

**PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **THE IRISH DIASPORA EDUCATION ALLIANCE WELCOMES APPLICATIONS FOR IRISH UNIVERSITY STUDY**

*Four-year study in Ireland with reduced fee is an option for many in the Philadelphia Area*

**PHILADELPHIA (15 October 2021)** – The Irish Diaspora Center (IDC), through the work of the Irish Diaspora Education Alliance (IDEA) committee, has secured opportunities for five students from the Philadelphia area to attend a four-year degree program at Ireland's university of enterprise, Dublin City University (DCU). The cost of a four-year program in Ireland varies depending on the University; however, there are options that make study abroad a comparable option to State and Private Universities in the United States.

Before COVID began, a group of interested parents and educators formed the IDEA committee through the IDC. The goal was to develop partnerships with Irish Universities and seek recognition for local Philadelphia students who are Irish citizens (by birth or through a parent or grandparent) the option of earning a bachelor's degree from an accredited University in Ireland. Success came through many conversations and today, the IDEA committee is pleased to announce that Dublin City University's (DCU) international programs is offering selected students the opportunity to advance to undergraduate studies in Ireland. Success came through many conversations and today, the IDEA committee is pleased to announce that Dublin City University's (DCU) international programs is offering selected students the opportunity to advance to undergraduate studies in Ireland.

"This program will provide a pathway to enhance educational /academic experience and intercultural understanding that studying with an international University can provide to the involved students" stated John McDaid, Chair of the IDEA committee and IDC Board member.

Five students, selected by the DCU admissions team, will obtain between 15-20% reduction on tuition for the duration of their program depending on their GPA.

Eligible students can benefit from this award beginning the school year 2022/23 with the following criteria:

1. Applicants must hold a current Irish Passport
2. Applicants must be referred by the IDEA (Philadelphia). In order to ensure that this is noted with your application, please include a personal statement including the fact that you are applying as an IDEA supported student and add this with the [DCU application form](#).
3. Applicants must provide completed High School transcripts by June 30, 2022

Candidates will be screened for eligibility for admission by DCU who shall have final authority on admission decisions. General eligibility criteria set by DCU is a minimum 3.2 GPA on a 4.0 GPA scale. Certain programs have mandatory prerequisite subjects for entry consideration.

The award will only apply for the first attempt of each academic year. Should a student have to resit exams or retake any element of the program that is fee bearing, the non-EU fee will apply without a fee reduction.

For more information on the application process or to determine eligibility, please contact Ciaran Porter, Director of Youth Programs at the IDC via email at [ciara@icphila.org](mailto:ciara@icphila.org). For information on acquiring your Irish passport based on your parent's or grandparent's birth in Ireland, please visit [www.idcphila.org](http://www.idcphila.org).



*John McDaid, Chair of the IDEA committee and IDC Board member meets Ann Sinnott, Deputy President Professor at DCU on Friday August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, to finalize the agreement between IDC and DCU.*

### **About Irish Diaspora Center**

The Irish Diaspora Center (IDC), with the support of the Irish government and the local community, is a professional organization strengthening our heritage by providing the Irish Diaspora in the Greater Philadelphia area with consular, immigration and community building social services. The IIC program's focus on advocacy, community, and discovery for the Irish Diaspora and other immigrant populations through legal clinics, genealogy workshops, senior services, and youth programs.

### **About Dublin City University**

Dublin City University (DCU) is Ireland's fastest growing university. It has seen its student population increase by 50% in the past 5 years, to over 18,000 students. It has forged a reputation as Ireland's university of enterprise, through its strong, active links with academic, research and industry partners both at home and overseas.

DCU has five faculties incorporating 23 schools spread across three academic campuses, located in Glasnevin and Drumcondra, on the Northside of Dublin City.

DCU is ranked 1st in Ireland for graduate employment and 23rd in the world, as per the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2022. These rankings measure the number of graduates employed within 12 months of graduation. DCU develops highly sought-after, well-rounded graduates who are ready for the workforce and eager to apply their knowledge and skills in a broad range of settings.