

Scheme for the implementation of the *Official Languages Act 2003* DCU

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March 2006

Section 1 – Introduction and Background

This scheme was prepared under section 11 of the Official Languages Act 2003 (“the Act”) by the Dublin City University.

Section 11 provides for the preparation by public bodies of a statutory scheme detailing the services they will provide

- through the medium of Irish,
- through the medium of English, and
- through the medium of Irish and English;

and the measures to be adopted to ensure that any service not provided by the body through the medium of the Irish language will be so provided within an agreed timeframe.

1.1 Guidelines for preparation of a Scheme

Section 12 of the Act provides for the preparation of guidelines by the Minister for Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs and their issue to public bodies to assist in the preparation of draft schemes. This scheme has been drawn-up with regard to these Guidelines.

Request for Submissions

DCU prepared and issued in January 2005 a “Request for Submissions”. The latest time for receipt of representations was 5pm on 24 February 2005.

Submissions were received and considered from:

Glór Bhréifne, Glór na nGael, An Cabhán

Conradh na Gaeilge

An Cumann Gaelach, Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath,

Chomhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge

Gaelscoileanna Teo

Laurel Hill Coláiste FCJ, Luimneach.

Submissions were translated and reviewed and in consequence An Cumann Gaelach was invited to provide two representatives to join the Working Group.

1.2 Commencement date of the Scheme

This scheme has been confirmed by the Minister for Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs. The scheme is commenced with effect from 3 April 2006 and shall remain in force for a period of 3 years from this date or until a new scheme has been confirmed by the Minister pursuant to *section 15* of the Act, whichever is the earlier.

Section 2 Overview of Dublin City University

2.1 The University's Campus and Buildings

DCU is located on an 85-acre campus close to the M50 and Dublin Airport. The campus is bordered by Collins Avenue, Albert College Park and Ballymun Road.

The history of the campus began around 1830 when it was a centre for agricultural education. The first building consisted of a residence for students and a number of farm buildings. Albert College, where the President's Office is located, was built in 1851. The name dates back to 1853 when the Institution was formally renamed "The Albert Agricultural College". It was taken over by the Agricultural Faculty of University College Dublin from 1926 to 1978.

In 1979 the National Institute for Higher Education, NIHE Dublin, took over the campus. The existing buildings were refurbished and new buildings added. In November 1980 the first 200 students entered NIHE Dublin.

In 1986 an International Commission was established by the Irish Government to examine whether the NIHEs could fulfil their *de facto* role as universities more effectively with a change of title and functions. Following the Commission's recommendation, the Government announced its decision to confer independent university status on NIHE Dublin in January 1989. In June 1989 NIHE Dublin became known as Dublin City University.

2.2 Student Body

There are approximately 9,500 registered students in DCU studying full-time and part-time. Approximately 75% are undergraduate and 25% postgraduate. There are 47 primary degrees and many postgraduate and part-time/evening degrees. There are also a large number of students engaging in research programmes at Masters and Doctorate level.

The National Distance Education Centre (Oscail) is also located on campus consisting of approximately 3,000 students pursuing degree level courses and short courses by distance education.

Although the majority of students who enter DCU are Irish school leavers (including Northern Irish), there are also students transferring from other colleges (certificate holders pursuing a degree and commencing in second or third year), exchange students (students from other universities spending a year, or part of, in DCU), international students (from Germany, France, Spain, USA, Austria, China, Japan etc.) and mature students. Students are classed as mature students if they have had their 23rd birthday before entering the first year of an undergraduate degree. At the moment, mature students make up 5% of the student body; this number is, however, increasing.

2.3 Mission Statement

The mission of DCU is to foster creativity and to spearhead change for the benefit of society.

Core activity

DCU will accomplish this mission by discovering, analysing, expanding, and disseminating knowledge, by developing creative and critical thinking, and by fostering skills and learning.

Core Values

DCU's distinctive values are to be:

- Collaborative and networked
- Accessible and open
- Developmental and supportive
- Innovative and flexible

DCU is committed to intellectual integrity, objectivity, and academic freedom.

2.4 Academic Departments

DCU Business School (Faculty Equivalent)

Faculty of Engineering and Computing

- School of Computing
- School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
- School of Electronic Engineering

Faculty of Science and Health

- School of Physical Sciences
- School of Chemical Sciences
- School of Biotechnology
- School of Mathematical Sciences
- School of Nursing
- School of Health and Human Performance

Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

- School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
- School of Communications
- School of Education Studies
- Fiontar
- School of Law & Government

Oscail (Distance Education)

With the exception of Fiontar, all departments work in English. Fiontar works through the medium of Irish. Sections within the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies may work also in the language to which they are affiliated.

2.5 Fiontar

FIONTAR is a special centre at DCU which offers enterprise education through Irish. FIONTAR graduates and postgraduates have distinguished themselves in the workplace, from the financial to the cultural sectors.

FIONTAR gears its students for the exciting life of the entrepreneur through a wide range of subjects, taught in Irish. The courses include Business, Computers, Applied Irish, Finance, and Enterprise. A European language is also studied.

Section 3 : The DCU Working Group established to implement the Act

The working group consists of:

A representative of the President's Office	(Jane Neville)
A representative of each Faculty	(Ger Lardner, Carmel Mulcahy, Ciaran Fagan, Monica Ward, Darach Turley)
Two Student representatives nominated by An Cumman Gaelach.	(Felim Borland & Jenny McDevitt)
One representative from each of the following:	
Estates Office	(Richard Kelly)
Communications and Marketing	(Eileen Colgan)
Computer Services	(Niall O'Leary)
Human Resources	(Nessa MacDonagh)
Registry	(Celine Jameson)
Library	(Marie Doyle)
Student Affairs	(Catherine Roche)
Education Services	(Mícheál MacConmara)

This group will continue in existence to monitor the operation of the Scheme and to make preparations for its replacement in subsequent years.

Section 4: DCU Scheme No. 1 (2006 – 2009)

The policy of DCU has been, and will be, to provide effective support for the use of Irish within the university. The university is committed to implement the Official Languages Act 2003. To this end the university will implement the following “Scheme” as required by the Act.

We would like to note that this is our First Scheme. We will endeavour to improve our commitments over future schemes.

Services currently provided through the medium of Irish only:

Fiontar works through the medium of Irish.

Fiontar provides interdisciplinary undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, and conducts research in applications for the Irish language in contemporary society. All programmes and services to students in Fiontar are carried out through the medium of Irish.

Services currently provided bilingually:

There are no services currently being provided bilingually.

Services currently provided through the medium of English only:

All other services are currently provided through English only. The following section provides details of the enhancement of services to be provided bilingually during the course of this scheme.

DCU’s First Scheme undertakes (unless otherwise indicated, each commitment takes effect on the commencement of the scheme):

1. To continue the Working Group set up to establish this scheme in order to review the scheme over the period 2006 to 2009.
2. All services will be available in Irish and English in the office of the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences and in the office of Fiontar (the Irish based “School of Enterprise”). Services in Irish for all faculties will be made available through the Faculty office.
3. In the process of major review now taking place of the modular systems within the university, it is proposed to make all modules on the Fiontar programs available as options to students on other courses.
4. To issue press releases to any publication or broadcasting organisation in whichever official language they have indicated they wish to receive such releases.

5. All forms used by students or members of the public will be made available bilingually by 1st January 2007.
6. To publish the telephone number 700 6191 in telephone directories under the heading *Fiosrucháin Geineralta as Gaeilge* for those wishing to contact the University using Irish. The number will also be publicised on the University website and by other appropriate means
7. To publish University literature so that general information is bilingual and course-specific material is in the language in which it is delivered.
8. To have all general information on new student recruitment exhibition stands in both Irish and English, while course-specific material will be in the language in which the course is delivered.
9. To have material relating to courses and activities of departments available in the language used for those activities. In addition to Irish and/or English this may include material in French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, Arabic or such other language as may be relevant to the persons for whom the material is intended. Such material may be available in the relevant language only.
10. To provide lectures in the University in the relevant language. Lectures in subjects other than a language will be provided in Irish where the students are registered for a course which is being given through the medium of Irish. Lectures relating to any other language may be given in that language. Lectures designed for students who are not native speakers of Irish or English, may be given in any language.
11. To provide course material in the language used for lectures relating to that material.
12. Training in using the Irish language for staff as part of ongoing training and development.
13. Forms specific to Fiontar will be in Irish.
14. The university will ensure that computer workstations and peripheral devices will be configured to support the entry, display and printing of information in either official language. All future computers will have standard UK / Ireland as their basic keyboard configuration.
15. On the DCU website, the President's Welcome and Fiontar pages are in Irish and English. All other pages are in English.
16. Online programme and module information will be displayed in Irish where applicable to the programme or module. The university's chosen Virtual Learning Environment, Moodle, will facilitate teaching in either English or Irish.

17. From September 2005, students seeking accommodation in the University residences will be informed that they may request to be accommodated with other students who are interested in speaking Irish. Such requests will be activated when allocating the accommodation.
18. The Director of Education Services of the University will conduct a feasibility study during the period up to September 2007 into the possibility of setting up an *Aonad na Gaeilge*. Such an office would provide Irish translation services for all departments/sections of the university to comply with the Act and to widen the availability of services in Irish in preparation for the 2009-2012 Scheme under the Official Languages Act. A report on this matter will be presented to the Executive and the Governing Authority by 30th September 2006.
19. On the next occasion that a vacancy occurs within the main university reception there will be a requirement that they can fulfil the role in Irish.
20. The university will review the provision of courses through the medium of Irish and if there is sufficient demand they will be made available.

Section 5: Monitoring the implementation of the Scheme

The Irish Languages Working Group within the university will keep the effective operation of the scheme under review. Progress will be recorded in the Annual Report. The day-to-day monitoring function will be carried out primarily by School Heads who are responsible for the implementation of the scheme within their own areas and reporting on a regular basis to their Faculty Dean.

Section 6: Publicising of Agreed Scheme

The contents of this scheme along with the commitments and provisions of the scheme will be publicised to the general public by means of:

Press Release;

Official Launch of the scheme;

Advertising of provisions;

Circulation to appropriate agencies and public bodies;

Website.

A copy of this scheme has also been forwarded to Oifig Choimisinéir na dTeangacha Oifigiúla.

Section7: Services from Schools and Other Central Services

Services Provided to Students and External Persons or Bodies	In English only	In English and Irish	In Irish only
Faculty of Science and Health	√		
Faculty of Engineering and Computing	√		
Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences		*	
DCUBS	√		
Fiontar			√
Oscail	√		
Part-time Courses	√		
Information Evenings/Days	√		
Hosting Conferences	√		
Room Bookings	√		
Open Lectures	√		
Open Days		*	
School Talks		*	
Information to Applicants		*	
School Presentations		*	
Placement Information		*	
Research and Consultancy		*	
External Examining		*	
Participation in Competitions / Events	√		
Judging Competitions	√		
Curriculum Development Activities		*	
Course Validation Events	√		
Membership of Professional Associations / Councils	√		
Liaison with External Bodies		*	
Membership of Expert Working Groups		*	
Interview Panel Membership		*	
Information to Industry	√		
Purchasing / Tender Documents	√		
Restaurants / Bar and Event Catering	√		
Entrepreneurship and Business Start-up & Development	√		
Industrial Liaison		*	
Student Services	√		
Tendering Process	√		
Library Service	√		

Internally	In English only	In English and Irish	In Irish only
School and Programme Boards		*	
Working Group	√		
Taught Programmes		*	
Research Programmes		*	
Information to students		*	
Information to staff	√		
Student Placements		*	
Examinations and Assessments		*	
Purchasing	√		
Programmatic Reviews	√		
Annual Reports	√		
Programmes and Budgets	√		
Staff Development Plans	√		
Ad Hoc Reports	√		
Curriculum Developments / New Programmes	√		
Programme Statistics	√		
Counselling	√		
Careers Advice		*	
Banking	√		
Restaurant	√		
Chaplaincy	√		
Sports	√		
Health and Safety Advice / Statements	√		
Health Centre	√		

**All services through Irish pertain to Fiontar's activities or to its students or prospective students.*

Dublin City University
March 2006
