

## Laidlaw Pre-Defined Project 2

**Project Title:** A Class Education: How does Trinity engage with class and socioeconomic status in 2026?

*Supervisor Details (usually a Trinity academic)*

**Project Supervisor:** Prof Lorraine Leeson (Associate Vice-Provost for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion / Centre for Deaf Studies)

**Supervisor Department/Area:** Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Office

**Email address of Supervisor:** Enquiries to the Equality Officer, Joel McKeever, [equality@tcd.ie](mailto:equality@tcd.ie)

*Project Details*

**Brief summary of the Project:**

This summer project aims to investigate how Trinity is positioned to engage with the question 'what does it mean to come from a working-class background in Trinity today?'. As leading research-intensive institution and Ireland's oldest university historically associated with more privileged and affluent backgrounds, at Trinity there are currently many strands of work ongoing to break down those barriers and reinvent how class is understood, experienced, and enacted within university life. The Laidlaw Scholar will review, analyse, and develop a coherent set of insights into what the potential next steps are for embedding and advancing this theme within Trinity, drawing on a range of collaborative efforts including the work of the EDI Office, the Trinity Access Programmes (TAP), the Civic Engagement Office, the current 'Class Acts' seminar series, relevant HEA reports and available data and the body of advocacy to create 'Socio-economic Status' as the 10th protected ground in Irish equality legislation.

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

- Interest in EDI, policy and social justice themes
- Ability to work independently
- Ability to review literature and content on relevant themes and summarise key insights

**Details of supervision arrangements:** Primary academic supervisor is Prof. Lorraine Leeson, Laidlaw Scholar will also be supported through engagement with the multidisciplinary team in the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Office. Project will focus on student-led research, discussions, and independent writing with defined supervision checkpoints in-person at the EDI Office on main Trinity campus.

We actively encourage interest from students from underrepresented backgrounds at Trinity, including but not limited to personal lived experience of the project themes. We invite any enquiries around accessibility accommodations from prospective applicants.

**Will the project run over the standard dates:** Yes, specific dates to be discussed with successful applicant, if possible we encourage a 6 week block including the month of July.