

Laidlaw Pre-Defined Project 1

Project Title: Living Campus: Ecology, Climate Action & Healthy Spaces

Project Supervisor: Professor Jane Stout

Supervisor Department/Area: Trinity Sustainability

Email address of Supervisor: Enquiries during the application stage to the Employability Officer, Kate Ivanchenko, employability@tcd.ie

Brief summary of the Project:

The Trinity Sustainability team are working to transform Trinity's campus into a nature-positive living lab, where nature, student life, academic research, climate action and healthy people thrive together. Over six weeks, you will help monitor and measure campus biodiversity, using tools such as species surveys, sensors, or citizen-science apps, and assess how different campus management and activities support nature. There is the option to choose to focus on a specific strand, such as:

- Nature-friendly design for sports and recreation areas (e.g. pitches for pollinators, low-impact lighting, maximizing habitat connectivity...).
- A biodiversity-recording campaign to engage students and staff in species monitoring through workshops, events, and digital platforms.
- Planting and managing a campus garden / orchard that supports wildlife, food education, and community wellbeing.

You will work closely with Trinity Sustainability staff, researchers, and student volunteers, gaining hands-on field experience, contributing to real policy and planning decisions, and producing recommendations that will shape the future of a greener, healthier, more resilient campus. This project is ideal for students passionate about ecology, sustainability, design, environmental science, public engagement, or campus planning.

Outline up to THREE essential skills which the scholar must have in order to successfully undertake your project:

1. Observation and Field Research Skills

Ability to carry out surveys, use basic monitoring tools (e.g., apps, sensors, ID guides), record data accurately, and work outdoors in a systematic, reliable way.

2. Analytical and Critical Thinking Skills

Capacity to interpret ecological data, assess sustainability trade-offs (e.g., nature vs. sport or safety), and develop evidence-based recommendations for campus management.

3. **Communication and Collaboration Skills**

Comfort working with staff, researchers, and student volunteers, and ability to communicate findings clearly—whether through reports, mapping, workshops, or student engagement activities.

Will the project run over the standard dates: Yes, specific dates to be discussed with successful applicant.