**What is the Uaneen module?**

DCU formally recognises and rewards the achievement of holistic education by accrediting a module in extra-curricular activities – the Uaneen Module. The Uaneen Module is a unique scheme that formally recognises the work done and learning acquired by students with University and outside clubs, societies, community work and extra-curricular activity in general.

Depending on the degree programme, the Uaneen Module can be either a contributing 5 credit elective or a non-contributing optional additional 5 credit module. In both cases, successful completion means that credits are awarded which are included in the degree parchment. DCU was the first third level institution in the Republic of Ireland to reward extracurricular activity in such a manner.

The Uaneen Module is managed and administered by DCU’s Office of Student Life, with the volunteer efforts of University staff and is endorsed by IBEC.

**What are the aims of the Uaneen module?**

To recognise the commitment that students put in to extra-curricular activity as well as the personal development derived from this activity.

To encourage students to participate and get actively involved in extra-curricular activity so as to achieve that personal development.

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**History of the Uaneen Module**

There had been a number of attempts in the late 90’s by various sections of the DCU community to initiate a reward system that would recognise the great work done by many students outside of their academic work. In March 2000, these various sections of the University came together to create such a system that would finally begin to reward students for their efforts.

These awards were named in memory of Uaneen Fitzsimmons, the late RTE presenter, who played an active role in society and campus life in DCU. Uaneen progressed from DCU to carve out a successful career in the entertainment industry before her untimely death in 2000.

In February 2004, the awards were evaluated by the University and DCU became the first Irish university to formally acknowledge and offer academic credits for the extracurricular activities of its students.

Both of the above options will enable the university to award internationally recognised credits under the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) for a range of non-academic activities that can range from the sporting, political and creative to the community and social.

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**COMPLETING THE MODULE**

Students are required to demonstrate, through submission of a portfolio that they have been involved in a significant way and for a significant period in extra-curricular activities which have enhanced their non-academic learning during your period of study at DCU. These activities may be within the University AND outside clubs, societies, volunteering, community work and extra-curricular activity in general.

**WORKSHOPS**

A course requirement is attendance at a number of workshops to aid preparation for the submission of the assignment and portfolio. These workshops are delivered by DCU staff outside of their normal timetabled hours, typically at lunchtime or in the evening.

**ASSIGNMENT**

To better prepare students for writing up their reflective portfolio (submitted in Semester 2), they are required to submit a short reflective piece of writing in Semester 1 (500-700 words). These short pieces are corrected by Uaneen Mentors, who are drawn from all areas of the University and formative feedback is provided to the registered students.

**PORTFOLIO**

The critical part of the module is involvement in the activity or activities. The portfolio is a record of that involvement and of the learning. Having to log the activities and to reflect on the outcomes is an important part of the learning process. The portfolio is approximately 4,000 words long and is marked according to the prescribed marking scheme by staff who volunteered for this role.

The portfolio has two parts. 1) The log of the activity involvement. 2) A reflective account of the learning gained through the activity.

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**UANEEN 2015/16 – some facts**

- 112 Students registered from across all 4 faculties
- 10 workshops and a drop in clinic delivered to all registered students by staff volunteering their time.
- 20 volunteer mentors from both academic and administrative units.
- Mentors meet students 2-4 times during the year to provide guidance and support and also give formative feedback on the Semester 1 assignment.
- All mentors attended a workshop in Semester 1 to prepare for this role.
- 9 markers, who will each mark 12-13 portfolios and attend a number of markers meetings.
- A special reception is held for Uaneen graduates at the Graduation ceremonies. Mentors and markers also attend this.

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[Image: A course requirement is attendance at a number of workshops to aid preparation for the submission of the assignment and portfolio. These workshops are delivered by DCU staff outside of their normal timetabled hours, typically at lunchtime or in the evening.]

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