

Speakers' Biographies

Tom Boland



Tom Boland is Chief Executive of the Higher Education Authority (HEA), a position he has held since January 2004. The HEA is a statutory body established to allocate public funding to Irish higher education institutions; to oversee the performance of the higher education and research sector generally; and to advise the Minister for Education and Skills on the development of the sector.

Tom is a member of the Board of the Central Applications Office and of the Governing Board of IMHE, the OECD higher education programme. He is former Chairperson of the Board of HEAnet, and served on the boards of Science Foundation Ireland and the Fulbright Commission.

Tom holds degrees in Civil Engineering and Law and was called to the Irish Bar in 1987.

Professor Patrick Clancy



Patrick Clancy is Emeritus Professor of Sociology at University College Dublin and previously served as Dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences at UCD. His research and publications on higher education include four national studies of participation, published by the Higher Education Authority and a recent book, *Irish Higher Education: A Comparative*

Perspective (Dublin: IPA, 2015). He has served on a number of Government advisory groups on higher education policy. He has been a joint editor and contributor to three books on Irish society, and a book on *The Research Mission of the University* (Rotterdam: Sense Publishers, 2009). He was a founding member, and subsequently served on the Board of Governors and as Chair of, the Consortium of Higher Education Researchers. In 2005 he was selected as a Fulbright New Century Scholar.



Professor Peter Clinch



Professor Peter Clinch is Chair of the National Competitiveness Council of Ireland. Peter also holds the Jean Monnet Chair of European Economic Integration and is Professor of Public Policy at University College Dublin where he has previously served as a Vice-President of the University with special responsibility for innovation, enterprise development and corporate partnerships. Peter holds BA, MA and PhD degrees in economics, a Diploma in Environmental Impact Assessment and is a graduate of the Advanced Management Programme at Harvard Business

School. He is the author of over 100 publications including books, book chapters, international journal articles and conference proceedings and around 100 conference papers and other publications. He has held visiting positions or has been an invited speaker at, *inter alia*, the University of California, Berkeley and San Diego, the University of Southern California, and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and he is an affiliate of the competitiveness programme at Harvard Business School. Peter has advised or worked on behalf of, *inter alia*, the World Bank, OECD, and several national governments and/or their agencies. He was active in the public debate around economic, environmental and planning policy during Ireland's economic boom. In 2002, he co-authored 'After the Celtic Tiger' pointing out fragilities in the Irish economy in advance of the economic crash. Subsequently, between summer 2008 and 2011, Peter served in the Taoiseach's (Prime Minister's) Office as his chief policy adviser. During this time, he was responsible for advising on Ireland's fiscal adjustment in response to the global economic crisis as well as advising on economic growth measures, enterprise policy, innovation policy and environmental policy.

Peter's experience includes working in partnership with senior civil servants and with industry. In addition to serving Cabinet Committees on Economic Renewal, Climate Change and Energy Security, and Science, Technology and Innovation, he was a member of Irish Government delegations to the European Council, the UN General Assembly, Davos World Economic Forum, Asia-Europe Meetings, a series of overseas trade missions, as well as the Prime Ministerial delegations to meet Heads of States, including US President Obama and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. In addition to being Chair of the National Competitiveness Council, Peter is also a Member of the National Advisory Council on Climate Change which has been set up to advise government on the means by which the Irish economy can be significantly decarbonised by 2050.



Professor Andrew Deeks



On 1st January 2014 Professor Andrew J. Deeks took up the presidency of University College Dublin. Growing up in Perth, Western Australia, he was educated at the University of Western Australia, where he received a first class honours degree in civil engineering in 1984. After completing his Master's degree he worked in industry briefly before returning to UWA to pursue his PhD and an academic career in 1988. After working up through the academic ranks from Senior Tutor to Professor, Andrew served a five-year term as Head of the School of

Civil & Resource Engineering from 2004–2009. In 2009, he joined Durham University as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Science.

Since taking over the reins at UCD, he has visited all the schools, research institutes and support units, restructured the University Management Team and led the University through a strategic planning process. The UCD Strategy 2015–2020 was launched by the Minister for Education and Skills on 11 November 2014.

Professor Deeks is the current president of the Irish Universities Association.

Mary Doyle



Mary Doyle is Deputy Secretary of the Department of Education and Skills—a role she assumed in June 2012. As Deputy Secretary, Ms. Doyle leads the Higher Education and Quality Division in the Department. Previously, she worked in the departments of the Taoiseach and Health, and was Director General in the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. She has been a member of the National Economic and Social Council and of the National Statistics Board, and a Forum Member of the Economic and Social Research Institute. She holds a degree in European Studies from the University of Limerick and a Master's in Public Service Management from Trinity/Irish Management Institute.



Richard Eardley



Richard Eardley is one of Ireland's leading recruitment experts. His career in recruitment spans 25 years, multiple sectors and many locations across the U.K. and Ireland. He has extensive exposure to the international market through his work with global leader Hays.

Richard currently works as the Managing Director of Hays Ireland. Hays Ireland provide a range of recruitment services, from contingency, permanent and temporary recruitment through to executive search. They also provide a full suite of outsourced services.

Hays have been established for nearly 20 years in Ireland, operate in four locations and specialise in the provision of skilled, professional and technical personnel. A FTSE 250 company, globally they operate in 33 countries and employ over 9,000 people in 237 offices.

Richard also works as the Marketing Director of Hays in the U.K. and Ireland and spends much time in the London HQ. In collaboration with Oxford Economics, Hays publish the annual Global Skills Index—a complex, statistically-based report designed to assess the dynamics of skilled labour-markets across 31 countries. In Ireland Hays publish an annual salary guide and many provocative industry reports, such as 'The State of Resourcing' and 'Women in IT'. Richard is a frequent media commentator on employment and 'world of work' issues.

Outside of a life in recruitment, Richard is a board member and sits on the Management Committee of the British–Irish Chamber of Commerce. He lives in Dublin with his wife, Breda and three boys, Cillian, Oscar and Sean.

Una Halligan



Una was appointed Chair of the EGFSN (Expert Group on Future Skills Needs) by the then Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment in 2009. She has been a member of the Group since 1999.

She is on the Advisory Board of the DCU Ryan Academy and is a member of the Governing Authority of NUI Maynooth.

She also participates in a number of focus groups in ICT Ireland and IBEC. She is a former Chair of the Fulbright Commission. She was employed by HP for 15 years as the Government Affairs Director.



Professor Ewart Keep



Ewart Keep is Director of the Centre on Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance based at the Department of Education, Oxford University; and a member of HEFCE's Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee, and the joint Scottish Funding Council/Skills Development Scotland Skills Committee. He is also a member of Quality and Qualifications Ireland's Policies and Standards Committee. He has advised Parliamentary committees at

Westminster and Holyrood, as well as HM Treasury, DBIS, the Cabinet Office, the National Audit Office, and government departments in New Zealand and Australia. He has been working with the Welsh Government on skills utilisation policy and the regionalisation of skills planning. He has published extensively on apprenticeships, lifelong learning, higher education policy, the link between skills and economic performance, managerial attitudes towards investment in skill, and how public policy on education and training is created and enacted.

Amy Laitinen



Amy Laitinen is Director for Higher Education at New America and previously served as a policy advisor on higher education at both the U.S. Department of Education and the White House. She was named by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as one top ten innovators of 2013 for her work on federal policy and competency-based education. Her current work focuses on federal policies to increase quality and transparency in higher education.

Amy Laitinen is the product of public higher education, holding an associate degree from Miami-Dade Community College, a bachelor's degree from New College of Florida, and a Master's degree in public policy from the University of California at Berkeley.



Professor Seamus McGuinness



Seamus McGuinness is a Research Professor and the Research Area Co-ordinator for labour-market research at the Economic and Social Research Institute. Prior to joining the Institute, he held posts at Queen’s University Belfast, the Northern Ireland Economic Research Centre and the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic & Social Research (University of Melbourne).

He obtained his Ph.D. in Economics from Queen’s University Belfast in 2003. Most of his published research has been in the areas of labour economics and the economics of education, but he has particular expertise in the areas of education and skill mismatches. In addition to his work on the Irish labour-market, he has also led a number of European labour studies involving numerous international research partners.

Seamus is also a research fellow in the Institute of Labour Studies (IZA) in the University of Bonn and an Adjunct Associate Professor at the National Institute for Labour Studies in Flinders University Australia. He is the designated expert on the Irish labour-market in the European Commission’s European Employment and Policy Observatory (EEPO).

Professor Brian Norton



Professor Brian Norton is President of Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) in Ireland. He received a B.Sc. in Physics from the University of Nottingham in the U.K. and a M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Energy Engineering from Cranfield University, U.K.. He has also received a D.Sc. from the University of Nottingham. He is a Chartered Engineer, both in the U.K. and Ireland.

Professor Norton is the author or co-author of nine books, over 420 papers, principally in solar energy research, including 170 in major international learned journals. His work has ranged from solar water, air and space heating, optical and luminescent solar energy concentration, vacuum glazing, photovoltaic systems design, energy storage and solar drying. Currently Professor Norton is elected to the Council of Dublin Chamber of Commerce. He is a Director of The Greenway, Ireland's first green technology corridor; chairs “Action Renewables” responsible for facilitating renewable energy development in Northern Ireland; and is Vice-President of the European Sustainable Energy innovation Alliance. He is a Fellow of the Energy Institute, Engineers Ireland and the Higher Education Academy. Among



his awards are the Napier Shaw Medal of the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers and the Roscoe Award of the Institute of Energy. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers and is a Fellow of the Irish Academy of Engineering. He is an Honorary Professor of the University of Ulster, Harbin Institute of Technology, China and University of Houston, USA.

Bob Savage



Bob Savage is Vice-President and Managing Director at EMC Ireland. He is site manager for EMC's Centre of Excellence (COE) in Ovens, Co Cork, which employs over 2,000 people. Bob has worked in EMC for over 27 years, playing various key roles in turning what was exclusively a manufacturing facility into a world-class EMC COE—one of only seven worldwide. The COE is EMC's largest manufacturing site outside the U.S., spanning 600,000 square feet, with 32 business functions and 41 nationalities on site speaking 26 languages.

Bob leads the COE's team of highly skilled information technology (IT) professionals, working across engineering, advanced manufacturing, software development, finance, customer service, sales and marketing, and research and development divisions serving the global market. Bob is Chairman of the Governing Body of Cork Institute of Technology (CIT).

A native of Glounthaune, Co. Cork, Bob is a board member of Enterprise Ireland and the American Chamber of Commerce. He is an electronic engineering graduate of CIT and a former lecturer there. EMC is accelerating the journey to cloud computing for customers and partners, helping IT departments to store, manage, protect and analyse their most valuable asset—information—in a more agile, trusted and cost-efficient way. In recent years EMC has partnered with CIT to develop and deliver the world's first Industry-led cloud computing degree and masters' programmes remotely and, with UCC and IMI, to create the world's first executive Master's in Data Business. EMC also owns RSA Security in Shannon, Co. Clare, and VMware in Ballincollig, Co. Cork. Both play strategic roles in EMC's customer journey to the cloud.



Jacinta Stewart



Jacinta Stewart is Chief Executive Officer of the City of Dublin Education and Training Board (CDETb). Jacinta qualified originally as a teacher of Geography and History and holds a Masters Degree in Management. She began her career as a teacher in Dundalk Regional College (now Dundalk Institute of Technology). She went on to become an Adult Education Organiser firstly in Monaghan and then in Louth. She joined what was then City of Dublin Vocational Committee (CDVEC) as Adult Education Organiser in 1985. In January 1993 she was

appointed to the post of Education Officer and was appointed CEO of CDVEC in 2004. CDVEC became City of Dublin Educational and Training Board (CDETb) on the 1st July 2013.

The CDETb education and training provision across the city of Dublin includes 22 schools and colleges, 10 Youthreach Centres, seven Prisons, two Training Centres, 14 Community Training Centres, 17 Local Training Initiatives and an Adult Education Service operating in five separate areas across the city. This provision is delivered by approximately 3,000 staff to over 30,000 learners and is supported by services that include a school psychological service, a curriculum development unit, a sports and cultural council, a buildings maintenance unit, and an administrative staff in CDETb Head Office in Ballsbridge. CDETb is also responsible for the national awarding authority for student grants in Ireland, Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI).

Jacinta believes that education has a major role to play in social inclusion. CDETb colleges and centres are an integral part of their local community and see their relationship with, and relevance to, the local labour market as of crucial importance. She believes that that Further Education demonstrates the potential to innovate and respond quickly to the challenging needs of our times, allowing students to fully explore their capability while getting a good balance between academic and practical experience.



Dr. Mary-Liz Trant



Dr. Mary-Liz Trant is a newly-appointed (2015) Executive Director for Skills Development in SOLAS, the Further Education and Training Authority in Ireland. Prior to this role she held senior posts in the Higher Education Authority as Head of the National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education and Head of Skills and Enterprise Engagement. Earlier in her career Mary-Liz taught at both second and third-level, and was a Development Officer in the Further Education

and Training Awards Council. Mary-Liz holds a doctorate in Education; Masters' degrees in Education and in French; and a Higher Diploma in Education. She has authored over 20 national strategy and policy reports in the areas of further and higher education and training and has published academic articles on equality of access in education; inclusive teaching and learning, curriculum development, assessment; and the liberal vocational ideal.

