

ALL IRELAND SCHOLARS NETWORK



ALL IRELAND SCHOLARS

# *Autumn Newsletter*

2026

I SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT   II SUMMER RECAP   III SAVE THE DATES   IV MEMBERSHIP

FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE · [ALLIRELANDSCHOLARS.IE](http://ALLIRELANDSCHOLARS.IE)

WELCOME



## A New *Academic Year*

Welcome to the autumn edition of the All Ireland Scholars Newsletter!

In this edition, we are delighted to share the latest news from across the All Ireland Scholars community. We'll be looking back on our recent Summer Social and Queen's University Belfast Open Day, introducing our latest Scholars in the Spotlight, and sharing details of upcoming events and opportunities to get involved over the months ahead.

As a new academic year begins, we would also like to wish all of our scholars the very best for the year ahead, whether you are returning to university, beginning a new course, or moving on to the next stage of your career. We hope the months ahead bring plenty of new opportunities, experiences, and successes. If you have graduated recently, please let us know and send us a photo for our socials!

As our community continues to grow, we would also like to encourage scholars who have not yet joined as members to consider signing up. Membership helps keep the All Ireland Scholars network active and connected, while also supporting events, initiatives, and opportunities for future scholars. **All members are listed on our website, which you can view [here](#), and all names have been shared with the AIS Trust and the McManus family.**

Sign up today at [allirelandscholars.ie](http://allirelandscholars.ie) and help us continue building a strong and supportive community together.

*Wishing you all the best for the months ahead,  
All Ireland Scholars Executive Committee*

## GET INVOLVED

## Volunteers Needed

### *Higher Options, RDS*

We are looking for volunteers to represent the All Ireland Scholarships at the Higher Options exhibition in the RDS on the 16th, 17th and 18th of September with morning and afternoon slots available. Working at the AIS stand is a great opportunity to give back to the community and teach others about the All Ireland Scholarship and the impact it has had on your academics and career.

We spoke to Conor Doherty, 2022 Scholar about his experience volunteering at the exhibition last year:



*“Higher Options is the perfect opportunity for young people to learn more about the All Ireland Scholarships and I was delighted to volunteer last year. In the three hours I was there, I had met so many talented students who had not heard of the scholarship but were eligible to receive it following their studies. Five years ago, I was in the same position following the completion of my A-Levels, and I could not put into words the impact that the scholarship has had on my life during my studies, both in terms of the freedom it has given me to pursue my studies, as well as the opportunity to meet so many likeminded scholars. I’d really encourage others to get involved and volunteer on behalf of the All Ireland Scholarships — to give back to the programme and spread the word about the AIS.”*

CONOR DOHERTY, 2022 SCHOLAR

### VOLUNTEER

Are you available to give us a hand? Please email [alumni@allirelandscholarships.com](mailto:alumni@allirelandscholarships.com) to volunteer. All volunteers will receive a briefing document before the event to ensure you are prepared for any questions guests might have.

## EVENTS • RECAP

## Queen's University *Open Day*

Our committee members Ross Gallagher and Sarah Kelly were delighted to attend the Queen's University Open Day this summer. We asked Sarah how they got on...



*“On the 6th of June we set up the All Ireland Scholarships stand in our usual corner of the Peter Foggatt Centre of Queen's University Belfast. The miserable weather outside could not dampen the excitement, curiosity and sense of self-discovery that filled the air inside.”*

SARAH KELLY, COMMITTEE MEMBER

A live classical quartet set the perfect backdrop for spreading the word of the All Ireland Scholarship. It was fantastic to see an equal number of students from the Republic of Ireland as from the North, but raising awareness in our six northern counties is imperative as students must actively apply rather than being selected.

If you know of anyone from the North looking to apply to third level this year, be sure to let them know about our scholarship — applications close the summer prior to their September start date.

## SCHOLARS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## Niall Mahon

2022 All Ireland Scholar · Primary School Teacher

Niall Mahon is a 2022 All Ireland Scholar, primary school teacher and recent graduate of the B.Ed in Education and Psychology. He is also a member of the All Ireland Scholars Association.

Niall recently spoke to us about his experience taking part in the Washington Ireland Programme (WIP) this summer.



*“Rooted in the peace process, the Washington Ireland Program develops leaders in politics, business, law and community service. It brings together 30 individuals with similar values, but from different backgrounds to encourage collaboration, discussion and problem-solving on an all-Island level. The program gives participants experience in debate, public service and policy development.”*

The experience centres around a summer in Washington DC. Work placements vary, but occur in fast-paced environments including congressional offices, non-profits and universities. The true heart of WIP lies in its community. Work placements and Irish organisations in the US are generous with their time, wisdom and resources. Living with local host families provides an intimate, warm look at American life. The WIP leadership team, alumni and your fellow classmates become not only mentors, but friends — much like the network of the All Ireland Scholars.

Some highlights of my summer include hosting a panel discussion at the United Nations with members of the Irish Permanent Representation, joining Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason in a meeting regarding International Trade and presenting to my classmates on challenges facing Irish Psychological Services.

Returning home, you carry more than a prestigious line on your CV. You bring back a sincere sense of civic duty, a network of fiercely ambitious peers, and the practical skills needed to drive social change. WIP does not teach you what to think; it opens your mind and equips you with the resilience, nuanced understanding, and global perspective required to build a more collaborative and prosperous future back home. It's also worth mentioning that I was encouraged to apply for the program at the annual Christmas party, while talking to a fellow AIS alum who had completed the program a few years earlier!

## SCHOLARS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## Conor Murphy

2022 All Ireland Scholar · Theoretical Physicist



Conor Murphy is a 2022 All Ireland Scholar, who has recently completed his BA in Theoretical Physics at Trinity College Dublin with First Class Honours. During his undergraduate degree, he worked as a teaching assistant, teaching mathematics to mathematics, physics and engineering students. Furthermore, he became a Laidlaw Scholar, which enabled him to complete applied nanoelectronics research at Trinity, and to work on a science communication project at CERN in Geneva, Switzerland, where he created an educational video about wave physics and quantum mechanics.

Conor has also completed research in boundary effects in topological quantum field theory at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, a historic research institution which has been the workplace of many famous physicists throughout the years, including Erwin Schrodinger. This research resulted in his first academic publication, and has driven him to further his knowledge for a career in research and education.

Currently, he has just started a new, exciting project at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies in condensed matter theory, specifically on the topic of "quantum many-body scars". Next year, he will go on to do his Master's degree in Theoretical Physics at the University of Cambridge as both a Martingale Scholar and a George Moore Scholar, where he hopes to specialise in quantum information theory and condensed matter theory. In the future, Conor hopes to work both in research and education, enabling him to work on physics that will have an impact on the world at large and to give back by teaching the next generation of mathematicians and physicists.

Throughout his undergraduate degree, the All Ireland Scholarship helped Conor to not only enjoy his time at university but also gave him the time and security to pursue his studies to the best of his ability.

*Thanks to Niall and Conor for sharing their stories. Scholars, do you have a story or experience to share? If so, please get in touch!*

## EVENTS • RECAP

## Summer Party *Recap*



The AIS Summer Social returned to Dublin this year, bringing together scholars from across the island for an evening of good food and good company. We spoke to our committee member, Ross, about his experience...



*“This year's event was held at The Odeon in Dublin City Centre on Saturday 11th July. The venue's stylish interior offered plenty of space to mingle, while the outdoor terrace acted as the perfect backdrop to enjoy the BBQ and make the most of the summer sunshine (the food went down very well judging by the queues!).”*

ROSS GALLAGHER, COMMITTEE MEMBER

As always, the main highlight was seeing scholars from different years come together. From those still studying to those now well into their careers, there was plenty of opportunity to share experiences and get to know people who might not otherwise have crossed paths — a great reflection of the strength of the AIS community. We're already looking forward to next year!

## SAVE THE DATES

## What's Coming Up

We have a number of exciting events planned for the All Ireland Scholars community coming up soon.

### The Achievers Conference

12  
SEP

AIS is delighted to partner with Achieve With Aghogho for The Achievers Conference at UCD O'Connor Centre for Learning in University College Dublin. All information about this event can be found on their website.

### RDS Higher Options

16–18  
SEP

AIS will have a stand at the Higher Options exhibition in the RDS again this year. Please spread the word if you know anyone who might be attending — it's a great opportunity for students to find out more about the All Ireland Scholarships.

### Queen's University Belfast Open Day

3  
OCT

AIS will also have a stand at the Queen's University Belfast Open Day.

*Turn the page for details of our University Events for Scholars and the Christmas Party.*

## SAVE THE DATES

## University Events *for Scholars*

We are hosting events for scholars attending Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin in November. Attendance is expected from ALL students attending each university. Further information to follow.

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### TCD Event for Scholars

9  
NOV

Dr Linda Doyle, Provost of Trinity College Dublin will host a special reception for AIS winners currently attending TCD on Monday 9th November in the Provost House. This is a wonderful opportunity for TCD students to meet the Provost, AIS Trustees and fellow scholars.

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### UCC Event for Scholars

12  
NOV

Professor John O'Halloran, President of University College Cork will host a reception for AIS winners currently attending UCC on Thursday 12th November in the Provost House. Another great opportunity to meet the President and fellow scholars.

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### Christmas Party

16  
DEC

The All Ireland Scholars Christmas Party takes place on Wednesday 16th December in The Shelbourne, Dublin. More information to follow.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

## All Ireland Scholars *Membership Update*



Since last October, we have been delighted to welcome so many of you as paying members of the All Ireland Scholars. Building on the vision and generosity of our **Sponsor JP McManus**, we are now asking every All Ireland Scholar to step forward and join the All Ireland Scholars Association.

Your annual membership fee is modest, but your participation matters. This is your opportunity and your responsibility to give back to the community that invested in you and to help ensure the same life-changing opportunity is available to the next generation.

## JOIN TODAY

**Sign up to become a member [here](#).** The strength of the All Ireland Scholars network depends on all of us. We expect all All Ireland Scholars to join, contribute and help carry this legacy forward.

## YOUR MEMBERSHIP WILL:

1. Fund a new All Ireland Scholarship, sponsored entirely by the Alumni Association
2. Support scholar networking and social events
3. Enable scholar mentorship and professional development programmes

*Together, we can ensure that the All Ireland Scholarships continue to change lives for generations to come.*