

ATHLONE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT

2005/2006



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*This Report has been compiled and edited by the Director's Office and the
Quality Assurance Office, Athlone Institute of Technology*

MISSION STATEMENT

Athlone Institute of Technology aims to contribute to the technological, scientific, commercial, economic, industrial, social and cultural development of the State, with particular reference to the midland region, through the provision of a balanced education to the highest international standard founded in accessibility, mobility, collaborative links and research excellence.





CONTENTS

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT	3	6.0 FINANCIAL REPORT	26
1.0 DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION	4	6.1 Current Account	26
2.0 GOVERNANCE	6	6.2 Capital Account	26
2.1 Governing Body Members	6	7.0 INTERNATIONAL LINKS	27
2.2 Management and Senior Staff	7	7.1 Student Mobility	27
3.0 ACADEMIC STAFF AND STUDENT AFFAIRS	8	7.2 Staff Mobility	28
3.1 Academic Council Membership	8	8.0 MISCELLANEOUS	29
3.2 Academic Developments	8	8.1 Guests/Visiting Lecturers	29
3.2.1 General	8	8.2 Institute Events	30
3.2.2 School of Business	9	8.3 Artworks Purchased	32
3.2.3 School of Engineering	10	9.0 APPENDICES	33
3.2.4 School of Humanities	10	I Some major achievements of the	33
3.2.5 School of Science	11	institute's sports clubs	
3.3 Course Approvals	11	II Research projects which were successful	35
3.4 Courses Offered	12	in obtaining funding during the year	
3.5 External Examiners	12	III Audited accounts	39
3.5.1 External Examiners	12		
(for the Institute)			
3.5.2 External Examiners	12		
(from the Institute)			
3.6 Student Statistics	12		
3.7 Student Prizes/Special Awards	17		
3.8 Sports Activities	18		
3.9 Student Services	19		
4.0 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	21		
ACTIVITIES			
4.1 Development Activities	21		
4.2 Research Activities	22		
4.2.1 Research Programmes	22		
4.2.2 Research Collaborations	22		
4.3 Campus Development	22		
4.4 Safety and Facilities Management	23		
5.0 HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT	24		
5.1 Human Resources' Initiatives	24		
5.2 Staff Statistics	24		
5.2.1 Academic Support Appointments	25		
5.3 Staff Training and Development	25		
5.3.1 Staff Training and	25		
Development Fund			

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT



“ I was honoured by the Minister’s appointment in March and I very much look forward to working with AIT in my capacity as Chairman of the governing body. ”

As chairman of the governing body of Athlone Institute of Technology, it gives me great pleasure to present the annual report for the academic year 2005/2006.

I was honoured by the Minister’s appointment in March and I very much look forward to working with AIT in my capacity as Chairman of the governing body. Over the past 36 years, AIT has grown from a start-up enterprise to one of the leading third-level colleges in the country. Almost 5,500 students are registered at the Institute on programmes, which are designed and developed to support changing regional, national and international needs.

Athlone Institute of Technology has a strong tradition in research and this will be a crucial element in its continuing growth and development. AIT is a key stakeholder in the midlands’ infrastructure, not just as an educator of graduates for the jobs market, but as a driver of economic and industrial development. The continued expansion of research facilities at the Institute and the process of seeking delegation of authority at research levels will further enhance the reputation of AIT as a renowned institute of higher education.

The monitoring of progress under the 2003-2008 strategic plan continues within AIT, and a review of this plan has commenced within a framework towards preparing for the next several years. The

revision of the plan will recognise the changing needs of the region and the Irish economy and the imperative that Athlone Institute of Technology continues to contribute to the development of a knowledge-based economy. It is envisaged that research strategies will, once again, be identified as a significant driver for the future direction of the Institute

I look forward to working with AIT’s governing body, director, management, staff and students in the forthcoming academic year. My experience of Athlone Institute of Technology to date has been most positive and the management and staff are to be commended on their commitment and professional approach to the continuing success of the institute.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Breen'.

Paul Breen
Chairman



1.0 DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION



“AIT students’ achievements continue at a remarkable level, with numerous special awards obtained and competition success during the year.”



The present Annual Report covers the period from 1st September 2005 to 31st August 2006.

Once again I am delighted to report that this has been a most successful year for Athlone Institute of Technology, with both full-time and part-time student numbers increasing. Given the national decline in students at second-level and more robust competition in the third-level sector, this increase is a testament to the commitment of the staff of the institute and is acknowledgement of the regard in which AIT is held by students, parents and stakeholders. The continued success of the institute and its students is further supported by the Circa Report, published in May, which indicates that AIT's overall completion rates rose from 55.5% to 81.4% in the six years from 1999 to 2004. I am confident that over the coming years we can continue to move completion rates even higher.

The continued development and introduction of new programmes maintains the institute's status as a leader in innovation in higher education. Both the Higher Certificate in Science in Dental Nursing and the Higher Certificate in Science (Pharmacy Technician), which commenced in September 2005, are examples of this creativity and market-savvy. This year also saw the commencement of the

institute designed two-year part-time Master of Business Administration programme in the Business School. The participants will be the first to graduate with an AIT-awarded MBA, and the qualification will add significantly to the core of management expertise and competence within the midland region.

AIT students' achievements continue at a remarkable level, with numerous special awards obtained and competition success during the year. The support services provided to students are of an exceptionally high-level and this was further evidenced when the institute was awarded an O₂ Ability Award in February 2006 for best practice in the Customer Service Category. This year also marked the launch of the AIT Graduate Association in China, which took place in Shanghai in June.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr Cieran Temple, who retired as chairman of the institute's governing body in March, having held this post since the establishment of the governing body in 1993. Prior to this he was chairman of the board of management of Athlone Regional Technical College for the previous nine years. His dedication to the institute over this lengthy period in many ways contributed to shape the institute to what it

has become today. In behalf of the management and staff of AIT, I wish Cieran well in his retirement.

I also wish to welcome the new chairman of the governing body, Paul Breen. I believe that Paul will bring tremendous vision and energy to the institute, and that his appreciation of the needs of industry, the importance of research and development, the central role of higher education, and the particular dynamics of the BMW region will greatly support AIT's future development. I look forward to working with him in the years to come.

Finally I would like to thank the members of the Governing Body for their support and advice during the period of review and I also wish to extend my appreciation to the management team and all staff of the institute for their continued dedication and commitment.



Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin
Director



Dr Patrick Mulhern, Head of Development, AIT, receives the O₂ Ability Award for customer service from Frank Fahey, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. Also included are Caroline Casey, Founding CEO, The Aisling Foundation and Danuta Gray, CEO, O₂ Ireland.



Attending an event to mark the retirement of Cieran Temple, as chairman of the institute's governing body are Dr David Fenton, former-Director, AIT; Cieran Temple, guest of honour; Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin, Director, AIT; and James Coyle, former-Registrar, AIT.



2.0 GOVERNANCE

2.1 GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS

The composition of the Governing Body is determined by the Regional Technical Colleges Acts, 1992 and 1994.

Ex Officio Members as per section 4 of the 1992 Act

Cieran Temple [Chairperson, Section 2(a)]
(to February 2006)
Paul Breen [Chairperson, Section 2(a)]
(from March 2006)
Prof Ciarán Ó Catháin [Director, Section 2(b)]

Governing Body Member as per Section 4 of the 1994 Act

Under Section 4(1)(a)/(b)

Cllr Molly Buckley
Cllr Kitty Duignan
Cllr Nicky McFadden
Cllr Peggy Nolan
Cllr Joe Whelan
Cllr Bridie Willers

Under Section 4(1)(c)

Dr Mark Daly
Karen Leonard

Under Section 4(1)(d)

Peter McAleer

Under Section 4(1)(e)

Eoin Kiveney
Geraldine Killian

Under Section 4(1)(f)

Joseph La Cumbre

Under Section 4(1)(g)

Frank Conlon
Breda Crehan-Roche
Michael Gallagher
Dr Yvonne Kennedy
Willie Loughnane

Secretary to the Governing Body

John McKenna

2.2 MANAGEMENT AND SENIOR STAFF

The Institute has four schools: Business, Humanities, Engineering and Science, which in turn are further divided into departments to provide courses/programmes of study to students. Each School has a Head of School and relevant Heads of Department.

Director	Prof Ciarán Ó Catháin
Registrar	Dr Joseph Ryan
Secretary/Financial Controller	John McKenna
Head of Academic Development and Administration	Eoin Langan
Head of Development	Dr Patrick J Mulhern
Head of School of Business	John Cusack
Head of School of Engineering	Austin Hanley
Head of School of Humanities	Dr Marian Fitzgibbon
Head of School of Science	Dr Paul Tomkins
Head of Department of Adult and Continuing Education	Michael Tobin
Head of Department of Business and Management Studies	Peter Melinn (to February 2006) Alison Sheridan (acting, from February 2006)
Head of Department of Civil, Construction and Mineral Engineering	Fergal Sweeney
Head of Department of Engineering Trades	Kieran Heavin
Head of Department of Humanities	Owen Ross
Head of Department of Life and Physical Sciences (and Plastics and Polymer Engineering)	Dr Gertrude Taggart
Head of Department of Mechanical, Mechatronics, Software and Electronic Engineering	Marcus Rahilly
Head of Department of Nursing Studies and Health Sciences	Aideen O'Connor
Head of Department of Professional Accountancy, Financial Services and Business Computing	Sean Arthur/Padraig Keenan (acting, to February 2006) Peter Melinn (acting, from February 2006) John O'Hara
Head of Department of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Studies	Geraldine Carroll
Academic Administration and Student Affairs Manager	Gerard Connolly (acting)
Estates Manager	Helen Fitzsimons/Lorna Walsh
External Services Manager	Betty Buckley
Finance Manager	Alison Sheridan (to February 2006)
Human Resources Manager	Elizabeth Mellett (acting, to March 2006) Enda McGuane (acting, from March 2006)
Information Technology Manager	Pearse Murphy
International Student Manager	Mary Simpson
Librarian	Josephine Corkery
Communications and Marketing Manager	Brian Lynch
Student Services Manager	Patricia McTiernan



3.0 ACADEMIC STAFF AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Academic Council is the Statutory Body appointed by the Governing Body to assist in planning, co-ordinating, developing and overseeing the academic/educational activities of the Institute. The Academic Council, and its sub-committees, protect, maintain and develop academic standards throughout the Institute, and advise the Governing Body on all relevant matters relating to academic standards.

3.1 ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Ex Officio Members

Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin (Chairman), Dr Joseph Ryan (Secretary), Jo Corkery, John Cusack, Mary Doyle, Dr Marian Fitzgibbon, Austin Hanley, Eoin Langan, Brian Lynch, Pat McTiernan, Dr Pat Mulhern, Dr Paul Tomkins

Appointed/Nominated Members

JJ Curran, Dr Mark Daly, Brigid Delamere, Barry Donnelly, Dr Don Faller, Richie Hoare, Carmel Joyce, Ken Kinahan, Mary McDonnell, Kevin McLoughlin, Sean O'Cluaid, Aideen O'Connor, John O'Hara, Alison Sheridan, Dr Antoinette Sweeney, Fergal Sweeney

Student Representatives

James Costello, James Kennedy, Eoin Kiveney, Catherine Thompson

3.2 ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENTS

3.2.1 General

A new report published by the council of directors of the institutes of technology and the President of Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) in May, shows that Athlone Institute of Technology has one of the highest rates of students completing their programme of study, in the IoT sector. The report, which was prepared by the Circa Group, assesses completion rates for students taking full-time programmes of study in the institutes between 1999 and 2004. AIT's overall completion rate across all courses rose from 55.5% to 81.4% in the six years under review to 2004 and is 6 percentage points higher than the national average of 74.8%. When analysed at course level, AIT is also significantly ahead of the national average, with 77.9% and 91.7% of students completing certificates/diplomas and degrees respectively, relative to the national figures of 70.4% and 87.4%

The Department of Adult and Continuing Education, in conjunction with the School of Business, was awarded a tender by both FÁS and Enterprise Ireland (value €11,000) to deliver a six-week enterprise start-up programme, targeted at high performance start-up individuals. It is expected that the programme will be rolled out throughout the midlands.

In line with the determination of the governing body the executive commenced the process to implement flexible modes of delivery. A modularization working group was established and worked over a series of meetings to finalize a report that was presented to academic council. A number of presentations were made to the executive, senior management, staff, and students on the proposals and options.

Dr Jenny Moon, independent consultant and member of the University of Bournemouth, was invited to the institute for two days in February to deliver plenary sessions on module development and learning outcomes in the context of flexible modes of delivery. Dr Moon and the Dr Joseph Ryan, Registrar, also met with staff of each of the schools to answer questions in advance of the reconfiguration of courses to support modular delivery.

Professor Phil Race, Leeds Metropolitan University, presented the next phase of training to support flexible modes of delivery at the institute in March. Prof Race's brief was to offer assistance in the areas of learning, teaching to support learning, and especially on assessment and feedback. He presented two open repeated sessions to staff entitled 'Teaching to Make Learning Happen' and 'Making Assessment and Feedback Work'.

The director's office facilitated a meeting of local post-Leaving Certificate providers with institute senior staff to examine the scope for additional cooperation. The registrar chaired a subsequent meeting of a joint working group that identified synergies and agreed on the detail to inform a report to be submitted to the fuller group.

The institute conducted a series of information evenings about third-level education, entitled 'AIT All Aboard', which concentrated on towns in the Border, Midlands and Western (BMW) region. The campaign was aimed at secondary school students, parents, teachers and anyone interested in lifelong learning. Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin, Austin Hanley, Head of School of Engineering, and Mary Simpson, International Student Manager, visited universities in China in October. Mary Simpson also participated in the Enterprise Ireland Education Mission to Seoul, South Korea in October.

Professor Ó Catháin and Mary Simpson, International Student Manager, returned to China to visit partner universities and agent offices in June. They also took the opportunity during this visit to launch the Athlone Institute of Technology Graduate Association in China. A group of AIT graduates, who had returned to China attended the launch which took place in Shanghai.

Céline Peignen, International Office Co-ordinator, and Dr Harman Murtagh, Senior Lecturer, Business School, attended the NAFSA (the Association of International Educators) Conference in Montreal, Canada, in May. The theme of the conference, at which there were 7,400 accredited delegates from all over the world, was 'advancing our international commitment'.

The Institutes of Technology Bill 2006, which was published late in the academic year, proposes considerable changes which will see the transfer of a range of responsibilities relating to the

governance, funding and operations of the institute from the Department of Education and Science to the Higher Education Authority (HEA). The proposed legislation will enable AIT to respond much faster to changes in its environment and the institute's greater autonomy will enable it to contribute more meaningfully to the development of the midlands region, as set out in the mission statement.

3.2.2 School of Business

Twelve students commenced the AIT-developed executive MBA programme in September. These students will be the first students eligible to graduate with an MBA awarded by Athlone Institute of Technology.



Attending the Irish Accounting and Finance Association (IAFA) seminar at the institute, in May, are Peter Melinn, AIT; Professor John Burns, University of Dundee (guest speaker); John Cusack, Head of School of Business; and Antoinette Flynn, Chairperson, IAFA.

The School hosted a successful seminar on behalf of the Irish Accounting and Finance Association (IAFA). Distinguished lecturer and writer on accounting and finance matters, Professor John Burns, University of Dundee, spoke on the theme of 'Change in Management Accounting'. The event was very well attended with representatives from institutes of technology, universities, industry, banking, the public sector and management accounting practice present. The seminar was sponsored by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA).



3.2.3 School of Engineering

Professor Mike Ashby and Dr Helen McLachlan, Cambridge University, delivered a training course on the Cambridge Engineering Selector (CES) system to a number of staff members from the school. Gypsum Ireland used the plastering facilities at the East Campus for a training course for their technical staff. The company generously donated materials and goods to the value of €1,500 for use on the institute's plastering course. Joe O'Brien, school of engineering, had an article published in the Annual Extractive Industry Ireland Review entitled 'Irish Mining and Quarrying Society's educational links through Athlone Institute of Technology'.

3.2.4 School of Humanities

Student numbers for the department of adult and continuing education were maintained at a high level for the academic year. Trends have seen a shift from positive living/recreational programs to academic/professional programmes. The department will be delivering programmes at two outreach locations (Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim and Tullamore, Co Offaly) during this academic year. A one-day workshop on teaching large groups, conducted by Dr Phil Race, an eminent educationalist from Leeds University, was organised for cross-institute participants, by the school's teaching and learning committee to start the academic year.

The school arranged for a programme of staff-training for the purpose of recalibrating and further improving the services on offer to students. All school staff participated in workshops in the effective use of the library service to facilitate student's guidance in this vital dimension of learning. Staff also received instruction on how to make their notes available to students on the intranet. Both of these initiatives move towards improving the students' ability to function as autonomous learners while adjusting the traditional stance of the lecturer towards a more facilitative role.

Staff within the social studies area participated in a programme regarding teaching at master's level, which was delivered by Dr Clare Rigg, IT Tralee. In an effort to strengthen links between the

Department of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure and the hospitality and tourism industry, representatives from the industry were invited to visit the department in November.

Experts in the childcare field attended a meeting, with school and Department of Humanity staff, to discuss programme development in the area of crèche management. Agencies represented included the Health Service Executive (HSE), the Irish Preschool and Playgroup Association, the National Children's Nurseries Association and Westmeath County Childcare Committee, as well as a representative of private providers in the field. The school hosted a workshop for agency supervisors, who supervise social care students while on work placement (29 supervisors representing 18 social care sector agencies attended). The social studies academic staff also attended.

The department of adult and continuing education held two expert consultation panels during the year to discuss possible part-time programme developments in training, education and life long learning. Representatives attended from a number of agencies involved in adult education including Vocational Education Committees (VECs), Youthreach, the prison service, traveller associations, National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA), National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE), disability support organisations and adult lecturers. The department of adult and continuing education also hosted expert consultation panels regarding possible part-time programme developments in the area of applied addiction studies. There were 10 participating experts from all areas of the addiction services including the prison service, members of IAAAC, counselling services and addiction lecturers. A research supervision workshop, moderated by Dr Dan Remenyi, IT Consultant and Visiting Professor, TCD, took place in May. A number of school staff participated in this programme and five participants each from IT Carlow and Dundalk IT were also accommodated, in this first initiative of its kind.

3.2.5 School of Science

The school offered the Higher Certificate in Dental Nursing and the Higher Certificate in Pharmacy Technician programmes for the first time. Both were offered by direct admission for this year but will be administered through the CAO system for future applicants.

The Department of Life and Physical Sciences is part of a Belgium-led consortium that has been awarded Socrates funding to support student transfer in the area of instrumental methods validation: IP VALIM (Validation of Instruments and Methods).

A very successful conference for veterinary nursing students was held in January - believed to be the first such event in the country. Lectures and presentations were sponsored by a number of pharmaceutical companies and over 160 delegates attended.

Forty two candidates completed the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) Health and Safety course in the Institute. The successful candidates were presented with NISO certificates at an awards ceremony in the Prince of Wales, attended by Dr Sean Reidy who organised the course.

The State Laboratory donated a HP GC (Gas Chromatograph) with Autosampler and a number of integrators to the Department of Life and Physical Sciences. This machine has been located in the CNMR analytical laboratory.

A career planning seminar was organised for students registered on years 1 and 2 of the biotechnology, toxicology, pharmaceutical science, chemistry and biology programmes. The objective of the event was to make students aware, at an early stage in their training of future career opportunities. Two recent AIT science graduates were invited to address the students on their career experiences.

3.3 COURSE APPROVALS

The following courses were approved by the institute under delegation from the Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) during the year (levels indicated as per the national framework of qualifications):

- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Civil Engineering (L8)
- Bachelor of Arts in Applied Addiction Studies (L7), developed in conjunction with the Addiction Training Institute, ATI
- Higher Certificate in Arts in Applied Addiction Studies (L6), developed in conjunction with the Addiction Training Institute, ATI
- Higher Certificate in Business with Music and Instrument Technology (L6)
- Higher Certificate in Science (Pharmacy Technician) (L6)
- Higher Certificate in Science in Veterinary Assistant (L6)

The institute was accredited to run the Certificate in Personnel Practice, on behalf of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD), from September.

The institute also developed a level 5 programme, Certificate in Sport and Lifeskills (L5, FETAC), which will be offered through FÁS



Participants on the ILM-certified programme Customer Care Management, held at CBI@: front row: Anne Hanlon, Collette Donnelly, Brigid Kelly; middle row: Pat Kelly, Terry Harmer, trainer, Breda Lynch Manager, CBI@; back row: Seamus McManus, Stephen Curran and Gary Reynolds.





CBI® (Competitive Business Intelligence®, the business, management and IT training unit run by Athlone Institute of Technology, has been awarded certification for 12 of its short-term management training programmes by the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) in June. The programmes certified include the HR management, health and safety management and project management programmes offered by CBI®. This certification reflects the increasing level of professionalism required within industry and the need to have all training, especially short-term training, recognised by a professional body.

3.4 COURSES OFFERED

A list of all of the courses provided by Athlone Institute of Technology during the year is provided in the Institute's Prospectus, in the Institute's Adult and Continuing Education Programme Schedule, and on the Institute website.

3.5 EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

3.5.1 External Examiners (for the Institute)

External examiners are appointed in accordance with the Institute's 'Procedures and guidelines for the operation of the external examiner system for taught courses, validated by HETAC' as required under Section 23 of the Qualifications (Education and Training) Act, 1999.

3.5.2 External Examiners (from the Institute)

A number of the Institute's members of staff were appointed as External Examiners by the Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) and the Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) for the year.

3.6 STUDENT STATISTICS

Central Applications Office (CAO) Preferences

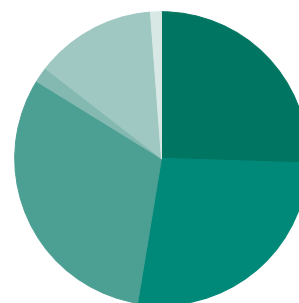
The Central Applications Office (CAO) processes applications centrally for admission to undergraduate courses in member institutions of third-level education. The statistics for entry to Athlone Institute of Technology in September 2005 were as follows:

All Preferences ¹	18,985
First Preferences ²	3,443
Acceptances (net) ³	994
Registered ⁴	905

- ¹ Total number of preference mentions of Athlone Institute of Technology in the total CAO preference list.
- ² Number of CAO applicants ranking a course at Athlone Institute of Technology as their first choice.
- ³ The number of acceptances of CAO offers for a place at Athlone Institute of Technology that are not superceded by an offer elsewhere.
- ⁴ The number of students offered a place at Athlone Institute of Technology by the CAO who actually took up their place at the Institute.

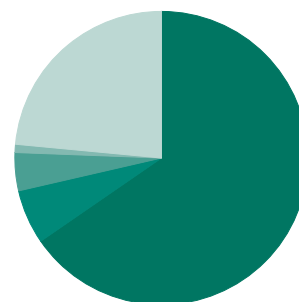
Number of Full-time Students Registered (by Course Level) as at 31 January 2006

Course Level	No of Students	%
Higher Certificate	1,065	25.5
Ordinary Degree	1,134	27.1
Honours Degree/Professional	1,302	31.2
Post Graduate	71	1.7
Craft/Apprentice	557	13.3
Foundation Certificate	48	1.2
Total	4,177	100



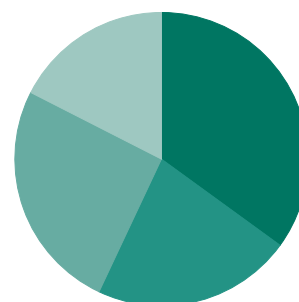
Number of Students Registered Overall (by Course Mode) as at 31 January 2006

Course Mode	No of Students	%
Full-time	3,572	65.4
Apprentice	327	6.0
Fáilte Ireland	230	4.2
Foundation Certificate	48	0.9
Part-time/Evening	1,283	23.5
Total	5,460	100



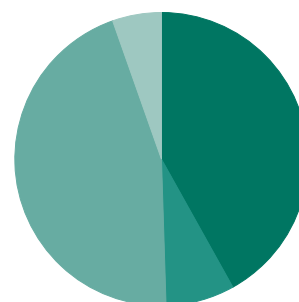
Number of Full-Time Students Registered (by School) as at 31 January 2006

School	No of Students	%
School of Business	1,265	35.0
School of Engineering	798	22.0
School of Humanities	922	25.5
School of Science	635	17.5
Total	3,620	100



Registered Part-Time Student Numbers and Number of Courses Delivered through the Department of Adult and Continuing Education

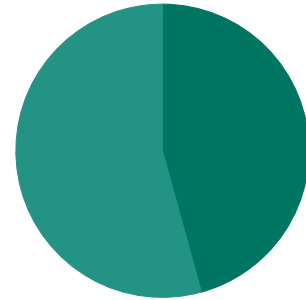
School	No of Students	%
Business	506	41.9
Engineering	92	7.6
Humanities	545	45.1
Science	65	5.4
Total	1,208	100
Total Number of Courses	94	





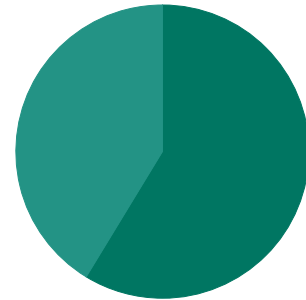
Gender Balance of Full-Time Registered Students

Gender	No of Students	%
Male	1,655	45.7
Female	1,965	54.3
Total	3,620	100



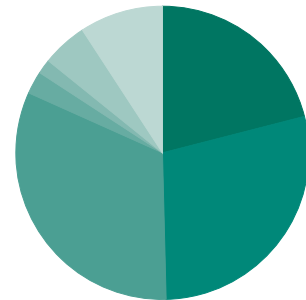
Apprentice Enrolment by Trade as at 31 January 2006

Department	No of Students	%
Engineering	327	58.7
Fáilte Ireland	230	41.3
Total	557	100



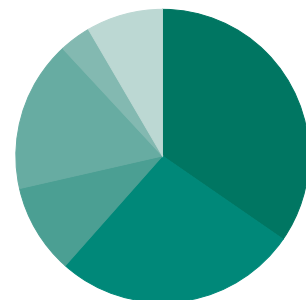
Conferred Awards (Graduation Ceremony November 2006)

Category of Award	No of Students	%
Level 6	418	21.0
Level 7	570	28.6
Level 8	639	32.1
Level 9/10	50	2.5
Professional	32	1.6
Craft	100	5.0
Other	183	9.2
Total	1,992	100



Conferred Awards (by School/Department) - Graduation Ceremony November 2006

School/Department	No of Students	%
School of Business	754	37.8
School of Humanities	585	29.4
School of Science	215	10.8
School of Engineering	362	18.2
Dept of Adult and Continuing Education	76	3.8
Total	1,992	100



Survey of Graduates

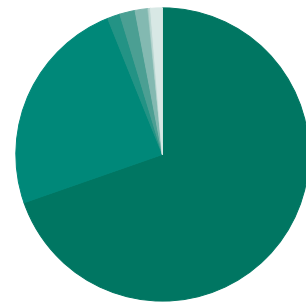
Athlone Institute of Technology recognises the importance of monitoring the destination of graduates on completion of their course programme. The information gathered in the graduate survey by the Careers Office is used to provide feedback for the review of existing and development of new programmes, identify progression opportunities, evaluate the quality of academic facilities and support provision, and provide valuable information on employment opportunities.

Number of Graduates Surveyed	1676
Number who Responded	1088

Status of Respondents	%
Graduates in Further Studies	69.8
Graduates Employed	24.3
Graduates Seeking Employment	1.4
Graduates in Part-time Employment	1.7
Graduates not available for Employment ¹	1.4
Graduates on Work Experience and Training Schemes	0.1
Self-Employed	0.2
Graduates Unknown ²	1.3

¹ Constitutes travelling abroad or due to illness

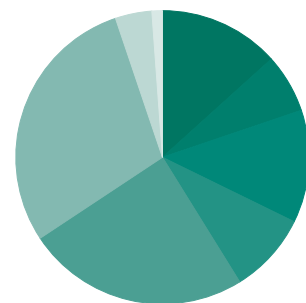
² As a result of surveys not returned by graduates



Domiciliary Origin of Students Enrolled on Full-Time Third Level Courses

The catchment area normally associated with the Institute includes Counties Westmeath, Offaly, Longford, Roscommon (south) and Galway (east). This chart shows the break-down of domicilliary origin of students attending the Institute.

AREA	Number	%
Galway	482	13.3
Longford	235	6.5
Offaly	450	12.4
Roscommon	323	8.9
Westmeath	888	24.5
Rest of Ireland	1,054	29.1
European	146	4.0
International	42	1.2
Total	3,620	100

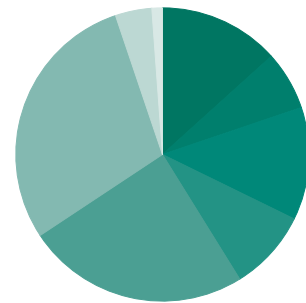




Socio-Economic Background of new entrant Students on Full-Time Third Level Courses

The Socio-Economic background of the students registered at the Institute highlight the Institute's contribution in providing an avenue for students from lower socio-economic areas, and in particular, shows the reason why students may withdraw from their course of study.

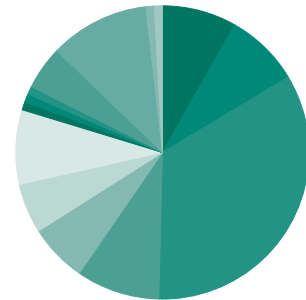
Employment Category of Parent	%
Farmers and Agricultural Workers	8.5
Higher Professionals	3.5
Lower Professionals	9.7
Employers and Managers	4.1
Salaried Employees	8.8
Non-Manual Worker	3.8
Manual Workers	15.8
Unknown	45.8
Total	100



Reasons for Withdrawal of Students Enrolled on Full-Time Third Level Courses

Each year a significant number of students leave the institute without completing their examinations. The following is an analysis of the reasons for leaving given by students.

Reasons for Withdrawal	%
Financial	8.2
Personal	8.2
Other IT/University	9.2
Employment	24.8
Apprenticeship	9.2
Repeat Leaving Certificate	6.4
PLC/NCVA/other course	5.5
Did not like course/Not suited to course	8.2
Medical Reasons	0.9
Changed Course	0.9
Reapplying Next Year	0.9
Taking a year out	4.8
Not Specified	11.0
Late Hour/Travel	0.9
Never attended	0.9



Number of Students availing of European Social Fund (ESF), Local Authority and other Grants/Awards

These figures refer only to grants and awards administered by the Institute

Programme Level	Numbers who qualified for Maintenance Grants								Student Charge only TLT N	NON-Grant Holders TLT Non	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS
	Adjacent Rates-TLT B				Non-adjacent Rates-TLT A						
	Full B+BS	75%	50%	25%	Full A+AS	75%	50%	25%			
LEVEL 6	47	1	4	4	407	19	15	11	7	423	938
LEVEL 7	30	3	2	3	313	18	11	10	8	303	701
TOTAL	77	4	6	7	720	37	26	21	15	726	1639



Derek Bradley, Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Toxicology, year 4, who was awarded third place in the Food Safety Authority of Ireland's annual national food safety undergraduate project competition pictured with his project supervisor Dr Neil Rowan, school of science, AIT

3.7 STUDENT PRIZES/SPECIAL AWARDS

Derek Bradley, Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Toxicology, year 4, was awarded third place in the Food Safety Authority of Ireland's annual national food safety undergraduate project competition with his project, supervised by Dr Neil Rowan, school of science, AIT.

Sarah Brennan, postgraduate research student in the EDC Research Group, School of Science (PhD supervisor: Andy Fogarty, School of Science), successfully completed her PhD viva.

Seven students from the institute's design programmes, **Olivia Browne, Ciara Fitzgerald, Jude Flynn, Edel McMahon, Andrew McManus, Emma Perry** and **Shane O'Reilly**, were successful in the International Society of Typographic Designers Student Assessment Scheme, held in Dublin in May.

Marie Burke, Bachelor of Business (Hons) in Tourism and Hospitality Business Management, achieved joint-first place, and **Marie McGowan**, Bachelor of Business in Front Office and Tourism Management, year 3, was highly commended, for their posters presented at the second annual conference of Tourism and Hospitality Research in Ireland. The posters addressed the themes of event management and tourism trails.

John Crotty, apprentice in the Trade of Plumbing, represented AIT and won the National Skills Competition in March.



Cathal Dundon and Jimmy Worley, Bachelor of Engineering in Mechatronics students, won the National Skills Competition in Mechatronics

Two of the institute's international students, **Jipeng Dong**, from China, and **Tushar Sharma** from India, represented the Institute at the Intel Excellence in Electronics Competition. They were both regional winners of the competition.

Mary Doyle, recently completed postgraduate research student School of Science and the institute's Quality Development Officer, was short-listed for the final of the annual Institute of Quality Assurance (IQA) National Award, following submission of a summary of her thesis: A Blueprint for Excellence at Athlone Institute of Technology (MSc supervisor: Jim Roche, School of Science).

Cathal Dundon and **Jimmy Worley**, Bachelor of Engineering in Mechatronics, year 3, students won the National Skills Competition in Mechatronics, run by the Department of Education, and will now be considered for selection for the Irish team for the 2007 World Skills Competition in Japan.

Fiona Fox and **Edel McMahon**, Bachelor of Arts in Design (Communications) students, were among three students shortlisted for their entries in the Graphic Design Business Association Annual Design Effectiveness Awards.

Enda Gaffey, Bachelor of Arts in Culinary Arts, year 2, was awarded the Johnson and Wales University Scholarship, a travelling scholarship to study for a semester at this leading American University.



Linda Galvin, winner of a competition to design and produce a new cinema advertisement for the Samaritans, pictured receiving her award from Dorrie Mangan, General Manager, Community Care Services, Longford/Westmeath, Health Service Executive (HSE): Midland Area

Linda Galvin, Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Design in Visual Communications, year 3, won a competition to design and produce a new cinema advertisement for the Samaritans, to be screened across the eastern region of Ireland.

Elaine Meehan, Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Design in Multimedia Studies, was runner-up in the Bank of Ireland Design a Credit Card competition.

Shane O'Reilly, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Design in Visual Communications, year 3, won the Royal Dublin Society (RDS) Printmaking Award in August, with an artwork entitled 'Forgotten'.

Ross Wasson, apprentice in the Trade of Motor Engineering, was presented with a special award in recognition of his winning the Gold Medal in Automobile engineering at the World Skills Competition in Helsinki in May.



Pictured at the RDS Student Art Awards were Margo McNulty, school of humanities, AIT; Dr Austin Mescal, President, RDS; and Shane O'Reilly, AIT, who won the prestigious RDS Printmaking Award. In the background can be seen two of Shane's prints: 'Storyteller' and the winning entry, 'Forgotten'



The institute's Sports awards recipients pictured at AIT's Annual Sports Awards Presentation with guest speaker Mr Packie Bonner, (front, fourth from right); Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin, Director, AIT (front, third from right); Gordon Brett, Sports Office, AIT (front, left), Garry Sammon, GAA Development Officer, AIT (middle, left); and Richard O'Hara, Sports Coordinator, AIT (middle, right)

3.8 SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Some of the major sporting achievements by Institute teams and individuals during the year are detailed in **Appendix I**.

The Institute's Twenty-Third Annual Sports Awards Presentation was held in April. The awards were presented by Packie Bonner, former football goalkeeper for the Republic of Ireland and Technical Director and Goalkeeping Coach for the Football Association of Ireland. Awards were presented to students from each of the Institute's sports clubs.



The institute's Sports awards recipients pictured at AIT's Annual Sports Awards Presentation with guest speaker Packie Bonner, (front, fourth from right); Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin, Director, AIT (front, third from right); Gordon Brett, Sports Office, AIT (front, left), Richard O'Hara, Sports Coordinator, AIT (front right) and Garry Sammon, GAA Development Officer, AIT (middle, left).

This year 28 scholarships were awarded under the Sports Scholarships Scheme in the areas of camogie, Gaelic football, golf, hurling, rugby, soccer and volley ball. These students were from the following counties: Galway, Kildare, Longford, Mayo, Offaly, Roscommon, Tipperary and Westmeath.

3.9 STUDENT SERVICES

The Student Services Department provides a range of services and facilities to support both the intellectual and personal development of students. The institute is proud of the student-centred approach which has been cultivated by a staff team committed to enhancing further the learning experience. It is a strategic priority to maintain this approach and to continue to provide a range of services and facilities to support the intellectual and personal development of each student.

SERVICE	2005-2006
Visits to Health Centre	2,761
Counselling Service Consultations (The Institute Counselling Service is provided by one full-time Counsellor, supported by one part-time Counsellor)	171 Visits (equivalent to 744 Hours) General queries/visits amounting to approximately 100 additional hours per year
Visits to Careers Office	Individual Appointments: 477 Total visits 2,000
Employers advertising through the careers office	1,500
Allocation of Funding to Student Assistance Fund (SAF)/Access Fund	SAF Central Forum: €6,400 SAF: €152,000 Chaplaincy: €48,000

The following is a sample of some of the activities of the Student Services Department during this academic year:

- The GATEWAY Project, which has been designed to facilitate and encourage the use of assistive technologies for people with disabilities entering both third-level education and the workplace, commenced at the institute. A Project Officer, Ms Elaine O'Leary, commenced work on developing and sourcing content for the Irish website.
- The Careers Service introduced a new initiative which focused on raising 'on-the-job' careers' awareness for final year students, with the aim of providing day to day insight into particular occupational roles in several possible career areas.
- An information session on employing people with disabilities was held at the institute, in conjunction with the Midland Employment Support Agency (MESA) and FÁS, in July. The session highlighted the range of free supports available to employers and showcased the flexibility offered in employing people with disabilities.
- The institute participated in the HEA National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education evaluation of access programmes in October. This process will help to identify what is working well in higher education institutions' access programmes, to share good practice within and between institutions, and will show the gaps and challenges facing institutions and students from the under-represented/marginalised groups.
- The Access Office provides general support and advice to targeted students who are studying at the Institute and also to those who intend to progress to third-level. Some of the activities and initiatives available through the office include



- Sport and Education After-Schools Programme (in collaboration with the Educational Action Research Project in the Athlone Community Taskforce): The programme facilitated through the office aims to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of the targeted pupils (from fifth and sixth class) through engagement with the education system, via participation in a sports programme and academic curriculum, while improving their social skills.
- Choosing your Future (CYF) Programme: This programme enables students to focus, clarify, to set goals and recognise their own potential and make informed decisions regarding their future education and career. It provides guidance, advice, and direction to secondary school students in relation to the courses they are choosing and the options available at the college. The CYF programme also provides participants with the transferable skills, e.g. study and exams skills and time and stress management, required to succeed at senior cycle second-level and at third-level.
- Saturday Maths Programme: This programme is designed to assist students who are at risk of failing ordinary-level leaving certificate mathematics, which would make them ineligible for most third-level education options. Participants are selected by their respective schools (i.e. the twelve designated disadvantaged schools linked to the access office).
- Foundation Certificate in Access Studies: This programme is designed for adult learners who wish to return to study after a break in their educational experience and who may not have benefited fully from, or had access to, previous educational opportunities. The course is designed to prepare students, both academically and practically, for consideration for admission to full-time level 6 and level 7 programmes at the Institute.
- Waiver of Registration Fee Fund: This Fund operates for students who, for a variety of reasons, are finding it difficult to pay their registration fees - students are usually those who are not eligible for a grant, are having financial difficulty and/or may be relying on working long hours or large personal loans to survive and remain in college.

4.0 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES

4.1 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The transfer of staff to the Applied Software Research Centre (ASRC) was completed.

The Institute signed a lease agreement with the IDA for the use of the Polymer Development Centre (PDC), Athlone for a period of three years. A service level agreement was signed with Enterprise Ireland which means that the institute also acquired the laboratory equipment formerly owned by Enterprise Ireland. This new facility, known as the Centre for Nanotechnology and Materials Research (CNMR), is a joint-Department of Polymer

Engineering/Department of Life and Physical Sciences collaboration, is now fully operational and hosts a significant number of the institute's polymer engineering postgraduate research students. In addition, commercial testing services and education and training operations are being provided by the centre to industry.

Dr Clement Higginbotham, school of engineering, attended a meeting with Dr Denis Dowling, Mechanical Engineering Department, UCD, and John Cullen, Holfeld Plastics Ltd, Kilmacanogue, Co Wicklow in June. This meeting signalled the start of an Innovation Partnership (a collaboration between Holfeld Plastics, UCD and AIT). This project, which came about as a direct result of the acquisition of the CNMR by AIT, will involve the synthesis and characterisation of novel biodegradable packaging materials. Motorola donated an ultrasonic welding instrument to the CNMR. The institute's CBI(r) facility has also been relocated to the CNMR building.

The first phase of occupation of the Centre for Biopolymer and Biomolecular Research (CBBR) laboratories in the innovation building commenced with researchers with Innocoll Technologies being located to the centre for the purpose of evaluating a drug delivery technology.

The institute's External Services Unit (ESU) led a project, in conjunction with Westbic and in association with Expertise Ireland, to promote the R&D capacity and capabilities of institutes of technology. The project sought to identify staff involved in training and consultancy activities within the institutes, with a profile for each of the institutes, details of their research facilities and their academics being placed on the Expertise Ireland website.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) approved the nomination of Dr Don Faller, school of science, by the Irish Medicines Board to appear on the EMA list of European Experts for the assessment of the safety of drugs for human and animal use.

Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin, Dr Pat Mulhern, Head of Development, and Dr Paul Tomkins, Head of School of Science, visited the Georgia Institute of Technology (GTech), Atlanta, Georgia, USA in May. The visit and agenda was coordinated on the GTech side by Dr David Parekh, Deputy Director, Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) and Associate Provost for Research. A major objective of the visit was to determine possible areas for inter-institutional collaboration in advance of GTech location in Athlone on IDA Business and Technology Park.

Dr Clement Higginbotham, school of engineering, attended the official opening of Georgia Tech Ireland in Athlone in June. To celebrate the opening of GTRI's first Translational Research Centre outside of the US, IDA Ireland and GTRI jointly hosted a conference on 'Solutions through Innovation' and it was attended by Ireland's leading industrialists and academics. The presence of GTRI in the IDA Industrial Park in Athlone should prove very beneficial to research in Athlone IT, especially in the medical device and biomaterial sector.

As a continuation of the institute's research training initiative, funded from the Staff Development and Postgraduate Funds, a course in survey design and conduct was provided for staff, in May 2006. This programme was run by Anne Coughlan, survey consultant and previously of the Survey Unit, IBEC.



4.2 RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The Biomedical Materials (polymer engineering) postgraduate research group students attended a number of conferences during the year and presented posters and/or papers on their work at these events.

Dr Brendan Kelly, school of science, was seconded by the Irish Government (through the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) NDP-funded Environmental Research Centre) to the Intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) secretariat at the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr Eileen Lane and Dr Paul Tomkins, school of science, submitted a proposal as part of an EU Craft consortium to develop new in vitro toxicology tests.

4.2.1 Research Programmes

A breakdown and listing of the research projects successful in obtaining funding by School is shown in **Appendix II**.

The institute's academic council approved a system of Master's qualification to facilitate those applicants who fail to attain a minimum of second class honours in their primary degree, but wish to progress to a postgraduate programme.

4.2.2. Research Collaborations

Aideen O'Connor, school of science, was awarded an Enterprise Ireland Travel Grant to pursue some collaborative research with colleagues in the University of Portsmouth on a study entitled 'Impact of bullying behaviour on research environment performance: Development of psychobiological tools'.

Dr Neil Rowan, school of science, was invited to submit a full proposal to SFI under the Frontiers Programme. The project which investigates the efficacy of novel decontamination and sterilisation of medical instruments and devices, has been developed in collaboration with colleagues from the School of Biology and Environmental Science, UCD, the Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine, UCH Galway and the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, University of Strathclyde, Scotland.

Dr Gertrude Taggart, school of science, was supported by Enterprise Ireland to develop a

collaborative research project with Prof Kathleen Murphy at Daemen College, New York.

Dr Paul Tomkins, school of science, contributed to an FP6 Craft proposal, Innovative Methods for Analysis of Herbal Products IMAhP with the following partners: Ecam di Camporese Renzo SaS, Italy; Laboratorios Pejoseca SL, Spain; SALIX Srl, Italy; Phytobotanica Ltd, UK; University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain; and University of Padua, Italy.

4.3 CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

The Government gave approval for the construction of the engineering/informatics building to proceed under the conventional funding route i.e. funded by the Department of Education and Science (DoES). A delegation from the DoES Third-Level Building Unit visited the institute in March to re-commence discussion on progressing this project. The meeting proved very constructive and the DoES representatives offered to provide technical input in any discussions with the design team if required. The design team was requested to expedite the stage 4 design so that an application for planning could be lodged.

Work on converting the welding/maintenance workshop to administrative office space commenced. The institute is committed to continually maintaining and upgrading buildings to an exceptional standard. To fulfill this aspiration an ambitious programme of summer works was entered into in advance of the academic year. Works undertaken included

- the cladding of the north and western elevation of the engineering wing of the original institute building, including the replacement of the windows and the re-wiring of the engineering rooms and laboratories
- classrooms were fitted with data projectors
- the original mineral engineering building was converted into a research facility for the ASRC
- a new shop was provided in the student canteen area with the original student shop converted into a classroom
- additional space was provided for administration staff in the library
- the main entrance to the apprentice building was improved

- many of the rooms in the business school, coffee dock area and the western elevation of the apprentice building were painted
- the boundary wall and entrance/exits to the east campus were completed and the wall at the front of the main campus is also nearly finished, resulting in an impressive main entrance for the institute
- the old kitchen converted into a classroom
- new chemical stores provided for the school of science
- conversion of all boilers to natural gas.
- work on the new administration building (the old welding building) and plaza is nearly complete
- substantial work has been carried out in relation to lifts - the indoor lift has been removed and relocated to the administration building, while a new outdoor lift is being located at the plaza which will serve all three floors.

An Chéim reached an agreement with Hewlett Packard to manage and implement the remaining phases of the Banner 7 (student database) Upgrade Project, an upgrade which is mandatory for further application functionality and provides improved user interface and a number of functional and technical enhancements. The plan is to have the upgrade completed by 31 December 2006.

4.4 SAFETY AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

The safety office continues to identify emerging safety, health and welfare issues, assist management, staff and students to develop solutions, and be passionate advocates for continual improvements in hazard management. The partnership approach of the safety office is also committed to the principle of consultation with students and staff in managing health, safety and welfare needs, through elected safety representatives (students and staff).

At the commencement of the academic year there were 14 induction sessions for students and two for staff, with the purpose of introducing the emergency management procedures and forthcoming emergency exercises.

The institute has invested in an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator). This device, which has been located inside the counter in the AIT library, may be used by non-medical personnel to administer an

electric shock to a person who is having a cardiac arrest, thus saving their life. Training for potential users was provided through the Irish Heart Foundation 'Heartsaver' training course.

During the year executive management participated in nine training sessions regarding the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005. When the associated regulations are completed through the consultation process it is intended to link these sessions to the needs of the governing body, management, staff and students.

To mark European safety week in October, the institute conducted a chemical spill drill, involving the school of science and all the emergency services. This exercise identified the need for improved incident management and greater integration of emergency response procedures. This is being addressed in part by the establishment of a Civil Defence Unit at the institute, enabling us to respond to our own emergency needs and those of the wider community.

A priority for the safety office is the safety management of contractors on site for the upgrading of infrastructures and the new installations and the challenge for the institute to review its attitude, perception and safety management practices as it aligns its technical and physical resources with the needs of the region.



5.0 HUMAN RESOURCES

The institute's human resources department manages a variety of activities within the institute and these include recruitment and training, management of employee benefits, employee records and personnel policies.

5.1 HUMAN RESOURCES' INITIATIVES

Some of the initiatives undertaken within the year include

Bullying and Harassment Awareness Seminars: The institute organised a series of seminars to be provided to all staff on awareness and avoidance of bullying and harassment behaviour in the workplace. Training was also given to nominated individuals to act as contact persons in the context of the institute's dignity policy.

Employee Assistance Programme (EAP): It is intended that the EAP will be available to all staff, and enable them to deal with work-related or personal problems in a confidential manner. Various companies were assessed in terms of the provision of an EAP service within the institute.

Work/Life Balance: As part of the institute continued awareness of the importance of creating a balance between the working and personal lives of employees, a health-screening service was organised for all interested staff. This scheme was partially funded by the institute and services were provided through Claymon Laboratories. It is hoped that this service would be offered to staff on a two-yearly basis.

5.2 STAFF STATISTICS

The Institute has appropriate personnel policies and procedures which ensure that sufficient, appropriately qualified teaching, management, administrative, professional, technical and support staff are employed to meet requirements. The following are the staffing figures for 2005/2006.

	Total	Male	Female
Management ¹	4	4	0
Academic Staff (Permanent)	226	153	73
Academic Staff (Pro-Rata/EPT)	27	11	16
Academic Staff (Part-time)	104	55	49
Support Staff ² (Permanent)	94	48	46
Support Staff ² (TWT/Part-time)	169	41	128
Administrative Staff ³ (Permanent)	47	3	44
Administrative Staff ³ (TWT/Part-time)	18	3	15
Total	689	318	371

Definitions:

¹ Senior Management only (Director included as academic staff).

² Technicians, Craft Assistants, Class Aides, maintenance staff, caretaking staff, part-time attendant, Nurse, Clerk of Works and the Cleaning Supervisor.

³ Includes Grades III-VII and Assistant Principal Officers (APOs).

5.2.1 Academic Support Appointments

Staff appointments and changes in personnel status are approved by the Governing Body of the Institute during the year.

This year the institute appointed a number of specific support posts to assist the achievement of the institute's strategic objectives. These posts included

- Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) Facilitator, in conjunction with Lónra (new part-time appointment)
- Communications and Marketing Manager (new appointment)
- Course Development Coordinator (remission post)
- Learning and Teaching Coordinators - in the areas of technology, teaching strategies and assessment (remission posts)

5.3 STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Athlone Institute of Technology encourages all categories of staff to undertake training and development to realise both professional and personal goals. Training and development activities are essential if the institutes key performance indicators as outlined in the institutes strategic plan are to be achieved. The recent introduction of the Performance Management Development System (PMDS) within the institute of technology sector emphasises the importance of ongoing staff training in an ever changing workplace.

5.3.1 Staff Training and Development Fund

For the 2005/2006 academic year, the Institute received a budget allocation from the Department of Education and Science for Staff Training and Development of €202,055. This figure represented the same commitment as the year 2004/2005 and assists the Institute to achieve its strategic training cost target of 3% of payroll costs. A summary of the allocation of this budget is as follows:

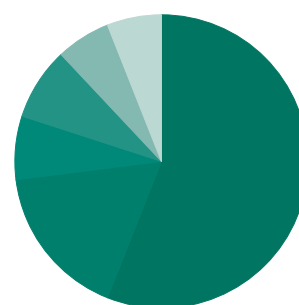
- funding committed to the achievement of higher educational qualifications by staff: in excess of €148,000
- allocation to the schools and functional areas to fund staff attending seminars and conferences: €40,000
- short courses for staff, primarily through the institute's CBI® unit: approximately €30,000
- provision to the schools to promote research activity: €8,500
- delivery of training in connection with the roll out of PMDS, delivered within the IoT sector by Weston Associates: €48,000
- work/life balance initiatives, including the health-screening scheme: €27,000
- group training courses in the areas of IT upskilling and Health and Safety training (e.g. manual handling and first-aid courses): approximately €20,000

6.0 FINANCIAL REPORT

6.1 CURRENT ACCOUNT

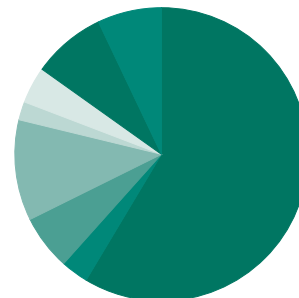
Current Income by Source for the year ended 31 August 2006

	€000's	%
State Grant	22,162	56.5
Tuition Fees	6,582	16.8
Student Registration Charge	2,509	6.4
Research, Consultancy and Development	3,136	8.0
Deposit Interest	7	-
Other Income	2,206	5.6
Release from Depreciation (Capital Account)	2,622	6.7
Total	39,224	100



Current Expenditure for the year ended 31 August 2006

	€000's	%
Academic Departments	22,504	58.4
Academic Services	1,346	3.5
Premises	2,501	6.5
Central Administration and Services	4,227	11.0
General Educational Expenses	723	1.9
Student Facilities and Amenities	1,615	4.2
Research, Consultancy and Development	2,984	7.7
Depreciation	2,622	6.8
Total	38,522	100



6.2 CAPITAL ACCOUNT

The Institute acquired additional fixed assets during the year amounting to €3,529,000. The Institute disposed of €9,818,000 of old assets which had a nil net book value.

The institute's audited accounts for the year ended 31 August 2006 are displayed in **Appendix III**.

7.0 INTERNATIONAL LINKS

7.1 STUDENT MOBILITY

The growth in numbers of Erasmus students studying at the institute continued during the academic year, particularly from Italy, Turkey, Lithuania, Poland and Finland. This continued interest was strongly reflected in business programmes, the most significant being the Bachelor of Business in European Business Management programme with 54 overseas students. There was a total of 176 EU and Erasmus students registered at the institute for this academic year.

There were 156 students registered as non-EU students for the 2005/2006 academic year (predominantly from China, India, Jordan, Nigeria and Pakistan). Significantly there were 10 students registered on the full-time Master of Science in Software Engineering programme from Chinese partner universities.

- **School of Business received first group of students from Turin, Italy**

This year saw the first cohort of students from the Politecnico di Torino, Italy attend the Higher Certificate in Business Studies, year 2, programme at AIT, following the signing of a joint agreement between the two institutions in academic year 2003/04. These students will receive their AIT award at the institute's graduation ceremony in November 2006. The 17 students successfully completed work placements in companies based in Ireland from June to August 2006, will complete their ordinary bachelor's degree in Turin from September 2006 and then return to AIT in September 2007 to complete one semester of the Bachelor of Business (Honours) programme at AIT. Successful candidates will be awarded their bachelor and master's degree qualifications by Politecnico di Torino.

- **Researcher from Chinese Academy of Science at Applied Software Research Centre (ASRC)**

Qiao Yuansong, a student who is completing the final stage of his PhD at the Institute of Software Engineering Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing - a key research institute sponsored by the Chinese government - commenced a research project at the ASRC in September.

- **AIT Cultural Studies Programme**

The institute commenced a three-week Cultural Studies programme, during June 2005 for a group of students from the University of Florida, USA. A second group of 15 students completed this programme in June 2006. Dr Harman Murtagh, school of business, delivered the programme which introduced participants to Ireland and Irish culture and included a series of cultural excursions within Ireland.

- **Study Abroad Programme for US market**

The School of Science, AIT was successful in an EU-US funded application for lecturer and student exchange. AIT hosted two US students during the academic year: one student from Daemen College, Buffalo, NY and one student from Pitzer College, California. In a reciprocal arrangement, one AIT student completed a semester (January to May) at Daemen College.

A group of 40 students from Mesa Community College, Arizona completed a study abroad programme at AIT for a four-week period in June/July. It is intended to promote and extend this idea to other US community colleges and universities.



- **Joint programmes with Non-EU partner universities**

Since the launch of the Taoiseach's Asia Strategy in 1999, the Institute has been active in developing links with universities in China. Two joint-programmes were offered with key strategic partners in China as follows:

Master of Science in Software Engineering (with Southeast University, Nanjing)

Southeast University (SEU) is a key university in scientific research and development and AIT signed a co-operative agreement with SEU for a joint-MSc in Software Engineering in December 2002. As part of this joint agreement, Dr Declan Byrne, School of Engineering, completed a lecturer exchange to SEU, AIT welcomed three lecturers from the College of Software Engineering, SEU to the institute and seven students from SEU studied on the MSc in Software Engineering at AIT, during the academic year.

Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Accounting (with Dongbei University of Finance and Economics, Dalian)

Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT) and Dongbei University of Finance and Economics (DUFE), Dalian agreed to collaborate on a 2+1 programme in accounting, and an agreement of co-operation was signed in October 2003. Twenty five students registered on the first year of the programme at the School of International Business at DUFE in September 2005, and have been studying the AIT curriculum for two years, at DUFE (the instruction is in English). The first group of 25 students are expected to transfer to AIT to undertake the final year of the BA (Hons) in Accounting programme in September 2006.

Graduates of the programme will have the option of progressing to further study options within AIT.

7.2 STAFF MOBILITY

Michael O'Rourke, school of engineering, spent one week in Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, (VGTU), Vilnius, Lithuania under the EU Erasmus/Socrates staff mobility/exchange programme. He lectured to international students on the Bachelor of Science in Information Systems in the Faculty of Electronics at VGTU on 'Trends in Technology' and 'Introduction to Semiconductor'.

Bartley Reaney, school of humanities, participated as a judge at the AEHT (Association Européenne des Ecoles d'Hôtellerie et de Tourisme/European Association of Hotel and Tourism Schools) annual conference and competitions in Turkey, on behalf of the Institute.

8.0 MISCELLANEOUS

8.1 GUESTS/VISITING LECTURERS

The Swedish Ambassador to Ireland, Niels Daag visited the institute in November. He delivered a lecture to staff and students comparing the education standards in Sweden and Ireland and answered questions on education in Sweden focused particularly on student loan schemes and childcare costs.

The US Ambassador, James C Kenny, visited the Institute in November, where he addressed a gathering of staff and students on the theme 'Education as an investment for life' and he was taken on a tour of the campus.

The Minister for Equality, Justice and Law Reform, Michael McDowell, TD, also visited the institute in November and delivered a talk on 'Ireland as a liberal republic' to institute staff and students.

Dr Patrick Callaghan, Head of Department of Nursing, City University, London presented on 'core quality issues in nurse education' to staff of the Department of Nursing and Health Sciences and invited HSE representatives.

Cathal Lane, Tomkins and Co, Dublin (patent attorneys), was a guest speaker within the Business School and delivered a presentation 'How to Protect your Invention or New Idea' to staff and student representatives on a college-wide basis.

Lukasz Orman, International Office, and Prof Jerzy Piotrowski, Vice-Dean of Faculty of Civil Engineering, Kielce University of Technology, Poland, visited the institute. Presentations were made by the schools of engineering and science



The US Ambassador, James C Kenny, during his visit to the Institute, with Cieran Temple, Chairman, Governing Body, AIT; Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin, Director, AIT and Dr Pat Mulhern, Head of Development, AIT.

and also by the Kielce university team. The visit included a tour of the campus and institute facilities.

In April, Dr Mike Ungar, University at Dalhousie, Nova Scotia, Canada, visited the institute and facilitated a joint-workshop, on the theme of adolescent resiliency, for social care students, staff and colleagues from the HSE, under the aegis of the Centre for Child and Youth Care Learning (CCYCL). The conclusion of a collaborative venture between Dr Niall McElwee, CCYCL, and Dr John Ennis, Waterford IT, will result in the publication of a co-authored creative writing volume titled 'Oisín's Journey Home'. In addition to the poetic content, the book also features design work inserts from five students from the institute's design programmes.



Minister for Equality, Justice and Law Reform, Michael McDowell, TD, made a presentation to institute staff and students on the topic 'Ireland as a liberal republic'.



The Finnish delegation, led by Jorma Tyopponen, Director of HAAGA Malmi School of Business, and Teemu Kokko, Vice-President, HAAGA University of Applied Sciences which visited AIT in August. Also in the picture are John Cusack, Head of School of Business, AIT and Mary Simpson, International Student Manager, AIT.



The Business School hosted a visiting Finnish delegation led by Jorma Tyopponen, Director of HAAGA Malmi School of Business, and Teemu Kokko, Vice-President, HAAGA University of Applied Sciences in August. The 75-member delegation visited the institute to learn more about Irish third-level education and to explore the possibility of making partnership agreements with AIT. Mary O'Rourke, Leader of Seanad Éireann and former Minister for Education, was a special guest speaker during the visit.



Some of the Institute's staff and students pictured at AIT's international society event to celebrate Chinese New Year 2006.



Careers' Fair 2006

8.2 INSTITUTE EVENTS

The 4th Annual Quarry Safety Conference, which was attended by over 250 delegates from the quarrying industry, was hosted by the institute in September.

The institute hosts many events throughout the year which raise the profile of the institute throughout the midland region. A number of annual events also took place; the careers fair and science week were held in November and open day was held in December. The institute's international society hosted an event to celebrate Chinese New Year. The reigning Rose of Tralee, Aoibhínn Ní Shúilleabháin, a theoretical physicist by profession, visited the institute during science week, where she addressed local secondary school students to encourage potential scientists of the future.

An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, TD, officially opened the Midlands Innovation and Research Centre (MIRC) at the institute in November. This Centre offers a range of supports to entrepreneurs who wish to start a new export focused technology-based business. It was completed due to cooperation and funding the institute received from Enterprise Ireland under the National Development Plan 2000-2006 and was part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund. Further funding was provided by Bank of Ireland, Élan Corporation plc, Russell Brennan Keane, 3Touch Ltd, BioClin Research Laboratories, John and Carol Devane, Tony Kilmartin N6 Centre, Jackie Byrne; College Support & Services Ltd, Leo Galvin, Infosight Training and Consultancy, and MSL.



Photographed during Science Week 2005 are Dr Gertie Taggart, School of Science, AIT; Aoibhínn Ní Shúilleabháin, Rose of Tralee 2005; Anthony Whelan, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dr Mary Casey, Forensics Science Laboratory, Garda Headquarters; Dr Noreen Morris, School of Science, AIT; and Siobhan Kelly, School of Science, AIT



An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, TD, at the official opening of the Midlands Innovation and Research Centre (MIRC) at the institute in November, with Mr Cieran Temple, Chairman, Governing Body, AIT; Mr Colm Hackett, Divisional Manager, Regions & Entrepreneurship at Enterprise Ireland and Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin, Director, AIT.

A seminar in conjunction with the newly formed Midland Branch of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) was held at the institute in February. The guest speaker, John Brennan, IBEC, spoke on the most recent developments in Employment Law. The seminar attracted representatives from industrial, commercial and service organisations within the Midland Region.

An exhibition of paintings by students of the institute's 'Introduction to Oil Painting' classes, delivered by local well-known artist Jim Reddy, took place in the restaurant of the Hospitality, Tourism & Leisure Studies building in February.

Athlone Institute of Technology was presented with an O₂ Ability Award, for best practice in the Customer Service category, at a ceremony in Dublin Castle in February. The awards recognise public and private organisations that have excelled in both the



The ultimate Institute of Physics Paperclip Physics competition winning team: Sarah Connellan, Claire Hassett and Carmel Lennon, from Ursuline Secondary School, Thurles, Co Tipperary, with their teacher Patricia Dwan (right) and AIT Science Club Coordinator, Dr Antoinette Sweeney (left) following their participation in the AIT-hosted midlands heat.

employment of people with disabilities and in their service to clients/customers with disabilities.

The institute hosted the midlands heat of Paperclip Physics, one of the UK and Ireland's most challenging science competitions, in February. This competition, which is open to teams of secondary school students, challenges students to use their imagination to demonstrate a principle or application of physics of their choice to a non-scientist. The overall event is organised by the Institute of Physics and Dr Antoinette Sweeney, School of Science, is the Irish midlands coordinator. The School of Business organised and hosted the Annual Gerry Gray Memorial Lecture and Awards Ceremony in March. The guest lecture was delivered by Barry McGuigan, former World Boxing Featherweight Champion, on the theme of success in sport and in the wider context of a business career.

The Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Micheál Martin, TD, visited the Midlands Innovation and Research Centre (MIRC) at the institute in March, for a tour of the centre and to meet representatives of some of the companies based there.

The institute hosted the annual Irish Science Teachers Association Conference in March. More than 350 teachers and delegates attended the meeting, which was delivered simultaneously over 12 lecture rooms and laboratories for the duration of the conference, encompassing almost 40 presentations. There were approximately 22 exhibitors, and the programme also included presentations by Dr Sean Reidy and Dr Neil Rowan. As part of the Discover Primary Science



Pictured at the visit of the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Micheál Martin, TD, to the Midlands Innovation and Research Centre (MIRC), are John Cusack, Head of School of Business, AIT; Dr Paul Tomkins, Head of School of Science, AIT; Senator Mary O'Rourke, Chairperson, Seanad Éireann; Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin, Director, AIT; and Austin Hanley, Head of School of Engineering, AIT.



AIT Science Club Coordinator, Dr Antoinette Sweeney pictured with some of the children and teachers who participated in the AIT Display Day, which marked the conclusion of the Discover Primary Science programme at the institute.

programme, organised by Forfás in May, the institute hosted some 350 school children and their teachers, from twelve schools across the midlands region. The AIT Display Day is the conclusion of a process which commenced when teachers from each of the participating schools attended AIT in October and were given a demonstration on up to forty 'fun science experiments' by Dr Antoinette Sweeney, Science Club Coordinator. After completing the training, schools which are registered on the project can, if they wish, go on to apply for an Award of Science Excellence when they have met a minimum criteria of science-related activities. The aim of the programme is to develop

creativity in children, show them how important science is to everyday life, and more importantly, how much fun it can be.

The institute also hosted the regional finals of the Junior Engineers for Ireland K'Nex Challenge 2006 in May. This competition is run in conjunction with STEPS (Science, Technology and Engineering Programme for Schools) and Hasbro.

The Annual 'Design at AIT Graduate Exhibition' took place at the Northgate Street Campus in June. The event, which showcases the work of the students on the BA in Design (Communications) and the BA (Hons) in Design in Multimedia, was officially opened by Dr Joe Mulholland, Chairman, National College of Art and Design.

The institute ran its first series of one-week summer camps in July. The 'cook and fun' programme (aimed at 7-16 year olds) teaches children simple cooking skills, the 'sports and activity' camp (for 7-11 year olds) allows participants to try a number of different sports and activities, and the 'computer camp' (for 12-17 year olds) teaches participants to make their own videos, using footage and stills taken on their mobiles, write and download their own ring tones, use the internet, set up web pages, and build and programme their own robots. These activities are seen as a way for AIT staff expertise and top-of-the-range facilities to be made available to the wider community.

8.3 ARTWORKS PURCHASED

The following artworks were purchased during the year:

Title	Artist
West Cork Morning	W Crozier
The West Window	W Crozier
Hay Ricks	W Crozier
Night	W Crozier
Poppies I	W Crozier
Poppies II	W Crozier
Poppies III	W Crozier



The Institute hosted the regional finals of the Junior Engineers for Ireland K'Nex Challenge 2006, in May.

9.0 APPENDICES

APPENDIX I SOME MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE INSTITUTE'S SPORTS CLUBS

Basketball

The men's team reached the semi-final of the ICBA League, losing to TCD.

Camógie

The team qualified for the final of the Purcell Cup but subsequently lost to UUJ. They were also beaten in the league semi-final.

Equestrian

Damien McGuire, a second year student, participated in two international show jumping events this year - at the SNRC in Italy in October and also in the Netherlands. The Irish team won a total of 7 medals.

Gaelic Football

The Senior Football team had a successful year competing well in the league. The Sigerson Cup campaign saw victory over IT Tralee in Round 1 and over Cork IT in Round 2. A quarter-final clash with UCC resulted in the narrowest of defeats for a gallant AIT side. The intermediate team was also beaten by the narrowest of margins, a single point, by UCD, UUJ and DIT. The junior football team narrowly missed qualification for the All-Ireland quarter finals after a narrow defeat to UUJ. The freshers team recorded victory over IT Sligo but lost to NUIG and GMIT. They were also defeated in the All-Ireland league by Waterford IT.

Hockey

The mixed hockey team traveled to Cork to participate in the ICHA Cup and were unlucky to lose the semi-final on penalties.



Damien McGuire, a second year student, pictured participating in one of two international show jumping events this year (in the Netherlands).



Hurling

The senior hurling team started the league campaign with victory over NUIM and IT Carlow before suffering a narrow defeat to DCU. The team also participated in the Keogh Cup in which they defeated Louth but lost to Meath in the semi-final. The team was defeated by NUIM in the Ryan Cup. The intermediate team participated in the Leinster competition. The junior team competed in the Connaught Division and recorded victories over Letterfrack and GMIT/Castlebar. The Freshers team competed in the league.

Ladies Football

The ladies football team recorded victory over IT Sligo, drew with Garda College and were defeated by NUIG. Following from this series they were narrowly defeated by UL in the league semi-final. They were also unluckily defeated by St Mary's in the Lynch Cup and UCD in the Lynch Shield. The ladies freshers team won the All-Ireland Freshers Plate by defeating NUIG in the final.

Ladies Soccer

The ladies soccer team competed in the Connaught/Munster league of the WCSAI and finished in a very creditable third position.

Rugby

The senior rugby team reached the semi-final of the All Ireland Division 1 Colleges Cup, winning six out of seven league matches. Colin Finnerty played for the Irish colleges in their victory over their Scottish counterparts. The second fifteen completed league matches, losing only to Cork IT and reached the semi-finals in Division 2. The freshers team reached the All-Ireland final. David McGowan played for the Irish U-21 side and former students Ronnie McCormack and Chris Keane both played for various Connaught teams this year.

Soccer

The senior team finished top of the CFAI Division 1 North and were promoted to the Premier Division. They were narrowly beaten in the CFAI Cup Quarter Final. The Intermediate team had a mixed season but finished third in the CFAI Division 2 West. Anthony Hayes and Alan Kelly traveled to North Carolina, USA on the National Squad.

Volleyball

For the first time the mens and ladies teams competed in the intervarsity competition. The men reached the Shield semi-final and the ladies displayed a commendable performance.

APPENDIX II RESEARCH PROJECTS WHICH WERE SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING FUNDING DURING THE YEAR

Project Title: The development of a polymeric based drug formulation for use on novel drug delivery system
Amount: €63,000 (EI); €27,000 (P)
Funding Body: EI - Innovation Partnership Programme
Research Supervisor: Paul Blackie, school of engineering/Pharmaplaz

Project Title: Feasibility Study
Amount: €9,000
Funding Body: EI - Innovation Partnership Programme
Research Supervisor: Dr Clem Higginbotham, school of engineering/TOI Feasibility Grant

Project Title: Development of rice based injection moulded dog bone
Amount: €35,035 (EI); €18,865 (P)
Funding Body: EI - Innovation Partnership Programme
Research Supervisor: Paul Blackie, school of engineering/Gaines

Project Title: The development of a valued added application for the use of polyethylene recycle
Amount: €86,310 (EI); €36,990 (P)
Funding Body: EI - Innovation Partnership Programme
Research Supervisor: Paul Blackie, school of engineering/Gem Plastics Limited

Project Title: Development of a reduced weight microwavable slipper insole
Amount: €14,280 (EI); €6,120 (P)
Funding Body: EI - Innovation Partnership Programme
Research Supervisor: Paul Blackie, school of engineering/Waveware

Project Title: Complex visual communication problems within enclosed built environments and their methodologies
Amount: €57,150
Funding Body: Embark
Research Supervisor: John Benton, school of humanities

Project Title: HAVEN - Home plug AV enabled networking
Amount: €166,966 (EI); €71,557 (P)
Funding Body: EI - Innovation Partnership Programme
Research Supervisor: Enda Fallon, ASRC/3-Touch

Project Title: SCRAM - Securing content on removable media
Amount: €172,474 (EI); €80,314 (P)
Funding Body: EI - Innovation Partnership Programme
Research Supervisor: Enda Fallon, ASRC/YQA Now



Project Title: Development of a content management system for memory constrained devices
Amount: €46,500
Funding Body: Fusion/Biznet Solutions
Research Supervisor: Enda Fallon, ASRC

Amount: €46,500
Funding Body: Fusion/Apple Tree Press
Research Supervisor: Enda Fallon, ASRC

Amount: €46,500
Funding Body: Fusion/Intelledion
Research Supervisor: Enda Fallon, ASRC

Project Title: Localised Wireless Core Network Access Framework
Amount: €8,500 (EI)
Funding Body: EI - Innovation Partnership Programme (Feasibility)
Research Supervisor: Enda Fallon, ASRC/Eircom

Project Title: TRIMS - Thermal, Remote and Intelligent Management System
Amount: €261,000
Funding Body: EI - Innovation Partnership Programme
Research Supervisor: Enda Fallon, ASRC, Keith Vaugh, school of engineering, and Dr Robert Stewart, school of engineering/Thermatek Technologies

Project Title: Enhancement of angioplasty balloon performance through optimisation of extrusion process parameters and materials selection
Amount: €91,000 (EI); €39,000 (P)
Funding Body: EI - Innovation Partnership Programme
Research Supervisor: Dr Joseph Farrell, school of engineering/UCSI

Amount: €47,000
Funding Body: Fusion/Bittware Technologies, Belfast
Research Supervisor: Mary Giblin, school of engineering

Amount: €2,800
Funding Body: Clearstream
Research Supervisor: Dr Clement Higginbotham, school of engineering

Project Title: Development of a clear to polarised photochromic plastic lens
Amount: €123,000 (EI); €91,000 (P)
Funding Body: EI - Innovation Partnership Programme
Research Supervisor: Dr Clement Higginbotham, school of engineering/Transitions Optical Ltd

Project Title:	The development of hydrogels for novel oral drug delivery applications
Amount:	€34,000
Funding Body:	Postgraduate R&D Skills Programme - Strand 1
Research Supervisor:	Dr Clement Higginbotham, school of engineering
Project Title:	The development of a physically bound medical device coating
Amount:	€21,435 (EI), €13,030 (P)
Funding Body:	EI - Innovation Partnership Programme
Research Supervisor:	Dr Clement Higginbotham, school of engineering/Clearstream Technologies
Amount:	€204,983
Funding Body:	Secondment to the Intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) secretariat at the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) in Geneva, Switzerland
Research Supervisor:	Dr Brendan Kelly, school of science
Project Title:	Exploring the OCAP research model
Amount:	€6,000
Funding Body:	CCYCL/OPAC
Research Supervisor:	Dr Niall McElwee, CCYCL
Project Title:	Population Health Study
Amount:	€4,429
Research Supervisor:	Dr Niall McElwee, CCYCL
Project Title:	Pipe/Profile Product Development from Waste Plastics
Amount:	€9,000 (EI)
Funding Body:	EI - Innovation Partnership Programme
Research Supervisor:	Michael Nugent, school of engineering/Feasibility Grant with Cavan Plastics
Project Title:	Disinfection and sterilisation of medical instruments, devices and contact surfaces using novel electrotechnologies
Amount:	€113,134
Funding Body:	HRB
Research Supervisor:	Dr Neil Rowan, school of science
Project Title:	Applied Research for Boston Scientific
Amount:	€77,437
Funding Body:	Boston Scientific
Research Supervisor:	Mike Russell, School of Engineering
Project Title:	Distribution Qos Management Framework for Premium Services Provision in Emergency Scenarios
Amount:	€16,000
Funding Body:	6 Framework Emerge
Research Supervisor:	Dr Robert Stewart, school of engineering



Project Title: Development of an innovative device to deliver oxygen to chronic wounds
Amount: €34,000
Funding Body: Postgraduate R&D Skills Programme - Strand 1
Research Supervisor: Dr Gertrude Taggart, school of science

Project Title: Optimisation of Collagen Matrix
Amount: €16,450 (EI); €6,050 (P)
Funding Body: EI - Innovation Partnership Programme
Research Supervisor: Dr Paul Tomkins, school of science/Innocoll Technologies

Project Title: Evaluate sterilisation methods for drug delivery collagen sponges
Funding Body: EI - Innovation Partnership programme/Innocoll Ltd
Research Supervisor: Dr Clem Higginbotham, school of engineering, and Dr Paul Tomkins, school of science

Project Title: Novel functional beverages based on polysaccharide activities of algal original
Amount: € 89,141
Funding Body: FIRM (Food Institutional Research Measure) programme
Research Supervisor: Dr Paul Tomkins, school of science, in partnership with NUIG/UCC

Project Title: Development of cell-based 3D in vitro models of mouse tissues for the pharmaco-toxicological analysis of nuclear receptors-interacting compounds (NR-ICs)
Amount: ~€300k
Funding Body: EU FP6
Research Supervisor: Dr Paul Tomkins, school of science, as part of an EU consortium: ALTA Genetics; Biotechnology Brescia Health Centre, Italy; CELLON, Luxembourg; European Collection of Cell Cultures (ECACC), UK; University of Milan, Italy and University of Aarhus, Denmark.

Project Title: Thermal Management of RT for Blow Moulding
Amount: €34,000
Funding Body: Postgraduate R&D Skills Programme - Strand 1
Research Supervisor: Keith Vaugh, school of engineering

APPENDIX III AUDITED ACCOUNTS

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 AUGUST 2006

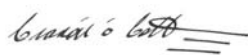
	2006 €000's	2005 €000's
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	52,546	51,646
	52,546	51,646
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	3,106	1,434
Cash at bank and in hand	3,776	5,609
	6,882	7,043
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors		
Amounts Falling due within one year	4,693	5,009
NET CURRENT ASSETS	2,189	1,984
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	54,735	53,630
Creditors		
Amounts falling due after more than one year	0	0
NET ASSETS	54,735	53,630

Represented by

RESERVES

Capital Account	52,546	51,646
Income and Expenditure Account	1,795	1,417
	54,341	53,063
Student Building Fund	243	163
Restricted Reserve	151	404
	54,735	53,630

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body:





**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2006**

	2006 €000's	2005 €000's
INCOME		
State Grant	22,162	19,086
Release from Capital Account	2,622	2,344
Tuition Fees	9,091	5,816
Research, Consultancy and Self Funding	3,136	3,088
Interest Income	7	4
Other Income	2,206	2,143
	<hr/> 39,224	<hr/> 35,076
EXPENDITURE		
Academic Departments	22,504	19,925
Academic Services	1,346	1,204
Premises	2,501	2,373
Central Administration and Services	4,227	4,329
General Educational Expenses	723	659
Student Facilities and Amenities	1,615	1,488
Research Consultancy and Self Funding	2,984	2,627
Depreciation	2,622	2,344
	<hr/> 38,522	<hr/> 34,949
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		
Transfer to Building Fund	702	127
Transfer to Restricted Reserve	(80)	0
Transfer to Student Services Reserve	(151)	(81)
	(93)	0
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS AT START OF YEAR	1,417	1,371
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS AT END OF YEAR	<hr/> 1,795	<hr/> 1,417

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body: