile an ÚAO le fáil ar a shuíomh: <http://www.heai.ie>

Bunfhíricí agus Bunfhiigiúir an Ard-Oideachais 2005–2006

Rolluithe 2001/2002–2005/2006

Tugann an chuid seo spleáchadh ar threochtaí rollaíochta do chúrsaí lánaimseartha agus páirtaimseartha, fochéime agus larchéime in institiúidí a mhaoiníonn an tÚAO. Léiríonn Tábla 11 líon na mac léinn rolluithe i gcúrsaí páirtaimseartha agus lánaimseartha in institiúidí a mhaoiníonn an tÚAO. Léiríonn sé an céadatan a mhéadaigh rollaíocht idir 2001/2002 agus 2005/2006.

TÁBLA 11. TREOCHTAÍ ROLLAÍOCHTA '01/'02–'05/'06 DO INSTITIÚIDÍ AN ÚAO

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	Méadú % '01/'02/ '05/'06
Rollaíocht Fochéime						
Lánaimseartha	61,804	63,209	64,531	65,300	66,834	8.1%
Páirtaimseartha	7,148	7,504	7,204	9,727	8,742	22.3%
Foiomlán	68,952	70,713	71,735	75,027	75,576	9.6%
Rollaíocht larchéime						
Lánaimseartha	12,536	14,078	15,350	15,339	15,688	25.1%
Páirtaimseartha	6,795	7,338	6,689	6,977	7,573	11.4%
Foiomlán	19,331	21,416	22,039	22,316	23,261	20.3%
IOMLÁN	88,283	92,129	93,774	97,343	98,837	12.0%

Rolluithe i dTaighde larchéime 2001/2002 go 2005/2006

Léiríonn Tábla 12 líon na n-iarchéimithe taighde a rollaíodh i gcomhair PhD nó i gcomhair chlár máistreachta (taighde), lánaimseartha nó páirtaimseartha, ó 2001/2002 go 2005/2006. Taispeántar an céadatan a mhéadaigh rollaíocht sa tréimhse chéanna fosta.

TÁBLA 12. ROLLAÍOCHT TAIGHDE IARCHÉIME: TREOCHTAÍ '01/'02-'05/'06 do INSTITIÚIDÍ AN ÚAO

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	Méadú % '01/'02 - '05/'06
Taighde Iarchéime Lánaimseartha						
PhD	2,687	3,173	3,625	3,998	4,151	54%
Máistreacht (Taighde)	1,961	2,297	2,629	2,203	2,177	11%
Foiomlán	4,648	5,470	6,254	6,201	6,328	36%
Taighde Iarchéime Páirtaimseartha						
PhD	566	489	505	576	632	12%
Máistreacht (Taighde)	405	396	444	529	511	26%
Foiomlán	971	885	949	1,105	1,143	18%
IOMLÁN	5,619	6,355	7,203	7,306	7,471	33%

Iontrálaithe Úra, 2001/2002 go 2005/2006

Léiríonn Tábla 13 líon na n-iontrálaithe úra, idir fhireannaigh is bhaineannaigh, de chuid institiúidí an ÚAO ó 2001/2002 go 2005/2006. Is ionann 'iontrálaí úr' agus mac léinn atá ag clárú in institiúid tríú leibhéal den chéad uair.

TÁBLA 13. IONTRÁLAI THE ÚRA FOCHÉIME: TREOCHTAÍ GNÉIS IN INSTITIÚIDÍ ÚAO, '01/'02 - '05/'06

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	Méadú % '01/'02 - '05/'06
Fireannach	6,833	6,971	7,224	7,243	7,157	4.7%
Baineannach	10,418	10,388	10,793	10,678	10,956	5.2%
Iomlán	17,251	17,359	18,017	17,921	18,113	5.0%

Sonraí larchéime 2001 go 2005

Léiríonn Tábla 14 líon na gcéimithe, idir lánaimseartha agus pháirtaimseartha, de réir leibhéil, agus an méadú i líon na gcéimithe ó 2001/02 go 2005/06.

TÁBLA 14. TREOCHTAÍ CÉIMITHE 2001–2005 DO INSTITIÚIDÍ AN ÚAO

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	Méadú% '01/'05
Fóchéimithe						
Lánaimseartha/ Páirtaimseartha	16,624	17,944	18,487	19,659	19,273	16%
larchéimithe						
Lánaimseartha/ Páirtaimseartha	9,406	9,080	10,793	11,570	11,645	24%
Iomlán	26,030	27,024	29,280	31,229	30,918	19%

Túscheann Scríbe Céimithe: Rang 2005

Léiríonn an Tuarascáil Thúscheann Scríbe an áit a mbíonn céimithe naoi mí i ndiaidh bhronnta na gcéimeanna. Tá léiriú i dTábla 15 ar na túscheann scríbe a bhí ag céimithe ó 1995 go 2005.

TÁBLA 15. TÚSCHEANN SCRÍBE CÉIMITHE (CÉADATÁN) 1995–2005

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Ag Obair in Éirinn	43	45	46	51	49	51	47	45	46	49	54
Ag Obair thar Lear	10	9	10	8	7	7	6	6	5	7	5
Oiliúint/ Traenáil Bhreise†	40	39	39	35	38	35	41	42	40	35	33
Cláir Chleachtadh Oibre	2	1	1	1	0	0	-†	-†	-†	-†	-†
Ag Cuartú Oibre	4	4	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3
Gan a Bheith ar Fáil do Obair ná Staidéar	19,101	20,160	17,698	24,094	24,103	23,276	28,054	27,046	27,331	26,465	
Líon na bhfreagróirí	19,101	20,160	17,698	24,094	24,103	23,276	28,054	27,046	27,331	26,465	23,496

† Cláir Chleachtadh Oibre — ní raibh a gcomhionann ann i ndiaidh 2000.

‡ Éire agus Thar Lear.

Plean Seirbhíse Ardchaighdeáin Custaiméirí

I ndiaidh phrósiseas plé le páirtithe leasmhara an ÚAO, d'fhoilsigh an tÚAO a Phlean Seirbhíse Ardchaighdeáin Custaiméirí i Mí Iúil 2005. I réamhrá an phlean, thug Tom Boland, an Príomhfheidhmeannach, le fios gur ráiteas a bhí ann 'ar na caighdeáin ar mian linne san Údarás Ard-Oideachais go ndéanfaí ár seirbhísí a mheas dá réir.' Mhaígh sé fosta gurb é 'ár ngeallúint é do gach aon duine go dtugaimid seirbhís ardchaighdeáin i gcónaí.'

I Mí Iúil 2006 d'iarr an tÚAO ar pháirtithe leasmhara a gcuid tuairimí a chur chuige faoin dóigh is fearr a dtiocfadh leis an eagrais feabhas a chur ar a chuid seirbhísí dá gcuid cliantaí. Tá sé i gceist ag an ÚAO athbhreithniú leanúnach a dhéanamh ar a phlean seirbhíse agus, leis sin ar initinn, tá sé ag cuimhneamh ar phlean ar leith a ullmhú i gcomhair chliantaí Oifig Náisiunta Chothromas Rochtana ar an Ard-Oideachas, de thairbhe go bhfuil próifíl chustaiméirí na hoifige sin difriúil uathasan i gcodanna eile den ÚAO.

Acht um Shaoráil Faisnéise

Ó bhí Mí Eanáir 2001 ann, tá an tÚAO faoi réir fhórála an Achta um Shaoráil Faisnéise, 1997. Bhronn an tAcht trí cheart nua reachtúil nach raibh ann roimhe:

- ceart dlíthiúil taifead i seilbh eagrais poiblí a rochtain;
- ceart dlíthiúil ag gach duine taifead oifigiúil faoi féin a fháil athruithe má tá sé bearnach, míchruinn nó míthreorach;
- ceart dlíthiúil míniú a fháil ar choinne a bhaineann leis féin.

Fuair an tÚAO 43 iarratas faoin Acht ó Dheireadh Fómhair 2001 go Nollaig 2006.

Tá lámhleabhair de Mhír 15 agus Mír 16 eisithe ag an ÚAO, de réir an Achta um Shaoráil Faisnéise; tá siad seo le fáil ar leathanach Saoráil Faisnéise de shuíomh idirlíne an ÚAO.

Cód Cleachtais do Rialachas na nEagraíochtaí Stáit

Lean an tÚAO ag glacadh na gcéimeanna riachtanacha lena chinntiú go mbeadh sé ag cloí le deachleachtas *Chód Chleachtais do Rialachas na nEagraíochtaí Stáit*.

Coiste Iniúchaidh

Is í príomhfheidhm an Choiste Iniúchaidh ná cuidiú leis an Údaras a chúram maoirseachta a chomhlíonadh. Déanann sé é sin tré athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar na gnéithe seo leanas:

- eolas airgeadais i gcuntais iniúchtha an ÚAO;
- na córais inmheánacha smachta airgeadais agus bainistíocht fiontair;
- feidhm iniúchadh inmheánach an ÚAO.

I 2005 agus 2006 rinne an Coiste athbhreithniú ar iniúchadh inmheánach an ÚAO agus an Choiste Fheidhmiúcháin sna réimsí seo leanas:

- Úsáid scarbhileog san ÚAO;
- Athbhreithniú ar luach airgid;
- Córas smachtanna inmheánacha airgeadais;
- Creatlach fiontar-mheastóireacht an ÚAO;
- Plean tarrthála TF i gcás tubaiste;

Rinne an Coiste athbhreithniú ar a chuid téarmaí tagartha féin agus ghlac an tÚAO leis na téarmaí ina dhiaidh sin. Pricewaterhouse Coopers a chuir seirbhís iniúchaidh inmheánaigh ar fáil don ÚAO.

Ba ábhar mór bróin don ÚAO bás an Uasail Jim Caves, Cathaoirleach Choiste an Iniúchaidh, i nDeireadh Fómhair 2005. Ceapadh Jim, Iar-príomhfheidhmeannach ar an Chomhairle Scrúduithe agus Measúnachta i dTuaisceart na hÉireann, mar bhall den ÚAO le téarma cúig bliana ar 1 Samhain 2000

Cód Cleachtais Ghnó

Ag cruinniú i Nollaig 2004 ghlac an tÚdarás le Cód Cleachtais Ghnó. Glacadh le Cód do Fhostaithe, ar aon dul leis, i ndiaidh dó bheith pléite le Coiste Pháirtnéireacht an ÚAO.

Pleananna Straitéiseacha

D'fhoilsigh an tÚAO a Ráiteas Straitéiseach i gcomhair 2004–2007 i Meitheamh 2004. Tosaíodh ag obair ar ráiteas i gcomhair 2008–2010 i Meitheamh 2006, agus tionóladh fóram comhairle a raibh príomhpháirtithe leasmhara an ÚAO páirteach ann i nDeireadh Fómhair 2006.

D'fhoilsigh an Oifig Náisiúnta um Chothromas Rochtana ar an Ard-Oideachas Plean Gnímh 2005–07 i Samhain 2004 agus tá plean úr gnímh á forbairt aici i ndiaidh comhráití le páirtithe leasmhara.

Plean Gnímh do Nuachóiriú na Seirbhísí Poiblí

Shocraigh an tÚAO, i gcomhairle lena Choiste Páirtnéireachta, ar phlean gnímh do nuachóiriú agus do shoblúbtacht, ar éileamh é de chuid na gcomhaontuithe *Ag Cur Leis an Rath* agus *I dTreó 2016*. Tugadh tuarascálacha ar an dul chun cinn don Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta, a cheadaigh dhá ardú pá a raibh riaradh orthu sa dá chomhaontú.

Aguisíní



Aguisín A: Baill an ÚAO

	Eanáir 2005
An Dr. Don Thornhill	Cathaoirleach, ÚAO
An tUasal Ben Archibald	Uachtarán, Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn
An tOllamh Tom Boylan	Ollscoil Náisiúnta na hÉireann, Gaillimh
An Dr. Maurice Bric	Roinn na Nua-Staire, Coláiste na hOllscoile, Baile Átha Cliath
An tUasal William James Caves	Iar-Phríomhfheidhmeannach, Comhairle Scrúdaithe agus Measúnachta i dTuaisceart na hÉireann
An Comhairleoir Maria Corrigan	Ball, Comhairle Chontae Dhún Laoghaire-Ráth an Dúin
An tUasal Michael Cronin	Príomhfheidhmeannach, Forfás
An Dr. Honor Fagan	Roinn na Socheolaíochta, Ollscoil Náisiúnta na hÉireann, Má Nuad
An tUasal Maura Grant	Comhairleoir do Uachtarán na hÉireann
An tOllamh Gary Granville	Dámh an Oideachais, An Coláiste Náisiúnta Ealaíne agus Deartha
An tUasal Carol Marie Herron	Comhordaitheoir Phobal na Scolaíochta Baile, Coiste Gairmoideachais an Chabháin
An tUasal Paul Hannigan	Stiúrthóir, Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Leitir Ceanainn
An tUasal Patrick J. Kirby	Stiúrthóir Tráchtála an Ghrúpa, Alphyra
An tUasal Monica Leech	Comhairleoir Cumarsáide
An tOllamh Tom McCarthy	Príomhfheidhmeannach, Institiúid Bhainistíochta na hÉireann
An tOllamh Sarah Moore	Déan Teagaisc agus Foghlama, Ollscoil Luimnigh
An tOllamh Ciaran Murphy	Roinn Chuntasaíochta, Airgeadais agus Córais Fhaisnéise, Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh
An tUasal Antoinette Nic Gearailt	Uachtarán, Pobalscoil na nDomhnaí, Baile Átha Cliath
An tUasal Barry O'Brien	Stiúrthóir (Eastáit agus Seirbhísí Tacaíochta), Coláiste Ríoga na Máinleá in Éirinn

	Nollaig 2006
Michael Kelly	Cathaoirleach, ÚAO
An tOllamh Sarah Moore	Leaschathoirleach, Déan Teagaisc agus Foghlama, Ollscoil Luimnigh
An tOllamh Tom Boylan	Ollscoil Náisiúnta na hÉireann, Gaillimh
An Dr. Maurice Bric	Roinn na Nua-Staire, Coláiste na hOllscoile, Baile Átha Cliath
An Dr. Thomas Cooke	Ceannaire Chlár Nascanna Pobail, Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Bhaile Átha Cliath
An Comhairleoir Maria Corrigan	Comhairle Chontae Dhún Laoghaire-Ráth an Dúin
An tUasal Michael Cotter	Scoil Léann an Oideachais, Ollscoil Chathair Bháile Átha Cliath
An tUasal Michael Cronin	Príomhfheidhmeannach, Forfás
An tUasal Doreen Delahunty	Duine gnó féinhostaithe
An tUasal Louis Dockery	Dlíodóir
An tUasal Sheila Drumm	Uachtarán, Coláiste na nDoiminiceán, Cnoc Sion, Contae Bhaile Átha Cliath
An Dr. Honor Fagan	Roinn na Socheolaíochta, Ollscoil Náisiúnta na hÉireann, Má Nuad
An tUasal Colm Hamroge	Uachtarán, Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn
An tUasal Carol Marie Herron	Comhordaitheoir Phobal na Scolaíochta Baile, Coiste Gairmoideachais an Chabháin
An Dr. Pat Kelleher	Iarstiúrthóir, Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Chorcaí
An tUasal Patrick J. Kirby	Stiúrthóir Tráchtála an Ghrúpa, Alphyra
An tOllamh Elizabeth Meehan	Iarcheannasaí, Institiúid an Rialachais, Coláiste na Ríona, Béal Feirste
An tOllamh Ciaran Murphy	Roinn Chuntasaíochta, Airgeadais agus Córais Fhaisnéise, Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh

Aguisín B: Foireann Choiste Feidhmiúcháin An ÚAO

	Eanáir 2005	Nollaig 2006
Rúnaí/Príomhfheidhmeannach	Tom Boland	Tom Boland
Leas-Phríomhfheidhmeannach	Mary Kerr	Mary Kerr
Ceann na gClár Taighde	Eucharía Meehan	Eucharía Meehan
Ceann Polasaí agus Pleanála	Fergal Costello	Caitríona Ryan
Ceann Aonad na nInstitiúidí Teicneolaíochta		Fergal Costello
Ceann Oifig Náisiúnta um Chothromas Rochtana ar an Ard-Oideachas	Mary-Liz Trant	Mary-Liz Trant
Ceann Riaracháin	Padraic Mellett	Padraic Mellett
Ceann Eolais agus Gnóthaí Poiblí	Gerry O'Sullivan	Gerry O'Sullivan
Cuntasóir Bainistíochta	Stewart Roche	Stewart Roche
Comhairleoir um Thograí Caipitil	Dick Sweeney	Dick Sweeney
Ceann Fhoireann an Togra Scileanna TF	Pat O'Connor	Pat O'Connor
Rúnaí Cúnta – Deontais Athfhillteacha	Mary Armstrong	Mary Armstrong
	Jennifer Gyga	Jennifer Gyga
Rúnaí Cúnta – Forbairt Fhisiciúil	George Ryan	George Ryan
Rúnaí Cúnta – Taighde, Socrates/Erasmus	Sheena Duffy	Sheena Duffy
Rúnaí Cúnta – Clár Thaighde	Lisa Higgins	Tim Conlon
Rúnaí Cúnta – Aonad na nInstitiúidí Teicneolaíochta	N/A	Louise Sherry
Analaísí Sinsearach Polasaí – Polasaí agus Pleanáil	Caitríona Ryan	Muiris O'Connor
Analaísí Sinsearach Polasaí – Oifig Rochtana	Orla Christle	Orla Christle
Clár bainisteoir – Oifig Rochtana	Peter Brown	Peter Brown
Rannóg Pearsanra agus Cuntas	Niall O'Connell	Emer McMullin
	Emer McMullin	Shabbir Hussain
	Sharon O'Rourke	Sharon O'Rourke
	Charlotte Farrell	Paula Christie
Polasaí agus Pleanáil	Leonora Harty	Maria O'Brien
	Oliver Mooney	Deirdre Stritch
Aonad na nInstitiúidí Teicneolaíochta	N/A	Justin Sinnott
		Mary Daly

	Eanáir 2005	Nollaig 2006
Deontais Athfhillteacha	Jane Sweetman	Valerie Harvey
	Mary May	Jane Sweetman
	Valerie Harvey	Fergal Noone
Cláir Eorpacha	Louise Sherry	Mary May
	Eileen O'Connell	Eileen O'Connell
Aonad Chaidreamh Tionsclaíochta	Maura O'Shea	Maura O'Shea
	Justin Sinnott	Neil McDermott
Forbairt Fhisiciúil	Ciaran Dolan	Niall O'Connell
	Patricia Carroll	Patricia Carroll
Eolas agus Gnóthaí Poiblí	Cliona Buckley	Cliona Buckley
Staidreamh	Barbara Carr	Oliver Mooney
	Frank Condon	Adrian O'Donoghue
	Adrian O'Donoghue	
Cláir Thaighde	Fiona Davis	Olive Walsh
	Emer Cunningham	Sorcha Carthy
	Sorcha Carthy	Abigail Chantler
Oifig Náisiúnta um Chothromas Rochtana ar an Ard-Oideachas	Olive Walsh	Alan McGrath
	Alan McGrath	Brian Johnston
	Brian Johnston	Justin Synnott
	Justin Synnott	Diane Swanton
	Modesta Mawarire	Modesta Mawarire
Teicneolaíochta na Faisnéise	John Muldoon	John Muldoon
	Marie O'Sullivan	Marie Wall
Seirbhísí Rúnaíochta	Jacintha Healy (Secretary to Chairman and CEO)	Jacintha Healy (Secretary to Chairman and CEO)
	Mary Dunne	Mary Dunne
	Mary Meade	Mary Meade
Fáiltiú		Shauna Brennan
	Graham Barry (Brooklawn House)	Graham Barry
Seirbhísí	Bridget Kelly	Bridget Kelly
	Caroline Curtis	Caroline Curtis