

The appointment in December 2021 of Professor Mark Rogers as the interim president of University College Dublin means we have seen six university presidents appointed in the current calendar year. With pending appointments of two more in 2022 – to lead the recently established Technological University South-East Ireland (TUSEI), consisting of Waterford Institute of Technology and Institute of Technology Carlow, and Connacht Ulster Alliance (CUA), consisting of Galway–Mayo Institute of Technology, Institute of Technology Sligo, and Letterkenny Institute of Technology – we will have eight new leaders in our university sector.

Ireland's University Presidents 2022

Whereas all those in post today who were serving at the start of 2021 are male, four of the six presidents appointed in 2021 are female, which brings us within striking distance of a more balanced representation at senior academic level. Below are the biographical details of the current leadership team in our traditional and technological universities.

– Dr Brian Mooney, editor

Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh

President of NUI Galway

Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh became the 13th president of NUI Galway in January 2018. Previously he was professor of accounting and dean of business at University College Dublin, leading its schools in Dublin (UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business, UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, UCD Smurfit Executive Development) and its overseas programmes in Hong Kong, Singapore, and Sri Lanka.

Having attended Scoil Iognáid and Coláiste Iognáid, Prof Ó hÓgartaigh is a first-class honours, first-in-class graduate of NUI Galway. He trained as a chartered accountant with Arthur Andersen and has a PhD in accounting from the University of Leeds. He has been published widely in the accounting field and has held academic positions at Dublin City University, UCD, and Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

A former Fulbright scholar at Northeastern University in Boston, USA, he has served as audit committee chair at the Department of Marine, Communications and Natural Resources and as a member of the audit committee at the Department of Finance. He has also served as an independent non-executive director of Avolon, one of the world's largest aircraft leasing companies, where he also chaired its audit committee. He



is currently a member of the non-statutory board of the Saolta Hospital Group and chair of its strategy committee.

As president of NUI Galway, Prof Ó hÓgartaigh has maintained his research interests with his contribution on the history of financial accounting practice in *The Routledge Companion to Accounting History* (2nd edition, May 2020). He is a board member of the National Library of Ireland on the appointment of the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Professor David FitzPatrick

President of Technological University Dublin



Prof David FitzPatrick is the inaugural president of Technological University Dublin following its designation as a TU on 1 January 2019. He has excellent academic credentials, considerable experience at executive level, a significant international profile, and extensive industry experience, having managed the product development and research of orthopaedic devices.

Before assuming his role as president of TU Dublin, Prof FitzPatrick was a highly regarded principal of the College of Engineering and Architecture and dean of engineering at UCD, with responsibility for the strategic planning, personnel management, and budgetary performance of the faculty. Since 2014 he has also served as a member of the university's executive team.

Prof FitzPatrick holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from Trinity College Dublin and a doctorate in biomechanics from the University of Oxford. In the orthopaedic industry he worked initially with Howmedica International in Limerick, followed by a career with DePuy International in Leeds, which included managing product development, strategy, and research programmes for knee, upper limb, trauma, and spinal product lines.

In 1998, Prof FitzPatrick returned to Ireland to UCD's Department of Mechanical Engineering. He was promoted to senior lecturer in 2005, associate professor in 2010, and full professor in 2012. He served as head of the School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering from 2005 to 2011, followed by a period as vice principal for internationalisation and development in the College of Engineering and Architecture.

Appointed as provost of the Beijing–Dublin International College in 2012, he led the development of Ireland's largest dual-degree programme initiative in China and has continued in that role since becoming principal of UCD's College of Engineering and Architecture, and a member of UCD's University Management Team, in 2014.

Professor Daire Keogh

President of Dublin City University

Prof Daire Keogh began a 10-year term as president of Dublin City University (DCU) in July 2020. A Dubliner, he is a distinguished historian who served as president of St Patrick's College Drumcondra and as deputy president of DCU after its incorporation in 2016. He has published extensively on the history of popular politics, religion, and education in Ireland. He is a fellow at the University Design Institute at Arizona State University and a founding member of the European Quality Assurance Register committee.



Prof Keogh is founding chair of the British Irish Chamber of Commerce higher education and research committee. He is a chartered director (Institute of Directors) and is a member of a number of boards, including the non-partisan Women for Election. A passionate educator, he plays a leadership role across the sector. He is a member of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust, chair of the Board of Marley Grange National School in Rathfarnham, and a member of the board of management of Clongowes Wood College.

He served as a council member of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment and as a member of the board of the Centre for Cross Border Studies (2012–2017). Prof Keogh is a graduate of the National University of Ireland (BA), the Gregorian University Rome (BPh), the University of Glasgow (MTh), and the University of Dublin (PhD) and is a former government of Ireland senior research fellow.

Professor John O'Halloran

President of University College Cork

Prof John O'Halloran became president of University College Cork (UCC) in September 2020. Before taking up this role, he served as deputy president and registrar since 2018. There he led the development and implementation of UCC's first Academic Strategy, setting out plans to reimagine the curriculum, transform assessment, and nurture graduate attributes to position UCC students for their future world of work. Having served as vice president for teaching and learning, and vice head of the College of Science, Engineering and Food Science, he is an academic leader with an ambitious vision for the future of higher education.



In all his leadership roles, Prof O'Halloran has delivered transformation through collaboration, including the evolution of a connected university, advancement of research, modernisation and enhancement of learning and teaching, development of digital education, curriculum redesign, lifelong learning, and staff development. He is committed to developing an inclusive culture for all students and staff at UCC, one where equality is upheld and diversity is respected. He is chair of the Athena Swan steering group, which secured a bronze institutional award for UCC in 2016 and

several departmental-level awards. He is a member of the Top Management Programme Professional Reference Group of Advance HE, UK.

Prof O'Halloran is chair of the board of Fota Wildlife Park and a board member of the Central Applications Office, the NUI Senate, the Ludgate Hub, and UCC's Glucksman Gallery, among others. He is a judge for the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition and for the L'Oréal-UNESCO Women in Science Awards. He is the founding director of UCC's Quercus Talented Students' Programme and is co-chair and founder of the UCC Green Campus Forum, which has received many awards for its prioritisation of the green agenda, including the first green flag ever awarded to a university.

Prof O'Halloran holds the chair in Zoology at UCC and previously held academic posts at Colby College in the USA and at the University of Wales. He has published 250 research papers and several books on ecology, ornithology, ecotoxicology, and biodiversity. His research works focus on developing a deeper understanding of the impacts of ecological change related to land-use and climate.

Professor Cathal Kelly

Vice Chancellor of RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences



Prof Cathal Kelly was appointed CEO and registrar of Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) in December 2009. During his tenure, he has overseen significant strategic developments of RCSI, including the activation of its independent degree-awarding powers in 2010 and authorisation to use the title of university in Ireland in 2019, making RCSI Ireland's first not-for-profit, independent university.

RCSI was founded by royal charter in 1784 as the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, and has had permission to use the title of university overseas since 2015. When authorisation extended to Ireland in 2019, RCSI became known as RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Prof Cathal Kelly is a graduate and fellow of RCSI and was dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences from 2006 to 2009. Previously he was a consultant general and vascular surgeon with a special interest in endovascular surgery in Beaumont Hospital. He combined this role with chairmanship of the surgical division and an academic position in RCSI as vice dean for curriculum change.

In addition to completing his basic and higher surgical training in Dublin, Prof Kelly pursued a research fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He won the prestigious Patey Prize of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland for research he conducted at Beaumont Hospital. In 2021 his title was updated to include vice chancellor, reflecting his remit as the academic and administrative leader of RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Newly Appointed University Presidents in 2021

Professor Eeva Leinonen

President of Maynooth University

Maynooth University appointed Prof Eeva Leinonen, an international researcher and current vice chancellor, as its next president effective from 1 October 2021. Prof Leinonen succeeded Prof Philip Nolan, who led the university for the previous 10 years.

Prof Leinonen has held the role of vice chancellor of Murdoch University in Perth, Australia, since 2016, having previously been deputy vice chancellor (academic) at the University of Wollongong in New South Wales. Before moving to Australia in 2012, she was vice principal (education) at King's College London.

Originally from Finland, Prof Leinonen has a background in linguistics and psychology. She engages with researchers in Finland and Italy in ongoing research into pragmatic language development in children and contextual processing deficits of children and young adults with autistic spectrum disorders.

In accepting her appointment, Prof Leinonen said she was honoured to have the opportunity to lead this fine university in the next stage of its development: 'High-quality innovative education, world-class research that has positive societal impact, and transformational educational opportunities for all who can benefit irrespective of background are hallmarks of Maynooth University and resonate closely with my approach to university education.'



Professor Linda Doyle

President and Provost of Trinity College Dublin

Prof Linda Doyle was appointed by academic staff and student representatives as the 45th provost of Trinity College Dublin (TCD), coming into office on 1 August 2021. Prof Doyle's previous leadership roles have been as dean of research (2018–2020) and founder director of CONNECT, a national research centre co-funded by Science Foundation Ireland and industry, which focuses on future networks and communications. She was also director of the Centre for Telecommunications Value Chain Research (CTVR) and is currently a director of Xcelerit and Software Radio Systems, two CTVR/CONNECT spinouts.



Prof Doyle has served on many boards, including as chair of the board of the Douglas Hyde Gallery (2013–2021) and member of the board of Pallas Project Studios, KTH Sweden Scientific Advisory Board, and board of the Wireless Innovation Forum. Currently she is chair of the Ofcom Spectrum Advisory Board in the UK and member of the National Broadband Steering Committee in Ireland and the Open Research Europe Scientific Advisory

Board. She serves on the boards of Science Gallery International and the Festival of Curiosity, an annual STEM outreach activity for children.

Before her appointment as provost, Prof Doyle was professor of engineering and the arts in TCD. Her expertise is in wireless communications, cognitive radio, reconfigurable networks, spectrum management, and creative arts practices. She has raised over €70 million in research funding and has published widely in her field. She has a reputation as an advocate for change in spectrum management practices and has played a role in spectrum policy at national and international levels. Combining creative arts practices with engineering for many years, she founded the Orthogonal Methods Group, a research initiative that works in critical and creative tension with technology to generate knowledge, insights, and alternative research orientations across disciplines sometimes perceived as mutually exclusive. Prof Doyle has given more than 100 keynotes and invited talks at events globally.

As well as her contributions to research and the arts, Prof Doyle is an active advocate for women in engineering and computer science. She has been involved in many initiatives such as Girls in Tech, Teen Turn, and HerStory. In 2017 she was recognised as one of the 10 women stars in the world working in networking and communications. She holds an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from the National University of Ireland, and an MSc, PhD, and P.G.DIP. STATS from TCD. She is a fellow of TCD.

Professor Kerstin Mey

President of University of Limerick



Prof Kerstin Mey was appointed as University of Limerick's (UL) new president for a 10-year term on 8 October 2021. Prof Mey has served as interim president of UL since 1 September 2020. Before taking on the role of president, she held the position of vice president of academic affairs and student engagement at UL.

Prof Mey was appointed vice president and professor of visual culture at UL in April 2018, having previously held roles as pro-vice-chancellor and dean of the Westminster School of Media, Arts and Design and as professor of contemporary art and theory at the University of Westminster, London. She said:

Fifty years on, as a still young and dynamic institution, I want us to capitalise on UL's heritage as pioneer, entrepreneur, and disruptor. We have a major part to play in the social, economic, and ecological transformation of the mid-west region. It is an exciting time for us. Developing our city centre campus over the next period will enable us to strengthen UL's civil and civic mission, to grow connectivity and collaborations with communities, businesses, and industry as well as with Limerick City and County Council and to impact on place-making and the regeneration of the city and the region.

There are significant opportunities now to re-examine the higher education model in Ireland and preserve the learnings which have come from the

impact on academic delivery and research during the Covid-19 period. We must weave what we have learned into advancing our working practices, transforming how we teach and learn and how we engage in research and knowledge exchange.

Professor Mark Rogers

Interim President of University College Dublin

Prof Mark Rogers is the newly appointed interim president of University College Dublin. Before his appointment he was registrar and deputy president of UCD, and he previously served as dean of science. He graduated from TCD with a first-class honours degree in genetics and completed a PhD in genetics at the University of Glasgow. Awarded fellowships from the European Molecular Biology Organization and the John Douglas French Foundation for Alzheimer's Research, he spent five years as a researcher in prion diseases in the laboratory of Nobel laureate Prof Stanley Prusiner.



Prof Rogers' research is in the area of scrapie in sheep and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in cattle. He successfully licensed immunodiagnostic technologies that have been used in BSE diagnosis, resulting in over €2 million in royalties accruing to UCD.

With over 20 years' teaching experience at all levels from undergraduate to PhD supervision, Prof Rogers strongly promotes a student-centred and student-led approach to education that encourages independent learning. As dean of science and then as registrar and deputy president, he has recognised the need for educational programmes informed and led by research. Focusing on enhancing opportunities for students, he has simplified entry routes, promoted a student-centred approach across the university, and moved the university to an outcomes-based curriculum focus.

Professor Maggie Cusack,

President of Munster Technological University

On 1 January 2021, as Munster Technology University (MTU) was founded, Prof Maggie Cusack took up the role of inaugural president. Prof Cusack did her BSc degree in cell biology at the University of Glasgow. Her PhD at the University of Liverpool was a Tate & Lyle CASE award, where she studied the sweetest substance known (surprisingly, a protein called thaumatin).

Protein research brought her to geosciences at the University of Glasgow, where, as a postdoctoral research assistant at the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), she investigated proteins in brachiopod shells. At the University of Glasgow she held several leadership roles, including associate dean for



the Faculty of Physical Sciences Graduate School, international lead for the College of Science and Engineering, and head of the School of Geographical and Earth Sciences.

As professor of biomineralisation, Prof Cusack has broad and multidisciplinary research interests, collaborating with earth and biological scientists, materials scientists, isotope geochemists, chemists, and engineers and securing international funding as well as funding from four UK research councils: NERC, Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, and Medical Research Council.

In 2017 Prof Cusack joined the University of Stirling as dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, and in 2018 she completed the senior executive programme of the London Business School. She holds several external roles, including member of the Scottish government's STEM Strategy Advisory Group, chair of the Learned Societies Group, and member of the Royal Society partnership grants committee and the Carnegie Trust PhD committee. She completed a three year term as vice president (physical sciences) of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. She is the interdisciplinary advisor of REF subpanel B7 (earth systems and environmental science) in criteria-setting and assessment phases.

Professor Vincent Cunnane,

President of Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest



Prof Vincent Cunnane became the inaugural president of Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS) on 1 October 2021. Previously, Prof Cunnane was president of Limerick Institute of Technology, which he joined in September 2016 from Institute of Technology Sligo, and where he had been president since 2014.

Prof Cunnane was formerly CEO of Shannon Development (2008–2013) until its merger with the Shannon Airport Authority to form the Shannon Group. Before that, he was vice president of research at University of Limerick, where he also lectured and researched (1990–2008).

Prof Cunnane is an internationally renowned researcher in the field of physical electrochemistry. He recently stepped down as chair of the governing council of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies after 10 years in the role, and he was also a member of the board of the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training. He is currently chair of the Technological Higher Education Association.