



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK

OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH



UL PROFILE
January 2018

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INTRODUCTION

Established in 1972, the University of Limerick is an independent, internationally focused university with over 15,000 students and 1,528 staff. It is a young, energetic and enterprising university with a proud record of innovation in education and excellence in research and scholarship. The University offers programmes across a wide range of disciplines, including arts, business, engineering and construction, health, including medicine, information and communication technology, law, mathematics and natural sciences. The University's mission is to be a distinctive, pioneering and connected university that shapes the future through educating and empowering people to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

The University is recognised as possessing one of the most spectacular and environmentally sympathetic third-level campuses in the world. The campus has unrivalled sports and cultural facilities, including Ireland's first Olympic-size swimming pool, an indoor sports arena, a boathouse with a state-of-the-art indoor rowing tank, the 1,100-seat University Concert Hall, the Irish Chamber Orchestra Building, the Irish World Academy and an impressive range of visual art, including outdoor sculptures, the National Self-Portrait Collection of Ireland and the Water Colour Society of Ireland Collection. The campus is located 5km from Limerick city and 20km from Shannon International Airport.

The campus is home to the Nexus Innovation Centre, which supports spin-out activity in the region, and is central to the UL Enterprise Corridor, which hosts leading R&D companies such as Johnson & Johnson. Adjacent to the University is the National Technology Park (NTP), Ireland's first science/technology park (263 hectares), which is home to over 80 organisations employing over 3,000 people.

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

The University of Limerick operates under national legislation, the Universities Act 1997. As set down in that legislation, overall authority for the affairs of the University is vested in the Governing Authority of the University of Limerick, which is appointed in accordance with the Act.

UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

Overall management of the University's affairs is the responsibility of the Executive Committee of the University. The academic affairs of the University are managed by the faculty boards, the Academic Programme Review Committee and the Academic Council.

GOVERNING AUTHORITY

Mary Harney
Chairperson/Chancellor

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr Des Fitzgerald
President

Gerry O'Brien
Chief Operating Officer and Registrar/ Deputy President

Professor Kerstin Mey
Vice President Academic Affairs & Student Engagement

Dr Mary Shire
Vice President Research

Professor Helen Kelly Holmes
Dean, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Dr Philip O'Regan
Dean, Kemmy Business School

Professor Rachel Msetfi
Dean, Faculty of Education and Health Sciences

Professor Edmond Magner
Dean, Faculty of Science and Engineering

Dr Ann Ledwith
Dean Graduate and Professional Studies

Ruth Maher
Director of Strategic Projects and Transformation

Callista Bennis
Corporate Secretary

KEY DEVELOPMENTS DURING 2017

New UL President

Dr Desmond Fitzgerald, former Vice President of University College Dublin, was appointed as the fifth president of the University of Limerick (UL). Dr Fitzgerald previously held the position of Vice President for Health Affairs at University College Dublin as well as Chief Academic Officer of Ireland East Hospital Group. He commenced his term as President of UL on 1 May 2017 and succeeded Professor Don Barry.

New SFI-funded research centre for UL

Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) is to invest €74 million over the next six years in four new world-class SFI research centres in Ireland, including one at the University of Limerick.

Among the four new SFI centres is CONFIRM, led by UL, a €47 million centre for smart manufacturing. CONFIRM seeks to add intelligence to production systems, creating the factories of the future, where products can be fully customised and adaptable. The overall SFI investment supports cutting-edge basic and applied research with strong industry engagement, driving economic benefits and positive societal impact.

Professor Mike Zaworotko named SFI Researcher of the Year

UL's Bernal Professor of Crystal Engineering Mike Zaworotko has been named the Science Foundation Ireland Researcher of the Year. The winners of the prestigious 2017 SFI awards were revealed at the SFI Science Summit.

The SFI Researcher of the Year Award recognises the accomplishments of an SFI-funded researcher who has contributed significantly to the Irish research community in their career. The successful researcher has achieved exceptional scientific and engineering research outputs combined with a clear demonstration of the ability to communicate their research.

New programme in arts, business, computing, engineering and science

The University launched a suite of new undergraduate programmes in arts, business, computing, engineering and science in 2017. The programmes provide over 60% of new students with greater choice and flexibility in building their degree programme. The Arts programme is flexible and wide-ranging, offering 19 subjects in all. Students undertaking this programme can study a combination of subjects (as single honours or joint honours) from across the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Students undertaking common-entry programmes in business, computing, engineering or science will make their final degree selection during the first year of their programme of study.

Professional Diploma in School Leadership launched at UL

The Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton, TD officially launched a new Professional Diploma in School Leadership at the University of Limerick. The programme targets those aspiring to senior leadership positions in primary and second-level schools and forms part of the Government's Action Plan for Education (2016-2019).

Developed at UL in partnership with NUIG, UCD and WIT and jointly awarded by NUIG, UCD and UL, the programme is funded by the Department of Education and Skills (DES) through the Centre for School Leadership. The programme is an 18-month, part-time blended learning professional diploma, delivered locally in six regional locations throughout the country (UL, NUIG, UCD, WIT, CIT and St. Angela's Sligo) and will be administered by the

School of Education and Continuing Professional Education at the University of Limerick. There will also be specific provision for teachers in Irish-medium schools through NUIG.

UL School of Law gets top marks at Irish Law Awards

The School of Law at the University of Limerick was named the top law school in the country at the sixth annual AIB Private Banking Irish Law Awards held in Dublin.

The AIB Private Banking Irish Law Awards set out to identify, commend and publicise excellence and outstanding achievements in Irish law and recognise exemplary practices of leading law firms and teams throughout the country. Representing the significant legal profession in Ireland, attendees and nominees from all corners of the country were welcomed at the event.

KBS named Best Business School by InBUSINESS

Kemmy Business School was named Best Business School in Ireland 2016 at the InBUSINESS Recognition Awards. Winners of the awards were chosen across 22 categories based on the broad criteria of growth, profile of business, range of services and customer care.

UL team wins US-Ireland Research Innovation Award

University of Limerick, 3D4Medical and IBM Research were the winners of the 2017 US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards, jointly presented by the American Chamber of Commerce Ireland and the Royal Irish Academy. Led by Dr Eamonn de Barra and in collaboration with Stryker Orthopaedics, the team from UL received the award for developing a new type of bioactive bone cement for neurosurgery, which has advantages over existing products on the market in terms of ease of use, speed of surgical placement and reduced workload on the OR team, which is a positive outcome for all.

BAFTA Special Award for UL lecturer

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) honoured UL lecturer Brenda Romero with the Special Award at the British Academy Games Awards. BAFTA's Special Award acknowledges an individual for his/her creative contribution to the industry, and was presented to Brenda for her illustrious career in game design, her advocacy for the art and creative process behind game-making and her commitment to encouraging the next generation of talent in the industry.

€86 million science and engineering research institute launched

Then Taoiseach Enda Kenny launched the Bernal Institute at the University of Limerick, an €86 million science and engineering research institute comprising 20,000m² of high-quality, multi-purpose research space in the new Science and Engineering Zone at UL.

The Bernal Institute incorporates UL's Materials and Surface Science Institute, the Stokes Research Institute and the Bernal Project into one unified flagship research institute to showcase and build on the University's significant strengths in research in science and engineering. A key aspect of the Institute is the recruitment of world-leading researchers as Bernal professors – seven of a total of ten new professorial chairs have already been filled. The Institute houses over 260 researchers, who work in and across research themes in advanced materials, manufacturing and processing engineering and fluid dynamics.

New MOU signals formal strategic partnership with Intel

UL and Intel Ireland have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a strategic partnership that will formalise the long-standing relationship between the two organisations and create a defined programme of activity for working together into the future. The new partnership agreement builds on existing connections between Intel and UL and will specifically explore opportunities to develop and encourage future talent, build creative collaborations in the area of research, development and innovation and work together on shaping relevant policy frameworks.

The new partnership will incorporate a focus on key areas of exploration in the research space to include artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing. The agreement will also seek to identify ways in which the two organisations can work together on topics such as increasing the representation of women in STEM-related education programmes and careers and supporting equal opportunity to education across demographic profiles.

Limerick 2030

UL continues to collaborate on the Limerick 2030 initiative, which aims to enable Limerick local authorities, education institutions and business enterprises to stimulate growth, attract foreign direct investment and promote job creation for the sustainable growth and economic expansion of the new Limerick.

President's Volunteer Awards

More than 270 University of Limerick students took part in the UL President's Volunteer Award (PVA) scheme in the last year. The students completed more than 17,000 hours of voluntary work across a range of civic and charitable organisations during the academic year.

Since the establishment of the PVA in 2012, more than 57,000 volunteer hours have been documented, and student volunteering continues to be the largest civic engagement activity in UL.

Limerick HE institutions awarded over half national HEA fund for student/staff mobility

The University of Limerick (UL), Mary Immaculate College (MIC) and Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT) have been awarded over half of the €1 million HEA Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (ICM) Fund for supporting the transfer of students and staff to countries outside of Europe for teaching, training and research collaboration.

Introduced in 2015, Erasmus+ ICM offers opportunities for students to study and staff to teach or train for a period of time in higher education institutions (HEIs) beyond Europe. The scheme gives the same opportunities for staff and students from countries outside of Europe to come to participating HEIs in Europe. UL, MIC and LIT are members of the Shannon Consortium, a strategic alliance involving substantial collaboration between the institutions to support greater accessibility to higher education and innovations in teaching and learning.

The Erasmus+ Programme fund will support the movement of 135 staff and students to and from the three institutions to colleges and universities in 20 different countries on five continents.

New UL Health Hub in Limerick city centre

A new information Health Hub has been developed in Limerick city by UL's Faculty of Education and Health Sciences. The Health Hub will allow community-based groups to access health programmes and support information for health living. The new centre has been designed to allow UL students to deliver programmes to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Limerick.

Co-located with the Limerick Fab Lab on Rutland Street in the city, the Health Hub complements UL's existing models of student education and community-based initiatives.

UL presents more than 110 scholarships

Students from across the country were presented with scholarships totalling nearly €280,000 at the 2017 University of Limerick Scholarship Awards ceremony held on Monday, 27 November. More than 110 scholarships were presented, including over 30 UL Sports Scholarships.

Forty students were awarded UL40 Scholarships, which were introduced in 2012 to mark UL's 40th anniversary and valued at €2,000 each. A further 10 students received the UL40 Mature Scholarships.

Thirty-three outstanding sportspeople received UL Sports Scholarships in 2017. Recipients of the three Gold UL Sports Scholarships included Irish Women's Rugby Captain Niamh Briggs, Clare hurler and All Ireland 2013 medal winner Tony Kelly, and Shane O'Donoghue, who represented Ireland at the 2016 Olympics in hockey.

International win for UL students

Four UL students were part of the first team outside of Canada to claim the top honours at the International Engineering and Commerce Case Competition (ECCC) in Montreal. Hosted by the renowned Université Concordia, the interdisciplinary competition is the only test of its type in the world and is rated as one of the top case challenges in North America. The aim of the competition is to find solutions to real-world challenges that modern industries face. Each team comprised students from engineering and business disciplines. The University of Limerick students were flying the flag for Europe while the other 11 teams hailed from North America and the Middle East. As well as winning the overall title, the UL team won Best Engineering Solution and Best Sustainable Solution honours.

UL cements reputation as Ireland's Sporting Campus with launch of Munster Rugby High Performance Centre and new UL Sport 25m diving pool

Two new sports buildings worth almost €15m were officially opened at the University of Limerick by Minister of State Patrick O'Donovan, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The Munster Rugby High Performance Centre at UL and the new UL 25m diving pool are adjacent to and connected with the existing UL Sport Arena.

Expansion of the Glucksman Library

Construction work is nearing completion on the expansion and renovation the Glucksman Library. Reflective of how students and researchers use libraries today, the transformed library will provide technology-rich, creative and inspirational spaces to meet current and future needs. The aim is not just to add extra space but to create an outstanding facility that will provide for the needs of the University long into the future and will distinguish UL as an innovative and pioneering institution. Some 7,500 square metres of space will be added to the

library, and existing library facilities will be upgraded. The extra space will accommodate an additional 1,000 seats for a variety of learning styles, such as silent and collaborative. A revitalised and expanded Special Collections area will include exhibition, reading, presentation and digitisation spaces to support the use of the library's unique resources, both in research and in the curriculum. The dedicated innovative digital, media and data spaces will provide facilities for media creation, practice presentations and high-end computing. Large presentation screens at the entrance to the library will allow us to showcase UL research and the best student work. Other new or redeveloped areas will include a graduate reading room, smart classrooms and group study rooms, a Health Science library and a Law library.

Governing Authority approves construction of Student Centre

Planning for a new Student Centre building at the University of Limerick passed a significant milestone when Governing Authority approved the design of the building. The centre will comprise a three-storey, 3,529 square metre building and will be in a prime front-of-house location adjacent to the Stables Complex and the Library. The project will be submitted to Limerick City and County Council for planning approval.

Healthy Campus Initiative announcement

UL is working towards the goal of becoming a Smoke Free campus in 2018. As part of the Healthy Campus Initiative, 'No Smoking No Vaping' signs have been put in place around campus. These will include campus maps, which indicate the zones throughout the campus that are now 'smoke/vape free' areas. As the Healthy Campus project team develops, further information on services to support UL's Healthy Campus Initiative will be provided.

Cooperative Education and Careers Division

The graduate employment rate of UL graduates is 12% higher than the average for the university sector.

STATISTICS

STUDENT ENROLMENT AY2016/17

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Undergraduate	10,107	1,337	11,444
Taught Postgraduate Diplomas and Master's	1,168	604	1,772
Research Postgraduate Degrees (Master's/PhD)	704	127	831
Total	11,979	2,068	14,047

HEA Statistics AY2016/17

GRADUATES BY LEVEL OF AWARD AY2015/16

Undergraduate

Bachelor	2,150
Diploma	386
Certificate	428
Total	2,964

Postgraduate

Doctorate	119
Master's	987
Higher Diploma	74
Graduate Diploma	254
Graduate Certificate	54
Total	1,488

GRADUATES BY FACULTY AY2015/16

Kemmy Business School	910	20%
Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences	710	16%
Education and Health Sciences	1,055	24%
Science and Engineering	1,097	25%
Interfaculty	680	15%
Total	4,452	100%

FACULTY AND STAFF AY 2016/17

Faculty	659
Research Staff	264
Support Staff	605

CURRENT INCOME BY SOURCE YEAR TO SEPTEMBER 2016

Source	Consolidated		University	
	€'000	%	€'000	%
State grants	36,174	14.6	36,174	15.9
Academic fees	89,630	36.2	89,630	39.4
Research grants and contracts	35,154	14.2	35,154	15.4
Amortisation of deferred state capital grants	4,113	1.7	4,113	1.8
Other operating income	46,578	18.9	26,956	11.9
Interest income	498	0.2	177	0.1
Donation	1,000	0.4	1,000	0.5
Net deferred funding for retirement benefits	34,157	13.8	34,157	15.0
Total income	247,304	100	227,361	100

ACCESS, WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY LIAISON

The University of Limerick is committed to developing and promoting initiatives that encourage the participation of learners from what are recognised nationally as under-represented groups in higher education. These include learners from specific socio-economic backgrounds, those with disabilities, mature learners, members of the Traveller Community and other ethnic minority groups.

The University's Access Office, Disability Support Services Office, Community Liaison Office and Mature Student Office within the Student Affairs Division all promote and support the participation of these students in the University. The range of widening participation initiatives include aspiration/pre-entry activities, provision of flexible entry routes, specifically targeted supports for first-year students and additional supports for students throughout their programmes of study. In response to national policy and the University's strategic plan, UL offers supplementary admission routes within the CAO process to school-leavers from under-represented socio-economic groups through the HEAR (Higher Education Access Route) scheme and to school-leavers with disabilities through the DARE (Disability Access Route to Education) scheme. Mature students over the age of 23 apply through the CAO for consideration for places on undergraduate programmes. Graduates of UL's two Access to University courses have the opportunity to gain direct entry onto our undergraduate programmes. A central aspect of activity in this area is outreach work in the community in Limerick city through the Access Campus in Roxboro, which offers a range of educational initiatives to the school-going population and adult learners.

The President's Volunteer Awards (PVA) programme is run and managed by UL's Community Liaison Office (CLO). This initiative is promoted to all students of the University. It links students to community-based organisations through student volunteering with a view to fostering students' social responsibility.

The PVA contributes to the achievement of UL's civic engagement goals. The work of the CLO is increasingly determined by the success of the PVA programme. Since the

establishment of the role in 2010 and in collaboration with colleagues and external community organisations, the UL CLO has:

- Created over 100 on-campus volunteer opportunities and 250 community-based volunteer opportunities
- Recorded 5,000 student expressions of interest in volunteering
- Processed over 900 PVA applications
- Documented over 70,000 student volunteer hours and 900 reflective portfolios
- Presided over six annual PVA ceremonies

In addition, the CLO has led the development and delivery of a national strategy in civic engagement through student volunteering since 2013. This work resulted in the launch of **studentvolunteer.ie** in 2016. Studentvolunteer.ie is a bespoke higher education student volunteering management system, database and website available to all HEIs across the sector. The overall aim of studentvolunteer.ie is to deliver civic engagement through volunteering as set out in the National Strategy for Higher Education 2030. Thirteen HEIs across Ireland have opted to partner in studentvolunteer.ie. Studentvolunteer.ie is available to over 120,000 students and countless community organisations across and beyond Ireland. Studentvolunteer.ie marks Irish HEIs as unique in terms of our approach, management, development, delivery and reporting on student volunteering.

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Graduate & Professional Studies (GPS), an amalgamation of the Graduate School and Continuing & Professional Education, is responsible for all strategy, policy and procedures relating to postgraduate research, taught full-time, part-time, online and professional programmes across the University. GPS spans four faculties with 859 students currently pursuing research master's and doctoral programmes and 1,286 undertaking taught postgraduate diplomas and degrees.

GPS is responsible for:

- Research postgraduate policies and regulations
- Research thesis submission and examination processes
- Postgraduate admissions for taught, research and professional programmes
- Postgraduate funding and scholarships
- Recruitment of postgraduate students
- Faculty and postgraduate research degree training and general skills development
- Proposal submissions for Springboard+ funding
- Proposal submissions for national apprenticeship schemes
- Organising work placement for Springboard students

GPS works with academic departments to design and deliver an extensive portfolio of postgraduate and professional development programmes. These programmes are delivered using a range of teaching methods, from traditional full-time master's programmes to online and blended delivery, allowing work-based learners to balance work, home-life and learning. UL has a strong tradition of working closely with employers and professional groups to ensure that our programmes provide graduates with the skills and knowledge to excel in their chosen careers.

Our major achievements in 2017 include:

- Postgraduate Diploma in School Leadership with in excess of 250 students enrolled
- Being the only university to be awarded funding for seven apprenticeships up to level 10 NFQ
- 12 Springboard+ programmes funded for AY2017/18
- Secured winning tender for MSc in Artificial Intelligence
- New Specialist Diplomas in Aviation and Regulatory Affairs, Master's in Serious Crime Investigation and Professional Doctorate in Engineering
- Collaborating with MIC and LIT through the Federated Limerick Graduate School (FLGS) as part of the Shannon Consortium

Major events organised and hosted included:

- HELLIN Conference 2017 on Enabling Life Long Learning
- The Midwest Lean Network Inaugural conference in partnership with Shannon Chamber
- The 2017 Shannon International Leasing Conference (SILC), where technical executives from the aviation leasing community in the Mid-West Region gather to discuss technical excellence and innovation
- The Sola Conference, a partnership between UL, J&J and the DFI on Sustainable Quality and Standards for Community, Voluntary and Disability Organisations
- Conference on the Role of Education in Supporting Small Business, addressed by Minister Pat Breen
- The Journey to Enterprise Excellence 1, which is the first in a suite of events focused on continual improvement

RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE

The University of Limerick is a young, ambitious and responsive organisation with a reputation for being a pioneer and innovator. We pride ourselves on a reputation for delivering excellent research that makes a difference to our wider communities, economy, culture and the world at large. Our dynamic research ecosystem attracts researchers, academics, entrepreneurs and high-performing students. UL is proud to describe its commitment to engagement as a distinctive strength, fostering strategic global partnerships with enterprise and communities across 97 countries.

Research Strengths

Our research addresses areas of importance to society, such as education, languages, healthcare and social inclusion, and has a significant impact on sectors that are vital to the Irish economy, such as pharmaceuticals, med-tech, software, food, communications and energy. Our recognised areas of strength are:

- Materials
- Advanced manufacturing
- Software
- Health
- Applied mathematical sciences

Our researchers have attracted in excess of €215 million in funding awards in the past five years.

RESEARCH INSTITUTES

The interdisciplinary nature of our research culture is reflected through our research institutes: Bernal Institute, Lero – the Irish Software Research Centre and the Health Research Institute.

Bernal Institute

The Bernal Institute showcases our significant strengths in materials science research coupled with process and manufacturing engineering. The Bernal Institute aspires to be the leading Irish institution, recognised at a global scale, on materials research. Materials research is challenge-driven, whether addressing challenges in health (biomedical, pharmaceutical and nutritional); energy (electric and composites); transport (composites and fuels); or information (electronic), the knowledge that materials research can generate in a close collaboration with cost-effective and sustainable process engineering provides a distinctive research perspective unique to the Bernal Institute.

Lero – the Irish Software Research Centre

Lero brings together leading software research teams from universities and institutes of technology in a coordinated centre of research excellence with a strong industry focus. The centre has received €46 million for expansion over six years. The development supports the creation of 90 PhD and 46 postdoctoral research positions over a six-year period. €32.6 million of the investment is being funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI). Industry is backing the initiative with total contributions worth €13.8 million. Lero has raised the level and profile of Irish software research with such effect that it is now one of the best known and highly regarded software research centres in the world. The centre has the proven capacity to attract and retain global research leaders and to make a substantial contribution to both software-related research and the Irish economy.

Health Research Institute

The Health Research Institute (HRI) is a cross-faculty institute that brings together researchers in UL and its partner institutions with a focus on convergent and translational health research. The mission of the HRI is to conduct outstanding person-centred research to enhance the health and wellbeing of individuals and transform the health environment for the population. The HRI research activity is structured around the following four thematic areas: Health Technology, Lifestyle and Health, Health Service Delivery, and Public and Patient Involvement. The activities of the HRI are supported by expertise in biostatistics, health informatics and health economics and facilitated by the Clinical Research Support Unit (CRSU). The UL/UL Hospitals Clinical Research Unit (CRU) is the first agreed CRSU partnership and is located at University Hospital Limerick (UHL). Its goal is to provide a rich collaborative environment that fosters discovery and innovation in health science that will lead to better health, improved care and a healthier society.

NATIONAL CENTRES

In addition to hosting Lero, UL hosts the following national centres in areas of critical importance to Ireland's economy:

- **CONFIRM – SFI Research Centre for Smart Manufacturing.** CONFIRM seeks to establish a world-leading centre for smart manufacturing and acts as a beacon for international talent in the areas of advanced manufacturing, from robotics to artificial intelligence.

- **SSPC – Synthesis & Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre**, a unique collaboration between 22 companies and eight academic institutions. SSPC helps to position Ireland as a global hub for pharmaceutical process innovation and advanced manufacturing.
- **Dairy Processing Technology Centre (DPTC)**, a centre of excellence for dairy processing research and innovation. DPTC involves eight research-performing organisations and nine dairy industry partners with a research agenda driven by the long-term growth opportunities in the dairy sector.
- **IComp, the Irish Centre for Composites Research**, which provides a link between industry and the extensive resources dedicated to composite materials available in Irish third-level institutions. IComp’s work focuses on solving technical challenges and supporting research and development activity.
- **Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technology Centre (PMTC)**, led by an industry steering board with an active research programme. Companies access PMTC to create projects and execute world-beating industry-relevant research in advanced technology solutions that address contemporary manufacturing issues.

ENTERPRISE AND INNOVATION

The University of Limerick provides an ecosystem of enterprise engagement and entrepreneurship activity that generates a unique pathway from student placement to graduate employment, PhD industry partnership to spin-out and multinational R&D engagement. By anchoring R&D activity firmly within the Irish enterprise landscape, this activity leads to job retention and creation, skills enhancement and greater competitiveness and ultimately copper-fastens Ireland’s reputation as a knowledge-based economy.

Enterprise Engagement

The University is leading or partnering in numerous research projects, both nationally and internationally. In the past year, we signed 77 collaborative research agreements with 56 organisations, and by year-end, 50% of our total annual research expenditure involved collaborative research with industry.

Knowledge Transfer

The transfer of commercially useful research to business is a priority for the University of Limerick. UL’s Technology Transfer Office is leading a regional consortium with Limerick Institute of Technology in the delivery of technology transfer services in the Mid-West Region. The consortium seeks to increase the levels of technology transfer from public sector research investment to private enterprise. The consortium partners are working together to facilitate business to access research expertise and novel technology through the use of consistent mechanisms of engagement.

In the past year, 42 new invention disclosures were received from our researchers (174 in the last five years), 14 new patent applications were filed (50 in the last five years), two new campus companies were formed (nine in the last five years), and 14 new technology transfer agreements were signed with companies (65 in the last five years). Employing over 80 people, our campus companies have attracted in excess of €50 million in investment funding.

Entrepreneurship

The Nexus Innovation Centre is a growing community of international entrepreneurs located at the heart of the University of Limerick. Nexus is a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem that leverages the University's knowledge base, enables accelerated business development and makes connections with potential investors, experienced entrepreneurs and the wider community. As a hub where entrepreneurs can develop, collaborate and grow, Nexus aims to increase entrepreneurship with an international trading focus.

Nexus member companies now employ over 149 people in high-quality jobs. In the past five years, Nexus has supported 76 companies, who have employed over 310 people and raised in excess of €7.35 million total investment. Nexus member companies continue to win national awards. In 2016, Nexus member Arralis won the IT and Telecommunications Award as well as the overall national prize for Innovation of the Year for its 94GHz radar chipset.

New initiatives in 2016 included a Nexus partnership with BNest to deliver Ireland's first social enterprise programme.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION & CAREERS

Alive to the link between academia and the workplace, UL pioneered the concept of cooperative education (Co-op) in Ireland in 1972. The Cooperative Education & Careers Division is responsible for the management, development and delivery of the cooperative education, careers and school placement programmes at UL. Co-op is central to both UL's educational philosophy and branding and is consistently cited by students as one of their top reasons for choosing UL over other higher education institutions. Based on the North American system of work-integrated learning, UL operates a centralised model of placement for both its Co-op and School Placement programmes, whereby responsibility for securing placements lies with the University.

Under the Co-op programme, UL undergraduate students across the faculties of Business; Science & Engineering; and Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences undertake a placement as a formal, compulsory and academically accredited element of their four-year degree. Students are required to undertake a six-to-eight-month placement in second or third year, the timing and duration of which are prescribed according to the placement calendar of their programme of study. Spanning some 56 degree programmes, Co-op is the largest placement programme in Ireland and one of the largest in Europe. Some 1,900 placements are secured annually; the placement rate last year was 97%. The global dimension of the programme is significant: student undertake placements within a network of over 30 countries across all five continents.

For students of BEd programmes, UL manages the largest school placement programme in Ireland, both in terms of placement numbers and disciplinary spread. Under the programme, 700 placements are secured annually for students within UL's network of 550 post-primary schools.

UL has a strong employability focus and is committed to equipping students and graduates with skills and competencies they will need to build successful careers. During their four years at UL, students have access to an extensive range of employability-focused activities, including placement, career-development programmes, skills development and assessment sessions, and one-to-one consultations, that help empower them to prepare for and manage their future careers. The University's commitment to employability is reflected in our high

level of graduate employment. According to the 2017 HEA report on graduate destination data, UL graduate employment stands at 74%, 12% above the national average for the university sector.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

The International Education Division (IED) implements UL's strategic objective of raising the University's international profile. To achieve this objective, IED aims to further internationalise the UL student experience, improve the global currency of UL degrees, attract more international students and staff and access leading international research networks. This will enable our staff and students to bring their particular UL story to the world and create new opportunities to invite the world to Limerick. The University welcomed international students from 99 countries in AY2016/17 and built new academic and research links across the globe.

UL has been an active participant in the European Union's Erasmus programme and celebrated the 30-year anniversary of Erasmus participation in 2017 with a performance in the Irish World Academy. This event showcased the wide-ranging activities and positive aspects of Erasmus+ participation and internationalisation, not just within the University but across the wider mid-west Erasmus+ community. The University continues to have the largest Erasmus programme in Ireland; one in three undergraduates spend a semester overseas, either studying or working abroad. There are over 300 university partners in 28 countries in Europe sending over 600 students to UL every year. This network of European partners allows Humanities, Business, Education and Health Sciences, and Science and Engineering students to spend an academic semester abroad as an accredited part of their degree programme.

In addition, 122 non-EU exchange students from 15 countries studied at UL during AY2016/17. UL has 89 non-EU partners in countries throughout the world, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Uruguay and the USA. UL is a participating partner in three Erasmus Mundus projects – LOTUS+; LEADERS and INTACT; and the Joint EM Master in Psychology of Global Mobility, Inclusion and Diversity in Society (**Global-MINDS**) – and attracts high-calibre students from countries as diverse as India, Indonesia, Vietnam and Cambodia. Building on the Erasmus Mundus Programme, UL has the largest Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility Programme (ICM) in Ireland. Since the introduction of ICM in 2015, UL has secured over €1.1 million in funding for mobility activities outside the EU. Three hundred and nine people will benefit directly from E+ ICM; this includes 192 staff members and 117 students travelling to and from 26 countries across the world.

IED has representation and is active in the USA, China, India, Japan, Brazil, South East Asia, the Middle East and West Africa in recruiting qualified international students for all UL academic programmes (undergraduate and postgraduate). UL is an increasingly attractive study destination for international students. The combination of excellent academic reputation and significant student support by IED and in the classroom has led to considerable growth in student numbers. During AY2016/17, UL signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with a number of universities and international organisations. These MOUs focus on joint academic programmes, research collaboration, staff and student mobility and the recruitment of funded postgraduate research students. UL works in partnership with a growing number of universities internationally and specifically in China,

Malaysia, UAE, West Africa and the USA to develop curricula at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, which allows students to seamlessly commence their degree programmes at their home country and to complete the final year or two at the University of Limerick.

UL currently welcomes over 500 Study Abroad students annually and is an active participant in engaging with Study Abroad internationally. UL is a proud member of the Forum on Education Abroad with QUIP approval and has recently signed up as a commitment partner for the IIE Generation Study Abroad Initiative. The study abroad experience is pivotal to the college experience of our students; UL's ability to respond to the needs of this student cohort in terms of access to courses across all disciplines, the modular structure of the UL degree, outstanding student support and guaranteed campus housing has significantly contributed to the continuing growth of the study abroad programme at UL. The UL Study Abroad team was recently recognised by the University of Minnesota (UMN) Balkcum award. This award is made to one institution per year to recognise excellence in serving students abroad. Recent programme innovations allow students to avail of I-UROP eligibility, semester-long programmes in nursing, in-service learning 'practicums' and summer programmes in non-traditional disciplines, such as nursing, business and architecture, as well as the traditional suite of Irish studies programmes.

International student numbers AY2016/17

Undergraduate students	744
Postgraduate students (taught)	395
Postgraduate students (research)	244
Study Abroad programme (primarily USA)	536
Exchange students (EU and non-EU) (incoming)	662
Exchange students (EU and non-EU) (outgoing)	516
 Total	 3,097

BUILDINGS, STUDENT VILLAGES AND LABORATORIES

- UL's campus area comprises 148 hectares, which includes 50 hectares located in the North Bank Campus on the Clare side of the river Shannon.
- The total area of buildings is 245,333m².
- UL has 429 laboratories (encompassing undergraduate teaching, research, specialist and high-tech facilities).
- The total value of investment in land, buildings and equipment is approaching €1 billion.
- Seven villages provide accommodation for 2,700 students and 24 academic staff.

In the last five years, the following developments have taken place:

- A new 4,295m² Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS) building together with three student accommodation blocks totalling 3,563m² for 100 residents were completed in 2012. The GEMS building meets all the school's teaching, seminar, problem-based

learning, clinical skills, anatomical skills, research laboratory, staff and administration requirements in a single dedicated facility.

- International Business Centre (IBC) – The University acquired the International Business Centre buildings from SFADCo in 2013. These two buildings comprise 3,632m² of office accommodation, business incubation and collaborative space for industrial/university research activities.
- Troy Student Village – purchased in December 2014 with 170 beds
- Construction completed on a 7,652m² research building – the Analog Devices Building – in June 2015. The building accommodates 150 researchers led by 10 new professors. Each professor-led group has been assigned a full bespoke suite of research laboratories. The building also accommodates administrative and support staff accommodation together with conference/lecture and seminar rooms.
- Construction completed on a 2,784m² extension to the Materials and Surface Science Institute in August 2015. The building accommodates 60 additional research staff as well as academic and support staff. Sixteen specialist laboratory spaces together with seminar and meeting spaces have been provided.
- Park Point Centre (including Travel Lodge Hotel) – purchased in December 2015 (8,940m²)
- Construction completed in August 2016 on a 2,370m² new headquarters and Centre of Excellence for Munster Rugby. The new facility includes gymnasias, treatment rooms, video analysis rooms, catering facilities, conference centre and office accommodation.
- Construction completed in December 2016 on a joint venture between UL and HSE at the University Hospital Limerick campus for a 3,400m² Clinical Education and Research Centre (CERC), a facility providing laboratory, tutorial, library, research and administration spaces for clinical education. The facility includes dedicated spaces for the University of Limerick Health Research Institute.
- Construction completed in March 2017 on an extension to the University Arena; the extension incorporates a new 25m pool with diving and sub aqua facilities, weight training gyms, sauna and steam rooms.

In addition, construction has commenced on a 7,456m² extension to the Glucksman Library. The extension will accommodate 1,000 new reader stations, access stations for 140,000 book volumes, automatic storage and retrieval system for in excess of 400,000 volumes, individual group study rooms and specialist display and exhibition areas.

Planned future developments include:

- A PGA accredited golf academy, for which the design has been completed. The facility will include a driving range (25-bay), practice greens and biomechanics research facilities for golf on campus.
- A new 3,500m² Student Centre, for which planning has commenced. The centre will incorporate a performance theatre, clubs and societies rooms, Students' Union offices, welfare offices, shop, coffee dock, large congregation space, music room, games rooms, a number of large meeting rooms and a roof garden.

- New sports facilities, for which planning has commenced. The facilities will include all-weather pitches, a high-quality grass pitch, a climbing wall facility and a handball facility. In addition, existing gymnasia and athletics facilities will be refurbished.
- A new Grounds Maintenance Compound, for which planning has commenced.

QUALITY

UL's commitment to quality is articulated in its institutional [quality statement](#), which commits us to a culture of continual improvement and to complying with national statutory quality requirements.

Under Irish legislation, most notably the [Qualifications and Quality Assurance Act 2012](#), each university bears a responsibility to establish, maintain and enhance quality assurance (QA) procedures relating to their activities and services. Such arrangements must take due account of relevant quality guidelines issued by [Quality and Qualifications Ireland](#) (QQI) and/or predecessor organisations. QQI is the statutory body responsible for reviewing and monitoring the effectiveness of QA procedures adopted and implemented by higher (and further) educational institutions within Ireland.

UL institutional arrangements for developing, monitoring, reviewing, enhancing and managing the quality of our activities are multi-layered and multifaceted. Cornerstone institutional-level QA processes include:

- Ongoing cyclical quality review of all our academic and support units and research institutes (details of which, including quality review reports, are available [here](#) on the UL Quality Support Unit's [website](#)).
- Implementation by all support units of a quality management system (QMS) based on the quality principles specified in the ISO9001:2015 quality management standard. Details of the QMS are available [here](#) on the UL Quality Support Unit's website.
- Application of an external examiner system for all of our taught programmes as well as degree awards by research.
- Our Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) system, a formative teaching evaluation service operationalised by UL's [Centre for Teaching and Learning](#). The aim of the SET is to gather and collate students' opinions on the quality of module content and delivery.
- Our Module Satisfaction Survey (MSS), which runs in alternate semesters to the SET. The mid-term MSS encompasses all students registered on all modules undertaken during that term. By acting as a barometer of student satisfaction with their modules, the survey results provide lecturers and heads of department with student feedback while modules are still running. Details of the MSS procedure, along with a summary of institutional-level findings from surveys run to date, are available [here](#) on the Quality Support Unit's website.
- UL's student exit survey. Based on the UK's National Student Survey (NSS), our annual exit survey is distributed to all final-year students. Previous exit survey reports are available [here](#) on the Quality Support Unit's website.

- Maintenance, periodic review and update of a comprehensive framework of academic practices and regulations, as articulated in our [handbook of academic regulations and procedures](#).

In line with legislative requirements, all Irish universities periodically undergo independent, external institutional quality evaluation. The resultant [report](#) of our last (2012) institutional review confirms that we comply with statutory (quality) requirements and the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ESGs) and follow national, European and international best practice. Furthermore, UL submits an Annual Institutional Quality Report (AIQR) to QQI. The most recent AIQR submitted is available [here](#) on the Quality Support Unit's website.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Information, in both print and electronic formats, is provided by the Library & Information Services Division located in the Glucksman Library.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| • Total print books | 354,100 |
| • Total electronic books | 279,000 |
| • Total journals | 63,000 |
| • Total library workstations | 1,450 |

Other collections include the University's web-based institutional repository, ULIR, which contains UL's research output, such as journal articles and theses. The Special Collections Department contains the Library's collections of archives, rare books and manuscripts relating particularly to the history, literature and culture of Limerick and the Mid-West Region. These collections include the National Dance Archive of Ireland, McAnally Travel Collection and the papers of Kate O'Brien, Maurice Walsh, Jim Kemmy and the Dunraven and Moyalliffe Estates.

In 2016, the Library acquired the Bolton Library from the Representative Body of the Church of Ireland. The Bolton Library comprises a significant collection of 12,000 early-printed books, manuscripts and incunabulae and is of exceptional academic and bibliographical significance. The Bolton Library is one of Ireland's most noteworthy scholars' libraries. It stems from the collections of two 18th-century Irish archbishops: initially that of William King and later, Theophilus Bolton. The collection has substantial elements on mathematics, astronomy, architecture, the natural sciences, medicine, literature, travel, history, law and politics.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The University has:

- Over 5,000 PCs interconnected via network to a cluster of Linux/Windows servers
- High-speed internet connectivity at 10 Gbps
- High-speed internal fibre network interconnecting all buildings on both sides of the campus
- 1600 PCs for student lab usage

- Dedicated student network connections for laptop usage in the Library
- Over 130 dedicated teaching spaces equipped with multimedia projection facilities
- Wireless coverage across main areas of the University with plans to extend
- On-campus, student accommodation with wired and wireless high-speed network connectivity
- Video conferencing and multimedia facilities
- Print production services
- In-house postal service delivering thousands of items per week to distribution points across campus
- Dedicated IT service desk for staff and students
- On-site computer lab assistants providing just-in-time support for students in computer labs
- Daily student laptop support clinics in the Library
- An extensive range of e-learning and student support applications

The Information Technology Division (ITD) operates these services under ISO9001:2000 quality certification.

THE VISUAL ARTS

The University is the permanent home of several art collections, including:

- The Armitage Collection
- The National Self-Portrait Collection of Ireland
- The Watercolour Society of Ireland Collection
- The O'Malley Sculpture Collection
- The Irish American Cultural Institute's O'Malley Collection of Irish Art
- The Molas Collection donated by Dr Patrick J Murphy
- The Midnight Court Collection by Pauline Bewick
- Limerick "A Positive View" by Annemarie Bourke

The Bourn Vincent Gallery is the University's principal venue for exhibitions with an ancillary programme of seminars, lectures and performances. The Gallery continues to promote an awareness of visual art and contemporary practices with its exhibition schedule throughout the year. Last year's exhibitions included PLATES and CHARON'S BOATS.

The University's own arts collection includes outdoor sculptures by international artists including Michael Warren, Peter Logan, Alexandra Wejchert, James McKenna, Tom Fitzpatrick, Antony Gormley, Sean Scully and, most recently, Orla de Brí (NICHE). These

sculptures have added significantly to the artistic and cultural ambience of the University and the region.

UNIVERSITY CONCERT HALL

With a capacity of over 1,000, University Concert Hall (UCH) Limerick is the largest live entertainment and conference venue in the Mid-West Region. Since its establishment in 1993, UCH has been instrumental in bringing world-renowned artists to Limerick, including Sir James Galway, Van Morrison, Kris Kristofferson, the RTÉ NSO, Billy Connolly, Colm Wilkinson and Don McLean, amongst others, and has contributed vastly to the cultural life of the city and wider region. UCH hosts many events for the University, including over 24 hours of lectures each week, conferrings and awards ceremonies, and provides a professional platform to showcase community artists and organisations from Limerick and the wider region.

Over the past 25 years, UCH has become home to anchor performing arts entities such as Limerick operatic and oratorio choirs, youth choirs, local orchestras, musical theatre companies and dance schools. It also hosts summer residencies and major conferences for the University and city, in addition to TV and radio broadcasts, including the TG4 Gradam Ceoil Awards and, more recently, the live RTE Leaders Debate for the 2016 General Election.

In 2017, UCH welcomed over 100,000 people across 200 different events, from music to dance, musical theatre, comedy, TV broadcasts and the Christmas Panto. In 2018, with the support of UL, PCC and others, to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the venue, UCH will undertake over €1.5m worth of upgrades to help bring its facilities up to date so it can continue to attract world-leading artists to the Mid-West Region and provide the highest level of customer service to patrons. This will include a refurbished atrium and café, new lighting and sound equipment, the addition of a new greenroom and accessible box office.

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK FOUNDATION

In partnership with UL, the University of Limerick Foundation provides national and international leadership and funding for the University's advancement. With over €200 million raised to date through its international network, the Foundation is a leading recipient of international philanthropic funding in Ireland.

The Foundation constantly strives to strengthen the links that the University has built with its graduate community and the business community on the island of Ireland and beyond. Guided and supported by our chairman, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, and a board of national and international leaders from business, industry and the arts, the Foundation is proud of the role that it plays in assisting the physical and academic development of the University of Limerick and in ensuring that the University continues to be at the heart of many national initiatives.

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK ALUMNI

Established by graduates in 1987 and now fully owned by the University, UL Alumni leads the University's alumni engagement activities and provides the opportunity for UL graduates to have a lifelong relationship with their *alma mater* as well as with fellow-

alumni. Membership of UL Alumni is automatic and free-of-charge for all UL graduates (currently close to 90,000 members).

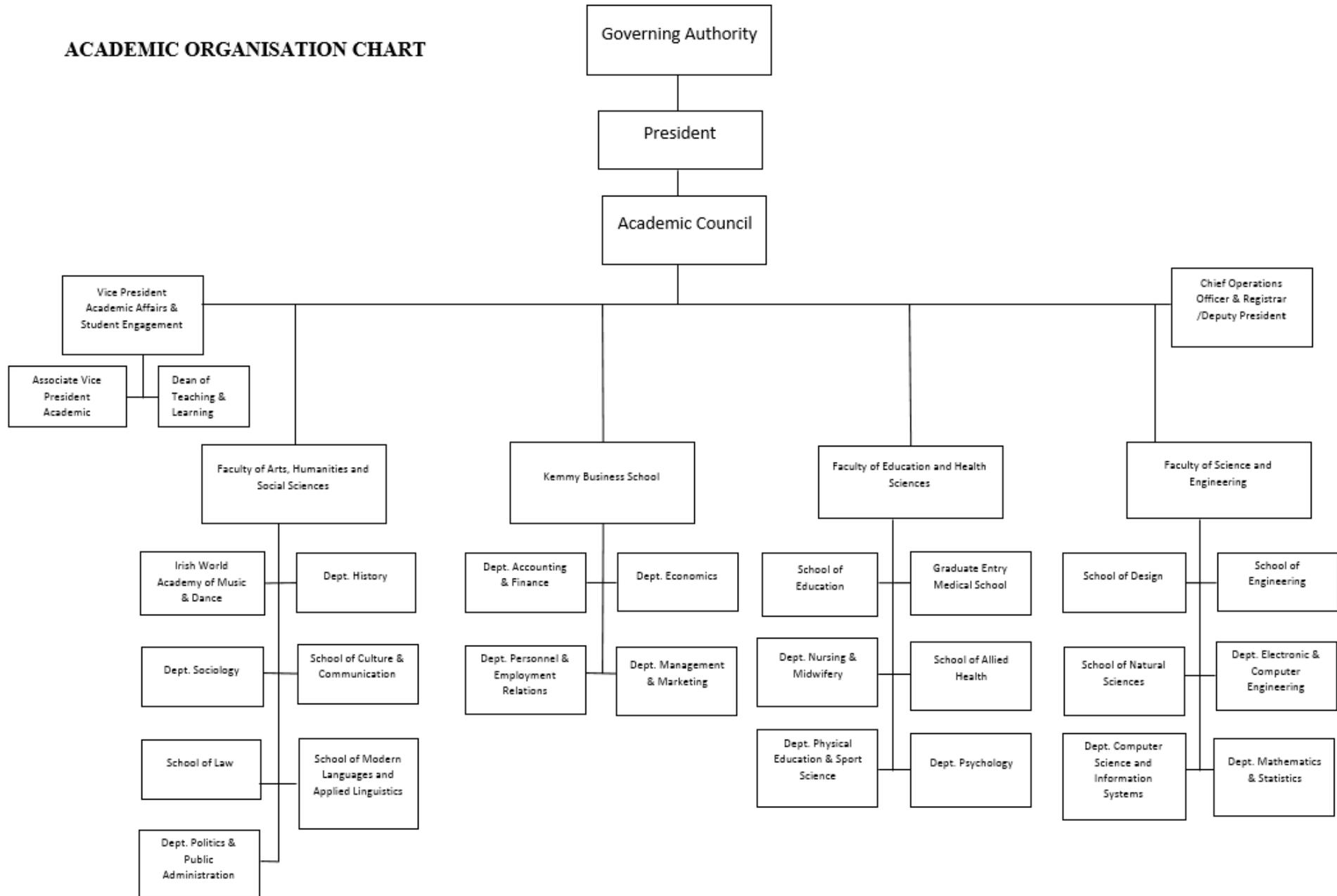
Through its various activities – including ‘*UniversaL*’ (an online community exclusive to UL graduates) and events including class reunions, chapter gatherings in Ireland and abroad and the annual Alumni Awards programme – UL Alumni nurtures an active link between graduates and UL to support both the University and our growing alumni community.

CAMPUS MAP



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) Main University Entrance | 21) Grounds/Maintenance Compound |
| 2) East Gate Entrance | 22) University Arena including 50 metre Pool |
| 3) Carlton Castletroy Park Hotel | 23) The Sports Club |
| 4) Plassey Student Village | 24) Kilmurry Student Village |
| 5) International Science Centre | 25) Horticultural Unit |
| 6) Robert Schuman Building | 26) Dromroe Student Village |
| 7) International Business Centre | 27) Boathouse |
| 8) Computer Science Building | 28) Kemmy Business School |
| 9) Silver Apples Crèche | 29) Tierney Centre |
| 10) Glucksman Library and Information Services Building | 30) Languages Building |
| 11) Foundation Building and University Concert Hall | 31) The Living Bridge |
| 12) Engineering Research Building and Millstream Courtyard | 32) Health Sciences Building |
| 13) Main University Building | 33) Irish World Academy Building |
| 14) Plassey House and University Close | 34) Medical School Building |
| 15) Visitors Information Centre | 35) Medical School Residences |
| 16) Students Centre, Shops, Banks, Bars | 36) Sports Pavilion |
| 17) Kathleen Lonsdale Building | 37) Irish Chamber Orchestra Building |
| 18) Materials and Surface Science Institute | 38) Cappavilla Student Village |
| 19) Sports Building and National Coaching and Training Centre | 39) Thomond Student Village |
| 20) Schrödinger Building | 40) President's House |

ACADEMIC ORGANISATION CHART



ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANISATION CHART

