



DCU Access Schools Outreach Programme

DCU Access Service





**Between 8,000
and 10,000
primary and
secondary
school students
in DEIS Schools
partake in
DCU Access
initiatives
yearly.**

Welcome

A very warm welcome to the DCU Access Outreach Programme. This year we are delighted to bring to your attention the launch of DCU's new 'Access Outreach Strategy 2016 to 2020'.

This new Strategy provides a host of new and updated initiatives to DEIS Schools, to Communities and to Access eligible individuals, residing in the North Dublin Region.

This brochure provides a brief overview of the three core initiatives underpinning the DCU Access Outreach Strategy: U & University Programme, UniTY and UFirst.

If you have any queries or require further information on any of these initiatives, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the DCU Access Outreach Team.

On behalf of the DCU Access Team, we look forward to working with you over the duration of this Strategy and beyond.

Wishing you the very best for the year ahead.

Regards,

Ita Tobin
Head of the DCU Access Service



Strategy

Among its core aims, the DCU Access Outreach Strategy 2016 to 2020 aims to:

- Increase progression to third level education from communities in North Dublin which are most underrepresented in higher education
- Increase progression for students from DEIS Schools to DCU
- Increase progression from Target Groups identified as most underrepresented in 3rd level (see list below)
- Increase progression from ethnic minority students and students in DEIS Schools to Teacher Education

The Access Outreach Team are particularly interested in working with Access eligible students who are:

- 1st generation students with no history of 3rd level education in the family
- Young people in the care of the HSE
- Young Carers
- Members of the Traveller Community
- Students who are socioeconomically disadvantaged and also have a physical, sensory or learning disability

U & University

Our widening participation outreach programme for secondary school students starts at Junior Cycle and offers events and activities on the DCU campus to students from 1st to 3rd year attending our linked schools.

We believe that it is vital to build a link to 3rd level as early as possible in secondary school in order to break down barriers and raise aspirations. We offer a number of programmes designed to introduce university and build a relationship between DCU, our linked schools and students.

- Discover DCU (discovering pathways to 3rd level)
- Achievement Awards for 3rd year students (includes music and entertainment drawn from all of our linked schools)
- Introduction to Campus Life (Tours, Careers Fairs, Open Days, Question and Answer sessions with current students)
- Maths Fun Days
- Tag Rugby & Soccer Blitz
- Summer Scholars academic taster programmes run on the DCU campus by the Centre for Talented Youth Ireland (CTYI) in Science and Humanities. (*12-17 year olds).





UniTY Programme

What is UniTY?

UniTY is a skills based programme specifically aimed at Transition Year students, aged 15 to 16 years old. The programme has been designed to increase student engagement in education and raise motivation and career aspirations and broaden students' world view.

UniTY exposes students to transformative educational opportunities by engaging them in curriculum which facilitates 21st Century Learning.

Curriculum

The programme centres on curriculum which is largely technology based. It consists of 4 Modules which are delivered in schools by teachers who receive training and support from DCU.

Multimedia & Social Innovation

The Multimedia module enables the students to become digital creators. It empowers them, giving them a voice to create awareness and drive change in their communities through the production of a video.

Smart Skills

Smart Skills focuses on Coding and App design. Students design, code, test apps and learn about software development.

Employability & Leadership

Employability & Leadership empowers students with leadership skills and prepares them for work placements during their Transition Year.

Student Empowerment

Student Empowerment focuses on dealing with unhelpful thinking, stress management, procrastination and how to reach your full potential.

Awards

The UniTY Awards take place in May each year to recognise and celebrate the personal and professional achievements of UniTY students who participated in the programme.

DCU also recognises teachers from our partner schools and their participation in the Programme.

What do our Students say about UniTY?

In recent years, students have rated UniTY as valuable in increasing their awareness of going to college and also rated the Programme as excellent in raising their personal motivation for learning.

UFirst Programme

UFirst is a programme specially designed for students in 5th and 6th year who are part of underrepresented groups (on application). It's designed to build the knowledge, confidence and skills students need to begin their university journey.

What is the aim?

To support students who are already 'college aware' to become 'college ready' and to allow students experiencing educational disadvantage to gain access to college.

Who is it for?

Students who are studying at least two higher level subjects, at least ordinary level maths and who have an interest in progressing to 3rd level.

What are the criteria for entry?

Applicants should meet as many as possible of the criteria for the HEAR/ Access DCU Entry Routes i.e. low income, means tested social welfare payment, living in a disadvantaged area and attendance at a DEIS school.

Each indicator is weighted and priority given to those students who meet all of the criteria.

What is offered through the UFirst programme?

- Learn and practise key study skills
- Attend a one week summer school between 5th and 6th year
- Get support and guidance, including a student mentor
- Take part in Careers workshops, learn CV building and interview skills
- Get support and guidance on applying to and preparing for university
- Be supported in personal development with life coaching and mindfulness sessions

How does the student apply?

Applications are made online and will open in September. Applicants will be expected to complete a personal statement as part of their application and provide the name of a Teacher or Guidance Counsellor in their school who can provide a reference.

For more information on HEAR eligibility criteria please see www.accesscollege.ie







For further details on any of the
DCU Access Outreach Programmes
please contact:

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U&Access



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