



**The
Education
Awards
2026**

AWARDS PROGRAMME

April 16, 2026 / The Johnstown Estate Hotel

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X #EducationAwardsIRL

ITINERARY

Arrival	18:30
Drinks Reception	18:30 – 19:30
Seated for Meal	19:30
Awards Ceremony (Part 1)	19:45
• Outstanding Contribution Award • Apprenticeship Programme Award • Apprenticeship Programme Award – Education Provider • Best Graduate Training Programme • Best Internship Programme Award • Diversity, Inclusivity, Equality Award	
Meal Served	20:00
Awards Ceremony (Part 2)	22:00 – 23:00
• Career Impact Strategy – Employability, Access & Skills Development • Career Impact Strategy – Industry Engagement, Placements & Work-Based Learning • Innovative Access to Third-Level Education • International Engagement Award • Most Innovative Digital Transformation • Student Engagement & Communications Award • Excellence in Education by a Professional Body • Excellence in Sustainability • Best Workforce Upskilling Initiative • Best Education Outreach Award – Learner, Schools & Academic Engagement • Best Education Outreach Award - Community & Public Engagement • Best Collaboration Award - International • Best Collaboration Award – Domestic (Economic, Digital & Workforce Development) • Best Collaboration Award – Domestic (Public Good, Culture & Social Impact) • Best Erasmus Programme • Best Further Education Provider • Best Language School • Best Library Team • Best Marketing / Communications Team • Best Masters Programme • Best Online Learning Experience • Best Research Project • Best Student Experience Award • Overall Excellence Award	
Entertainment	23:15
Music Ends. Attendees welcome to stay longer	00.15
Late Bar	02.30

**Itinerary is subject to change.*



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WELCOME

Welcome to the Education Awards 2026

We are delighted to welcome you to **The Johnstown Estate**, for the 10th annual **Education Awards**, where we celebrate the remarkable achievements and unwavering dedication within Ireland's education sector.

This prestigious ceremony honours institutions, educators, and initiatives that have demonstrated excellence, innovation, and a lasting impact on the future of learning in Ireland.

A heartfelt thank you to our gold sponsors, **SOLAS Skills to Advance** and **COMPASS EDUCATION**. Also to **Amárach Research** for their invaluable support, for helping to highlight the significance of this event and the outstanding contributions of this sector.

Be part of the celebration by sharing your experiences on social media using #EducationAwardsIRL and connect with fellow industry professionals.

Get ready for an inspiring evening of recognition, networking, and celebrating the incredible strides being made in education across the country.

The Education Awards 2026

ABOUT THE HOST



Colm O'Regan

Colm O'Regan is a standup comedian, author, radio, tv and podcast broadcaster, he has performed all over the world and has featured on RTÉ's Late Late Show and on Comedy Central.

Colm is the author of seven best-selling books - the most recent of which -Climate Worrier- was nominated for an Irish book award. He has since developed it into a touring show selling out venues to critical acclaim as well as adapting it as a keynote for companies and conferences.

He writes a weekly column for the Irish Examiner and has written regular radio and TV diaries for RTE Radio 1's Drivetime, BBC World Service's In The Balance and scripted, presented and filmed reports for BBC World News' Talking Business for three years.

Colm MCs awards ceremonies, corporate communications days and has acted as a panel moderator, bringing an entertaining touch to economics in Ireland, Europe and the USA. And is also a voiceover artist for advertising and narrator for TV. A man of many talents!



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JUDGES



Georgina Andrews
Vice Chancellor and CEO,
Bath Spa University



Triena Delany
Director of Operations,
Faculty of Education,
Mary Immaculate College



Professor Colette Henry
Head of Department of
Business Studies,
Dundalk Institute of
Technology (DkIT)



Mary Kelly
President,
Hibernia College



Rachael Langford
President and
Vice-Chancellor,
Cardiff Metropolitan
University



Anne McGlynn
Accreditation &
Curriculum Manager,
Insurance Institute of Ireland



Willie Donnelly
(Judging Coordinator)
Director of Research and Innovation,
The Technical Higher
Education Association (THEA)



Dr Joe Collins
Director of Further Education
and Training,
ETBI



Lisa Griffith
Director,
Digital Repository of Ireland



Helen Higson
Professor of HE Learning and
Management,
Aston Business School,
Birmingham, UK



Allison Kenneally
Vice President for Equality,
Diversity & Inclusion,
South East Technological
University



Donal McAlister
International Affairs Manager,
South East technological
University



Denise McMorrow
Student Experience
Manager / Chair of UNESCO
Dublin Learning City,
IADT

JUDGES



Paul Mullally
Director,
Education Lighthouse



Ciarán Ó Hannracháin
Director of Strategic
Business Projects,
Atlantic Technological University



Patricia O'Sullivan
Executive Director,
The Higher Education
Colleges Association (HECA)



Rory O'Boyle
Head of PPC,
Law Society of Ireland



Martin O'Connell
Head of EU Programmes
(Photonics),
UCC-Tyndall



Rory O'Sullivan
Adjunct Professor,
FET Research Centre,
Institute of Education,
Dublin City University



Lorcan O'Connor Lloyd
CEO,
English Education Ireland



Dr. Kushan Rathnasekara
Researcher,
University of Kelaniya



Patrice Twomey
Director, Cooperative
Education & Careers,
University of Limerick (UL)



Yuxin Wang
CEO and Co-Founder,
GoMappED



Shauna Whyte
Vice President People,
Culture & EDI,
South East Technological
University



Claire Woods
Head of the School of Education,
Ulster University



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CATEGORIES & FINALISTS

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CATEGORIES & FINALISTS

Outstanding Contribution Award

Apprenticeship Programme Award

- BioMarin
- Errigal Group
- ESB Networks: Network Technicians - Electrical Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship Programme Award - Education Provider

- National College of Ireland - International Financial Services Associate Apprenticeship
- University College Cork - Social Work Apprenticeship

Best Graduate Training Programme

- Depaul Graduate Programme
- Iarnród Éireann Graduate Development Programme
- Pharmalliance Consulting - Lifescience Graduate Preparation Programme

Best Internship Programme Award

- BMS Cruiserath - BMS Ireland Internship Programme
- Motorola Solutions Internship Programme 2025
- QT Technologies Ireland

Diversity, Inclusivity, Equality Award

- Blossom4life
- South East Technological University
- University College Cork

Career Impact Strategy - Industry Engagement, Placements & Work-Based Learning

- Maynooth University - Careers and Employability Service
- MTU Access Service - Ready Steady Work
- National College of Ireland
- Póstaear san Oireachtas (PsO) - Atlantic Technological University and The Sure Network
- RCSI School of Nursing and Midwifery
- The Leadership for INclusion in the Early Years (LINC) Consortium
- WILL Network

Career Impact Strategy - Industry Engagement, Placements & Work-Based Learning

- CyberSkills
- Munster Technological University - Industry Placement at the Core of Career Readiness
- TUS - Business Internship Programme at the Department of Business and Management
- TUS - Student Internship at the Department of Business and Management
- University of Limerick - UL@Work

CATEGORIES & FINALISTS

Innovative Access to Third-Level Education

- Drogheda Institute of Further Education (DIFE) - ASPIRE Programme
- Innopharma Education - Academic Skills for Success
- Leading Healthcare Providers Skillnet - Diploma in Gerontological Nursing Initiative (DiGNI)
- National College of Ireland - The P-TECH Programme
- Phlow Academy - A Mastery-Based Pathway for Third-Level Readiness
- South East Technological University - Certificate in Applied Skills Development and Certificate in Personal Development Programmes
- South Eastern Regional College
- TU Dublin - Certificate in Independent Living Skills
- TUS Access to Apprenticeship Mid-West
- University College Cork - id+futures initiative

International Engagement Award

- Edhoc International
- International Office, Mary Immaculate College
- Maynooth University - International Engagement with the Arqus European University Alliance
- TUS Global - Global Student Experience Team
- University of Galway - Just 3 & TFP
- University of Limerick - UL Global International Student Engagement
- University of Limerick School of Medicine - First Nations Global Engagement Experience



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Most Innovative Digital Transformation

- ATU - MyCareerPath
- Maynooth University - My Maynooth on Moodle
- National College of Ireland - LibMaps
- National Learning Network - A Strategic, People-Centred Approach to Embedding Responsible Generative AI
- Phlow Academy - Transforming Secondary Learning Through Pedagogy-Driven Digital Mastery Systems
- StudentVolunteer.ie - Platform+
- Technological University of the Shannon - TUS Digital Collabs
- University of Limerick - AV upgrade, Department of Biological Sciences
- University of Limerick - Scaling High Quality Video Lecture Production in the Kemmy Business School Digital HUB
- University of Limerick - UL ePortfolio Enterprise Adoption for Assessment Reform

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Student Engagement & Communications Award

- Limerick City and County Council - Limerick Student City
- Maynooth University
- Munster Technological University - Rethinking Engineering Education in Ireland (REEdI)
- Munster Technological University - MTU Ready
- Phlow Academy
- University of Limerick - Academic Registry

CATEGORIES & FINALISTS

Excellence in Education by a Professional Body

- Chartered Accountants Ireland
- Chartered Accountants Ireland Skillnet - Professional Scepticism Virtual Reality (VR) Training Programme
- CyberSkills
- European College of Aesthetic Medicine & Surgery
- South East Technological University - Certificate in Applied Skills Development and Certificate in Personal Development Programmes

Excellence in Sustainability

- Munster Technological University - Circular Bioeconomy Cluster
- National Learning Network - Delivering Sustainability with Social Impact
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Developing World-Class Learning Infrastructure
- South Eastern Regional College - SERC Sustainability
- Technological University of the Shannon - Compendium of Embedding Education for Sustainable Development in Teaching, Learning and Assessment
- University of Limerick - Lab sustainability, Department of Biological Sciences



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Best Workforce Upskilling Initiative

- Alison - Free LMS: Democratising Global Workforce Development
- Cork College of FET-Bishopstown Campus
- Fluirse Education Solutions - Team Training Programme
- Iarnród Éireann - Career Development
- Innopharma Education - AI Upskilling
- Leading Healthcare Providers Skillnet - Diploma in Gerontological Nursing Initiative (DiGNI)
- LOETB and Midlands Park Hotel
- Medtronic - Operations Engineering Scholarship
- Slieve Russell Hotel with CMETB
- Smart Docklands

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Best Education Outreach Award - Learner, Schools & Academic Engagement

- Academy of the Near Future - The Connective Detective
- Bilingual Learning Consultancy
- Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, Ireland - CRAFT Maker Space at MIC
- Phlow Academy
- Ulster University - Guidance Counsellor Discovery Event
- Univeristy of Galway - Professional Engagement Module (PEM)
- University of Limerick - Science Outreach to Promote Physics (SOPHia)
- University of Limerick, Department of Biological Sciences - ROOT (Reaching Out to Our Trees)

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Best Education Outreach Award - Community & Public Engagement

- ADAPT, Dublin City University - #DiscussAI: A National Conversation on Artificial Intelligence
- Calmast, STEM Engagement Centre @ South East Technological University
- CyberSkills
- Law Society of Ireland - Street Law and Public Legal Education Outreach
- Lead the Way
- Munster Technological University - Kerry Science Festival
- National College of Ireland - STEM Family Learning in the Community
- O' Connor's Music School - Ceoil Cliste Music Programme
- The Alzheimer Society of Ireland - Creating a Dementia Inclusive Generation

Best Collaboration Award - International

- Alison & Brownie Points - Scaling Social Employment in South Africa via Mobile-First Learning
- Griffith College & Meiji Gakuin University
- Mary Immaculate College & CAPES - Professional Development Programme for Brazilian Primary and Secondary Education Teachers in Ireland
- Maynooth University and the Arqus European University Alliance
- University of Galway - PEP Project

CATEGORIES & FINALISTS

Best Collaboration Award - Domestic (Economic, Digital & Workforce Development)

- CyberSkills
- Drogheda Institute of Further Education (DIFE) & Amazon (AWS)
- Gaelchultúr & MSLETB - Advancing Careers le Gaeilge
- Immersive Software Engineering
- Innopharma Education & BWG Foods - From Classroom to Shop Shelves
- InVera Medical - BioVAS
- NetApp / MTU - A collaboration model for Regional Impact, Innovation and Co-creation
- RCSI Health Professions Education Centre and the iPain Centre, Beaumont Hospital
- Technological University of the Shannon - TUS Digital Collabs
- UCC, MTU, CETB, and KETB -The New Horizons, Southern Strategic Alliance Tertiary Partnership

Best Collaboration Award - Domestic (Public Good, Culture & Social Impact)

- Alison & Irish Credit Unions - Empowering National Financial Resilience
- Atlantic Technological University & Scoil Cholmcille Letterkenny - HealthCraft: Building Healthy Habits in Primary Aged Children Through Minecraft
- KCETB & The Heritage Council - From Roofs to Roots
- Mary Immaculate College - Transforming Gender Equality in Higher Education in Ireland
- Middletown Centre for Autism (MCA) & Mary Immaculate College (MIC) - The Graduate Suite in Autism Studies (GCAS, GDAS, MAAS)
- SETU & WLCSP - Consent Matters Project
- South East Technological University and Buíon Phort Láirge
- The Autism Acceptance Festival
- Treoraigh do Thodhchaí - Academy of the Near Future & Gael Linn's Gaelbhratach
- University of Galway - Building the Empathy Studio Through Co-Creation and Collaboration



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Best Erasmus Programme

- Dublin College Clondalkin Deansrath's Erasmus
- Mary Immaculate College
- Mayo College of Further Education - Erasmus+ Mobility Programme
- RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences
- University of Galway
- University of Limerick

Best Further Education Provider

- Carlow Institute of Further Education and Training - KCETB
- Drogheda Institute of Further Education (DIFE)
- European College of Aesthetic Medicine & Surgery
- Law Society of Ireland - Diploma Centre
- Mayo College of Further Education and Training
- National Learning Network - Rehab Group
- South Eastern Regional College

Best Language School

- Bilingual Learning Consultancy
- Englishour
- Gaelchultúr
- Irish College of English

Best Library Team

- Bord Bia's Library, Knowledge & Market Intelligence Team
- Innopharma - Collaborative Digital Library and Academic Team
- National College of Ireland - Academic Support Centre

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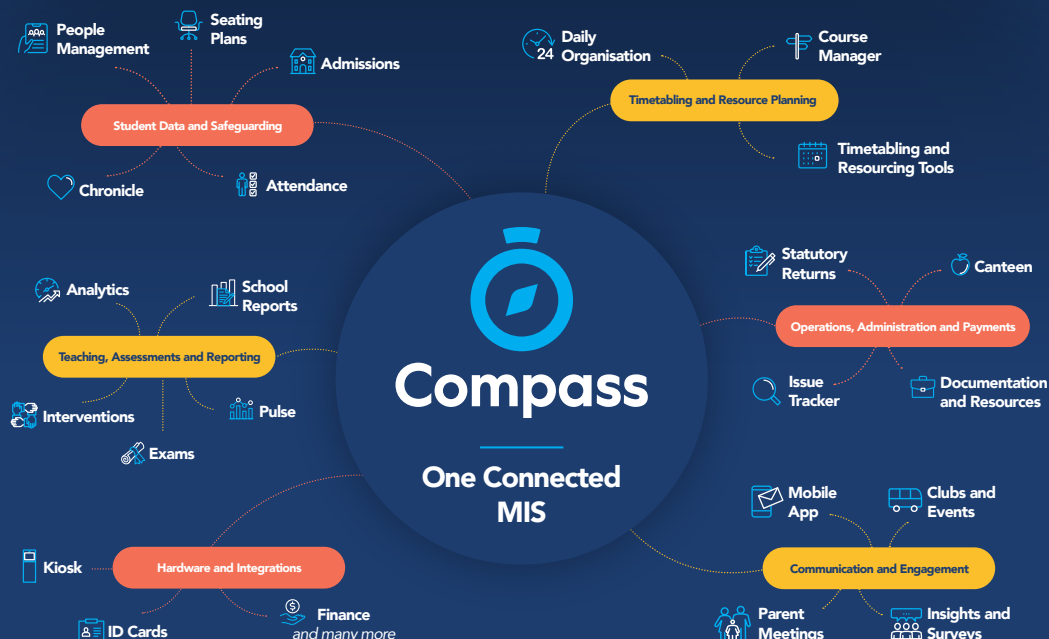
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Best Marketing / Communications Team

- Edhoc International - Inicio 2026
- Technological University of the Shannon - Athlone Campus
- The Leadership for INClusion in the Early Years (LINC) Consortium
- The Rehab Group - National Learning Network
- Ulster University - Market Engagement Team
- University of Limerick – Marketing & Communications Team

Best Masters Programme

- Law Society of Ireland - LLM Advanced Legal Practice
- PCI College - MSc Child & Adolescent Psychotherapy
- PCI College - MSc Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
- University College Cork - MSc Information Systems for Business Performance
- University College Cork - MSc Sustainable Development, Agri-Food and Co-operatives
- University of Limerick - MSc Functional Foods & Product Development
- University of Limerick, CSIS Department - MSc in Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning

Best Online Learning Experience

- Alison
- Bilingual Learning Consultancy
- Chartered Accountants Ireland- Project Athena
- CMIT eLearning - Tutor-Supported Online Learning Experience
- CyberSkills
- Flúirse - Online Teacher Summer Courses Programme
- Forus Training - The Forus Digital Learning Experience
- Law Society of Ireland - Diploma Centre
- Phlow Academy
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - University of Medicine and Health Sciences

CATEGORIES & FINALISTS

Best Research Project

- European Centre For The Study Of Hate University Of Limerick - Criminalising Hate
- Maynooth University - NeoSepsis: Research producing a life-changing neonatal test kit in Uganda
- Munster Technological University - Active Ease
- National College of Ireland - Availability of Cognitive Rehabilitation for People with Dementia in Ireland (CR-Ireland)
- Phlow Academy - Learn AR: Ethical Augmented Reality for Handwritten Learning and Assessment
- Phlow Academy - Reimagining Secondary Education Through Mastery-Based Digital Learning Research
- Technological University of the Shannon - REAL-T: Re-Engaging Active Learning through Teamwork
- University College Cork - ENGAGE Reverse Mentoring Project

Best Student Experience Award

- Certified Irish Angus
- College of Further Education & Training, Mulgrave St. Campus, Limerick
- Dunboyne College of Further Education - The Teacher in Me
- Griffith College - Faculty of Law
- Phlow Academy
- National Learning Network - Building Agency & Amplifying the Student Voice
- SERC Food Poverty Project
- Technological University of the Shannon - TUS Athlone Digital Marketing
- Technological University of the Shannon - TUS Global Student Experience Team

Overall Excellence Award



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**Congratulations and best of luck
to all our shortlisted finalists from**

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