

2007

ICOS ANNUAL REPORT



Irish Council for
International Students





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MISSION

The Irish Council for International Students (ICOS) is an independent, non-profit network of educational institutions, NGOs and individuals interested in international education and working with Government and other agencies to promote good policies and best practice in relation to the recruitment, access and support of international students in Irish education.

Vision

ICOS vision is that all international students who come to study in Ireland achieve their educational aims and are valued and treated equitably by the institutions that host them and by the wider society in which they live and work.

Values

ICOS values education as a fundamental human right and believes that international education contributes to global socio-economic development and intercultural understanding. ICOS, working in partnership with other actors including Government, particularly believes in working to achieve access to Irish education services for students from countries where opportunities for further education are least available.

Key Aims

1. Promoting the rights and entitlements of international students;
2. Promoting best practice and professional standards in the quality of service offered to international students in Irish educational institutions;
3. Promoting awareness of the role of international education in contributing to global understanding and human development.

ICOS receives financial support from Irish Aid towards the provision of a range of services related to the implementation of the Fellowship Training Programme.



FOREWORD

2007 was a busy and successful year for ICOS with steady progress and achievement under all our objectives. Undoubtedly, one of the highlights of the year was ICOS' international students' forum, "Diverse Voices", held in UCC in November and attended by over 130 international and Irish students from higher education institutions across the country. A report of the forum's proceedings is available on ICOS' website and provides some useful insights on the subject of the integration of home and international students on campus.

ICOS' training and information services were also busier than ever in 2007 with delivery of over 25 separate courses/information workshops to staff and students of member institutions. There was a particular demand during the year to respond to the information needs of Careers Offices in the context of the publication, in February 2007, of the Employment Permits Act(2006). Working rights of non-EEA students and graduates remained the dominant theme from a policy perspective and was the subject of representations by ICOS to various government departments during the year.

Meanwhile, throughout 2007, ICOS continued to provide a broad range of support services to Irish Aid in relation to the management of the Fellowship Training Programme (FTP). Fellowship Programme support is ICOS' key activity and the organisation was pleased, at the end of 2007, to receive an extension of its contract with Irish Aid to the end of 2008. A new dimension of ICOS' activity in the context of management of the FTP was the conduct of a research project on the longer term impact of the fellowship on individual fellows'

career development. The finding that 87% of the returned study fellows who were surveyed felt that the programme was meeting its aim and making a contribution to capacity building in Ireland's partner countries was encouraging and confirmed a similar finding in Irish Aid's external review of the programme released in October, 2007.

ICOS' solid achievements in 2007 are built on a strengthened organisation. ICOS welcomed three new institutional members in 2007 and the Board was reinvigorated with the election of 7 new member representatives at its AGM in June. Many individuals contributed to the work of the organisation over the year and we thank them all especially our small but dedicated staff team and member representatives from a wide range of institutions and student organisations who served on committees and working groups and assisted with events.

Thank you for reading our report and we look forward to your continuing support and interest as ICOS embraces new challenges over the years ahead.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip Curtis".

Philip Curtis,
Chair



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila Power".

Sheila Power,
Director

INTRODUCTION

ICOS' work is guided by objectives as laid out in its Strategic Framework (2006-08) and this involves activity under 5 headings as follows

- 1 Building ICOS' influence and profile on policy issues related to the rights and welfare of international students
- 2 Responding to the need for professional development in the sector through training and information services for staff working with international students
- 3 Working with international students and their representative associations to ensure the students' voice is heard
- 4 Management of components of the Fellowship Training Programme (FTP) for Irish Aid
- 5 Governance & Organisation

Building ICOS' influence and profile on policy issues related to the rights and welfare of international students

Working Rights of non-EEA students

Working rights of non-EEA students and graduates remained a key policy focus for ICOS in 2007 as it had done in 2006. While ICOS welcomed the Third Level Graduate Scheme in February, 07, members were very concerned about the lack of information on the Government's plans for the introduction of work permits for non-EEA students. The issue of the status of students on internships and work placements also absorbed a lot of ICOS' time and was the subject of many communications between ICOS and various government departments and agencies as well the main subject of discussion at the two policy action group meetings which were held during the year (March & October).

ICOS and the GNIB

A positive achievement for ICOS during 2007 was the establishment and maintenance of a good working relationship with the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB). This meant that ICOS was able to assist members in some individual student registration cases but also able to clarify some procedural and policy issues. In turn, the GNIB consulted with ICOS on issues such as the introduction of Saturday opening times to facilitate students during peak registration periods.

Code of Practice on the Provision of Education to International Students

In 2007, ICOS, through the Director, continued to contribute to a working group engaged in putting together a Code of Practice for HE institutions involved in the provision of education to international students. The working group which was brought together under the auspices of the Irish Higher Education Quality Network (IHEQN) meets regularly and is composed of representatives from all key interests in international education including HECA, IUA, USI, HETAC, IUQB, Institutes of Technology and DIT. A first draft of the Code was completed towards the end of 2007 and was widely circulated before being discussed at a consultation seminar which was held in April 2008.

While ICOS welcomed the Third Level Graduate Scheme in February, 07, members were very concerned about the lack of information on the Government's plans for the introduction of work permits for non-EEA students



Responding to the need for professional development in the sector through training and information services for staff working with international students

Training

2007 saw considerable expansion in ICOS' training output as had been planned. In all, 16 courses were delivered to member institutions with most courses being either half-day or full-day programmes on intercultural awareness and communication skills but towards the end of 2007, ICOS also successfully developed and piloted a new course on Teaching & Learning in a Cross-Cultural environment. The growth in demand for this type of training from higher education institutions reflects the increasing internationalisation and diversity of Irish campuses.

In all, 215 people attended ICOS courses in 2007 and feedback was very positive :

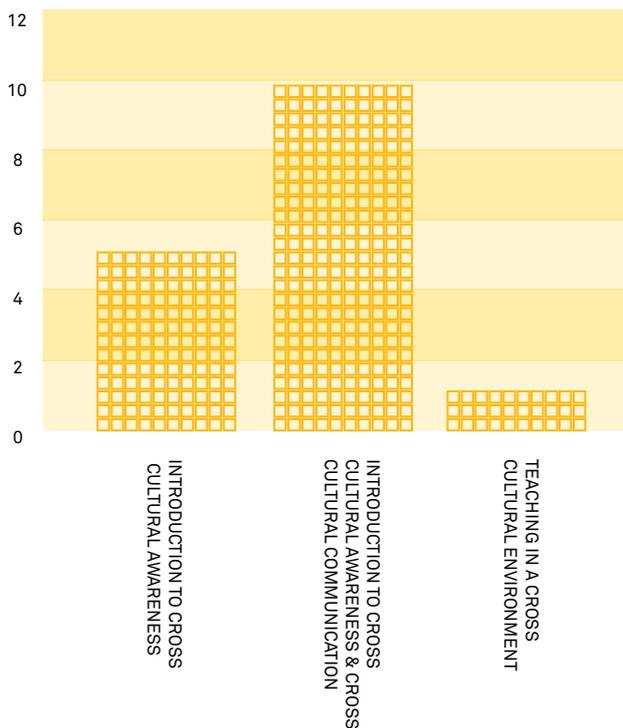
"I just wanted to thank [ICOS trainers] for an extremely stimulating and enjoyable day. I really feel that such cultural awareness training should be compulsory to all [college] staff (and, indeed to professionals in many other sectors of Irish society). Thanks again and keep up the good work."

Course participant

Participants on an ICOS training course



ICOS Training 2007: Breakdown by Course



ICOS also hosted a very well attended seminar on “Cultural Diversity on Campus – facilitating greater engagement between home and international students” which was held in June, 2007. The issue of integration of home and international students was also taken up at ICOS’ International Students’ Forum in November.

Information Services

Changes in employment law affecting non-EEA graduates as a result of the coming into force of the Employment Permits Act (2006) meant that there was a considerable increase in demand for specific information from ICOS regarding the new rules. As well as information provision through the website, ICOS responded to 10 requests to provide information sessions/workshops on employment matters to different groups including staff in Careers’ Offices and directly to international student groups in institutions.

ICOS’ e-bulletin service to members continued throughout 2007 with 6 issues. The bulletin is also sent to other interested individuals and groups resulting in an increased profile for the organisation.



Working with international students and their representative associations to ensure the students' voice is heard

International Students' Forum

The biggest action of the year was the planning and co-ordination of the International Students Forum which was held in UCC on November 17th. The 2007 forum, entitled "Diverse Voices: International Students in Irish Higher Education", was a great success and attracted over 130 participants, from 30 countries, studying at 20 different HEIs around the country.

A number of representatives from student groups such as Union of Students in Ireland (USI), FOSIS Ireland (Federation of Student Islamic Societies), the Erasmus Society Network (ESN) and officers from students' unions contributed to the planning meetings. From the beginning, it was decided that integration would be the key theme of the event.

Speakers on the day included Councillor Rotimi Adebari, former Mayor of Portlaoise Town Council, DCU PhD student, Ciarán Dunne, and USI President, Hamidreza Khodabakhshi. Workshops provided the opportunity for participants to reflect on and share their experiences of living and studying in Ireland. These experiences included overcoming the challenges and barriers to integration.

The forum received financial support from the Department of Education and Science and HEIs contributed by supporting some of their own international students to attend. Irish Aid supported the attendance of Study Fellows. A comprehensive report containing papers and findings from the forum is now available for download on the ICOS website.

"...studying in a diverse environment can offer tangible benefits to the individual and to the educational institution. However, if interaction between students is not taking place, those benefits, such as the improved ability to work in teams, improved leadership skills, improved critical thinking, greater cross-cultural competence, may not be realised"

Ciarán Dunne, DCU

Student Information Service

ICOS provides a largely web based information service for international students. Considerable redevelopment work on ICOS' website was completed in 2007. The site is now regularly updated and achieves a daily average of over 3,500 hits. In addition the office responded to 1438 individual student enquiries or an average of 120 enquiries per month up 14% from the previous year. Most questions related to funding for study while the balance had largely to do with admission procedures and immigration issues. There is a wide geographical spread of enquiries with most funding enquiries coming from African countries especially Uganda, Nigeria and Ethiopia and most admission enquiries coming from Pakistan and India. Accommodation was the most important issue for students from Europe. ICOS also had over 300 personal visits to the office by students. Most visits relate to fellowship management.





INTEGRATION



2007 FELLOWSHIP

Management of components of the Irish Aid Fellowship Training Programme (FTP)

ICOS' role on the Fellowship Training Programme

2007 marked the second and final year of implementation of a 2-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Foreign Affairs on the administration of the Irish Aid Fellowship Training Programme (FTP). This MOU confirms what has been in effect a long-standing relationship with Irish Aid and the administration of the FTP continues to be ICOS' core activity with a budget of close to €1.5m.

ICOS provided a range of services to the Fellowship Training Programme (Project and Non-Project related fellowships) including financial and fellowship administrative services.

Study Fellows' Perspective

An interim progress survey of Study Fellows found that the majority of Fellows were very positive about their experiences of studying in Ireland.

"The atmosphere of studying in Ireland is very good. Resources in terms of reading material are available and lecturers are ready and willing to support where you get a problem." Ugandan Fellow

"The study programme really matches my expectation because much focus has been geared towards rural development [in] which I work." Tanzanian Fellow

"Living and studying in Ireland is interesting given the cultural diversity of the country. There are so many nationalities at [my college] that one does not feel out of place. There is also much to learn about Irish people." Zambian Fellow



Institutional Perspective

The presence of Irish Aid Study Fellows in Irish higher education institutions brings a welcome diversity to the academic departments that host these students. The Irish Aid Fellows help to increase the visibility of the fellowship programme in Ireland and add a valuable dimension to the courses they participate in as outlined by some of the academics whose courses they have attended:

“The unique background and experience of each Irish Aid fellow participating on the Masters in Global Health programme in Trinity enriches the diversity of the class, reinforces the reality of an interconnected world and provides fresh perspectives on how to resolve the challenges of global health whether they be in high or low income regions of the world.” Dr Adebola Adedimeji, Course Co-ordinator, MSc in Global Health, Trinity College

“The support of Irish Aid for the participation of students from a range of developing countries in the Development Studies programmes in UCD is one of the most valuable and important aspects of our programmes. The significance of the benefits to

students on the programmes in terms of a diversity of perspectives on development related issues, the opportunity to engage with the lived experience of Irish Aid fellows, and the contribution to the internationalisation of the student body, is difficult to overstate.” Dr. Vincent Durac, Head of Subject (Development Studies), School of Politics and International Relations, UCD

“Irish Aid Study Fellows are a very important component of UCD’s Masters programme in World Heritage Management (WHM). The WHM programme is focussed on providing the training for people involved in the management and sustainable development of critical natural habitats and cultural landscapes worldwide. The Study Fellows contribute enormously to the global perspective of the WHM programme. The Fellows carry out research projects designed to tackle key problems in their home countries and the opportunity to share their experiences and insights creates a wonderful and diverse learning environment for all the participants on the WHM programme.” Dr Claire Cave, Masters Programme in World Heritage Management, UCD

“My training in Ireland has impacted at both sectoral and local level by improving the inspection process in schools in my unit as well as motivating other staff to take continuous local professional development.” Zambian Former Fellow

ICOS Pilot Fellowship Programme Impact Research Project

In a new development, ICOS began a pilot research project in 2007 on the long term impact of the fellowship programme on recipients. The first report for Irish Aid focused on Study Fellows, who arrived in Ireland in 2005 and looked at how their careers were progressing following their studies when they returned home.

Based on the responses of a sample of the 2005 cohort of Fellows who had been back in their home countries for a minimum of 6 months, the ICOS research showed that 87% of the surveyed group thought that the FTP had enabled them to contribute positively to capacity development in their countries. The research project is ongoing and aims to build a complete picture of the FTP's impact at individual and institutional/sectoral level.

Sample feedback from the Research Project:

“I was a senior family planning expert before taking the course. Now I am the National Family planning team leader. This means that I am coordinating the national reproductive health and family planning programme and working with different donors and national and international NGO's.” Ethiopian Former Fellow

“My training has led to positive changes in my career development. I have been promoted from post of Deputy Chief Administrative Officer to Chief Administrative Officer and I'm currently heading a district... In relation to poverty eradication, I have been sharing the knowledge gained (from my training

in Ireland) by contributing to income generating activities to the rural poor... My recommendations from [my] thesis/research on food security are being applied by government and non-governmental organizations, especially responses to drought, floods and disasters due to armed conflicts in this part of the country.” Ugandan Former Fellow

Fellowship Awards

ICOS managed 80 fellowships (new and continuing) in 2007. The number of fellows under our auspices varied depending on the academic year calendar and fellowship completion dates. A total of 39 and 25 new Fellows were awarded Irish Study Fellowships at the start of the 2006 and 2007 academic years respectively. The gender balance is still predominantly male but with rising numbers of female fellowship recipients annually.

Countries of Origin

2007 awardees were overwhelmingly from Irish Aid programme countries including Ethiopia, Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania and Vietnam. One student from Burundi received the Archbishop Courtney fellowship award.



Courses and Places of Study

The majority of Fellows undertake postgraduate courses at third level institutions in Ireland. Courses of study pursued by the new group of 2007 Study Fellows included:

- LLM/MSc Human Rights & Criminal Justice | Queens University Belfast & NUI Galway
- MA Education | University College Dublin
- MA Education (Special Education Needs) | University College Dublin
- MA Public Health | University College Dublin
- MA Sociology of Development & Globalisation | University College Cork
- Masters in Education (Educational Leadership and Management) | Trinity College Dublin
- MSc Agriculture (Environmental Resource Management) | University College Dublin
- MSc Agriculture (Rural Development) | University College Dublin
- MSc Development Studies | University College Dublin
- MSc Global Health | Trinity College Dublin
- MSc International Peace Studies | Trinity College Dublin
- MSc Technology and Learning | Trinity College Dublin
- MSc World Heritage Management | University College Dublin

Study Fellowships Administered by ICOS 2007

(excluding Kimmage DSC and Embassy administered in-country fellowship)

COUNTRY	DIT	DCU	NUIM	NUIG	TCD	UCC	UCD	NI	TOTAL
Burundi					2				2
D. R. Congo						1			1
Ethiopia		1			13	1	6		21
Lesotho		1	1						2
Palestine				2					2
Tanzania				1	2		7		10
Timor Leste						1	1		2
Uganda				1*	3		10		14
Vietnam							1		1
Zambia	8				3	1	13		25
TOTAL	8	2	1	4	23	4	38		80

2007 = Includes all Fellows in Ireland and Northern Ireland from Jan 1 – Dec 31.

* Course split between NUIG and Queen's University Belfast

Governance & Organisation

Membership

ICOS admitted 3 new institutional members at its 2007 AGM. The new members were the National College of Ireland, Milltown Institute and Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology. However, ICOS also lost one institutional member due to the amalgamation of Portobello College and DBS. One of ICOS' Church members, the Methodist Student Chaplaincy decided not to renew its membership. At the end of 2007, ICOS had 30 institutional members, 3 church/ngo members, 7 honorary individual members and 1 subscriber. In 2007, income from membership fees increased by just over 12.5% on the previous year.

Executive Committee

Philip Curtis continued in his position as Chair of ICOS' Council and Executive Committee during 2007. The Executive Committee was considerably strengthened in 2007 with the election/nomination of 7 new members. The Committee met 5 times during the year and a good attendance at meetings was achieved.

Staff

There was just one staff change in 2007 and some realignment of duties. Karen Mulchinock, Programme Officer, left the organisation in January and was replaced by Colin Tannam who was promoted. In June, Paul O'Keeffe joined ICOS to take up Colin's former duties as Programme Assistant. Meanwhile, Louise Staunton's job title changed from Student Officer to Programme Manager to reflect a broader range of responsibilities.

International

At international level, ICOS continues to maintain good contacts with both UKCOSA, the UK Council for International Education and EAIE, the European Association for International Education. ICOS sent two representatives to UKCOSA's Annual Conference in Manchester in July and also regularly avails of UKCOSA training courses for staff development. Meanwhile, the Director of ICOS' attended EAIE's Annual Conference which was held in Trondheim, Norway in September, 2007.

Summary of Accounts

Approved by the Board: 22nd May 2008

Auditors: BFC D Chartered Accountants, 1 Castlewood Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6.

Income	2007	2006
Irish Aid Administration Grant Received	384,699	366,398
Irish Aid Fellowship Programme Grant Received	1,482,744	1,492,990
Membership Subscriptions	26,209	21,815
Interest Received	3,686	2,681
Amortisation of Capital Grants	-	1,270
Training Income	9,088	3,065
International Student Forum Income	9,200	-
Other Income	655	9,188
Total	1,916,281	1,897,407

Expenditure

Employment Costs	337,612	312,056
Administration Costs	94,633	86,009
Fellowship Programme Expenses	1,482,744	1,492,990
Total	1,914,989	1,891,055
Surplus before Taxation	1,292	6,352
Tax on Surplus on Ordinary Activities	(1,010)	(670)
Surplus on Ordinary Activities after Tax	282	5,682

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 2007

	2007	2006
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	207,591	198,241
Current Assets		
Debtors	30,786	22,404
Cash at Bank and on Hand	147,226	267,079
Creditors		
Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	(179,283)	(281,686)
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	206,320	206,038
Capital and Reserves		
Revaluation Reserve	60,327	60,327
Income and Expenditure Account	145,993	145,711
Total	206,230	206,038

ICOS Executive Committee & Staff in 2007

Executive Committee

Chair

Mr Philip Curtis RCSI

Vice-Chair

Ms Mary Simpson Athlone Institute of Technology

Hon Treasurer

Ms Suzanne Buckley University College Cork

Members

Ms Anna Cunningham ¹	NUI Galway
Ms Sinead Cooke ¹	Waterford Institute of Technology
Dr Erik Lithander ¹	University College Dublin
Ms Alison Cooke ¹	NUI Maynooth
Mr Leo O'Brien ¹	Griffith College Dublin
Ms Genevieve Daly ¹	Dublin Business School
Mr Hamidreza Khodabakhshi ¹	USI
Ms Christine Houlahan ²	Irish School of Ecumenics
Ms Liza Kelly ²	Dublin Business School
Ms Marie Lawlor ²	University College Dublin
Rev William McLaren ²	Presbyterian Chaplaincy
Ms Ann Monahan ²	NUI Galway

Staff

Sheila Power	Director
Sue Heah	Office Administrator
Louise Staunton	Programme Manager
Colin Tannam	Programme Officer
Paul O'Keeffe	Programme Assistant
Ruary Martin	Financial Administrator
George Salib	Financial Assistant

Part Time / Temporary Assistants

Barbara Vasic

¹ New members of ICOS Executive Committee in 2007

² Retired from the ICOS Executive Committee in 2007

ICOS Council: Institutional Representatives and Individual Members | June 2007

Chair:	Mr Philip Curtis	Royal College of Surgeons
Vice-Chair:	Ms Mary Simpson	Athlone Institute of Technology
Hon Treasurer:	Ms Suzanne Buckley	University College Cork

Name of Representative	Position	Institution
Ms Kathleen Shehan	International Admissions Officer	American College
Ms Linda Murray	International Officer	Ashfield College, Dublin
Ms Mary Simpson *	Manager of International Office	Athlone Institute of Technology
Ms Celine Peignen	International Officer	Athlone Institute of Technology
Mr Robert Griffiths	Head of EFL Dept	Ballsbridge College of Further Education
Mr Peter Keogh	Deputy Director of EFL Dept	Ballsbridge College of Further Education
Ms Genevieve Daly *	Manager, International Office	Dublin Business School
Ms Tracy Power	Head of International Admissions	Dublin Business School
Ms Marie Heraughty	Head of International Affairs	Dublin City University
Ms Angela Mitchell	Student Services Officer	Dublin City University
Mr David Doyle	Academic Administration & Student Affairs Manager	Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology
Mr Michael Stewart	International Marketing Officer	Dundalk Institute Of Technology
Ms Mary Heffernan	International Officer	Dundalk Institute Of Technology
Ms Patricia Houston	International Officer	Dublin Institute Of Technology
Mr Eoin O' Brien	Director	English Language Institute
Mr Finbarr Kinsella	Director of Studies	English Language Institute
Mr Leo O'Brien *	Director of International Office	Griffith College Dublin
Ms Sally-Anne McIver	Manager of International Office	Griffith College Dublin
Mr Dennis D Murphy	Head Of School of Hotel & Catering	Galway - Mayo Institute Of Technology
Mr Mustafiz Gani	Youth coordinator	Islamic Society
Ms Fiona Canning	International Officer	Institute Of Technology Blanchardstown
Mr Padraic Cuffe	Academic Administrator	Institute Of Technology Sligo
Ms Eileen Curly	International Officer	Institute Of Technology Sligo
Mr Brian Burns	Director	International Study Institute Ireland
Ms Stella Browne	Administrative Officer	Institute Of Technology Tallaght
Mr Vincent Lennon	Head of Student Services	Institute Of Technology Tallaght
Ms Sinead Lucy	International Development Manager	Institute Of Technology Tralee

Name of Representative	Position	Institution
Mr Gerard O' Carroll	International Education Officer	Institute Of Technology Tralee
Ms Alison Cooke *	International Officer	NUI Maynooth
Ms Aoife Keogh	International Officer	NUI Maynooth
Ms Cecily Grant	Admissions Officer	National College of Art & Design
Ms Lisa Kilmartin	International Officer	National College of Ireland
Ms Nicola Carroll	External Marketing Officer	National College of Ireland
Professor Conleth Cunnane	Department of Eng. Hydrology	NUI Galway
Ms Anna Cunningham *	Director of International Affairs	NUI Galway
Dr. Thomas Grenham	Assoc. Dean of Student Affairs	Milltown Institute
Mr Brendan Gainey	Head of Business Development	Portobello College Dublin
Rev William McClaren	Student Chaplain	Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Mr Philip Curtis *	Head of Admissions & Student Services	Royal College of Surgeons
Ms Corriena Brien	Student Services Advisor	Royal College of Surgeons
Mr Phillip J Smyth	Director	Shannon Coll. of Hotel Management
Ms Tara Ryan	Development & Academic Services Manager	Shannon College of Hotel Management
Ms Carolann Bargary	Access Officer	Tipperary Institute
Ms Susan Philips	International Student Officer	Trinity College Dublin
Mr John Mc Partland	Director of International Office	Trinity College Dublin
Mr Peadar Hayes	Welfare Officer	Union of Students in Ireland
Mr Stephen Conlon *	Equality Officer	Union of Students in Ireland
Ms Suzanne Buckley *	International Student Officer	University College of Cork
Dr. Erik Lithander *	Director of International Strategy and Operations	University College of Dublin
Ms Carl Lusby	International Student Officer	University College of Dublin
Mr Liam Ó Dochartaigh	Director, International Division	University of Limerick
Ms Josephine Page	Manager, International Division	University of Limerick
Ms Sinéad Cooke *	International Affairs Manager	Waterford Institute of Technology

Individual Members

Ms Alice Grattan Esmonde
 Professor Brian McMurry
 Mr Don Niall
 Professor Louis Smith
 Mr John Magoye
 Mr James Vale
 Professor Eamonn Gallagher

* Denotes members of ICOS 2007/8 Executive Committee

ICOS Summary of Activities 2007

OBJECTIVES	MAIN ACTIVITIES
<p>1. Work closely with members and build profile of ICOS as a respected and authoritative voice on policy issues related to the rights and welfare of international students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ 2 meetings of policy action group ❑ Representations and discussions with various Government Depts. Most important issues in 2007 were <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - efforts to establish status of students on internships and workplacements - concern regarding the proposed introduction of work permits for non-EEA students ❑ Basis for dialogue between GNIB and ICOS established with first meeting planned for early 2008 ❑ On-going contribution to IHEQN working group on development of a Code of Practice for the pastoral care of international students
<p>2. ICOS should be visible to its members and respond to the need for professional development in the sector through tangible actions in the area of training and information services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Delivery of regular e-bulletin to members with 6 issues in 2007 ❑ Continued development of ICOS training programme with delivery of 16 courses to ICOS members and clients. Development and pilot of new course on Teaching & Learning in a cross-cultural environment. ❑ Delivery of 10 information sessions/workshops on employment of non-EEA students in the context of changes in regulations stemming from the Employment Permits Act (2006) which came into force in February, 2007 ❑ Seminar on “Managing Cultural Diversity on Campus” – June, 07 ❑ On-going response to information requests from members
<p>3. Work with international students and their representative associations to ensure that the students' voice is heard</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ International Students Forum held in UCC on 17 November, attended by 130 students (Irish and international) from 20 institutions. ❑ Web based information service – over 3,500 hits per day ❑ E-mail enquiry service for international students – 1438 individual enquiries responded to ❑ Support to students with problems with their institutions – on-going case work ❑ Support to students in difficulty – operation of small hardship fund
<p>4. Management of Fellowship Training Programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Successful delivery, within budget, of year-two commitments under terms of contract with Irish Aid ❑ Administration of 80 fellowship awards including processing of 62 new applications ❑ Travel, accommodation and insurance arrangements for all study fellows ❑ On-going welfare and support services to deal with illness, bereavements and other problems of study fellows ❑ Compilation and dissemination of list of approved courses
<p>5. Strengthen and secure the organisation's resources financial and otherwise through membership development, service contracts and service provision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ ICOS admits 3 new institutional members at its AGM ❑ ICOS Board strengthened with election of 7 new members ❑ Re-development work on ICOS' website and general upgrading of IT within ICOS including purchase of new server ❑ Income from training services more than doubled. Received DES financial support for Students' forum

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Designed by Tanika Design, www.tanikadesign.com

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Cover photograph and photographs on pages 10 and 12, by Alessandro Biavati, at ICOS' International Students' Forum in UCC in November, 2007



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