

Appendix 7: Institutional consolidation

The 'new DCU'

Dublin City University, St Patrick's College Drumcondra (SPD), Mater Dei Institute of Education (MDI) and the Church of Ireland College of Education (CICE) are actively engaged in a formal process aimed at establishing

1. a new Institute of Education and
2. an expanded faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

While respecting the identity of the individual institutions, this process will lead to the incorporation of SPD, MDI and CICE inside DCU and the creation of a single, secular university entity. The outcome of the negotiations will be subject to the approval of the respective Governing Authorities and other relevant stakeholders.

Currently Dublin City University has four faculties. The proposed incorporation will create a fifth faculty (of education), the 'Institute of Education', and an expanded faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Arrangements are under way to ensure the satisfactory consolidation of the Colleges/Institute within the University, with appropriate governance and other structures to accommodate the complexities associated with such a development. This process is being informed by best international practice.

The Institute of Education

This new research-intensive Institute will focus on:

- Strengthening research-driven teacher education through developing a strategic programme of research in teacher education and in education more broadly, supporting synergies across all sectors and levels of education and targeting priority areas in Irish education.
- Developing cross-sectoral collaboration and integration across programmes in initial teacher education, thereby promoting shared learning for student teachers along the full education continuum (early childhood, primary, second-level and further education) and reducing unnecessary overlap.
- Bringing together an extensive suite of programmes in continuing professional development for primary and second-level teachers and facilitating the development of cross-sectoral professional development in areas of national priority such as STEM, Literacy, Assessment, Digital Learning and Special and Inclusive Education.
- Augmenting and developing post-graduate provision in education, including at doctoral level, in ways that maximize resources, ensure quality and enhance capacity in the system.

- Strengthening existing provision in terms of flexible and blended models of teaching and learning across the continuum of teacher education.
- Consolidating expertise in areas such as educational disadvantage, special and inclusive education, intercultural education and other equality-related areas, thereby promoting access and inclusion, widening participation and ensuring equal status and outcomes for diverse groups.
- Enhancing existing institutional and national capacity to engage in in-depth programme evaluation and policy analysis resulting in the production of coherent, integrated educational policy proposals.

The establishment of this Institute of Education by the consolidation of the distinctive traditions of four Higher Education Institutions represents a paradigm shift in the landscape of Irish teacher education and creates a new entity with significant global impact. It will ensure the provision of research-led programmes of teacher education, the development of teachers skilled in the constructive application of research in their work, the continuing development of the evidence base for teachers' professional practice and the generation of key solutions to current problems such as those being experienced by pupils and older learners at the crucial transition points between primary and secondary education and between secondary and third-level / further education.

Policy-orientated research in the arena of higher education and lifelong learning is of increasing strategic significance at national and international levels. The new Institute will also incorporate DCU's Higher Education Research Centre (HERC), enabling DCU to pursue policy-orientated R&D in post-compulsory education and training and lifelong learning.

An enhanced capacity and consolidation in Humanities and Social Sciences

The new relationship between Dublin City University and its linked colleges (St Patrick's College, Drumcondra and Mater Dei Institute) together with Church of Ireland College of Education, with the commitment to create a single university entity, will strengthen and develop the role of Humanities and Social Sciences at DCU, and will make a significant and unique contribution to society more widely.

Meeting Societal Needs

This strengthened Faculty will:

- Create a novel learning environment which enables our graduates to flourish in the challenging society of the 21st Century.
- Ensure that our graduates have a range of transferable skills and graduate attributes with deep disciplinary and inter-disciplinary knowledge and that they are engaged critical thinkers and flexible life-long learners who can make a positive contribution to society.
- Play an active role in the social and cultural life of our wider community, region and country.
- Deliver research and taught programmes which reflect and support Ireland's need for globally engaged and internationally focused graduates with language skills and well-developed levels of international and intercultural awareness.

- Enhance and strengthen our international partnerships and play the leading role in advancing the study of contemporary India through the Ireland India Institute

Teaching

This strengthened Faculty will:

- Deliver and develop unique, complementary, integrated degree offerings in Humanities and Social Sciences, allowing students to benefit from the expertise across the amalgamated institutions.
- Build on our collective expertise in distance and on-line education and in supporting non-traditional students to offer flexible, blended, part-time degree programmes at BA, MA and PhD level in a wider range of Humanities and Social Studies disciplines, opening up the opportunity to study at DCU to those for whom full-time, on-campus study is not a realistic option.
- Provide disciplinary and interdisciplinary expertise in Humanities and Social Sciences for DCU's wider suite of programmes including Education programmes associated with the new Institute of Education.

Research

This strengthened Faculty will:

- Engage in and build on our disciplinary expertise and experience in inter-disciplinary work to address key societal challenges and to further the study of contemporary society.
- Leverage the unique research profile of the newly integrated Faculty to provide a centre of excellence for knowledge exchange with government and civil society, through translational and transformational research.

Current status and project timeline

Following the agreement of the four institutions to enter into this process, a Joint Steering Group comprising the leaders of the four institutions was established to oversee the project. An independent chairperson (former Secretary General Mr Gerard Kearney) was then appointed to oversee the process and a number of working groups were established in key areas.

Following a competitive tender process, PricewaterhouseCoopers were engaged to work with the four institutions to develop a detailed plan for the incorporation project. The objective is to have a detailed plan available by the end of 2013.

This is a major, highly complex project with significant interdependencies and a wide range of key issues to be addressed in order to ensure a successful incorporation.

It is expected that the incorporation process will have been completed before the beginning of the 2016/17 academic year. Therefore the institutional profiles of all participating institutions reflect this in their submitted Performance Compacts.