

IADTSU ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022



Sabbatical Officers

Eoin Hicks Smyth (President)
Rachael Sarsfield Ryan (Education)
Kai Fic (Welfare & Equality)

Part-Time Officers

Cillian Lynch (Clubs & Societies)
Sinead Casey (Disability)
Sophie Kathryn (Entertainment)
Ellie McDonald (Gaeilge)
Harley Mackingham (LGBT)

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Introduction

Fáilte roimh gach duine,

This year was a good first step as we try to return to a normal state of things after Covid-19. It wasn't easy, and sometimes we felt a little lost in the chaos of it all, but we had a team that put in trojan work over the academic year and we managed to put together what was hopefully a nice year for both students and staff. The following report details some of the work that was done over the course of the year, working with Institute staff, students, the USI and all joint Students' Unions as well as other organisations. The year was not perfect but every member of the IADTSU team was phenomenal in both their work ethic and as a colleague.

There are also a lot of projects that we will be continuing to push throughout the course of the coming year to try and make the college experience as positive as possible for each student as they enter and return to IADT.

While nearly everyone is deserving of thanks it is important to remember the incredible work of our FYF leaders and Student Ambassadors who were a credit to the Institute for the year alongside members of staff who did their best to further the college experience for each student.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh!



Eoin Hicks Smyth
IADTSU President 21/22

President

Gaeilge

Gaeilge was a huge part of campus for students this year thanks to the tireless work of our Gaeilge officer Ellie McDonald, supported by our fantastic Gaeilge Society, who ran an incredible Seachtain na Gaeilge, with events ranging from everyday Irish lessons and a trad night to a roast potato eating contest as well as pushing for the Irish language to be a bigger part of student's college experience across the board. Her phenomenal efforts were rewarded with a Gradam Airgid (silver) award presented at a ceremony in the Guinness enterprise centre. Our incoming Gaeilge officer will take over the reins in July and hopefully we can push ourselves to gold in the coming year as well as broadening to include and promote multiple languages across the campus.



Campaigns

Housing for All Dáil Protest

The Housing for All protest was one of the bigger protests throughout the year members of the USI and multiple SU's camped overnight in front of the Dáil building to demand affordable housing for all. The protest gained a lot of coverage and was a good method of getting the ball rolling on the housing conversation, a fight that the USI continued over the year and throughout the pandemic.



“It Stops Now” Campaign Session

Taking place on October 20th of 2021, the “It Stops Now” event was another push by the organisation to raise awareness of and prevent sexual harassment in third level institutes.

The campaign had input and support from USI and all the following colleges:

- Dublin City University SU
- Dublin Institute of Technology SU
- Dundalk Institute of Technology SU
- Institute of Art Design and Technology Dún Laoghaire SU
- Queen’s University Belfast SU
- Trinity College Dublin SU
- University College Cork SU
- University College Dublin SU
- University of Limerick SU



“Fuck the Fees”

The Fuck the Fees protest was a great success in terms of student turnout. It was a great demonstration of how irritated the student population of Ireland was and still is with the obscenely high fees each student must pay for college yearly. IADT held a poster making session as a joint part of the event so each student had a flag banner or poster to wave as they marched and stood in front of the Dáil offices. While the IADT turnout of students on the day was not spectacular there was a broad array of students from each of the Dublin region colleges and even some who had travelled in from further afield. Our Ents Officer Sophie Kathryn spoke eloquently at the event and they proudly represented students.



No Woman Left Behind

Launched by the National Women’s Council in June of 2021, this event was the start of a larger campaign to be continued until 2024. The goal of the campaign is to make sure that “no woman experiences poverty, racism, violence, discrimination or exclusion, and all women can realise their full economic, social and political rights”. This rally came before the horrific attacks in January of 2022.



Reclaim the Night

Hosted by a group of students from Trinity College Dublin, a group of people marched through the Dublin rain along areas where there had been assaults over the course of the year. The march was to signify that these spaces need to be reclaimed and made safe for all people to walk through and be in. After the event IADTSU

was interviewed by District Magazine on our thoughts regarding the issues of gender-based violence and the actions that need to be taken against it to make Ireland safer.



Events

September

Glendalough Tour with Erasmus Students

One of the first off campus events that we took part in, the students were taken by bus to Glendalough where they were given tours and time to sit together for lunch before making our way to Bray for a day at the sea where we then returned to campus.

Refreshers Week

Our Entertainments Officer, Sophie Kathryn, put together a week of events to welcome students back on campus after the pandemic lockdown; for the second years who did not have an in-person Freshers period last year, and all other returning students. The week was successful with games, food, drinks, a reintroduction to Student Services and the SU, and the first Open Mic event of the year.

October

Freshers Week

As per Students' Union tradition, the first year Induction week was followed by a week of Freshers events for all new and returning students. We enjoyed a mixed bag of in-person and online events, with a return of the Chatpel with comedian Steve Bennett as well as online speed-friending, and in-person events such as the Treasure Hunt, Hunger Games, Lón Gaelach and the Clubs & Socs Sign Up. All students and staff could also enjoy an ice cream from the truck that parked on campus every day. Thankfully the Hunger Games only suffered one instance of vomiting!

Welfare Week

As part of the Freshers period, the Welfare & Equality Officer put together a week of welfare-themed events for all first year and returning students. Events included a Fitness Class, Pumpkin Carving, a Mental Health Quiz and Sex Bingo.

Education Week

As part of the Freshers period, the Education Officer organised a week of informational and training sessions for all incoming and returning students, with a focus on class reps, LGBTQ+ and Consent* training. The week ended with a bang with the second Open Mic event of the year.



November

Race Equality + Cultural Sensitivity Training

We were delighted and honoured to host a virtual training session on race and cultural sensitivity with Adaku Ezeudo.

Valuing Ireland's Teaching + Learning (VTAL)



The Education Officer assisted the Head of Teaching + Learning to organise and host the eleven sessions for IADT's VITAL events. The events were a mix of in-person panels hosted in the Library and remote webinars hosted through Zoom. The events ranged in topics from Academic Integrity, Specific Learning Difficulties, Trauma-Informed Education, Using Images in Teaching and Local Enhancement Projects.

Student Midwives and Nurses Support Rally

While we may not have midwifery students on campus ourselves, it was important to be at this rally. Many of the students know others who are in nursing and midwifery courses and others have parents who are in the field. The turnout from other colleges was spectacular to see and gave hope and encouragement of positive change being effected in the future.

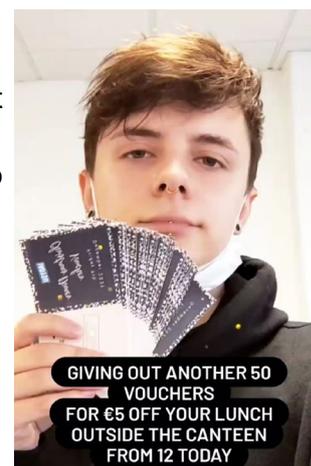
December

Speed-Friending + Saucy Nights Soc Christmas Appeal

Coming towards the end of the year we held an event for students to get to know each other and meet new people. We went to the lighthouse in Dun Laoghaire as it is a popular venue for students and normally accommodates our events for free. The Saucy Nights Society also took part in the event by organising a fundraiser for the Children's Health Foundation to run in tandem with the speed friending event.

Christmas Lunch

Following the tradition from the previous year, IADTSU collaborated with the student canteen on a Christmas Dinner for lunch during the last week before Christmas break. IADTSU stood outside the canteen handing out a total of 100 €5 vouchers for lunch to students across 2 days.

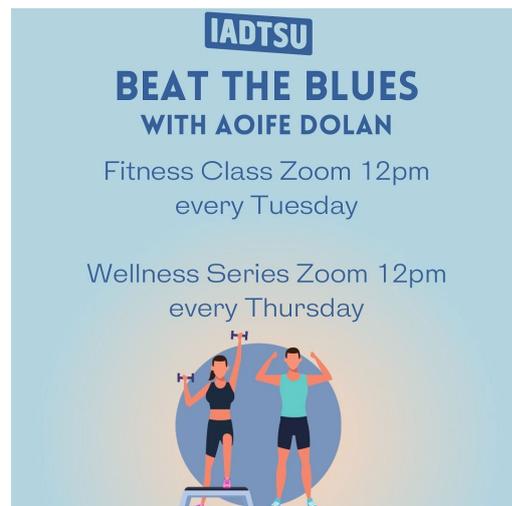


January

Beat the January Blues with Aoife Dolan

Run over the course of January into February, this was an online exercise class with mental health sessions every Thursday and exercise classes on Tuesday. Aoife Dolan led the classes over Zoom with each participant receiving a free lunch voucher as well as being put into the draw for an overall prize raffle once the classes ended.

some kind of student space besides the canteen and weather-dependent outdoor areas.



February

Valentine's Day event in The Lighthouse

For Valentine's Day we set this event up for folks who might not have enjoyed the smack in the face of hearts and love on every lamppost. We thought it would be a nice opportunity for students to come together and enjoy the night.



March

Chapel Reopening

While it may not have been an event per se, it was definitely a cause for celebration! IADT students could once again enjoy The Chapel!

HOTPRESS Mardi Gras Collaboration Event

Set up by HOTPRESS magazine and collaborated on with IADTSU, this was hosted in the Lost Lane event space in Dublin. A code was set up for each IADT student to get in for free and to have three free drinks once they arrived. With live music set up to play as well as other performances taking part throughout the night it was a popular event for the students who attended.



International Women's Day Chapel Event

Hosted by IADT Chick Soc, the event was a bingo lunch with music open to anyone who identified as female or nonbinary. The society also set up a large art installation in the canteen with the help of the SU. This took the form of a gratitude board to list the names of any women you are grateful to have in your life.

Dublin St. Patrick's Day Parade, Pride Float Event

Taking place in the regular Saint Patrick's Day Parade, we were asked if we would have any interest in being a part of the Pride parade teams float. I went to represent the college and the LGBTQIA+ community.

NeuroDiversity

Week

The Education Officer collaborated with the Student Learning Centre to celebrate NeuroDiversity Week for the first time in IADT. ADHD Ireland hosted a webinar informing students and staff of their services and outlining life as an individual with ADHD. The SU hosted board game evenings in The Chapel throughout the week, and we would like to thank the Clubs + Socs Officer Cillian Lynch for his support organising these. Unfortunately a panel with Accenture had to be postponed due to COVID-19. The Education Officer designed some social media posts highlighting celebrities with a range of different neurodiversities to reduce the stigma surrounding neurodiversity.

Student Tailgate Event

Hosted by the Arts Management students in the joint AstroTurf pitches. The event was to promote sports on campus as well as a sense of community, with prizes being given away to the winning teams as well as free lunch vouchers for all attending students.

April

Beach Cleaning Event

Taking place on World Earth Day with the assistance of the Flossie and The Beach Cleaners organisation. A full sweep of the Dún Laoghaire East Pier with the rubbish being weighed and compared to other colleges haul with the heaviest weight being given the available prizes. There were also prizes awarded to the heaviest bag collected by the participating IADT students. Our students collected a whopping 65kgs of rubbish!

Student Ambassador Thank-You Meal

Held in the canteen with all ambassadors eating for free on the day as a thank you for the incredible work that was put in over the course of the year.

Enable Ireland Clothing Drive

A donation of all clothes by IADT students to charities. A “swap and share” event for clothes with any remaining clothes being donated to the Ukrainian refugee centre in Dún Laoghaire.

Film Exhibition in the Chapel + Student Video Game Competition

Second year film exhibition of all student film pieces in the chapel. Held at the same time as the student video game contest with the winner receiving a Nintendo Switch.

Staff vs. Students Soccer Match

Held on the joint AstroTurf pitch and coordinated by staff with each participant receiving a free lunch voucher on the day. Staff won by 1 goal in extra time.

Elections

After many rough weeks of postponing the close of nominations, IADTSU finally had at least one candidate running for each of the sabbatical positions for the next academic term. All but two part-time positions in the team were filled. A lucky draw winner won a Wacom One Pen Display tablet for taking part in the online voting polls.

USI Congress

The sabbatical officers have attended and taken part in the annual USI Congress as delegates, together with the Returning Officer as an observer.

RAG Week

Raising and Giving Week's charities were chosen by the Class Rep Council. Our chosen charities were Women's Aid and the Irish Red Cross (in support of Ukraine). We ran a number of events including: Cream The SU, a Shave or Dye auction, and a table quiz. Students could donate to spin the wheel to throw a pie at a random SU Officer, or donate extra to throw one at a specific officer. The President graciously auctioned his hair, and whichever choice received the highest donations (shave or dye) would then take place in The Chapel. Finally, we hosted a table quiz in The Chapel. In total, we raised €600 which was divided evenly between the two charities.



May

Darkness Into Light Walk

Taking place at multiple places around the country simultaneously with proceeds going to Pieta House. Taking part in the President's hometown of Sallins, he walked along with various members of the community and stayed in contact with other student unions participating in the event as well.

Wings For Life World Run

Working with support from Red Bull, the President represented IADTSU and ran solidly for an hour before the catcher car caught up. The event is hopefully leading to a collaboration for product handouts at events in the upcoming academic year.

Irish Language Awards

Held in the Guinness Enterprise Centre giving awards to the clubs, societies, part time officers and colleges who have contributed and advocated for the Irish language over the course of the year. IADT was awarded the Gradam Airgid (Silver Award).

Dublin Region Bonding Event in NCAD

Taking place on the NCAD campus and hosted by their SU, this was a close of year event for all of the Dublin region officers to come together and celebrate the year drawing to a close.

June

IADT OnShow

End of year graduate showcase showing off all the work and projects of the students put together over the course of the academic year.

Education

Education Week

Education Week consisted of a Zoom session on 'Minding Yourself in College' with the Student Learning Centre, Class Rep raining with the National Student Engagement Programme (NStEP), LGBTQ+ training with Dublin Lesbian Line, Class Rep Council and an Open Mic Night in the Quadrangle.

Class Representatives

Class Representative Council was held on the first Tuesday of each month, from October 2021 to April 2022. The Class Representatives are composed of fantastic students who want to be more involved in their place of study, and who strive to be engaged, respectful and inclusive of the diverse community of IADT students. During this challenging academic year, as we navigated the move from remote learning to a hybrid model, IADT's Class Representatives went above and beyond to represent and support their coursemates and IADT Students' Union. This year also saw the return to in-person Class Rep Council, which hadn't happened since 2019!

This academic year the Chair of Class Rep Council was Lukas Dillon, who ensured each Council ran smoothly and in a timely manner. The Vice Chair and Secretary was Hannah Murphy who took minutes throughout the year, all of which are available to any student.

Class Representative Training took place virtually on the video conferencing platform Zoom, over two days. The Education Officer led the training along with the National Student Engagement Programme (NStEP). Training included Class Representation and the Role of a Rep, with an additional session of LGBTQ+ Training led by Dublin Lesbian Line.



Final Year Matters: Moving On

Final Year Matters: Moving On (FYMMO) is a campus wide initiative which aims to support and celebrate final year students, as they prepare to graduate and transition to life after IADT. The Education Officer is a member of the FYMMO team who brings the student perspective and voice to the initiative.

Some of the events the FYMMO team focused on this year included Virtual Careers Fair, a graduate panel and an in-person workshop focusing on Flow theory.

Destigmatising Disabilities in Education Campaign

The Vice President for Education collaborated with IADT's Disability Support Officer to complete the second phase of the campaign. The campaign's aim was to create a greater awareness of IADT's Disability Support Services and to increase awareness that IADT's students are diverse, and we must foster an environment of inclusivity.

The VP for Education created eight infographics outlining Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Dyspraxia, Mental Health Difficulties, Neurological Conditions, Physical Disabilities, Significant Ongoing Illnesses and Specific Learning Difficulties.

These infographics outlined general information regarding each disability, the common experiences individuals with these respective disabilities experience in college, and relevant supports for each.

The VP for Education would like to extend her thanks to the Disability Officer for their valued input and collaboration.

NeuroDiversity Week

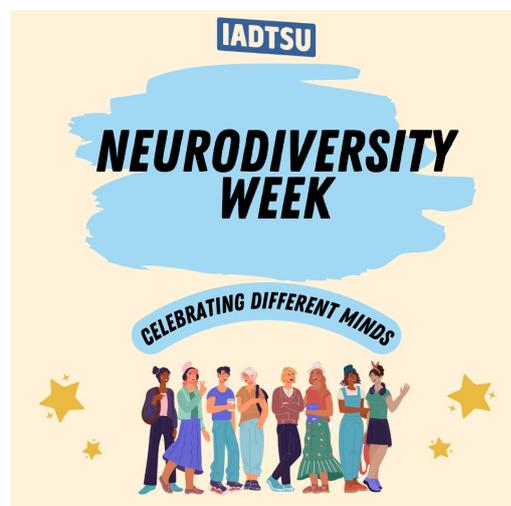
The Education Officer collaborated with the Student Learning Centre to celebrate NeuroDiversity Week for the first time in IADT.

The Education Officer designed some social media posts highlighting celebrities with a range of different neurodiversities to reduce the stigma surrounding neurodiversity, and to celebrate different minds.

They also co-hosted a webinar alongside the Student Learning Centre with ADHD Ireland which was attended by students and staff.

Sensitive Content Communications

The Education Officer collaborated with the Equality, Diversity + Inclusion (EDI) Administrator and Head of Teaching + Learning throughout the year to create the Sensitive Content Communication Resource. This work was directly guided by casework that had been brought to the Education Officer by a number of students, and has evolved throughout the year. It was important to include the student and staff perspective and voices when



collating the materials for this research. This involved separate surveys for both students and staff to gain their insight, and focus group sessions for the staff to voice any concerns or queries they had. The Education Officer did not take part in the focus groups so that staff did not feel restricted in expressing their thoughts. The final version should be available for staff in the next academic year. The Education Officer would like to express her sincerest thanks to both the EDI Administrator and the Head of Teaching + Learning for all their support with this project.

Study Tips + Exam Support Packs

As exam and assessment season approached, the Education Officer designed some graphics on study tips that were shared on the SU social media pages. The topics ranged from study techniques, timetabling, self-care and setting up your study environment. They were designed to remind students that there are supports available for them from the Student Learning Centre, Education and Welfare + Equality Officer

The Education Officer also made exam support packs for the small cohort of students sitting in-person exams. These consisted of a bottle of water, a keep cup, a pen and a healthy snack. They were available to collect outside the exam halls in the Carriglea and Atrium.



Student Achievement Awards Ireland 2022

The Student Achievement Awards took place in-person this May at the Gibson Hotel. IADTSU was nominated for Small Students' Union of the Year, and although we did not win, we are immensely proud to have been nominated and recognised for the work undertaken throughout the year.

Welfare

Freshers' Welfare Week



The new first years' Welfare Week consisted of a Zoom session for LGBTQ+ chats with the LGBTQ+ Rights Officer, Harley Mackingham, a Fitness Class, Pumpkin Carving, a Mental Health Quiz, Sex Bingo, and several Condom & Lube giveaway stations. The Quiz and Bingo enjoyed decent numbers as usual, but the Pumpkin Carving event definitely triumphed with the sheer level of fun and engagement the Quad courtyard boomed with life for a couple hours! Additionally, we welcomed back Dr Caroline West, a well-known sexologist, who give our students a talk about Menstruation Hygiene.



Sexual Health Awareness & Guidance Week



This year's SHAG week started off with IADTSU's first in-person ball since 2019 as the SHAG Ball in the Button Factory. The night was successful, with over 200 attendees. The rest of the week was not as packed full with workshops and talks as it normally would be due to last minute cancellations and changes, but nonetheless we enjoyed having IADT's very own Dr. Nicola Fox Hamilton for "Online Dating Simplified". The session more than compensated, with its interesting dive into the inner workings of Tinder, and the underlying psychology behind online dating. Lots of sex toys were won in Sex Bingo and Sex Quiz, with a frightening but appreciated large turnout at both.

Mental Health Policy

In the previous academic term, the VP for Welfare & Equality worked among several staff members of the Student Experience Team in order to draft a student Mental Health Policy for IADT, from a previously drafted policy that has never made it onto the books. The draft was then sent off to the Registrar's office to be finalised, which has finally happened this year. IADT will have an official policy on students' mental health from now on!

Financial Aids

The Hardship Fund was awarded to 117 students during the academic year, with a maximum payment of €100 per semester per student. The Childcare Subsidy Fund had a total of 7 successful applicants.

Other Bits

The VP for Welfare & Equality has continued to provide free period and contraception products in the Chapel, and this year, also invested in Scrunch-Ups, anti-spiking drink covers, that are given out for free on request. The W&E officer has also further improved the IADTSU online voting system for use during elections.

The Incoming SU

President Eoin Hicks Smyth

VP for Education Darcy Mullen

VP for Welfare & Equity Micaela Dunne

Clubs & Societies Office Praise Adetuyi

Entertainments Office Jack (Smokey) Holton
Murray

Disability Rights Office *byelection to be held*

LGBTQ+ Rights Office Len Thompson

Mature Students' Office *byelection to be held*

Oifigeach na Gaeil Sahra Heibe

Goodbye

Thank you to all IADT students and staff for this year. It has not been a normal year, and there are definitely many things we could point out that did not go well, but nonetheless we are happy to have worked with so many incredible people to tackle obstacles that have made us better people. Thank you to all students who have helped us engage the student body after such a difficult time for everyone in the world. We would also like to thank all staff from the Health Centre, the Counselling service, the Disability Support service, the Learning Centre and the Library, as well as the Student Experience Manager for their continuous hard work and support for all students of IADT. You have all been amazing allies to work with.

While Eoin is staying on for another year, Rachael and Kai would like to offer a hearty farewell and wish every one of you a great year ahead, and thank you for the last two years they have spent with all of you. Engage with your Students' Union, make great memories during your time in college and have your needs and wants reflected in the work of the Union officers.



Prepared by

Eoin Hicks Smyth, Rachael Sarsfield Ryan & Kai Fic