

**WE'RE LOOKING FOR
EXCEPTIONAL TALENT
THROUGH YOUR EYES**



**UCD AD ASTRA
ACADEMY**

ASPIRE. ACHIEVE. EXCEL.



Welcome from the Director of the UCD Ad Astra Academy

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2022 UCD Ad Astra Academy Prospectus. The Academy was created in 2011 and is UCD's flagship scholarship programme. It is an expression of the mission of UCD as a whole; to provide a community in which students of the University displaying exceptional potential in academic pursuits, elite sports or performing arts are encouraged and supported to develop their talent further.

We believe in creating an environment where students with exceptional ability, creativity and drive will be motivated, challenged and inspired. The Ad Astra Academy nurtures exceptional students by offering them unique supports and opportunities to further develop their talents and allowing them to achieve at the highest levels. Our scholars benefit from a bursary, mentoring and discipline-specific supports, as well as personal and professional development opportunities.

The scholars in turn are expected to make a significant contribution to the Academy, the University and when they graduate, to society at large. The Academy is supported by alumni and friends of the University through donations to UCD Foundation. On behalf of the University, I would like to express my deep appreciation for their generosity and support.

As Director of the Academy, I am delighted to witness these remarkable scholars develop their potential during their time at UCD and as they progress with their careers and become our Ad Astra Alumni.

Barbara Dooley

Professor Barbara Dooley
Director Ad Astra Academy
Dean of Graduate Studies and Deputy Registrar



Scholars' Room

Ad Astra Academy Incoming Scholars at the annual Ad Astra Academy Awards Ceremony



At the UCD Ad Astra Academy we are proud to have helped some of Ireland's greatest talents from all across the country to excel. We are currently looking for exceptional students to join our programme for 2022 and reach new heights. We need your help to find them.

Applications for Elite Sports Scholars and Performing Arts Scholars will be accepted 1st November 2021 - 31st January 2022.

Applications for Academic Scholars will be accepted 1st February - 21st August 2022.

Gavin Mullin, Dublin. Business and Law. Ad Astra Elite Sports Alumnus

Olympic athlete, Gavin Mullin competing at the Tokyo 2020 Games in the Rugby Sevens Men's match between Ireland and South Africa.



Eimear Lambe, Dublin. BComm International. Ad Astra Elite Sports Alumna

Olympic athlete, Eimear Lambe and her fellow team Ireland rowers (from left, Aifric Keogh, Eimear Lambe, Fiona Murtagh and Emily Hegarty) celebrate their historic win after finishing in 3rd place at the Women's Four final during the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

Elite Sports Scholars

UCD Ad Astra Elite Sports Scholars

The UCD Ad Astra Elite Sports programme supports students who are competing and succeeding at the highest sporting levels. Athletes in the Academy compete at international level. In the case of GAA, they compete at inter-county level. At any one time, there are 60 Elite Sports Scholars in the programme with an average intake of 15 each year.

Students must apply online via the Academy website before 31st January 2022. The applications are reviewed by a selection panel and suitable candidates are selected for interview.

Following the interview stage, placement offers will be made to successful applicants subject to an offer and acceptance of a course in UCD. Points concessions can be made for successful candidates who can show evidence of ability to undertake their chosen course.

Please visit ucd.ie/adastraacademy for full details of eligibility and application process.

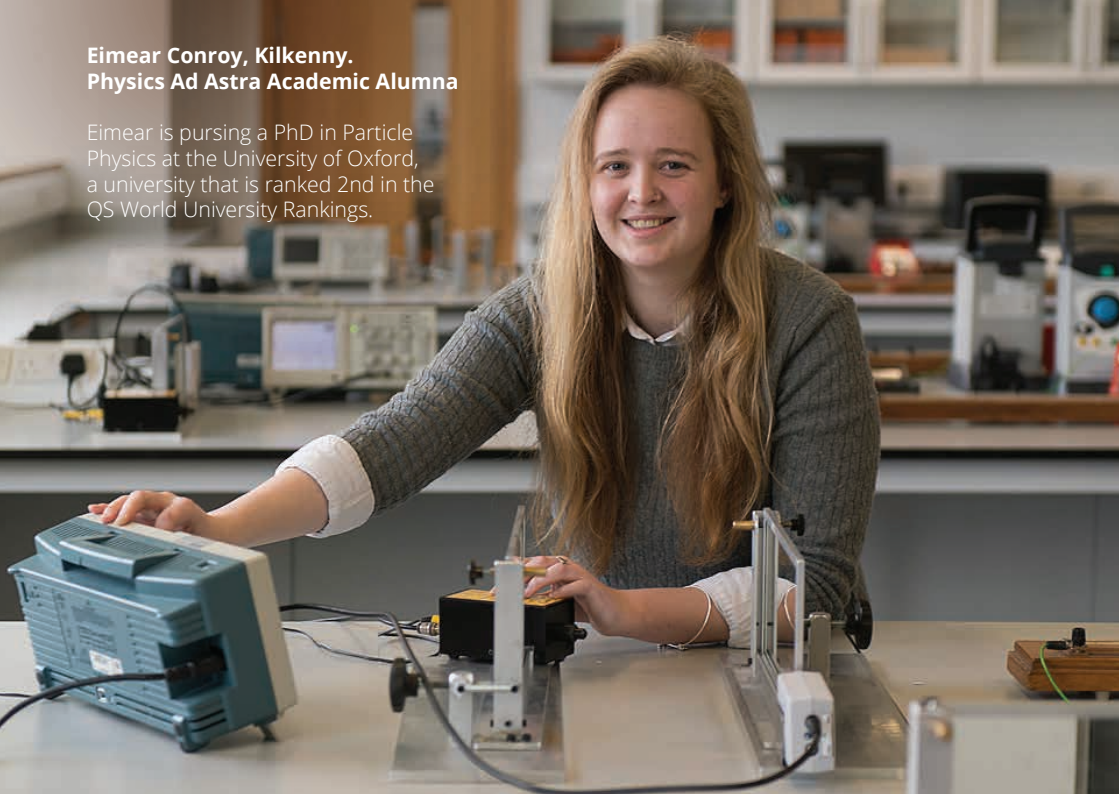
Benefits

- €3,000 scholarship allowance each year a scholar is in the Academy
- Access to a high performance gym with expert training and coaching
- Physiotherapy and medical assistance, nutritional and fitness monitoring, and sports psychology
- Guaranteed on-campus accommodation, the cost of which may be offset by the scholarship allowance
- The support of an academic mentor to help scholars excel in both academia and their chosen sport
- Networking and team building events with all strands of the Academy
- Access to the Ad Astra Scholars' Room

Applications Open	Applications Close	Interviews
1st November 2021	31st January 2022	March/April 2022

Eimear Conroy, Kilkenny.
Physics Ad Astra Academic Alumna

Eimear is pursuing a PhD in Particle Physics at the University of Oxford, a university that is ranked 2nd in the QS World University Rankings.



Hasitha Anthony Perera, India.
Structural Engineering with Architecture,
Ad Astra Academic Alumnus

Hasitha speaking at the annual Ad Astra Awards Ceremony about his time in the Academy. Hasitha has recently graduated with an ME in Engineering with Business from UCD.



Academic Scholars

UCD Ad Astra Academic Scholars

The UCD Ad Astra Academic programme is looking for students who have a proven track record of academic excellence, leadership and a desire to continue to achieve at the highest level. Up to 15 scholarships are awarded to incoming students each year.

Scholarships for school leavers entering UCD in September 2022 will be awarded based on a combination of the academic criteria of 6 H1s, an online application via the Ad Astra Academy website and an interview.

Applicants with 6 H1s will be called for interview based solely on their application, with a 60% weighting on extra-curricular achievements and a 40% weighting on the personal statement.

Please visit ucd.ie/adastracademy for full details of eligibility and application process.

Benefits

- A €3,000 scholarship allowance each year a scholar is in the Academy
- Guaranteed on-campus accommodation, the cost of which may be offset by the scholarship allowance
- The support of a dedicated academic mentor in the scholar's area of study
- Workshops and seminars to develop the scholar's academic and personal potential
- Networking opportunities and team building events with all strands of the Academy
- Access to the Ad Astra Scholars' Room
- The opportunity to undertake the Ad Astra Academy Academy elective module *Ad Astra Professional and Personal Development* in Stage two

Applications Open	Applications Close	Interviews
1st February 2022	21st August 2022	After CAO offers

Performing Arts Scholars

UCD Ad Astra Performing Arts Scholars

The UCD Ad Astra Performing Arts programme offers opportunities to students who excel in theatre performance/creation or classical music and wish to develop their performance talents while pursuing a degree in UCD. At any one time, there are 20 Performing Arts Scholars in the programme with an average intake of 5 each year.

Students must apply online via the Academy website before 31st January 2022. Candidates will be chosen for audition on the basis of the information provided on the application form, covering their musical or dramatic studies, past experiences and any information that might support the application.

Successful candidates will be offered a place in the Academy subject to an offer and acceptance of a course in UCD. Points concessions can be made for successful audition candidates who can show evidence of ability to undertake their chosen course.

Please visit ucd.ie/adastracademy for full details of eligibility and application process.

Benefits


- €3,000 scholarship allowance each year a scholar is in the Academy
- Access to the new Performing Arts Building which features a state-of-the-art studio with sprung floor, a grand piano and an area for alumni and current members to rehearse and create.
- Guaranteed on-campus accommodation, the cost of which may be offset by the scholarship allowance
- The opportunity to work with experienced professionals in seminar and workshop settings
- The opportunity to perform in concerts, recitals and theatre productions
- Access to the Ad Astra Scholars' Room

Applications Open	Applications Close	Interviews
1st November 2021	31st January 2022	April/May 2022



Marie Woulfe, Kerry, Commerce International; Oisín Ó Friel, Dublin, Medicine, and Susie Gibbons, Dublin, Psychology. Ad Astra Performing Arts Alumni

Marie, Oisín and Susie performing "Soave sia il vento" from *Così fan tutte* at the annual Ad Astra Awards Ceremony.



Ryan O'Donnell, Wexford, Children's & General Nursing and Rachel O'Sullivan, Kildare, Medicinal Chemistry & Chemical Biology. Ad Astra Performing Arts Alumni

Ryan and Rachel perform in *Addikt*, a play written and directed by Ryan, who won Best Lead Actor at the Irish Student Drama Association (ISDA) Festival in April 2019. *Addikt* also won Best Sound Design, Best Lighting Design and was nominated for Best Director.



UCD AD ASTRA ACADEMY

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UCD Ad Astra Academy, Student Centre, University College Dublin,
Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland. T: +353 1 716 3105

Visit ucd.ie/adastraacademy for more details