

**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 2021 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 2019 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 2021 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 2020 - 31st January 2021.

Applications for Academic Scholars will be accepted 1st February - 22nd August 2021.

**Ewan McMahon, Dublin.
Mechanical Engineering
Ad Astra Elite Sports Scholar**

Ewan McMahon in training on an International Moth for the Irish & British National Championships, as well as the World Championships. Ewan is aiming to qualify for the 2021 Olympic Games in the Men's Laser Class. In 2019, Ewan came 1st U21 in both the Senior Laser World Championships and Senior Laser European Championships.



**Lara Gillepsie, Wicklow.
Health and Performance Science
Ad Astra Elite Sports Scholar**

Lara winning the Cycling Ireland Senior Women's Road Race Championships in 2020. Lara is part of the Elite Irish Pursuit Team that came 8th at the 2020 World Championships. She has won Best Female Rider of the Year at the Cycling Ireland Awards in 2018 and 2019 and was nominated for the RTÉ Young Sports person of the Year Award in 2018 and 2019.



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 2021. 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.

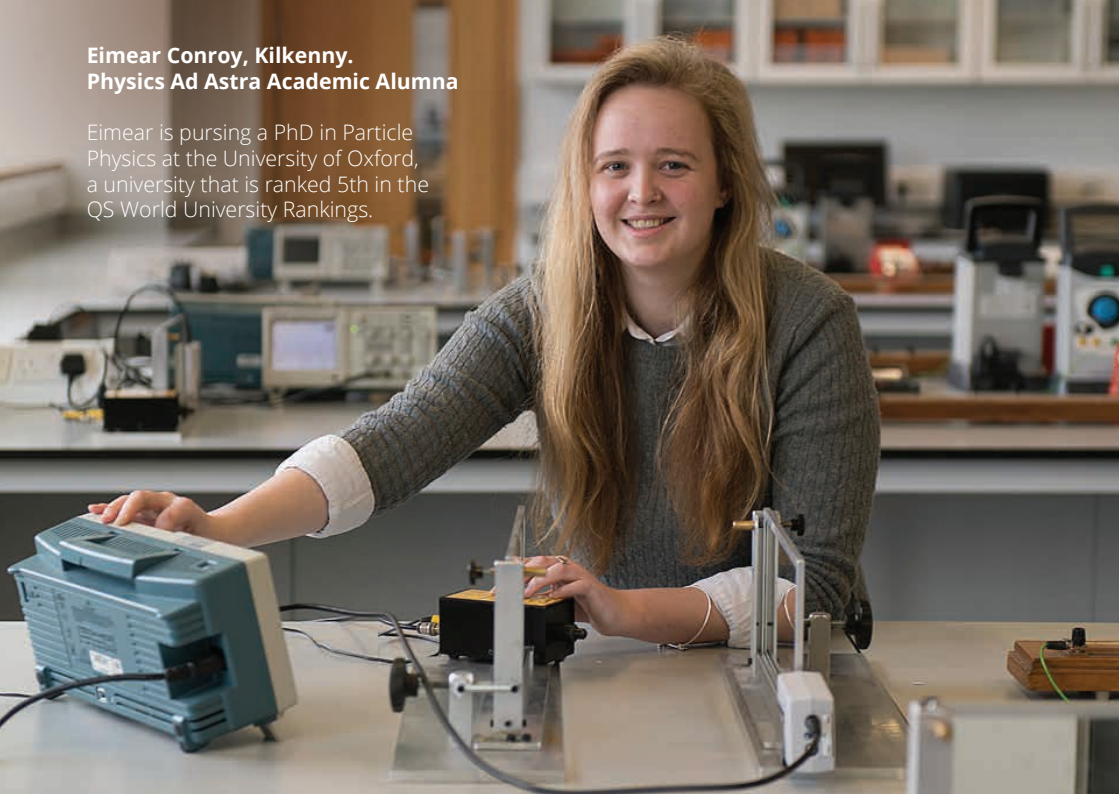
Benefits

- €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 2020	31st January 2021	March/April 2021

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 5th 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 is pursuing an ME in Engineering with Business in 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 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 2021 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
- The opportunity to undertake an elective module in stage two called Ad Astra Professional and Personal Development
- Networking opportunities and team building events with all strands of the Academy
- Access to the Ad Astra Scholars' Room

Applications Open	Applications Close	Interviews
1st February 2021	22nd August 2021	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 2021. 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 2020	31st January 2021	April/May 2021



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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Visit ucd.ie/adastraacademy for more details