

Submission to the National Planning Framework 2040

University College Cork

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Overview

1. Since 1849 University College Cork is the comprehensive university of the South of Ireland. It is a globally oriented research-led university providing the full range of disciplines to serve regional, national and international needs. UCC is differentiated nationally as the comprehensive, research-intensive, international top tier university in the South of Ireland, and internationally by its regional connectedness together with a global orientation in all of its activities.
2. UCC offers a broad range of disciplines in Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Business, Law, Engineering, Architecture, Science, Food Science, Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing and the Clinical Therapies. Degree programmes cover the full range of NQF levels from 7-10 and include level 6 programmes through its adult and continuing education portfolio. There are 21,000 students including 2,800 Adult Continuing Education students, 15,000 in undergraduate programs and 4,400 engaged in postgraduate study and research. 16% of students study part-time.
3. UCC has campus locations in Cork City and County and in Ballyferriter Co. Kerry. UCC through its acquisition of the Irish Management Institute in 2016 also has a campus location in Sandyford, Co. Dublin.
4. According to the latest data from Ireland's Higher Education Authority (2017), UCC is the leading Irish higher education institution for social inclusion and 'equity of access' with a greater number of students from under-represented groups in UCC than in any other Irish higher education institution.
5. UCC now has over 3,300 overseas students from 100 different countries. Overseas students comprise 17% of the student population and a third of UCC staff is from overseas.
6. UCC's educational outreach locations extends nationwide. UCC provides programmes at NFQ levels 6 to 9 to over 2,800 adult and continuing education students at 30 locations across all four provinces of Ireland. UCC's Access Programme works with 44 linked secondary schools in Cork, Kerry and Waterford and staff from the Institute of Chinese Studies teach Chinese in 33 schools across Cork, Clare, Kerry, Tipperary and Waterford.
7. UCC competitively secures the highest levels of research funding per academic in the state with research funding of €96m in 2016. Research funding has increased by over 25% in the 5 years to 2017. UCC has been successful in competitively securing research funding at a national and European level. Of the twelve supported centres under the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Research Centres Programme, the largest joint state/industry research investment in Irish history, UCC leads four, co-leads one and is partner in six others with a total SFI investment in UCC of almost €100 million. At an EU level, as of January 2017, UCC researchers had secured 72 Horizon 2020 awards from an overall total of 495 applications submitted to the Commission. This equates to a success rate of 15% (higher than the EU average – 12%), with a financial drawdown of €39.3 million. Total research funding secured by UCC researchers from all EU programmes (since the start of Horizon 2020 in 2014) is €40.8 million.
8. UCC is ranked among the top 2% of universities worldwide based on the quality of research output and peer esteem. Several of Ireland's elite research centres are embedded in UCC including the *Tyndall National Research Institute* (microsystems, photonics, nanotechnology), the *APC Microbiome Institute* (alimentary health, functional foods), both recognised as global leaders, the *Environmental Research*

Institute (biodiversity and conservation; ecotoxicology, environmental law, environmental chemistry, earth sciences, freshwater and marine ecology) and the *Beaufort Laboratory* (coastal management, wave and marine renewable energy).

9. In a tripartite alliance between UCC, Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) and the Irish Naval Service, UCC has worked to develop the potential of Cork Harbour as a resource for marine and energy research. In 2015 UCC completed the development and staffing of the Beaufort Laboratory in the Marine and Renewable Energy Research, Development and Innovation Centre (MaREI) at Ringaskiddy.
10. UCC has significantly strengthened its engagement with industry during 2013-2017. In this time UCC signed 365 new industry research contracts and the University co-authored 364 publications with 100 corporations in the period 2011-2016.
11. Higher education institutions are drivers for economic growth. It is estimated that UCC's contribution to the local economy is worth €0.75Bn annually and that for every 7 non-EU students, 3 jobs are created in the economy (equivalent to 570 jobs, 1338 non-EU students in UCC on 1 March 2017). Approximately 6,500 students graduate from UCC annually and according to the latest data from the Higher Education Authority, 93% of UCC's graduates are in employment or further student 9 months after graduation (an historical high proportion). Over 200 jobs have been created in graduate start-up companies through UCC's Ignite Graduate Business Innovation Programme since 2012 and in 2016 UCC's Blackstone Launchpad was established centrally on campus to give students, alumni and staff professional help with business start-ups. Since 2013, 11 high-potential start-up (HPSU) companies were established arising from UCC's investment in research bringing the total number of Gateway UCC companies created to date to 40 and the total number of jobs to 240.
12. UCC and CIT, and UCC and the Colleges of Further Education, have a strong track-record, over almost twenty years, of demonstrating effective partnerships and alliances to the benefit of the student and society. Established in 1999, UCC's collaboration with CIT is a unique model nationally and is an exemplar of the higher education partnerships envisaged in the National Strategy for Higher Education. UCC and CIT award joint degrees at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in Architecture and Bio-medical Science. Since 2002 formal education pathways to UCC from the Colleges of Further Education have been a key element of UCC's regional learning network. Through the collaboration with the Colleges of Further Education, UCC recognises specific FETAC Level 5 programmes as meeting the entry requirements to first-year to some 38 programmes across the University. The regional partnership model has been enhanced with the establishment in 2015 of the South West Regional Skills Forum to provide a cohesive structure for employers and the further and higher education system (Skillnets, Cork and Kerry ETBs, CIT, IT Tralee and UCC) to work together in meeting the skills needs of the region. In 2015, UCC signed a memorandum of understanding to advance the UNESCO Declaration on Building Learning Cities with Cork City Council, Cork Institute of Technology and Cork Education and Training Board. The Learning City initiative will see Cork host the UNESCO International Conference on Learning Cities in 2017.
13. In its 170 year history UCC has stimulated cultural expressions in language, literature, music, performance, visual narratives, history and heritage. UCC's cultural assets include the Glucksman Gallery, the Jennings Gallery and the Granary Theatre. Since 2010, FUAIM Music at UCC has been a leading cultural programme of the University. Through the formation of relationships and partnerships with a range of cultural organisations and communities, FUAIM has enhanced the reputation and profile of the creative arts at UCC. UCC's Artists-in-Residence programme represents an ongoing commitment in the University, with support from the Arts Council, to ensuring that students have an opportunity to engage with and be inspired by distinguished artists in a range of creative fields. UCC has expanded and consolidated the artists-in-residence scheme and residencies now extend across creative writing, film, traditional music and classical music (Vanbrugh String Quartet).
14. UCC has achieved and demonstrated a world leadership position in the 'Green' agenda for sustainable energy processes. UCC is the first university in the world to be awarded the esteemed 'Green Flag' by the Federation for Environmental Education, Copenhagen and the first university in the world to

achieve certification to the ISO 50001 standard for its energy management systems. It remains the only Irish institution to be honoured in this way. UCC is ranked 12th greenest university in the world by the UI Green Metric University ranking of 2016.

UCC's Short-Term Future Plans 2017-2022

1. The higher education system supports and enables economic growth through the development of new knowledge and the provision of skilled graduates. The future growth of higher education in Ireland, and the realisation of the economic and societal benefits of such growth, requires a well-funded higher education system and the implementation of the recommendations of the Cassells report.
2. Subject to a sustainable funding model, the University plans continued growth in student numbers. Overall student headcount (including Adult and Continuing Education courses) is expected to grow from the current level of 22,200 to 23,700. UCC is planning for increased provision of part-time education through the medium of online learning and through the blended education model with planned increases in part-time learners, inclusive of programmes provided through the Centre for Adult and Continuing Education.
3. UCC plans to increase its building stock by 20% between 2017 and 2022. In December 2016 UCC signed a contract with the European Investment Bank for a €100m loan to underpin this 5-year capital expansion programme costing €241m. This programme will see UCC's campus expand from 250,000m² to 300,000m² by 2022. The programme will cover a range of projects including:
 - €64 million investment supporting Student Accommodation projects;
 - €37 million investment to build a new Cork University Dental School, Research Centre & Hospital;
 - €27 million to fund Western Campus Development including the Cork Science & Innovation Park (Phase 1) & Outdoor Sports Facilities;
 - More than €90 million expenditure for a new Student Hub on UCC's main campus, ICT Services, facilities upgrade, refurbishment, building extensions as well as flood remedial works and Western Gateway Building infrastructure on the Western Road;
 - €23 million to fund new Clinical Medical School for the Cork Hospitals and associated research and health innovation activity;
 - The funding will also help facilitate a €10 million University investment across University Hospital Waterford, University Hospital Kerry and South Tipperary General Hospital.

In this period UCC also plans to complete the construction of a new 20,000 m² Business School in the City Centre. UCC is also embarking on plans to construct a new Engineering Building and a new Life Sciences building.

The construction of the Health Innovation Hub Ireland as the first building on the Cork Science and Innovation Park (CAISP) in Curraheen is significant. The development of CAISP is a collaborative initiative between Cork County Council, Cork City Council, UCC, CIT, IDA and EI.

UCC's Long Term Future Plans 2022-2040

1. In line with national population growth trends, and with projections for Cork County population growth from 542,196 in 2016 to 846,423 in 2050¹ (56% growth), the University plans for significant growth in student numbers to 2040. It is anticipated that student numbers will increase by approximately 40% in this timeframe to approximately 31,000. It is expected that staff numbers will also grow from 2,800 currently to approximately 3,500.
2. It is anticipated that UCC will add a further 50,000m² to the campus to bring the total floor space to 350,000m² through growth in the city centre campus and at the Cork Science and Innovation Park.

¹ GVA Consultants forecast the population of County Cork to grow by 56% from 542,196 in 2016 to 846,423 in 2050

Priorities to 2040

In the context of significant projected population growth and to enable UCC to successfully deliver on its role as a leading research intensive comprehensive university and an enabler of the social, cultural and economic development across the South of Ireland, it is critically important that the National Planning Framework to 2040 delivers the following:

1. A robust and sustainable funding (capital and recurrent) model for higher education in Ireland to enable the appropriate higher education facilities and infrastructure to be constructed and staffed to cater for significant population growth and to meet the growing demands of society and the economy.
2. Major advances in public transport to include a light rail network connecting the docklands, city centre, UCC, CIT, Cork University Hospital, Cork Science & Innovation Park and Ballincollig.
3. Active zoning of land to enable the higher education institutions to grow in a manner that complements existing higher education facilities and enables interdisciplinary interaction.
4. A significant increase in student accommodation to cater for growing numbers of students.
5. Significant greater availability of high quality housing to enable the University and other employers to attract the best available talent internationally to Cork
6. Enhanced regional sports facilities, including a 50m swimming pool, of Olympic village standard to enhance the quality of life and the attractiveness of Cork
7. A motorway connecting Cork to Limerick and Cork to Waterford
8. High quality communications technology and best-in-class broadband connectivity across urban and rural Ireland.
9. Improved air connectivity to improve access to Cork as a destination for overseas students and staff and continued freedom of movement within the EU.