

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 – 2021



MIE History, Vision and Mission

History

Marino Institute of Education has a proud heritage as a provider of higher education for more than one hundred years. Established in 1905 as a centre of Christian Brothers' Education, Research and Teaching, the college became a recognised provider of teacher education in 1929. With the introduction of the Bachelor of Education in 1976, MIE became an Associated College of Trinity. This relationship has blossomed over the years, and in 2011, Trinity College Dublin joined with the European Province of the Christian Brothers to become the co-trustees of Marino Institute of Education.

Mission

Inspired by the Christian vision, Marino Institute of Education is a teaching, learning and research community committed to promoting inclusion, quality and excellence in education for the public good. The dignity and potential of each person and the pursuit of a just society and a sustainable planet are central to our life, work and service.

Vision

To be a distinctive voice in enabling a just, sustainable and transformative education for all.

Contents



Foreword from the Chair of the Governing Body	2
Welcome from the President	3
Snapshots from a year at MIE	4
Planning the new Strategic Plan 2021-2026	5
Responding to COVID-19	10
Leadership Reports	12
Teaching & Learning	20
Conferences, Festivals and Community	22
Wellness Initiatives	26
International Activity	28
Project Updates	30
Retirements and Appointments	35
Graduations	36



Foreword

From the Chair of the Governing Body

When we look back at the academic year 2020/2021 we will undoubtedly see that it was as a time of profound change in education. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic challenged higher education institutions around the world to engage with students and staff in new ways, to innovate in pedagogy and to incorporate sustainable approaches to research and education.

I look back on the MIE response to the COVID-19 pandemic in this period with gratitude and pride. This was a period when the long-term nature of the challenges posed by COVID-19 came more clearly into view. The Institute's primary focus was on the protection of the student experience, in all its dimensions.

The leadership, co-operation, compassion and resolve of MIE staff and students was impressive. Changes were introduced that not only ensured the continuation of our research, education and community engagement, but in some cases broadened and enhanced our work.

Online Continuous Professional Development for teachers, research and education webinars, wellbeing initiatives and a carefully curated in-person Summer School for DEIS students are examples of the many new initiatives that have been catalysed by the pandemic, and which have enabled our activities to thrive in this new period of engagement.

While navigating the ever-changing conditions of the pandemic the Institute continued to advance its existing projects, nationally and internationally and to forge ahead with new initiatives. The foundations for the Strategic Plan 2021-2026 were developed in this period, underpinned by a wide consultation with MIE staff, students, stakeholders.

From that engagement has developed an ambitious vision for MIE, in and for a time of uncertainty. It sets out a path that will enable MIE to flourish in the coming years and to look to the future with hope.

On behalf of my fellow members of MIE's Governing Body, I thank Professor Teresa O'Doherty and her Leadership Team for their stewardship of the Institute in 2020/2021. I thank the administrative, management and teaching staff for their unwavering dedication, not only to the operations of the Institute, but also to the underlying values. And of course I thank the students for their patience, understanding and flexibility as we continue to learn together about the power of resilience.

Professor Linda Hogan

*Professor of Ecumenics,
School of Religion, Trinity College Dublin,
Chair of the MIE Governing Body*



Welcome

From the President



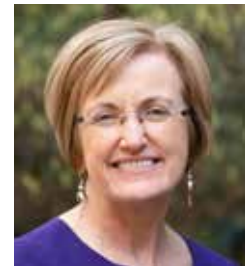
The academic year 2020/2021 was challenging, but one that the MIE community met with positivity and enthusiasm. At the start of the year, as we moved to return to lectures, we knew that COVID-19 was going to have a longer-term impact on our operations, and we needed to adapt accordingly, overseen by our untiring COVID-19 Committee.

I am filled with admiration at how our staff, students and community at MIE rose to it with such professionalism, grace and optimism, evolving how we teach and learn, how we engage with and support each other professionally, and rally together to help protect those most precious of resources: our health and wellbeing.

This year has been one not only of change but of growth and development and although for much of the time we were working at a distance, Marino always felt close. We saw the maturing of a digital transformation within the Institute, fuelled by the successful 'TELMiE about IT' process of engagement with staff and by the planned and careful investment in resources for online and blended teaching and learning. This has in many ways broadened our scope and engagement with communities far beyond our locality. Our virtual Open Days, webinars and CPD programmes had phenomenal uptake in their new, online formats, and this was at least one ray of light in a stormy time for delivering education.

The continuing vibrancy of life at Marino – whether in person or virtually – is a testament to the character of our staff and students, and the list of their activities in 2020/2021 is impressive. They include running Outdoor Summer Schools to help young students maintain skills during the

holiday months and an International Winter School for educators on building professional identity, as well as hosting major events such as the Educational Studies Association of Ireland conference and the Student Teacher Educational Research conference.



A commitment to excellence is foundational to the work of MIE and it was particularly heartening to see many MIE staff receive recognition through national awards in 2021. As well as being short-listed for three categories in the *Irish Times* Education Awards, nine staff received Teaching Hero Awards at the USI Achievement Awards. In addition, our response rate and results in the StudentSurvey.ie have remained consistently high. These benchmarks are a testament to the synergy between staff and students at MIE, and reflect our strengths in engaging with and inspiring students, and igniting the spark of education for the future.

During the year we have engaged in an extensive and iterative consultation process, and have laid the foundations for our Strategic Plan 2021–2026, *Education Transforming Lives*. The launch of this Plan in the new academic year will set an ambitious agenda for the Institute for our next phase of development.

Professor Teresa O'Doherty

President, MIE

Snapshots from a year at MIE

**September
2020**

TELMiE project is implemented; increase of 13% in student registrations; Maths Week is celebrated.

**October
2020**

Teaching Council Féilte – student researchers have their say.

**November
2020**

International Winter School and Wellbeing events – November and 'Shine your light'.

**December
2020**

Graduation and Alumni Awards; Migrant Teacher Graduation

**January
2021**

Spring series of webinars was launched; Virtual Open Day hosted

**February
2021**

Student Survey – 49.7% response rate; Employee Assistance Scheme is launched.

**March
2021**

ESAI Conference; CORE HR programme is launched

**April
2021**

Minister Simon Harris launches STER conference

May 2021

ResearchMeet and Teachmeet; Three projects are nominated for the Irish Times Education Awards 2021

**June
2021**

Creative Arts Summer School

**July
2021**

Summer School programmes for children and teachers

**August
2021**

The first TOBAR teachers begin their teaching careers

Planning the new Strategic Plan 2021–2026

The foundation for our new MIE Strategic Plan for 2021–2026 emerged during the academic year 2020/2021. The Plan was built up through an Institute-wide collaborative process, reflecting the hopes and needs of the MIE community.

MIE issued 75 direct invitations to external stakeholders from 66 organisations to consult on developing MIE’s Strategic Plan 2021–2026. In tandem with this targeted consultation, the Institute posted a note on its website and placed an advertisement with *InTouch* magazine inviting submissions from interested persons or organisations.

A significant number of internal staff workshop sessions were conducted using the staff consultation methodology developed during the summer of 2020. From September, a Strategic Planning Committee was convened, comprising 11 representatives: one from each of the five

academic departments, and a representative each from IT, the Library, the Registrar’s Office, Finance, Conferencing & Facilities, and the Education Office. This Committee met regularly, and has ensured that the Strategic Planning process remained a live topic of discussion within each department.

Representatives from each student class and cohort were selected randomly and invited to participate in focus groups. In addition, several alumni focus groups were also convened. At different stages, the Governing Body engaged in workshops relating to the priorities for the Institute and the evolving development of the Plan.

Ceannairí na Ranna also played a pivotal role in the process. The information and learning from this engagement process crystallised into the Strategic Plan and kept us focused on the future in a challenging time.

Members of the Strategic Plan 2021–2026 Staff Committee

Dr. Maire Nuinseann	Dr. Karin Bacon	Ian Blount
Ciara Reilly	Dr. Sandra Austin	Julie O’Donnell
Claire Murphy	Mai Ralph	Dr. Aiveen Mullally
Maureen McDonagh	Patrick Geary	Caoileann Ní Dhonnchadha
Maya Marcos	Dr. Gerry O’Connell	

Our ambition through the resulting Strategic Plan is that

- ★ Learners at MIE will enjoy an inclusive learning environment, with sustainable education at the heart of their curricula, where they are encouraged to take a global perspective in all they do, and are prepared to be inspiring educators for all within a rapidly changing world.
- ★ Our vibrant, talented and dedicated community of staff will be supported to grow and flourish, to work with a unity of purpose, to respond creatively to emerging societal needs in the design of new programmes, to engage in impactful research, to build relationships and to exercise their voice in national and international education development.
- ★ Our Institute has the confidence to build on our strengths within a global environment, to focus our energy and resources on seizing the many opportunities that are afforded to us, and to ensure that the dignity of every person and our commitment to sustainable development underpin our decision-making.



Governance



The Instrument of Governance (2016) provides for the appointment of a Governing Body to discharge the authority of the Trustees within the Institute. The Governing Body's responsibilities include putting in place a system to oversee the education, training, research, and related activities of the Institute, and ensuring its quality.

The primary function of the Governing Body is to set the strategic direction and govern and control the affairs of the Institute in accordance with the intentions of the Trustees, as expressed in the Guiding Principles. The Governing Body met six times during the academic year.

MIE Governing Body 2020/2021

Chairperson Member of GB 2013 Appointed Chair by the Trustees 2017.	Prof. Linda Hogan, Professor of Ecumenics, School of Religion, TCD.	
Nominated by the Trustees Appointed Sept 2019.	Ms. Maria Kiernan, Architect in private practice. Fellow of the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland and Accredited Mediator.	
Ex officio: Representative of the European Province Leadership Team. Appointed Sept 2019.	Br. Declan Power, Community Leader, Christian Brothers.	Stepped down July 2021.
Nominated by the Trustees Appointed Sept 2019.	Ms. Bride Rosney, Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Mary Robinson Foundation, Former Director of Communications, RTE (2001-2009); Special Advisor to President Mary Robinson.	
Nominated by the Trustees Appointed Sept 2019.	Ms. Anne McElduff, Former Assistant Secretary General and Head of Legal and Industrial Relations, INTO, barrister and former teacher.	
Nominated by the Trustees Appointed 1 May 2018. Re-appointed Sept 2019.	Prof. Lorna Carson, Head of the School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences and Associate Professor in Applied Linguistics, TCD.	
Nominated by the Trustees Appointed Sept 2019.	Prof. Declan O'Sullivan, Lectures at TCD's School of Computer Science and Statistics.	Stepped down July 2021.

▶ MIE Governing Body 2020/2021

<p>Elected MIE Staff Representative (academic) 2017–2019 Re-elected Sept 2019.</p>	<p>Dr. Seán Delaney, VP for Academic Affairs/Registrar, MIE.</p>	
<p>Elected MIE Staff Representative (academic) Sept 2019</p>	<p>Dr. Rory McDaid, Head of Department – Policy and Practice.</p>	
<p>Elected MIE Staff Representative (professional services) Appointed Sept 2019.</p>	<p>Mr. Martin Lynch, IT Manager and staff representative.</p>	
<p>Nominated by the Trustees Appointed Sept 2019.</p>	<p>Mr. Michael Ryan, Former head of McCann FitzGerald Tax Group, a past council member of the Irish Taxation Institute and currently chair of the editorial board of the <i>Irish Tax Review</i>.</p>	
<p>Nominated by the Trustees Appointed 2017–2019. Re-appointed Sept 2019.</p>	<p>Ms. Karen Herbert, AIB, Head of Group Conduct, Strategy and Governance.</p>	
<p>MIE Student Union Representative Annual appointment.</p>	<p>Mr. Liam Heery, Elected SU President, MIE.</p>	<p>Term ended June 2021. Replaced by Ms. Ellen O’Connell.</p>
<p>Ex Officio: Representative of Trinity College. Appointed Sept 2019.</p>	<p>Prof. Jürgen Barkoff, Vice Provost – Chief Academic Officer, Academic Secretariat.</p>	<p>Term ended June 2021. Replaced by Prof. Orla Sheils in Nov 2021.</p>
<p>Nominated by the Trustees Appointed February 2019.</p>	<p>Mr. Michael Hallissy, Founding Partner, H2 Learning.</p>	
<p>In attendance</p>	<p>Dr. Teresa O’Doherty, President MIE.</p>	
<p>In attendance</p>	<p>Mr. Craig Larnar, VP for Finance & Professional Services, MIE.</p>	<p>Retired November 2020. Replaced by Cian Mackey November 2020.</p>

The Governing Body met on

1 October 2020
26 November 2020
4 February 2021
25 March 2021
5 May (Strategy) 2021
27 May 2021
22 July 2021 (Electronic) Standing Committee

Governing Body Fees and Expenses

It is the Institute's policy that non-staff Governing Body members may be reimbursed for any expenses incurred in the service of the Institute. The total of such expenses in the year was zero. Governing Body members receive no remuneration for their services as Governing Body Members.

Audit Committee

Jim Bradley (Chair, unfortunately passed away during the summer)
Karen Herbert
Anne McElduff
Teresa O'Doherty
Cian Mackey

The Audit Committee met on

26 November 2020
21 January 2021
10 May 2021

Finance Committee

Michael Ryan (Chair)
Karen Herbert
Teresa O'Doherty
Cian Mackey

The Finance Committee met on

21 September 2020
16 November 2020
25 January 2021
15 March 2021
17 May 2021
14 June 2021

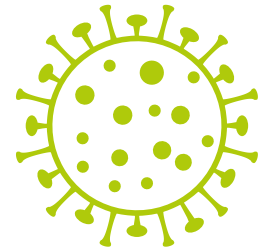
Responding to COVID-19

The COVID-19 Response Committee was established in early February 2020, under the chairmanship of Dr. Seán Delaney, Registrar and Vice-President of Academic Affairs, and the Committee continued to meet on an almost weekly basis during the 2020/2021 academic year.

This Committee considered all aspects of MIE's response to the multiple challenges posed by the pandemic and made recommendations to Leadership Team on actions.

Committee Membership		
Chair Dr. Seán Delaney (Registrar/VPAA)	Dr. Gene Mehigan	Dr. Sandra Austin
Mr. Ian Blount	Dr. Aimie Brennan	Ms. Miriam Colum
Mr. Liam Heerey	Ms. Eileen Jackson	Ms. Genevieve Larkin
Mr. Martin Lynch	Mr. Cian Mackey	Ms. Danielle Montgomery
Prof. Teresa O'Doherty	Ms. Felicity Scriver	Ms. Róisín Sullivan
Mr. Brendan White	Dr. Julie Uí Choistealbha	Secretariat: Ms. Máire Áine Nic Dhonnachadha
Dr. Alison Egan	Ms. Louise Condon	Dr. Barbara O'Toole
Dr. Johannah Duffy	Ms. Mairead Minnock	Dr. Derek Murphy
Mr. Ciarán Fogarty	Dr. Rory McDaid	

The hard work and commitment of this Committee and the willing and wide engagement of staff and students with COVID-19 measures and initiatives at MIE meant that the Institute could continue to operate during the pandemic restrictions.



Leadership Team

Prof. Teresa O'Doherty – President	Dr. Seán Delaney – VPAA/Registrar	Dr. Gene Mehigan – Vice President for Education & Strategic Development
Craig Lerner, until November 2020, Cian Mackey, from November 2020, CFO and Vice President for Professional Services CFO	Dr. Joan Kiely- Dean of Education: Curriculum and Childhood	Dr. Julie Uí Choistealbha, Dean of Education: Policy, Practice and Society



LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Dr. Seán Delaney

Registrar and VP for Academic Affairs



One of the overriding themes of the academic year 2020/2021 for the Registrar's Office was access. During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we wanted to make MIE more accessible and inclusive for a wider cohort of staff, students and potential students.

The Office oversaw many initiatives and approaches to make this happen, including virtual open days and raising awareness of the needs of people with disabilities. Against the backdrop of the pandemic and its attendant isolation for staff and students, it was also important to safeguard physical and mental health.

Our wellbeing initiatives created safe opportunities for people to keep physically active and to articulate their feelings during a challenging time.



Admissions

In 2020/2021 a total of just under 3,000 students listed MIE courses in their preferred college choices. The points for entry to MIE's Bachelor in Education Primary Teaching degree were 508, while entry to MIE's *Baitsiléir san Oideachas trí mheán na Gaeilge* required 462 points. In total there were 1,278 registered undergraduate and postgraduate students in 2020/2021, an increase of 13% on the figure registered in 2019/2020.

Of these, approximately 93% of students came from 26 counties across the island of Ireland, while the remaining 7% came from EU and non EU countries, notably China and the Gulf States.

In 2020/21, 82% of the student population was female and 18% was male. 74% of all students were registered on undergraduate programmes.

MIE reserves 15% of places on undergraduate courses for HEAR (Higher Education Access Route), DARE (Disability Access Route to Education) and mature students. In 2020/2021, 16 students entered via HEAR and 18 students entered through DARE.

MIE initiated a range of Admissions' Scholarships in 2020 and 20 scholarships (€500) were awarded to our first year students in five different categories: Arts & Culture, Sports, Cur Chun Cinn Na Gaeilge, Volunteering and Academic Achievement.

The calibre of our students is outstanding and it is appropriate to celebrate their achievement across a range of disciplines as they begin their careers at MIE.

Open Days and Graduate Appreciation

MIE Open Days are highlights of our annual calendar, and in previous years we have hosted these as face-to-face events at our beautiful campus in Marino, Dublin. The COVID-19 pandemic led us to rethink how we run the Open Days, and in 2020/2021 we moved to virtual events.

The first was on 28 November 2020, where we welcomed around 400 students in attendance online, and the second virtual Open Day was on 23 January 2021. While prospective students did not get to experience the campus in person, the virtual environment enabled interested participants from a wider geographical range to attend easily and find out more about MIE, and we see this as a benefit.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, MIE could not invite students to campus to mark their graduation, so on 10 December 2020 we ran a Graduate Appreciation Event online to mark their successes and to present awards to students who completed their studies during such a turbulent time.

Access and Disability

At MIE we want to make our campus and Institute as welcoming as possible for as many as possible. Between February and March we participated in the Creative Arts Summer School with partners in Trinity College Dublin, the National College of Art and Design and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

The initiative ran classes across five weekends – of which we hosted one – and invited members of the public to get involved in classes from dance to mixing colours and plenty else to spark the creative. The idea behind the school, which was supported under the HEA's PATH initiative, was to encourage the broader community to engage and to offer tasters for people who might not otherwise access third-level institutions.

The Registrar's Office has responsibility for access on campus, and in September 2020 we marked the International Day of People with Disabilities. To raise awareness, the façade of the beautiful main building was illuminated in purple which is the adopted colour of disability groups.

On 3 December and we produced a video about the importance of recognising the needs of people with disabilities and how small changes can make a big difference to accessibility in education.

In the academic year 2020/2021, we made our campus more accessible at MIE, installing four automatic doors at our buildings thanks to funding support through the Higher Education Authority and cooperation with our accrediting university, Trinity College.

Focus on Wellbeing

The move to online and blended approaches to teaching and learning offered increased access and ease in some respects, though we must recognise the potential for negative impact of isolation on physical and mental health. During the academic year 2020/2021, MIE hosted several wellbeing talks and activities for students and staff, including movement-based classes to keep fit and talks about pro-active self-care, bereavement, nutrition, mental health and wellbeing, stress and first-aid.

We also ran a very successful initiative called MIE Shine Your Light https://www.mie.ie/en/mie_shine_your_light where we developed postcards for students to fill out and tell us what kinds of challenges they faced and what sustained them during the pandemic. These were recorded and shared by video on the MIE website. The students engaged widely and told us about the importance of checking in with friends even though they are separated, going for long walks, keeping up routines and the power of pets.



LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Dr. Gene Mehigan

Vice President for Education & Strategic Development



When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020 and MIE rapidly adapted, few could have anticipated the long-term changes that the crisis would bring to education.

The academic year 2020/2021 saw many of those changes implemented at MIE, and while the challenge has been substantial, it has also allowed us to broaden our engagement with current and future students and teachers.



Time for blended learning

One of the key elements of the academic year 2020/2021 was to enable blended teaching and learning, a mix of face-to-face and online lectures and seminars. At an operational level, this gave rise to the need for new timetabling – for example we needed to ensure that schedules built in time to support lecturers being able to move from locations where they deliver online lectures – often their homes – to being at MIE in person for face-to-face meetings and lectures.

While the move to rapidly enable online offerings was certainly a challenge, it also brought benefits. One was the rise in numbers of teachers who accessed Continuing Professional Development courses at MIE online during the summer months. Teachers could safely engage and they did so with enthusiasm. Over the course of the summer 951 teachers successfully completed online courses in MIE on topics such as Inclusive Education, Teachers and the Law and Early Childhood Education.

We also saw an exciting collaboration between MIE and Education Centres in Tralee, Navan, Monaghan and Clare that resulted in MIE hosting webinars for teachers on Maths, Gaeilge, early childhood education and PE among other subjects.

Programme Endorsement

The Centre for School Leadership (CSL) which supports the design, development and delivery of quality professional learning for school leaders endorsed our Master in Education Studies (Intercultural Learning and Leadership) and Masters in Education Studies (Leadership in Christian Education) in November 2021.

This endorsement publicly identifies these programmes as relevant, well-constructed and of high quality. While we can use the CSL logo in all publicity relating to the Master in Education Studies (Intercultural Learning and Leadership) and Masters in Education Studies (Leadership in Christian Education), the CSL website will also host information about these programmes.

Expanding Literacy

One of the most exciting additions to our academic offering in 2020/2021 is a new module on literacy. The module explores teacher knowledge and competence of literacy and it means that the key education skill of literacy now appears in almost every programme at MIE, from early childhood education to Continuous Professional Development.

We also introduced a new elective module onto our BEd 4 programme to ensure that students could develop and deepen their research and pedagogical skills in an area of choice – the range of electives includes advanced literacy, music, arts and inclusive education.

Safe gathering on campus

During 2020/2021 we saw important developments at campus. We continued to plan work to the Gate Lodge and driveway that welcome staff, students and visitors, and in the more immediate term we put in place a tented area where people could rest, meet, gather and enjoy each other's company safely outdoors while sheltered from the weather.

The area has proven extremely popular and has hosted dinners, concerts, reflection services and Mass, bringing the staff and students together in the informal way that we have learned is so important during the pandemic.



LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Cian Mackey

**Chief Financial Officer and
VP Professional Services**



The academic year 2020/2021 was a challenging one for MIE due to the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 had a negative effect on our conferencing and student accommodation income streams. However, through prudent cost saving initiatives and by increasing our student income base combined with effective management of our cash resources, MIE has continued to operate effectively.

Despite COVID-19, many significant milestones were achieved during this period, including upgrades to our finance and library services, exciting IT projects and of course pivoting our facilities to support safe learning during the pandemic. Our fantastic administrative and professional services team in MIE have been instrumental in achieving these results.



Finance

MIE's payroll system was successfully migrated onto Core HR as part of the Higher Education Payroll Shared Services project, led by Finance Manager Deirdre Mulholland. In March 2021, another Core HR milestone was achieved when the core expense module was implemented.

The finance team also facilitated grant payments to more than 500 students as part of the Minister for Education's Gaeltacht Placement Grant initiative, and the team ensured the successful administration of the Refund of Fees Scheme on behalf of the Teacher Education Section in the Department of Education. This year a record 1,332 applications were received, of which 1,181 were successful.

An audit of the procurement processes in MIE was conducted in September 2020, this recommended some areas where MIE might improve its procurement policies and procedures. These improvements will not only make the process of procurement in MIE more efficient, they will also add visibility to the value for money already being achieved and ensure MIE meets best standards in this area.

Human Resources

The academic year 2020/2021 was one of change within Human Resources. Mr. Niall O'Neill, HR Manager with MIE for 15 years retired at the end of 2020. We welcomed Róisín Sullivan as Director HR in late November 2020.

HR were delighted to launch an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) in February 2021, partnering with Inspire Workplaces, an independent mental health and wellbeing organisation with a wealth of experience in supporting organisations and employees across Ireland. The EAP is a confidential employee support service and is also available to all employee's immediate family members.

A review of holiday entitlements resulted in an increase in leave for some cohorts and marriage leave for employees was introduced at MIE. Following an update to the Parent's Leave Act the leave granted was reviewed and enhanced for employees seeing all parents' avail of five weeks paid leave within the first two years. This came into effect from April 2021 onwards.

To assist our employees with the transition to retirement we have introduced training through the Retirement Planning Council of Ireland (RPCI) for employees who are approaching retirement. This course encourages people to focus on retirement and what it means to them.

Education Office and Student Support

The Education Office, a relatively new department led by Felicity Scriver, has continued to improve existing operational efficiencies in MIE despite the challenges faced during COVID-19.

While it has been disappointing to have little or no contact with students over the past year, there has always been a need for a presence at the front reception desk and two members of staff have shared this role. This is a difficult job and requires a good knowledge of the people and culture of Marino as well as keeping up to date with all the latest news and developments, a significant challenge in a year when there were no guarantees.

School and field placement presented a particular challenge throughout the pandemic and the Education Office staff supported the placement team with their usual efficiency, by ensuring all students were able to fulfil their placement requirements.

Aside from the logistics, placement support staff were also dealing with the anxiety and concerns of students and spent many hours reassuring students that they would be assisted every step of the way, thereby ensuring the pandemic would not adversely affect their placement.

Library Services

Library services, headed by Genevieve Larkin, provided a new range of supports and measures to deliver Library services virtually while protecting the health and well-being of our students. An innovative 'Click and Collect' service allowed library users to reserve available books online for collection, and a popular new 'Scan and Send' service allowed library users to request articles and book chapters for electronic delivery.

The Library increased access to online resources with the addition of JSTOR Arts & Sciences IV, Arts & Sciences V, and Arts & Sciences VI databases and also a range of other SAGE online resources. The Library also enhanced its teaching and learning activities, albeit remotely, with the introduction of virtual classes on APA Referencing, Academic Writing, Reference Manager Zotero, Google Scholar and Literature Search.

We would also like to thank Dr. Johannah Duffy, who was acting Head of Library Services, for her hard work and dedication during this difficult COVID period.



IT and eLearning Services

Online and remote support for all staff and students continued despite the pandemic. After the rollout of the TELMiE about IT project in June 2020, led by Dr. Alison Egan Director IT & eLearning, academic staff took to the new mode of delivery with enthusiasm and confidence when we moved to full online delivery in September 2020. A full upgrade of our virtual learning environment happened in December 2020, and this new version was released to staff in January 2021.

By using new and existing e-learning tools that were integrated into the virtual learning environment, staff and students knew where to access their synchronous classrooms and could continue their learning seamlessly as the year progressed. Teaching, learning and exams were conducted online throughout the year, and students were delighted to avail of asynchronous recorded lecture content when revising for their exams at the end of the academic year.

Other successful IT projects in 2020/2021 included the Deloitte WFH audit that reviewed all systems and procedures used by staff and students that allowed working from home – no urgent items were reported. We also saw the successes of the website review project, laptops for all staff and our full migration to HEANet services. The IT and eLearning department are also active in research projects related to online delivery and Dr. Alison Egan, was invited by the UN Special Rapporteur for education and e-learning to advise in a series of digital workshops.

Conferencing and Facilities

Ciarán Fogarty, Head of Conferencing and Facilities, assumed the role of COVID-19 Compliance Officer and has been at the forefront of developing MIE's COVID-19 action plans, ensuring the safety of our staff and students and wider community. These plans needed to be able to pivot from on-line teaching to face-to-face teaching at a moment's notice. The most visible investment during the year was the creation of a covered outdoor space for students to gather safely and this has become a hub for all on Campus.

Work carried out during this time in the Conferencing & Facilities department included; audits of all spaces to identify safe capacities, ventilation audits, sourcing of materials and equipment to help fight COVID-19, significant cleaning and maintenance of the buildings and associated plant, creation of new office areas, gardening and making external improvements. All of the achievements of the Conferencing and Facilities department has been achieved due to the hard work and effort of all the team including the office, porters, grounds, cleaning, security and maintenance teams.

Unfortunately COVID-19 had a negative impact on our conferencing activities with very little activity in in-person or on-site events. Throughout the year the team continued to liaise with our clients, to ensure that we are in a position to welcome back clients to campus when the public health guidance allows. Despite the lull in in-person events, in March 2021 MIE was the location for filming of an episode of an Amazon Prime series. It was a welcome opportunity to engage with the film crew and to get a flavour of the work behind the scenes on such programmes.



Financial Update

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Total income (€000s)	€11,730	€14,459	€13,866	€13,554
Student Numbers	849	1,065	1,129	1,278
Growth in Student Numbers	2%	25%	6%	13%

Primary Energy Consumption

Year ending 31 Dec	Gas Consumption (kWh)	Gas Consumption (kWh) Per Student	Electricity Consumption (kWh)	Electricity Consumption (kWh) Per Student	CO2 emissions (Tonnes)	CO2 emissions (Tonnes) Per Student
Base year 2014	1,955,460	2,566	779,623	1,023	650	0.85
2015	1,316,864	1,577	650,722	779	499	0.59
2016	1,413,215	1,692	643,534	770	496	0.59
2017	1,561,179	1,838	604,208	711	484	0.57
2018	1,748,938	1,642	575,972	540	489	0.46
2019	1,816,864	1,590	584,733	512	483	0.42
2020	1,472,301	1,142	468,434	363	380	0.30

The CO² emissions per student in MIE has fallen quite significantly in the seven years from 2014 to 2020. This reflects the improvements in our use of energy on the MIE Campus and followed our investment in a significant energy efficiency programme with the help of Veolia and grant aid from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). It also demonstrates some efficiencies per student due to the increase in student numbers attending MIE.

The COVID-19 pandemic also reduced our use of some energy for several months in 2020.

We calculate CO² emissions by using the Business in the Community (BITC) carbon reporting methodology for gas and electricity. As more renewables are being generated in Ireland, the electricity on the transmission system is becoming cleaner year on year, so the carbon-emissions factor is reducing, which is a contributor to this reduction in CO₂ emissions.

Teaching & Learning



Teaching Heroes Awards

At MIE, while we celebrate the excellence and commitment of all our staff internally, it is welcome when our work is recognised on a national level. 2021 brought a new opportunity for the MIE community to be celebrated, as it was the first year we were eligible for the Teaching Hero Awards,

where students got an opportunity to shine a light on some of those who have made a difference to them during their studies.

And we made a blistering debut! Thirteen MIE staff members were nominated, and nine received Teaching Hero Awards on the night at the USI Achievement Awards:

Bill Lynch	Breed Murphy	Sinead McCauley Lambe
Sorcha Browne Byrne	Andrea Lynch	Ciara Reilly
Elaine Clotworthy	Miriam Colum	Suzy Macken

This is the third iteration of the Teaching Hero Awards, co-ordinated through a partnership between the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, the Union of Students in Ireland and other Students' Unions across the country.

The Teacher Research Exchange project (T-Rex) also initiated a teaching and learning innovation award and our congratulations to Rhona McGinn on receiving this award. MIE's success is a testament to the whole staff, who go above and beyond to ensure that the teaching and learning experience for our students is of the highest quality possible.

Irish Times Education Awards 2021

MIE was nominated for not one, not two but three *Irish Times* Education Awards in 2021. The Migrant Teacher Project received its nomination under Best Education Outreach, our campus accommodation under Best Student Accommodation and MIE as a whole was nominated under the category of Best Student Experience. Receiving these nominations was a huge recognition of the

work that our MIE family undertakes, and it was wonderful to see our Institute so well represented in the nominations for these national awards.

A number of resources were created by students and staff to support home learning. These include 'A Stay At Home Halloween Activity Book' by B.Sc Early Childhood Students, 'Learning at Home: Purposeful Daily Activities' by Sinéad McCauley Lambe and Clara Fiorentini, and 'Maths at Home' by B.Ed Students.

Outdoor Summer School benefits students and student teachers

20 Student Teachers
4 Teacher Educators
40 Children
11 Schools
2 Classes
1 Summer School

Summer holidays are a welcome break from school for children, but they can lead to a “summer slide” in children’s literacy and progress in mathematics. This slide is particularly apparent among students attending DEIS schools.

How can we tackle this? Enter the fun summer school. In July 2021, 20 MIE student teachers, under the supervision of four teacher educators, offered a summer school to 40 children who had completed third class in 11 DEIS schools around Dublin.

Thanks to the prompt action of the Conferencing and Facilities team and the clemency of the weather, MIE was able to host the summer school outdoors in two courtyards, and children attended the week-long summer school for three hours each day.

Lessons in subjects including mathematics, language, physical education, arts, and Social, Environmental and Scientific Education (SESE) were taught by student teachers from all years of the B.Ed. (English-medium and Irish-medium) and PME programmes under the supervision of teacher educators Ciara Reilly, Colleen Horn, Lorna Roche and Seán Delaney.

Given the important role that parents play in their children’s education, the teacher educators and teachers met with the parents before the summer school and provided suggestions on how parents could their children’s progress in reading and mathematics over the summer.

Children received a colourful t-shirt on the first day, a daily lunch, and two books to keep at the end of the school. And, thanks to the generous support of MIE and all participants, the summer school was offered at no cost to the children.

The summer school offered student teachers the opportunity to receive feedback on their teaching without being formally assessed. Student teachers said that the relaxed, informal atmosphere of the summer school supported their learning. The lack of formal assessment encouraged innovative teaching and student teachers had opportunities to observe teaching by peers in different years of their courses.

In a follow-up survey, student teachers noted that through the summer school they acquired new lesson ideas. Several said they learned a lot from collaborating with their peers and from seeing how other student teachers responded to emerging situations in class. Some student teachers said they would like if the summer school had lasted for two weeks.

Without exception, every student teacher said that the initiative is one MIE should offer in the future and all survey respondents said they would participate in it again if it were offered in the future.



Conferences, Festivals and Community

MIE hosts ESAI conference

In September 2020, Professor Teresa O’Doherty was appointed President of the Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI). In late March 2021, MIE hosted the ESAI conference: *Possibilities in Education: Reimagining Connections with People, Purpose and Place*.

This two-day virtual, international event was attended by 245 people, some logging on from France, Italy, Norway, Finland, Scotland, Britain, and the US, as well as colleagues from all the HEIs on the island of Ireland. MIE staff contributed seven papers to the conference, and chaired panels, and hosted all of the sessions.

This was a flagship event for MIE and each person contributed to making it a tremendous success. The clarity of and the efficiency of all the links made it a joy for all to attend and engage, the feedback from the participants in the conference was been glowing and ‘Team MIE’ received many accolades.

Student Teacher Educational Research (STER) Conference

The fourth iteration of the STER Project began in October 2020. The aim of the project is to promote a culture of research in teacher education by sharing education students’ dissertation research via a conference, e-Journal and podcast. Led by Dr. Aimie Brennan, a team of ten students partnered with staff volunteers Dr. Suzy Macken, Miriam Colum and Ciara Reilly to collaborate on various elements of the project. Ongoing support and training was provided in the form of project briefings, peer reviewer training, publishing webinars, feedback sessions, and team meetings.

The annual STER Conference ‘Educational Research: Policy, Practice and Pedagogy’ was held online on 15 April 2021. The Conference was launched by Minister Simon Harris (DFHERIS) who commended the work of the project; STER is “successfully building our students’ research capacity and it’s promoting and celebrating the capacity of Irish education students to contribute to the profession as researchers”. Expertly introduced by PME student Nessa Lahert, the conference included individual and poster presentations by 20 education students from MIE, TCD, MIC, NUI Galway and UL.

Volume 4 of the STER e-Journal was launched in April 2021. This volume includes 15 articles by students from 5 higher education institutions. Student articles cover topics ranging from mindfulness in early years, inclusion in the primary classroom, to team teaching in post primary school and transitions in adult education. Launching the e-Journal, Dr. Tony Hall (Editor, Irish Educational Studies) said “STER has emerged as a key platform to enable research sharing and expand our capacity in research publication in Ireland. It now forms an integral part of the Irish educational research ecosystem, and particularly in terms of encouraging, supporting





and promoting early-stage teacher-researchers to embark on a lifelong journey of teaching-informed research.” The e-Journal is available to download from the STER website, TARA repository and from the MIE library.

The STER Podcast launched in May 2021. Each episode is an informal interview with a student about their research. Following principles of UDL, each Podcast episode has a complete transcript and links to resources/readings mentioned. Episodes are currently available from *Spotify*, *Anchor* and *Google Play*.

STER also expanded its repertoire by working on new initiatives including a Special Issue of the e-journal on Intercultural Education in collaboration, leading a ResearchMeet as part of MeetWeek, hosting an international workshop with the University of Barcelona and participating in two student-staff panel discussions.

ResearchMeet and TeachMeet

MeetWeek 2021 was a new event hosted in May 2021 by Ciara Reilly and Dr. Aimie Brennan in association with the STER (Student Teacher Educational Research) project. The aim was to encourage education students and teachers to come together to share practice and talk about their professional learning, research and development. This took the shape of two informal sharing events: TeachMeet and a ResearchMeet.

The TeachMeet was chaired by Ciara Reilly. Students and teachers from primary schools and institutions across Ireland made micro (5-7 minute) presentations on a variety of topics. These included the use of Lego for engaging learning in the classroom, a showcase of online tools for EAL teachers and an outline of process drama approaches in primary education.

The ResearchMeet was chaired by Dr. Aimie Brennan and attracted presenters from MIE, DCU and MIC. Presenters gave micro presentations of 10 minutes on a multitude of subjects. These included presentations on action research in game-based learning, research on the relationship between student teachers and cooperating teachers and an analysis of shared reading initiatives in a DEIS setting.

Maths Week

As with many events in this period, the MIE offerings for Maths Week went online. In September 2020, Breed Murphy and Sorcha Browne Byrne co-ordinated an initiative that posed a daily ‘Problem of the Day’ during Maths Week, and students and staff sent in their responses over email. Mark Joyce presented a webinar to the students on the overlap between maths and art, and students were invited to develop activities for an e-book, which was completed and distributed in January 2021. Sorcha Browne Byrne and Dr. Maja Haals Brosnan gave a webinar on culturally responsive mathematics education in the early years, which was recorded and is still used with students across different programmes and courses.



Webinars prove popular for primary school teachers

In spring 2021, members of staff from across the MIE teaching community contributed to a very successful series of 14 webinars for primary school teachers.

The series started with webinars from Dr. Claire Dunne on 'Ag labhairt, ag léamh, 's spraoi sa bhaile'. Picking up the baton, Ciara Reilly, Breed Murphy and Sorcha Browne Byrne presented two webinars on 'Embedding Digital Technologies in Primary Maths'. The series continued with additional webinars on 'Maths for the Senior Classes' with Breed Murphy and Sorcha Browne Byrne, 'Playful Literacy' by Clara Fiorentini and Sinéad Lambe, 'Dyslexia: the person and the practice' by Miriam Colum and Róisín Lowe, and 'PE as an agent for integration across the curriculum' by Dr. Suzy Macken. Ciara Reilly presented a digital technologies webinar series on 'Writing a school digital learning plan'.

Held in collaboration with Tralee, Clare, Monaghan and Navan Education Centres, more than 3,000 teachers attended these events online. The CPD team led by Dr. Gene Mehigan, epitomised the word teamwork and collaboration. The feedback and response to our webinar series has been superb and will act as a further catalyst for innovation.



In addition, over the academic year of 2020/2021, Clara Fiorentini of the Department of English presented a of webinars on Literacy, Early Childhood Education and Playful Pedagogies on behalf of MIE, the Literacy Association of Ireland, The Literacy Channel, Trinity College Dublin, the INTO, and Donegal, Navan, Carrick-On-Shannon Education Centres. Clara has continued to coordinate the social media and website administration for the Literacy Association of Ireland and she also launched Lenses into Learning, a guest feature post on her website that spans a variety of educational sectors and shares opinion pieces, recommendations and thematic articles to inspire conversation, development and learning.

Creative Arts Spring and Summer Schools

On Saturday, 27 February 2021, more than 65 participants attended the Creative Arts Spring School, which is part of the PATH initiative. As part of this access programme, 13 virtual workshops are being provided by six colleges, namely, MIE, the National College of Art and Design, TCD, UCD, IADT and RCSI, over five Saturdays and participants will get a chance to experience and explore creative arts in its many different applications.

Dr. Suzy Macken led a Creative Dance workshop while our artist in residence, Mark Joyce gave a workshop on the history of mixing colour. During the workshops Louise Condon and a number of our students were on hand to engage with the participants and answer their questions about studying at MIE. In June 2021, Dr. Suzy Macken, Mark Joyce, Dr. Maja Haals Brosnan and Louise Condon participated in CASS, the Creative Arts Summer School 2021, again under PATH.

Clara Fiorentini,
Department of English

Movember support

The Virtual Movember Concert was organised by Dr. Suzy Macken, Dr. Máire Nuinseann, Dr. Aimie Brennan, Dr. Alison Egan, Ciara Reilly and Breed Murphy. Prof Teresa O'Doherty opened the event and Dr. Suzy Macken was the M.C. for the night. The concert supported the Movember campaign organised by Conor Cronin (RIP), brother of one of MIE's students on the B.Ed. programme.



FÉILTE–Teaching Council Festival of Education in Teaching and Learning Excellence

The FÉILTE festival took place on 3 October 2020 and this year included students from MIE who presented their dissertation research. Supported by Dr. Aimie Brennan, B.Ed. graduates Mikayla Hamill, Sarah Enright, Catherine White, Aisling McBride and Laura Curtis presented research posters at the StudentMeetBooth at FÉILTE. Their posters are available to view on the Teaching Council and in the Nagle Rice building.

Lisa Plunkett, a PME graduate and NQT in Our Lady Immaculate SNS Darndale joined the StudentMeet panel as the primary NQT representative. The theme of the discussion was 'From lecture room to the classroom: how research enhances practice across the teaching continuum'. Lisa spoke eloquently about applying her research on sports and movement to her work in the primary classroom during Covid-19. More than 2000 people attended the virtual event, and the students did a wonderful job presenting their research.



Wellness Initiatives

Rolling lockdowns, isolation and anxiety about the global pandemic can take quite the toll on mental health. MIE responded with a series of wellbeing initiatives including lectures, classes on physical exercise and encouraging students to articulate their thoughts about the pandemic and the resulting changes to their circumstances.

Time out to recharge

During the academic year 2020/2021, we recognised that staff were fatigued by lockdown restrictions and not being able to engage with friends, family and loved ones as they would wish. Against this backdrop, they continued to demonstrate a tremendous work ethic and willingness to engage. To help people carve out the time to unwind, Reading Week in spring of 2021 was designated a 'twilight period' with no formal meetings. In addition, MIE awarded staff an extra day's annual leave to be taken during the week beginning 15 February 2021.



Keeping Well

Our heartfelt thanks to the Wellness Committee – Sinéad Lambe, Breed Murphy and Dr. Suzy Macken – who supported the entire MIE community with resources, information and initiatives, everything from skincare to photography to Masterchef. Take a bow.

Keeping Fit

To help keep everyone moving, the Students' Union hosted free Keep Fit classes, on Wednesday evenings at 7pm.

Managing Stress

In January 2021 the Registrar's Office organised wellbeing lectures on Zoom that were open to staff and students. Speakers included Dr. Jennifer Wilson Ó Raghallaigh, the Principal Clinical Psychologist at Beaumont Hospital, who talked about Stress First Aid, an approach she uses in her work.

Talking about grief

COVID-19: Coping with Grief and Loss was the topic of a talk in March 2021 to MEI by Breffni McGuinness, a National Bereavement Development Specialist with the Irish Hospice Foundation. The will looked at coping with loss and grief especially during COVID-19 and focused on different types of loss and what is involved in the grieving process. Breffni also looked at providing effective support to someone who is grieving, and how to take care of yourself if you are coping with loss.



Shine a Light

Students and staff were sent blank postcards and asked to write or draw what was sustaining them and giving them hope. Louise Condon and Robbie Irwin from the Registrar's Office, Dr. Aiveen Mullally and our artist in residence, Mark Joyce worked together to create this initiative as a way of connecting the MIE community together, and recognising what was sustaining us through the dark days of lockdown. Thanks to Louise Condon, Robbie Irwin, Dr. Aiveen Mullally and Dr. Gerry O'Connell for leading on this project.

Mindfulness at heart

Ena Morley designed a Mindfulness Programme for the Irish Heart Foundation (IHF), as part of the revision of the BizzyBreaks Programme for Primary Schools. It was launched on the IHF website. Ena's contribution comprised a dedicated section for Mindfulness and it also incorporated additional practices in the BizzyBreaks Booklet, alongside other physical activities.



International Activity

Invited expert to UN Special Rapporteur

In April 2021, Dr. Alison Egan was asked to participate as an invited expert to the UN Special Rapporteur thanks to her expertise on the 'Digitisation of Education'. Alison took part in a series of online workshops and a consultation report is published after each meeting. The topics under discussion by the invited experts include:

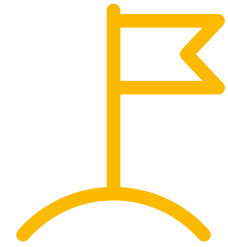
- ★ The role of technology in face-to-face and/or distance education.
- ★ Health impacts of the digitisation of education.
- ★ What should be the scope of a true digital education, allowing students to develop as citizens and not as mere consumers of digital tools?
- ★ Datafication, evaluation, and the issue of surveillance.
- ★ Privatisation of education systems and marketing practices through digitisation.
- ★ Digitisation, diversity of sources and cultural diversity.

EREBB Online Leadership Course

Dr. Aiveen Mullally ran and moderated the seventh and eight iterations of the EREBB Online Leadership Course. This course has been developed to support teachers, educators, leaders and those aspiring to leadership in Edmund Rice schools and educational communities globally to become advocates and proponents of inclusive and liberating education practices.

It is an interactive 20-hour course that participants can complete in their own time during a semester. In the academic year 2020/21, 61 participants from the global Edmund Rice School Network registered for the course.



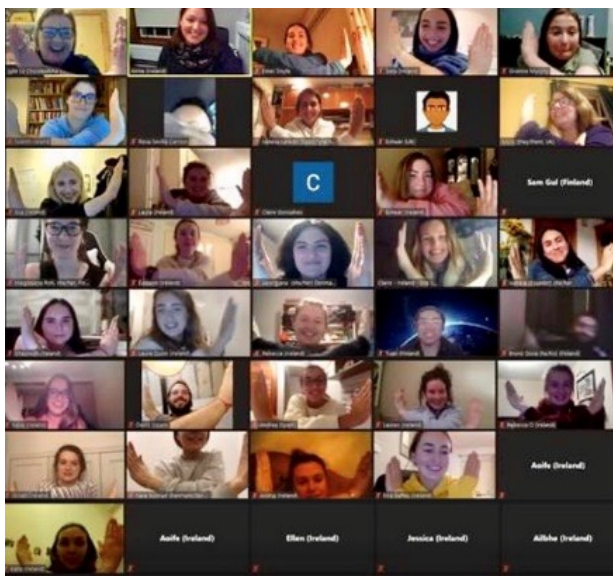


International Winter School

Led by Dr. Julie Uí Choistealbha and Dr. Aimie Brennan, ten 90-minute workshops were hosted with national and international speakers including: Joffy Connolly (Finland), Dr. Andrew Sherman (Ecuador) and Jennifer Shearman (UK), Dr. Julie Uí Choistealbha (MIE), Dr. Aimie Brennan (MIE), and Dr. Garret Campbell (Global Schoolroom).

Workshops focused on the themes of Professional Identity, Reflective Practice, Education Research and Collaborative Practice. Students had the opportunity to engage in international dialogue during the 'Student Connect' session and were encouraged to consider practice from various international perspectives.

Feedback from students was incredibly positive and attendance and engagement was excellent throughout. We hope that the Virtual International Winter School will be the first of many 'school' offerings in MIE.



Young Horticulturist of the Year

As Ireland Regional co-ordinator for the Chartered Institute of Horticulture's Young Horticulturist of the Year competition, Dr. Sandra Austin organised and hosted this year's Ireland final, held virtually for the first time via Zoom.

On 18 June 2021, eight competitors from across the island of Ireland competed to be Ireland's young horticulturist of the year, with a prize sponsored by Bord Bia and the opportunity to be Ireland's representative at the YHOY Grand Final at Logan Botanic Gardens, Scotland later in 2021.

MARINO Institute of Education
University of Dublin

MIE Virtual International Winter School
PROGRAMME OF EVENTS
2 - 13 November 2020

Building Your Professional Identity for the Classroom

Over the course of two weeks, we will host ten workshops on four themes relevant to 'Building your Professional Identity for the Classroom':

The winter school has been designed for students interested in exploring different cultures and obtaining a global view of teaching as part of their college experience. Staff will also have an opportunity to join the conversation in a 'Staff Connect' session.

Each session will provide opportunities for peer-learning with international student teachers in the form of Breakout-rooms, Polling, Kahoot, Flipgrid, Slido share, Padlet and pre-recorded videos.

We hope you enjoy the programme of events and make the most of the opportunity to connect with peers and colleagues working in different cultural contexts.

Hosted by **Dr Julie Uí Choistealbha and Dr Aimie Brennan**, Marino Institute of Education, Dublin, Ireland

Project Updates

T-REX – Teachers’ Research Exchange

T-Rex is an online network for teachers and researchers in education. Its aim is to support schools and Higher Education Institutions to access and sharing the latest insights from research at times and in places that suit them.

Dr. Alison Egan presented a National Forum final report in January 2021 and again at the final National Forum presentation day on 25 February in relation to MIE’s uptake of the Module Innovation Framework funding, used by two modules in MIE during the previous academic year.

DICE @ MIE

The DICE Project is a national initiative with a focus on embedding the development of education and intercultural education as essential elements of initial teacher education at primary level in Ireland. It is implemented by Dublin City University Institute of Education, Marino Institute of Education, Mary Immaculate College and the Froebel Department in Maynooth University.

In the academic year 2020/2021, DICE activities included a talk by Kathleen Lawrence, Traveller activist, with B.Ed. 1 students on ‘Human rights and cultural awareness’, a CPD session on the Global South given by lecturers from the DICE network to staff in Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and a series of workshops organised by DICE in association with the Institute for Anti-Racism and Black Studies on ‘Teaching about Race and Racism’ that was attended by MIE students.





TOBAR celebrates successes

The TOBAR project supports members of the Irish Travelling community to become teachers. Miriam Colum took over from Trevor Purtil as Project coordinator and began this new role in December 2020. Despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, the TOBAR programme at Marino Institute of Education (MIE) remained resilient.

Throughout the academic year 2020/21, there were many reasons for celebration. Our first two TOBAR students finished up their initial teacher education studies. One student from MIE successfully completed her examinations and she has taken up employment in a Gaelscoil. Another student graduated as a post primary school teacher from NUI Maynooth and started work at the end of August.

We remain in contact with these newly qualified teachers and support them in their new roles. Two new students started the Professional Master in Education programme in September and were able to come on to campus as the restrictions began to ease. Another student has progressed into year two of the PME programme. Both Miriam and a student on the programme published an article providing insights into life during the pandemic that highlighted how the MIE community rallied round in very different and difficult times.

Titled 'Conversations on Covid-19: a viewpoint on care, connections and culture during the pandemic from a teacher educator and an Irish Traveller' this paper is available on open access at:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03323315.2021.1916560>

TOBAR has begun conversations with the Higher Education Authority and partners around PATH 1, Phase two, which will move the project into a new and exciting space.

EKT Erasmus + Project

Dr. Alison Egan continued to work on the Educational Knowledge Transfer funded project throughout 20/21 and presented on the results of Phase I at ESAI and SITE conferences in the past year. The project website can be accessed at <https://ektproject.eu/>.

Phase I of the project concentrated on documentary analysis of the various approaches to school placement in each project partner country. This analysis was conducted with a view to creation of a shared online school placement platform that will support staff and students no matter their location. The EKT platform will mediate all communications and provide a 'shared space' for all members of the teaching placement 'triad', including university tutors, students and school mentors.

Phase II of the project will concentrate on rollout of the EKT platform to those involved in the pilot phase of the project. MIE is tasked with evaluation of all phases of the project, and Dr. Alison Egan continues to report on this at quarterly international project meetings. The project has been somewhat impacted by Covid, where no in-person meetings have been held since January 2020, in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

However, the project continues at pace and project deliverables have been met, throughout 20/21 academic year.



Migrant Teacher Project

Forty teachers from 28 different countries around the world graduated from the second Bridging Programme, at a graduation ceremony which was held remotely on 8 December 2020. This hybrid event was the first of its kind for Marino Institute of Education.

The Graduation was hosted in Marino, in a socially distanced fashion, by the President, Professor Teresa O'Doherty, Head of Department, Dr. Rory McDaid and MTP Project Manager, Dr. Garret Campbell, with special guest Minister Norma Foley, Minister for Education and Skills and the graduates 'zooming' into the event.

Amel Benfriha, originally from Algeria and now working as a PE teacher in Ardgillen Community College, Balbriggan in Dublin addressed the gathering, saying:

"The programme is so beneficial and also a great source of information for getting teaching jobs in Ireland. I advise all the teachers who are taking part in the program this year to take advantage and learn more about the Irish education system. I believe that the program is a great opportunity for all the teachers who graduated abroad to start their teaching career in Ireland."

The 2020/2021 Bridging Programme was the third of its kind, and by completion in June 2021 saw graduate numbers grow to almost 120. Interest in this programme was unprecedented with over 1200 requests for information coming to the MTP

Office. 48 Migrant Teachers were successful in their application. These successful applicants represent 34 different countries throughout the world and are all qualified teachers who now want to re-start their career in their new home.

As the 2020/2021 Bridging Programme drew to a close, 10 teachers from the group notified us to let us know that they had been successful in obtaining a teaching job for next school year.

The MTP launched a formal School Network to offer support to Migrant Teachers as they seek school experience and employment, and to schools, as they both support Migrant Teachers and challenge the prevailing cultural barriers experienced by these teachers.

An external audit of The Migrant Teacher Project, by the Department of Justice and Equality Audit team, on behalf of the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), commenced in late 2020 and was completed in January 2021. It was recognised by the auditor that significant progress had been made by the project despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, and the work of the team was commended.



**Minister Norma Foley,
Minister for Education and Skills**



**Minister Roderic O'Gorman,
Minister for Children, Equality, Disability,
Integration and Youth.**

LeCoLe – Learners as Co-Creators of their own Learning

Dr. Aimie Brennan and Dr. Colleen Horn successfully secured funding for a new project called “Learners as Co-Creators of their own Learning” (LeCoLe) as part of an international consortium of partners.

The aim is to explore the experience and best practice of partner countries in supporting active engagement of learners (both students and teachers) in planning, implementation and evaluation of the learning process for them to become co-creators of their own learning within a collaborative learning process.

The 29-month project, which is co-funded by Erasmus+ projects, is co-ordinated by the National Education Content Centre (Latvia), with partners from Marino Institute of Education (Ireland), Education Development Center (Latvia); the Ministry of Education and Science (Portugal), the European Education & Learning Institute (Greece) and the University of Iceland (Iceland).

The project team met several times throughout 2020 to advance work on developing educational outputs. The MIE team will lead on the production of a Podcast series “Learners as Co-creators of Their Own Learning” which aim to increase knowledge and understanding of multiple modes of instruction and learning that support active engagement of learners in the learning process and different contexts.

The project will also produce a digital archive on co-creation in teaching-learning process in and outside the classroom and will include at least five instructional videos or podcasts accompanied by an instructional toolkit. The archive will be shared with educators across the world.

Erasmus+ Research Project: Supporting Inclusion and Diversity in Teaching (SiDiT)

Miriam Colum, Dr. Aiveen Mullally, Dr. Maja Haals Brosnan and Sorcha Browne Byrne are collaborating on a three year Erasmus+ research project with European partners from Italy, Greece, Croatia and Belgium.

The SiDiT project is providing resources and training opportunities to teachers across Europe to encourage their engagement with more inclusive teaching particularly with students with a migrant background. See <https://www.siditproject.eu/> for more information.

Literacy and phonological awareness

Dr. Jennifer O’Sullivan of the Department of English received a Fulbright Scholar Award in 2021. She is the president of the Literacy Association of Ireland (Nov 2020–Nov 2021) and is a member of the Research Steering Group of the Federation of European Literacy Associations (FELA). This year also saw the publication of her phonological awareness programme A Sound Beginning for Reading (Dublin: CJ Fallons) which emerged from her doctoral studies.

Jennifer has been involved in numerous webinars between Sept 2020 and July 2021 on behalf of both the Literacy Association of Ireland and Education Centres throughout the country. She has presented at the ESAI conference on ‘Phonemic Awareness and Early Reading Interventions’ and has been interviewed by Dr. Seán Delaney for his popular podcast Inside Education. This year Jennifer also secured a grant of €15,000 from Enterprise Ireland to examine the feasibility of developing a digital early literacy screening and monitoring tool.

Leabhair is oideachas i rith COVID-19

Dr. Marie Whelton of Roinn na Gaeilge was Guest Editor of and contributor to a special issue of the peer-reviewed journal, *COMHARTaighde* which was published online (<https://comhartaighde.ie/eagrain/6/>). A book for children, *Dún Do Shúile* (<https://comhar.ie/leabhair/dun-do-shuile/>), which she wrote in association with illustrator, Frank Endersby, was published in 2021 and positively reviewed by Children's Books Ireland.

As chairperson of *Coiste Comhairleach na nEaspag um an Liotúirge i nGaeilge*, in 2021 Marie was invited to co-ordinate a collaboration with The National Bible Society of Ireland to publish a study-size Irish-Language Bible and that work is ongoing. Other highlights of 2020-2021 for Marie were teaching on, and co-planning with lecturers on the *Baitsiléir san Oideachas Trí Mheán na Gaeilge* and working to ensure that S.C.G./ O.C.G. candidates were able to undertake the Irish-Language Requirement during the pandemic.

Student surveys

The Student Survey ran from 8 – 28 February 2021 and was open to all 1st and 4th year undergraduates and to all postgraduate students. At the close of fieldwork 2021 we had a final response rate of 49.7%, which was the second highest response rate in the country. This is 8.7% higher than our response rate for 2020 and MIE was one of a small number of HEIs to achieve an increase in response rates in 2021.

Despite the upheaval of the last two years, the 2021 results of *Student Survey.ie* found that 93% of students in MIE said that if they could start over in college, they definitely or probably would go to Marino again. And the “supportive environment” indicator in 2021 jumped by almost five points (out of 60) on 2020, which confirms the way MIE as a community cares for our students and how students notice that.



Retirements and Appointments



Dr. Maja Haals Brosnan took over as Head of Department of Arts, Maths, PE and Early Childhood Education in September 2020.



Dr. Aimie Brennan became the Head of Department of Policy and Practice and Coordinator of the Masters in Education Programmes in June 2021.



Dr. Anne Ryan availed of a career break for 2020-2021 and **Dr. Aiveen Mullally** was appointed Acting Head of Department of Inclusion, Religious Education and Student Life in September 2020.



On the retirement of Craig Larnar, **Cian Mackey** was appointed CFO and VP Professional Services in November 2020.



On the retirement of Niall O'Neill in November 2020, we welcomed **Róisín Sullivan** as Director of Human Resources.

Retirements

It was with great sadness that we also had to say goodbye to a number of our colleagues who retired during 2020–2021. Mr. Craig Lerner, CFO and VP Professional Services and Mr. Niall O’Neill, HR Manager retired in November 2020. Craig joined MIE on 1 May, 2001 and Niall joined in 2005.

Other retiring colleagues were Irene Kelly who joined the MIE Registry Team in 1999, and who contributed latterly in the Education Office, and Dr. Anne Ryan who joined MIE in September 2004 and who lead the development of special education and inclusion programmes on our undergraduate programmes. Both Anne and Irene retired in Summer 2021.

Each of our colleagues contributed generously to the life and activity of the Institute will be sadly missed. While we were unable to give them the send-off we would have liked due to COVID-19 restrictions, the staff, both as a team and individually, ensured that each of them was fully aware of how much they will be missed.

Graduations

Due to COVID-19 commencements were not held in December 2020. Rather MIE held an appreciation event on line and honoured all the graduands, marking their completion of their studies. In addition the following awards were made:

Alumni Awards were presented to Dr. Máire O’Keefe and Aoife Nic Mhánais.

Award	Recipient
Carlisle & Blake Award, Presented by the Department of Education	Kayleigh Mooney, B.Ed 4
Vere Foster Medal, presented by the INTO	Ciara Niamh Lane, B.Ed 4 Neasa Byrd, PME 2
College Gold medal	Amy Cassidy (B.Sc. Ed St) Rachel Keane (B.Ed) Katie-Jayne O’Neill (B.Ed.) Miriam Reidy (B.Sc. ECE) Courtney Shaw B.Sc. (ECE)
Gradam na Gaeilge	Paul Brennan (B.Ed 4) Holly Anne Feeney (B.Ed 4)
An Chéad Áit sa Ghaeilge	Jeanette Kiernan (B.Ed 4)
Plunkett Nolan Award	Courtney Shaw (BSc. ECE)
Edmund Rice Award	Christopher Dyas (BSc Ed St)
An Bonn Ealaíon	Shauna Cullen (B.Ed)



INSTITIÚID OIDEACHAIS ★
★
MARINO

An Associated College of
Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION



An Associated College of
Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

MAIN RECEPTION

01 805 7700

ADMISSIONS OFFICE

01 805 7742 | admissions@mie.ie

ACCESS OFFICE

01 805 7752 | access@mie.ie

f [marinoinstituteofeducation](#)
t [@MarinoInstitute](#)
in [marino-institute-of-education](#)

www.mie.ie

www.tcd.ie

CAMPUS ACCOMMODATION

01 254 2248
mie@eber.life

Degree and Diploma courses offered by
Marino Institute of Education are accredited by
Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin.



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



MIE PRESIDENT'S
ANNUAL REPORT
2020 – 2021

