

FREE
Public
Event

UCD
FESTIVAL

Be Inspired

Saturday, 7 June 2025, 12 - 6 pm

Jump into a world of thinking, creating, innovating, discovering and fun making.

A free day of hands-on science, workshops, talks, debates, performances, tours, exhibitions, family fun and so much more.



Check out the full festival programme online at www.ucd.ie/festival #ucdfestival



intel Science & Innovation

Step into the Intel Science & Innovation Zone located in the O'Brien Centre for Science and unlock the limitless wonders of science!

Perfect for curious minds of all ages, this is your chance to dive into ground breaking research and witness the latest scientific marvels up close.

Get hands-on with our interactive exhibits and dynamic workshops that will ignite your curiosity and fuel your imagination. Explore Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Space, and Sustainability.

Don't miss this thrilling opportunity to glimpse the future of science and technology!

Look out for the real life scientists – who are also accomplished stiltwalkers – do simple science experiments with you.

Meet the brilliant BioBeo researchers who are pioneering innovative approaches to education on the circular economy across Europe.

Register
in advance
or drop by
on the day

Arts & Culture

There is plenty of arts and culture to appreciate at the UCD Festival, with various literary and cultural activities for attendees to enjoy.

Immerse yourself in the power of the spoken word at the Poetry Jukebox – just wind the handle and press play! The James Joyce Library and Newman Building will host poetry readings, workshops, faster lectures and exhibitions.

The programme of literary talks will feature exciting authors including Karl Geary, Jan Carson, UCD's Paul Perry, Sylvia Leatham, Páraic Kerrigan and writer-in-residence 2025 Annemarie Ni Chumreáin and authors Roisin O'Donnell, Claire Coughlan, and poet David Nash.

Explore Ireland's only Classical Museum dedicated to the art and material culture of the Ancient Mediterranean. 1 - 3 pm Newman Building Room K216.

Whether you're a literature enthusiast or simply looking to broaden your cultural horizons, there is something for everyone.

Welcome to UCD Festival 2025

I am delighted you could join us for this special celebration of innovation, exploration and discovery at UCD.

Whatever your age or interests, you will find something to excite and inspire you. I encourage you to explore the wonderful programme of events, workshops, performances and hands-on activities spanning music, poetry, literature, science and technology, history and sport. Enjoy this unique opportunity to meet some of the brightest minds in their fields, and to learn about the groundbreaking research that is taking place at UCD.

Here at UCD, we are committed to breaking boundaries of existing knowledge in our research, scholarship and innovation to make a difference and to deliver fundamental results on the important challenges in our world.

Our goal is to create a community that is dynamic, engaged, diverse, inclusive and welcoming for all. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to learn, grow and make a positive contribution to the world. Today's festival is our chance to showcase the ambitious work that our students, staff, and alumni are doing, and the excellence and societal impact of our UCD community.

Thank you to the 1,000 students, staff, alumni, sponsors and volunteers who are making today's festival possible.

I hope that you enjoy your day on our beautiful campus and that you leave feeling inspired and energised.

Best wishes,
Professor Orla Feely
UCD President



A Sensory Friendly Festival

The UCD Festival strives to create a more accessible Festival experience for our neurodiverse community. We hope you enjoy the day knowing we have your comfort and well-being in mind.

The Sensory Friendly area located in the Old UCD Student Centre will host activities and events in a comfortable, inclusive environment.

Icons on the UCD Festival map/programme will identify:

- 🎧 Sensory spaces with headphones.
- 🔊 Loud and busy areas with megaphones.
- ∞ Sensory Friendly events (listed below) with an infinity symbol.

Our Festival Volunteers and Content Providers will be available to support everyone including our neurodivergent attendees. Seek out those wearing the Neurodiversity Symbol.

There will be priority access at busy areas and food vendors, for those displaying a lanyard from: Neurodiversity Ireland, Hidden Disabilities, and/or AslAm.

If you are wondering what to expect on the day, refer to our Social Story (Visual Guide). Scan the QR code above.

Enjoy the festival knowing that we have your comfort and well-being in mind!

Family Fun

Get ready for a fabulous day of high octane fun with interactive events and activities that the kids will love!

Farm to Fest with UCD Lyons Farm – Don't miss this unique educational showcase on the grass in front of O'Reilly Hall! Meet goats, chickens, and lambs, see a self-driving tractor and crop robot, and discover how Ag, Food Science, and Vet students train and gain hands-on experience while the farm conducts important research, shaping the future of farming and food production. 12-6 pm, O'Reilly Hall Grass.

- Stop for a while and enjoy a game of Life Size Chess by the lake.
- Have you ever wondered how stress affects cyclists on the road? Hop onto one of our stationary bikes, put on a wristband and see firsthand what happens when something startles you while you cycle! 12-6pm Science Concourse.
- Join the UCD Sports and Fitness Centre team and work up a sweat at mini GAA Skillzone. 2-3pm Sport Zone Pitches.
- How high can you jump? How strong is your grip? Have your jump height, take-off and landing forces measured in real time using the OptoJump, then have your grip strength assessed with a DynaMo.

Inflatable Activity Challenge – Get your pulse racing with activity challenges in the inflatable playground in the sports zone.



Curious about Space...

Join us for a special showcase of UCD's latest Space research and innovations.

Stop by and meet some of the UCD students behind Ireland's first satellite EIRSAT-1 and pick up your passport to space. George Moore Auditorium Foyer: 12 - 6pm.

Interested in space, food and baking? We've got the perfect event - join Andrew Smyth, aerospace engineer and Great British Bake Off finalist, and Dr Niamh Shaw for a live demonstration. They will explore the surprising connections between everyday bakes and the extraordinary engineering that helps keep astronauts alive in space. O'Reilly Hall 12.30 - 1.15 pm.

Dr Aidan Crowley who solves some of the challenges of surviving on the Moon. George Moore Auditorium 3.30 - 4.15 pm.

Don't miss the chance to explore Space with the UCD C-Space team!



Medtronic Engineering & Technology

Are you curious about how things work? Well this is the zone for you!

It's all about hands-on fun and interactive learning at the Medtronic Engineering & Technology zone. Located in the O'Brien Centre for Science (12-6pm) it will be transformed into a wonderland for junior engineers, budding inventors and anyone curious about how stuff works.

Be inspired by the immersive showcase and a unique opportunity to connect with the Medtronic team, UCD engineers and innovators who are working on big challenges and making a real difference in the world!

Don't miss the UCD Innovation Academy MakerSpace showcase, where you can explore ideation and creative design techniques.

You might also get a chance to get a selfie with Pepper, UCD's Robot in Residence.

Engage
with experts
in AI, robotics,
and 3D
printing



The Main Event

Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear from one of Ireland's most inspiring voices.

Sinéad Burke is a writer, educator, and the founder of an organisation dedicated to designing a more accessible and equitable world with Disabled people at its heart.

In this thought-provoking conversation, Sinéad will be joined by journalist and UCD alumna Roe McDermott, as they explore activism, inclusive design, and the power of representation.

2.30pm O'Reilly Hall

This is a ticketed event. Register Now.

Mind & Body

Rejuvenate and recharge at the festival's Mind & Body Area in the Student Centre. Discover practical tips for enhancing your physical and mental well-being, activities you won't want to miss include;

- Kickstart your day with the Michael Byrne 'Old Man Belfield' Memorial Run, from 12-2 pm at the UCD Running Track.
- Capoeira workshop - this immersive experience introduces participants to the dynamic and vibrant world of capoeira, a Brazilian martial art that blends movement, music, and culture. From 1 - 3 pm in the Dramsoc Theatre, Student Centre.
- Learn how to stay Sun Smart and meet the Healthy UCD Team from 12-4 pm in the Student Centre Foyer.
- UCD Festival Silent Disco: Dance to your beat at the UCD Festival Silent Disco. 12-6 pm in the Red Room - Student Centre.
- Sensory Friendly Storytelling Session: Join Joe Brennan for a captivating Sensory Friendly Storytelling Session. 3.30 - 5.30 pm in the Student Centre Atrium.

For those needing a sensory break, escape to the Sensory Pod Bus, located at the Student Centre or the Sensory Space in the Student Centre Atrium.

Amgen Bio Tech Zone

Get ready to unleash your inner scientist at the Amgen Biotech Zone!

Dive into the groundbreaking world of biotech to explore the biology, technology and medicine making significant changes to healthcare, sustainability and so much more.

Go undercover with the DNA Detectives to combat crime at the 'Fight Crime with the Amgen DNA Detectives! Engage in the techniques used by forensic scientists to solve the mystery of stolen information from Amgen. 12 - 6 First Floor O'Brien Centre for Science.

Meet the researchers from Systems Biology Ireland to chat about the Science behind Medicine and hear about the work happening at Systems Biology Ireland.



Performance

Immerse yourself in the huge amount of music, dance and poetry taking place throughout the campus. Experience Japanese Taiko Drumming on the Main Stage in the Family Fun Zone at the UCD Running Track 12 - 12.30 pm.

For Opera lovers, we are excited about a collaboration with the Irish National Opera, all day in the UCD University Club.

- Don't miss a very special orchestral concert from the UCD Alumni Orchestra, performed by former members of the UCD Symphony Orchestra who have returned to Belfield from near and far for this special performance - 4.30 - 5.15 pm, UCD Astra Hall.
- SAOL Sisters' are back for some heartfelt songs at the Bandstand 1.30 - 2 pm.
- Take a trip down Memory Lane with UCD Staff Band at the Bandstand 12.30 - 1 pm.
- Don't miss the UCD Community Choir performance - 2.00 - 2.30 pm: Main Stage, UCD Running Track.



Discover Zone

Immerse yourself and explore the world of fun and interactive exhibits and workshops in the Discover zone. Journey to the past with the expert guidance of our UCD academics, students, and collaborators and learn about the fascinating world of archaeology.

Discover the wonders of sustainability in the new Greenacre Sustainability Hub, where you can learn about creative ways to reduce waste and promote a more sustainable lifestyle.

Hop on board the Festival Train to Greenacre, running regularly throughout the day. Check the festival map for Train Stop details. UCD Greenacre 12 - 6 pm.

The Discover Zone is a great way to have fun while learning about important topics related to our environment and ecosystem.



Food

Did someone say food?

There will be plenty of great food options available at the UCD Festival to keep everyone fuelled and happy!

Whether you're looking to grab a bite while exploring the campus or sit down for a family BBQ, there will be something for everyone.

The Pi Cafe, Blue Bird Cafe, and Gather and Gather in the Main Restaurant will be open and offer great options for a quick meal.

Our street food traders will be located in the Sport Zone – the perfect spot for some al fresco dining. Tuck into a mouthwatering mix of global flavours, with vendors serving up everything from crepes and poke bowls to corn dogs, Indian cuisine, Korean fried chicken, churros, pizza, and burritos.



Great food
no matter
what your
preference

Alumni Lounge

A big UCD welcome to all our alumni who have joined us for the UCD Festival. Join us in the Alumni Lounge at the UCD University Club from 12-6 pm. All alumni and their guests are welcome.

Take time to meet the UCD Alumni team in the Alumni Lounge, where you can chill out, join old classmates and enjoy a complimentary lunch.

We encourage you to share memories on social media using #ucdfestival



Register
in advance
or drop by
on the day!

UCD Festival Zones & Timetable

For more information on all these great events go to www.ucd.ie/festival

Medtronic Engineering & Technology Zone

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
12 - 6pm	Immersive Medtronic Showcase	First Floor Science Building
12 - 6pm	I-Form, the Research Ireland Centre for Advanced Manufacturing	Engineering & Tech zone
12 - 6pm	Muscle-controlled games for prosthesis control	Engineering & Tech zone
12 - 6pm	Engineering Make & Do Workshop	Engineering & Tech zone
12 - 6pm	Robotics Showcase	Engineering & Tech zone
12 - 6pm	Engineering Experiments & Research Display	Engineering & Tech zone
12 - 6pm	Bridge Building Workshop	Engineering & Tech zone
12 - 6pm	Architectural Drawing Workshop: From Imagination to Conceptualization	Engineering & Tech zone
12 - 6pm	See the Invisible with Schlieren	Engineering & Tech zone
12 - 6pm	Play with AI to Create a Landscape Vision	Engineering & Tech zone

Mind and Body Zone

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
12 - 1pm	Krafty Kids	Cafe Brava, Student Centre Atrium
12 - 6pm	Unleashing the Power of Performance Testing	Student Centre Foyer
12 - 6pm	Know Your Numbers!	Student Centre Foyer
12 - 6pm	Healthy UCD - Be Sun Smart	Student Centre Foyer
12 - 6pm	You Belong Here: UCD Inclusive Digital Map	Student Centre Atrium
12 - 6pm	Silent Disco	Red Room
12 - 6pm	Sensory Play and Movement	Ad Astra Room
12 - 6pm	Senco Sensory Bus	Student Centre
12 - 6pm	Sensory Room	Chaplaincy Room - Student Centre Atrium
1 - 2pm	Juanita's Big Problem	Student Centre Atrium
1 - 3pm	Capoeira	Dramsoc Theatre
3:30 - 5:30pm	Sensory Friendly Storytelling	Student Centre Atrium
4:30 - 5:15pm	UCD Alumni Orchestra	Astra Hall

Intel Science & Innovation Zone

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
12 - 12.45pm	Science on Stilts	In front of O'Brien Centre for Science
12 - 6pm	Intel Showcase	Science Concourse
12 - 6pm	VR Lab Demos	Third Floor Science
12 - 6pm	Learn about UCD Clinical Research Centre/Clinical Research Ireland	Science Concourse
12 - 6pm	Soil to Society	Science Concourse
12 - 6pm	Digital Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture	Science Concourse
12 - 6pm	Farm Safe, Play Safe	Science Concourse
12 - 6pm	Fluorescent LIGHTS, Digital CAMERAS, Cell ACTION	Science Concourse
12 - 6pm	Transformation Through Digital Technologies	Science Concourse
12 - 12.30pm 12.30 - 1pm 1 - 1.30pm 2.30 - 3pm 3 - 3.30pm 3.30 - 4pm	Vet for a Day!	Veterinary Science Centre
12 - 6pm	Skulls, Specimens & Slides - Exploring Veterinary Science	Veterinary Science Centre
12 - 6pm	UCD Innovation Academy - Ideation & Creation Station	Innovation Academy
12 - 6pm	Selfie with Pepper the Humanoid Robot	Innovation Academy
12 - 6pm	UCD Innovation Academy's MakerSpace Technology Showcase	Innovation Academy
12 - 6pm	UCD Innovation Academy MakerSpace VR Experience	Innovation Academy
12 - 6pm	Ireland's Maths Superwomen Exhibition	Innovation Academy
12 - 6pm	UCD Greenacre - Experiential Sustainability Hub	UCD Greenacre
12 - 6pm	Air Temperature and Air Quality in Dublin	Science Concourse
12 - 6pm	Keep calm and carry on cycling!	Science Concourse
12 - 6pm	Explore Plants for the Future	Science Concourse
12 - 6pm	Dynamic Earth	Science Concourse
12 - 6pm	Healthy Plate, Healthy Planet	Science Concourse
12 - 6pm	Passport to Space	George Moore Auditorium Foyer
12 - 6pm	BioBeo-BiOrbic Circular Bioeconomy Education	First Floor Science
12 - 6pm	SMARTlab XR	First Floor Science
3:30 - 4:15pm	Keeping Astronauts Alive on the Moon	George Moore Auditorium
4:30 - 5pm	Mission to the Moon- Part 3	George Moore Auditorium

* Information Point in Science - Located at the bottom of the Spiral Staircase

Festival Hub

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
12 - 1pm	Ceoltóirí Craobh Naithí	UCD University Club
12 - 3pm	Fighting Words Drop-In Story Zone	O'Reilly Hall Conservatory
12 - 4pm	Teddy Bear Care Centre	O'Reilly Hall Grass
12 - 6pm	UCD Alumni Lounge	UCD University Club
12 - 6pm	Meet UCD Lyons Farm Ewes & Lambs	Farm to Fest - O'Reilly Hall Grass
12 - 6pm	Meet UCD Lyons Farm Goat Herd	Farm to Fest - O'Reilly Hall Grass
12 - 6pm	Meet UCD Lyons Farm Chickens	Farm to Fest - O'Reilly Hall Grass
12 - 6pm	Learn about UCD Lyons Farm Dairy Cows & Milking	Farm to Fest - O'Reilly Hall Grass
12 - 6pm	View our UCD Crop Robot and Self-Driving Tractor	Farm to Fest - O'Reilly Hall Grass
12.30 - 1.15pm	Baking in Space	O'Reilly Hall
12.30 - 1.15pm	New Writing for 2025 with Roisin O'Donnell, Sylvia Leatham and Claire Coughlan	UCD TrapDoor
12.30 - 1.15pm 1.30 - 2.15pm 2.45 - 3.30pm 3.45 - 4.30pm 4.45 - 5.30pm	Irish National Opera presents Out of the Ordinary/As an nGnách	UCD University Club - Beech Suite
1.30 - 2.15pm	Shelf Analysis with Jan Carson and Paul Perry - moderator Rick O'Shea	O'Reilly Hall
1.30 - 2.15pm	Irish National Opera presents Out of the Ordinary/As an nGnách	UCD University Club - Beech Suite
2.30 - 3.15pm	An Audience with Sinéad Burke	O'Reilly Hall
3.45 - 4.30pm	Reeling In The Queers with Dr Páraic Kerrigan and moderator Chandrika Naryanan-Mohan	O'Reilly Hall
4.30 - 5.15pm	'The Unexpected Tide' - exploring the poetry of folklore and place	TrapDoor
4.45 - 5.30 pm	The Hollow City - Why Artists Can't Survive In Dublin in 2025	O'Reilly Hall

Culture Zone

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
12 - 4pm	Celebrate Print! Make your own Letterpress Poster	James Joyce Library
12 - 6pm	Poetry Jukebox	James Joyce Library
12 - 6pm	Chinese Cultural Experience	Confucius Building
12.30 - 1.15pm	New Writing for 2025 with Roisin O'Donnell, Sylvia Leatham and Claire Coughlan	UCD Trapdoor, Newman Building
12.30 - 4.30pm	Buskers Corner	Bandstand
12.45 - 1.15pm 1.25 - 2pm	Lunchtime Concert with two Community Orchestras	Access and Lifelong Learning Centre - James Joyce Library Building
1 - 3pm	UCD Classical Museum	Newman Building Room K216
1.30 - 2pm	SAOL Sisters	Bandstand
2 - 2.50pm	Juno and the Paycock: A Tragicomedy for the Irish Free State (Lifelong Learning Taster Lecture)	UCD Trapdoor, Newman Building
2.30 - 3pm	The ZoryAnna Tribal - Style Dancing	Bandstand
2.30 - 3.15pm	Science on Stilts	Library Concourse
2 - 4pm	UCD Access & Lifelong Learning Craft Café	ALL Centre - JJ Library Building
4 - 4.45pm	The Unexpected Tide - exploring the poetry of folklore and place	UCD Trapdoor, Newman Building
3.30 - 4.15pm	Céili	Bandstand
4.15 - 5pm	Beginner Jazz Class	Bandstand

Amgen Biotech Zone Print Programme

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
12 - 6pm	Fight Crime with the Amgen DNA Detectives!	First Floor Science
12 - 6pm	Master Micropipetting with Amgen	Science Concourse
12 - 6pm	Hands-on Chemistry	Science Concourse

Sports Zone

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
12 - 2pm	Michael Byrne 'Old Man Belfield' Fun Run	Running Track
12 - 5pm	UCD Festival Street Food	Sport Zone
12 - 5pm	UCD Bikes Lab	Sport Zone
12 - 6pm	Inflatable Fun	Sport Zone
2 - 3pm	GAA Skill Zone	Church Pitch

Discover Zone

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
12 - 1pm	Understanding Environmental and Sensory Influences on our Behaviours- a Marketing Perspective from Dr Suhas Vijayakumar	PwC Lecture Theatre
12 - 2pm	Chill Out Zone @ UCD Quinn School of Business	UCD Quinn School of Business
12 - 6pm	Interactive Archaeology	CEAMC site
12 - 6pm	Festival Train to the Centre for Experimental Archaeology	Pick up and Drop off near UCD Main Restaurant
12 - 6pm	UCD Greenacre Sustainability Hub	UCD Greenacre
1 - 1.45pm	Moneyball 2.0: The Next Evolution in Sports Analytics and Business Strategy - with Dr Mark Connor	PwC Lecture Theatre
1pm and 3pm	Sensory Walk to Centre for Experimental Archaeology	Muster Point at Train Stop

Family Fun Zone

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
11am - 12.45 pm	A Minecraft Movie (PG) Sensory Friendly Screening	UCD Cinema
12 - 12.30pm	Taiko Drummers	Mainstage UCD Running Track
12 - 2pm	Michael Byrne 'Old Man Belfield' Fun Run	Mainstage UCD Running Track
12 - 6pm	UCD Festival Carnival	Mainstage UCD Running Track
12.45 - 1.15pm	Family Yoga	Mainstage UCD Running Track
1.15 - 2pm	UCD Dance Soc Jazz Workshop	Mainstage UCD Running Track
2 - 2.30pm	UCD Community Choir	Mainstage UCD Running Track
1.30 - 3.10pm & 4 - 5.40pm	A Minecraft Movie (PG)	UCD Cinema
3 - 4pm	Juanita's Big Problem Circus Performance	Mainstage UCD Running Track
4 - 4.45pm	Ringsend Rock School	Mainstage UCD Running Track
5 - 6 pm	Dublin Rock Band - OverDub	Mainstage UCD Running Track

Thank You to our Partners and Supporters



Partners:

intel Medtronic AMGEN

Supporters:



Please note

Many of our talks, workshops and interactive events are available on a first come first served basis at the stated location, so please take your place 10 minutes early to help secure your place.

Please be aware that the UCD Festival events and activities will be photographed, filmed or recorded. By attending this event you consent to this material being used for University publicity purposes, through whatever media worldwide. If you do not wish for your image to appear in University materials and publications please visit the Information Tent to pick up a red sticker and wear it prominently.

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all activities. The festival can get busy so please keep a close eye on children. Be sure to get a Lost Child Wristband from one of our festival volunteers and complete it. These are an effective precautionary measure.

Map Key

	Dublin Bus Stop		Ice Cream Sellers
	Tours & Info		Benches
	Water Truck		Food
	Bike Parking		Sensory Spaces
	First Aid		Cinema
	Chessboard		Parking
	Food Truck		Entrance
	Café		Sensory Friendly Activities
	Shop		Loud / Noisy Areas
	Train		

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