Universities and Intercultural Cities

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University of Limerick

- 13,500 students; c 18% non-Irish
- (Limerick city – 24,000 students)
- “Pioneering and Connected” Strategic Plan 2011-15
- Connected to the communities we serve
- Resonates with Nancy Cantor’s notion of a university as an Anchor Institution
- The university as a site for opportunity and engagement
- Public problem solving
## Census 2011

### 2011 Nationality: Limerick City and County & the State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Limerick City</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Limerick County</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Limerick City &amp; County</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Irish</td>
<td>48859</td>
<td>86.4</td>
<td>120364</td>
<td>90.2</td>
<td>169223</td>
<td>89.1</td>
<td>3927143</td>
<td>86.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Irish</td>
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<td>12.1</td>
<td>11580</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>18427</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>544357</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
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<td>28</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1487</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1.4</td>
<td>1450</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>2239</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>52294</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>56521</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>133422</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>189943</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>4525281</td>
<td>100</td>
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</table>

### of which:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>As % non-national</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>As % non-national</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>As % non-national</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>As % non-national</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Polish</td>
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<td>3518</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>6090</td>
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<tr>
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<td>10</td>
<td>2864</td>
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<td>3549</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>112259</td>
<td>20.6</td>
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<tr>
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<td>13.4</td>
<td>1288</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>2204</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>65579</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>635</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>1137</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>41642</td>
<td>7.6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Census 2011

- 30% increase in non-Irish nationals from 2006-2011

- Romanian, Indian, Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian, Brazilian communities grew significantly

- 17% Irish residents born outside the country, representing a 25% increase over 2006; 31% increase in foreign born women

- 514,068 (out of a population of 4.5m) speak a foreign language at home
What does the University of Limerick do?

Research

- Medicine: migrants access to primary health care

- Psychology: international students – level of integration, academic performance, wellbeing

- Hate and Hostility Research Group [Link](http://www.ul.ie/emotions/hhrg)
Education

- Curriculum: broadening module on cultural diversity; module on teaching international students
- Seminars aimed at sharing good practices and developing intercultural awareness and competence
  

- Project work: assignment to develop anti-rumour strategies
  
  http://antirumours.weebly.com

- The UL Practicum – community orientated research project e.g. Irish Identities, Immigration and Integration
  
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqxuCcDjJ_U
Outreach/Civic Engagement

- Limerick City and County Intercultural Working Group
- Community based education programmes e.g. Parent in Education Programme - Your Knowledge, Their Future
- Seminars, discussion fora focusing on the relationship between educational practitioners and academia
- Free English language classes delivered in local communities
Student Activity

• Volunteering: placements in community organisations
• Project: Limerick Students, Our City, Our Culture
• UL International Society: provide language tuition to Irish school students
• UL Development Society: Deloitte Top Technology Talent Competition 2015 – improved process for foreign nationals transferring money home
Challenges

- National policy – slow to adapt
- Availability of data
- Role models – e.g. teachers predominantly Irish; other professions?
- Coordination of University activities?
- Are we effecting sustainable change?
- How are we adapting to changing student/staff profile?
- Accommodating diversity?