



**ICOS**  
Irish Council for  
International Students

2006  
annual report





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annual report

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# ICOS' efforts in 2006, in line with its strategy, have and national policies and practices which support the positive contribution of international students

## About ICOS

### Mission

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

### Vision

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

### Values

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

### Key Aims

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

# been focused on the promotion of institutional internationalisation and a broader appreciation of to Ireland.

## Foreword



The level of internationalisation achieved by higher education institutions has increasingly become a yardstick of quality and student mobility plays a big part in this process. In 2006, Irish tertiary institutions attracted over 25,000 international students to these shores generating revenues estimated at over €335 million for the economy. International students also contribute to Ireland's prosperity by providing a continuous pool of skilled labour to fill skill-shortage gaps in our labour market.

International students make an important contribution to Ireland and Irish life which extends well beyond economic considerations. A point which is often overlooked. They bring new ideas which enrich our learning environment and enhance our appreciation of other cultures and worldviews. International students challenge institutions to adapt and extend their range of student support services which result in better services for all students, particularly those from non-traditional backgrounds. They also ensure that all students and indeed staff in host institutions are encouraged to address key contemporary concerns such as integration and cross-cultural communication at an early stage.

Being an international student is a wonderful opportunity. Unfortunately however, some students encounter obstacles and problems which negatively impact on their experience while in Ireland; visa and immigration procedures are often cumbersome and costly; students are vulnerable to exploitation by unscrupulous operators who promise educational services which they never intend or are incapable of delivering. In order to survive as students in Ireland, many accept jobs with unacceptable pay and conditions or live in below standard accommodation; some report incidents of racism both on and off campus and others feel isolated, lonely or poorly understood by those who work with them.

Against this backdrop, ICOS and its member institutions continued to work in 2006 to create a more favourable environment for international students. The organisation's operational priorities for the year included: policy work particularly in relation to the rights of legitimate non-EEA students to work in Ireland, both while studying and after graduation; delivery of high quality information and training services to members which would increase cross-cultural awareness and communication skills among staff in HEI's and administration of aspects of the Irish Aid Fellowship Training Programme. In addition, some preliminary work was carried out and plans developed for an international students' forum to be held in UCC in November, 2007. ICOS' achievements under each of these headings are outlined in the pages which follow.

We would like to thank all those who contributed to the work of ICOS in 2006. We appreciate the co-operation and funding we receive from Irish Aid in relation to Fellowship Programme management. We thank all our member representatives and especially those who served on committees or attended other meetings during the year. We would like to acknowledge and thank the outgoing Chair, Ms Marie Lawlor, for her drive and enthusiasm during her time in office and finally, we pay tribute to a small but dedicated staff team in the ICOS office in Donnybrook on whose work and on-going commitment we have come to rely on.

Philip Curtis,  
Chair

Sheila Power,  
Director

‘We ... want to ensure that ... students coming to but achieve this in a caring, friendly, secure and

Mary Hanafin, Minister of Education & Science (Feb 2006 in speech delivered in China)

## Policy Issues

### Working Rights of non-EEA students

Working rights of non-EEA students and graduates was the key policy focus for ICOS in 2006. Activity on this issue culminated in November when the Chair led a delegation of ICOS members to a meeting with officials in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) to address some emerging questions and concerns. The meeting with the Department was followed by a submission which covered ICOS' stance and questions on three main issues: the introduction of work permits for non-EEA students; the rights of non-EEA students to undertake work placements and internships and the proposed introduction of a work permit scheme for international graduates.

In 2006, ICOS also continued its campaign, started in 2005, to make a special case for non-EEA study abroad students to be given student work visas. The initial response from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform (DoJELF) was negative but fortunately the situation for study abroad students has since changed for the better.

### Introduction of fee for GNIB cards

Following a resolution at the AGM last year, ICOS also issued a statement in opposition to the introduction of a new charge of €100 for registration certificates from the GNIB. ICOS felt that the €100 charge was too high for non-EEA students who were already paying a lot of money to come to this country. Furthermore, it seemed to ICOS members that it was unduly harsh to levy this charge each time the card needed to be renewed. In the UK, the fee is about half the Irish fee and is also only payable for each course of study and not for each year of study.

### Code of Practice and Guidelines on the Provision of Education to International Students

ICOS is represented by the Director on a working group to develop a Code of Practice and Guidelines on the Provision of Education to International Students. The working group which was brought together under the auspices of the Irish Higher Education Quality Network (IHEQN) met approximately once a month during 2006 and is composed of representatives from all key interests in international education including HECA, IUA, USI, HETAC, IUQB, Institutes of Technology and the DIT. The work of the group will continue into 2007 with a view to circulation of a draft document by autumn, 2007. The intention behind this Code of Practice is to enable higher education institutions to set their own education provision arrangements against agreed sector wide benchmarks. The Code covers standards and guidelines in relation to the marketing, recruitment, reception, education and pastoral care of international students and has drawn on best international practice in this area.

# Ireland not only receive a top class education supportive environment.'

## Services to Members

ICOS' strategic plan contains a commitment to become more visible to members and to respond to the need for professional development in the sector through tangible actions especially in the area of training and information provision. In 2006, the organisation embarked on some new initiatives which hopefully have contributed to greater member awareness of ICOS services. The first was the development and launch of a training course on Intercultural Awareness. A pilot course was delivered in UCD in March, 2006 and subsequently 3 further courses were offered. Based on the positive feedback on these courses to date and further discussions with members ICOS has expanded on its programme in 2007. This has brought real benefits to the organisation, not least a greater connection with members and some modest income which can be built upon.

ICOS' e-bulletin service to members which was started in 2005 has been further developed and 8 issues of the bulletin were produced in 2006. The bulletin is also sent to other interested individuals and groups resulting in an increased profile for the organisation. The bulletin has also been a very useful tool for advertising ICOS' training programme and for creating greater awareness of the Fellowship Training Programme.

### Annual Seminar

#### 'Crisis Management in International Education'

Sarah Huws-Davies, Deputy Director of Student Services at Swansea University was ICOS' guest speaker for its 2006 seminar which was on the topic of crisis management in international education. In her presentation, Ms Huws-Davies' acknowledged that while there was no single, fail-safe solution for all crises, this did not negate the necessity of being well prepared and educational institutions should have a well prepared crisis management plan in place to ensure that they respond appropriately in crises involving international students. Crisis rehearsals can be very useful and Ms Huws-Davies provided an example where such a rehearsal demonstrated that senior University staff did not have access to essential records in their college during an emergency if it took place at the weekend or outside normal office hours. A policy document should reiterate how important it is that staff operate within the boundary of their role and refer the person in crisis to a more senior staff member with responsibility. There are also implications for the University's liability. Emergency plans should be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. Simple measures such as ensuring emergency contact details are up to date can make a huge difference should a crisis occur. Debriefing and peer support are both crucial for staff who play a part in the events surrounding the crisis.

## Services to International Students

### Information Service

ICOS provides a largely web based information service for international students. In 2006, ICOS' website had an average of 18,000 hits per month and in addition the office responded to 1258 individual student enquiries or an average of 104 enquiries per month. Most questions related to funding for study while the balance had largely to do with admission procedures and immigration issues. There is a wide geographical spread of enquiries with most funding enquiries coming from African countries and most admission enquiries coming from Pakistan and India. Accommodation was the most important issue for students from Europe.

### Student Support

From time to time, ICOS takes up individual student issues especially in cases where there has been an obvious injustice such as the failure of an institution to refund student fees where a visa has been refused. In 2006, ICOS dealt with complaints in connection with four private institutions. In one case over 18 international students were affected. The case resulted in the institution been struck off the DES register and the partial refund of the students' fees. Students who made complaints to ICOS in 2006 were from different countries and included nationals from Bangladesh, Mongolia, Romania and Pakistan.

ICOS also operates a very small hardship fund for international students experiencing difficulty which can contribute to temporary relief in situations where long-term solutions have to be worked out. One small grant was paid out in 2006 and unfortunately the fund is now almost depleted.

### International Students' Forum

ICOS Policy Action Group and Executive Committee held preliminary discussions in relation to a forum for international students' in 2007 and a date, venue and general theme were agreed.

Mr Conor Lenihan, TD, Minister of State for Development Cooperation welcomes Irish Aid Study Fellows on a visit to the Dáil in February.



## Fellowship Programme Management 2005-2006

### ICOS' Role

2006 marked the first year of implementation of a 2-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Foreign Affairs on the administration of the Irish Aid Fellowship Training Programme (FTP). This MOU confirms what has been in effect a long-standing relationship with Irish Aid and the administration of the FTP continues to be ICOS' core activity with a budget of close to €1.5m.

2006 also saw the publication of the Government's White Paper on Overseas Development. The White Paper contains a welcome commitment to increase Ireland's ODA contribution to 0.7% GDP by 2012. It also contains an undertaking to carry out a major review of the Fellowship Programme which could see significant changes to the programme in the future with possible implications for ICOS' role.

### Services provided to the Fellowship Programme (Project and Non-Project related fellowships)

- Financial and administrative services
- Coordination of placement of Fellows on academic programmes
- Pre-and post arrival information and briefings to Fellows
- Travel and logistics service
- Links with academic staff and host institutions
- Arrival briefings and orientation programmes including dedicated Orientation/Fellowships Day and welcome party at start of academic year
- Accommodation arrangements
- Immigration assistance and advice
- Social and cultural events
- Provide support, advice and information to Study Fellows during the course of their fellowship
- Monitoring academic progress and welfare of Fellows
- Reporting to DFA on fellowship matters
- Research project on the longer term impact of the Fellowship on recipients when they return to their home countries

New aspects of ICOS' role under the new arrangements are the fact that ICOS now has budgetary and accounting responsibilities for direct fellowship payments in addition to its own administration budget. This is reflected in ICOS 2006 Audited Accounts which show that the organisation had a turnover of close to €2m in 2006. Heretofore, direct fellowship income and expenditure was not reflected in ICOS' end of year Financial Statements.

The other new element is the conduct of a research project which will attempt to track the outcomes of the fellowship programme on the 2005 cohort of study fellows. The research which has both qualitative and quantitative elements will assess the impact of the programme on recipients personally and professionally to get some measure of its overall impact in terms of capacity building for development.

### Fellowship Awards

ICOS managed 102 fellowships (new and continuing Study Fellows) in the academic year 2005-6. The number of fellows under our auspices varied depending on the academic year calendar and fellowship completion dates. A total of 33 and 39 new Fellows were awarded Irish Study Fellowships at the start of the 2005 and 2006 academic years respectively. The gender balance is still predominantly male but with rising numbers of female fellowship recipients annually. In contrast to recent years, very few Fellows are studying in Northern Ireland or the U.K. as efforts to place them on suitable courses in Ireland were successful.

### Countries of Origin

As in previous years, the Irish Aid Fellowship awards were overwhelmingly made to applicants from Irish Aid's key partner countries, namely Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mozambique, Tanzania, Timor Leste, Uganda, Zambia and Vietnam. Fellowships were also awarded to students from Burundi, Palestine and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

### Courses and Places of Study

The majority of Fellows undertake postgraduate courses at third level institutions in Ireland. Courses of study pursued by Fellows during 2005-6 included: Adult Education; Agriculture (Rural Development/ Environmental Resource Management/ Engineering Technology/Humanitarian Action); Cooperative & Social Enterprise; Food Marketing and Rural Development; Civil Engineering; Economics; Global Health; Globalisation; Public Health, Education; Special Education Needs; Engineering Science/Water and Environment; Food Science and Technology; Development Studies; Equality Studies; Finance and Investment, Health Promotion, International Relations, International Human

New Study Fellows are briefed by ICOS' Student Officer, Louise Staunton shortly after their arrival in Ireland. →



Rights Law, Peace Studies; International Security & Conflict Studies; Law; World Heritage Management. A small number of Fellows are funded to take undergraduate courses in biomedical sciences at the Dublin Institute of Technology. There are also some Fellows completing PhDs at University College Cork.

More than half of all Fellows are studying at UCD chiefly due to the courses on offer there (e.g. Agriculture and Development Studies programmes). The institution with the next greatest number of fellows is Trinity College Dublin, followed by Dublin Institute of Technology and UCC.

### Special Events for Study Fellows

ICOS organises special events on an annual cycle for Fellows. This includes a comprehensive Orientation/Fellowships Day and welcome party for all newly arrived Fellows in late September/early October. The programme includes presentations from ICOS staff, a short talk from an Irish Aid representative, a welcome from the ICOS Chair, a lecture on the Irish academic system and a series of workshops. At this time of year, we also organise a day-trip for Fellows to a place of interest outside Dublin. These events are a useful opportunity for Fellows to get to know each other and to begin the process of adjusting to living and studying in Ireland.

Each year ICOS hosts a Christmas party for Fellows in a city centre location. Since 2003, we have held an annual party to celebrate St Patrick's Day with Irish music and Irish dancing instruction for the Fellows. This event has proved to be very successful and provides an opportunity for some interesting cross-cultural exchanges.

From time to time during the academic year, ICOS runs other events for Fellows, academic calendar permitting, and in 2006 we wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr Conor Lenihan in facilitating the visit of a group of Study Fellows to Dáil Eireann. Accompanied by ICOS staff, the study fellows also sat in the visitors' gallery when the Minister addressed a question on Irish Aid which had been submitted by ICOS.

### Casework

ICOS staff, particularly in the Fellowships and Activities section, have day-to-day interaction with Fellows on a range of issues where Fellows require assistance, advice or personal support. Our service requires us to deal with Fellows who find themselves in difficult personal circumstances or crisis situations that necessitate high levels of support and involvement from senior ICOS staff.

We operate an on-call service to Fellows in case of emergency outside of office hours. In certain instances, we need to liaise with the Irish Aid Fellowships Desk or Embassy personnel, host institutions, medical personnel and state services in order to provide solutions and resolve difficult matters adversely affecting Fellows.

Recent situations affecting Fellows we have dealt with have included:

- Acute illness and hospitalisation of a number of Fellows
- Treatment of medical conditions diagnosed in Ireland and subsequent operation in case of one Fellow
- Serious academic problems necessitating academic and funding extensions
- High level of support work with one female Fellow who had a baby while in Ireland
- Death and serious illness of immediate family members in home countries of Fellows

ICOS was also required to provide advice on other matters adversely affecting some Fellows including:

- Accommodation issues (disputes between tenants and also between landlords and tenants)
- General health and well-being problems, including homesickness and stress
- Financial difficulties
- Immigration and visa issues

Due to ICOS assistance and support, the majority of situations were satisfactorily resolved. Fellows were able to continue their studies until they completed their academic work and returned home to employ their new skills and fulfil the overall development aims of the Irish Aid Fellowship Programme.

A group of Irish Aid study fellows with ICOS' Director, Sheila Power enjoy a Christmas Party in the ICOS office in December. →



## External Relations

At international level, ICOS continues to maintain good contacts with both UKCOSA, the UK Council for International Education and EAIE, the European Association for International Education. ICOS sent two representatives to UKCOSA's Annual Conference in Swansea in July and also regularly avails of UKCOSA training courses for staff development. Meanwhile, the Director of ICOS' attended EAIE's Annual Conference which was held in Basel in September, 2006.

ICOS continues to network with Irish NGOs involved in international development through its membership of Dóchas. Dóchas is a very active organisation and very important in terms of keeping ICOS staff updated on development matters both from a European and Irish perspective.

ICOS continued throughout 2006 to maintain its strong links with the International Education Board Ireland (IEBI), sharing information and attending meetings where relevant. Other organisations to which ICOS lends its support and regularly liaises are the Africa Centre, the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI), the Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI), the Migrant Rights Centre of Ireland (MRCI), Access Ireland Cultural Mediation Project and the Confederation of Student Services in Ireland (CSSI).

## Inside ICOS

### Council

Two new applications for Council membership were considered by the Executive Committee and recommended for acceptance at ICOS AGM which was held in May. ICOS also accepted one new subscriber. At the end of 2006, ICOS' total membership stood at 31 educational institutions, 4 church and other organisations and 7 individual members.

Philip Curtis, RCSI took over the role as Chair of ICOS in September 2006 replacing Marie Lawlor, UCD who had served for 3 years. Mary Simpson, Athlone Institute of Technology and Suzanne Buckley, UCC were ICOS' other officers serving as Vice-Chair and Honorary Treasurer respectively.

### Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of ICOS met 5 times during 2006 and the Chair was called upon on other occasions to support the Director particularly in the context of the representations to DETE and staff recruitment. The support of the Chair and all Committee members has been invaluable and much appreciated. All are busy in their own jobs but somehow managed to attend meetings, respond to phone calls and consider the many documents and e-mails which were sent their way during the year.

### Staff

There were some significant staff changes in 2006 which saw a total change of personnel in the Finance Office. In March, we lost the services of Deirdre Noyes who had been with ICOS for approximately 3 years and in September, we were very sorry to lose our Financial Administrator, Lilian O'Dwyer who had been with ICOS for over 5 years. We wish them both well in their new situations. Our two new staff are George Salib and Ruary Martin. George joined us in June and Ruary in November and they have both settled really well into the team and brought significant improvement to ICOS' staff gender balance in the process!

We wish to thank all who have contributed to ICOS' work over 2006 and we look forward building on our achievements in 2007.

## Summary of Accounts

Approved by the Board: 3 May, 2007  
 Auditors: BFGD Chartered Accountants  
 1 Castlewood Ave, Rathmines, Dublin 6

Income	2006	2005
Irish Aid Administration Grant	366,398	335,908
Irish Aid Fellowship Programme Grant	1,492,990	1,480,938
Membership Subscriptions	21,815	19,360
Interest Received	2,681	400
Amortisation of Capital Grants	1,270	3,809
Training Income	3,065	275
Other Income	9,188	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,897,407</b>	<b>1,840,770</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Employment Costs	312,056	271,331
Administration Costs	86,009	82,211
Fellowship Programme Expenses	1,492,990	1,480,938
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,891,055</b>	<b>1,834,480</b>
Surplus before Taxation	6,352	6,290

### Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 2006

Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	198,241	205,241
Current Assets		
Debtors	22,404	40,040
Cash at Bank and on Hand	267,079	316,308
Creditors		
Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	-281,686	-361,233
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>	<b>206,038</b>	<b>200,356</b>
Capital and Reserves		
Revaluation Reserve	60,327	60,327
Income and Expenditure Account	145,711	140,029
	<b>206,038</b>	<b>200,356</b>

**‘Education** is central to development. It is the primary socially marginalised adults and children can lift

White Paper on Irish Aid (2006)

## Study Fellowships Administered by ICOS 2005-2006

### Irish Aid Fellowship Training Programme – Fellowships (Long Term)

COUNTRY	UCD	TCD	DCU	NUIG	UL	UCC	DIT	NUIM	NI*	TOTAL
Burundi		2								2
D. R. Congo	1									1
Ethiopia	6	20	2			3			2	33
Lesotho	1		1					1		3
Mozambique	1									1
Palestine				2						2
Tanzania	8	2				1		1		12
Timor Leste	2	1				1				4
Uganda	15	3								18
Vietnam	1									1
Zambia	14	2					9			25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>102</b>

\*NI: Study Fellows in Northern Ireland (2 Study Fellows at University of Ulster, Jordanstown)

### Irish Aid Fellowship Training Programme – Fellowships (Short Term)

There were no short-term fellowships administered by ICOS during this period.

### Other Fellowships/ Special Contracts Etc

ICOS undertook no management of Fellowships for other sponsors or special service contracts this year.

Includes all Fellows in Ireland and Northern Ireland in the period from 1st October 2005 to 30 September 2006.

vehicle by which economically and themselves out of poverty.’

## ICOS Executive Committee 2006

### Chair

Ms Marie Lawlor	University College Dublin	to September, '06
Mr Philip Curtis	RCSI	from September, '06

### Vice-Chair

Ms Liza Kelly	Dublin Business School	to September, '06
Ms Mary Simpson	Athlone Institute of Technology	from September, '06

### Hon Treasurer

Mr Philip Curtis	RCSI	to September, '06
Ms Suzanne Buckley	University College Cork	from November, '06

### Members

Ms Ann Monahan	National University of Ireland Galway	
Ms Christine Houlahan	Irish School of Ecumenics	
Dr Claire Bohan	Dublin City University	to June, '06
Rev. William McLaren	Presbyterian Student Chaplaincy	
Ms Marie E. Kennedy	Dublin Institute of Technology	
Mr David Doyle	Dun Laoghaire Instit of Art Design & Technology	from June, '06

## ICOS Staff 2006

Sheila Power	Director
Sue Heah	Office Administrator

Fellowships and Activities Section:	Louise Staunton	Student Officer
	Karen Mulchinock	Assistant Student Officer
	Colin Tannam	Programme Assistant

Finance Section:	Lilian O'Dwyer	Financial Administrator	to September, '06
	Ruary Martin	Financial Administrator	from November, '06
	Deirdre Noyes	Financial Assistant	to March, '06
	George Salib	Financial Assistant	from June, '06

Part time / temporary assistants:	Barbara Vasic
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# ICOS Council: Institutional Representatives and Individual Members

**Chair**  
**Vice-Chair**  
**Hon Treasurer**

**Mr Philip Curtis**  
**Ms Mary Simpson**  
**Ms Suzanne Buckley**

**Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland**  
**Athlone Institute of Technology**  
**University College of Cork**

Name of Representative	Position	Institution
Ms Kathleen Shehan	International Admissions Officer	American College Dublin
Ms Mary Simpson *	International Officer	Athlone Institute of Technology
Mr Robert Griffiths	Head of EFL Department	Ballsbridge College of Further Education
Ms Liza Kelly *	International Marketing Manager	Dublin Business School
Ms Helena Ahern	Head of Counselling Services	Dublin City University
Ms Elena Keany	International Student Officer (Acting)	Dublin Institute of Technology
Ms Margaret Halpenny	International Office	Dundalk Institute of Technology
Mr David Doyle *	Academic Administration & Student Affairs Manager	Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology
Mr Finbarr Kinsella	Director of Studies	English Language Institute
Mr Leo O'Brien	Director of International Office	Griffith College Dublin
Ms Fiona Canning	International Officer	IT Blanchardstown
Mr Padraic Cuffe	Student Affairs Manager	IT Sligo
Ms Stella Browne	Administrative Officer	IT Tallaght
Mr Vincent Lennon	Head of Student Services	IT Tallaght
Mr Gerard O'Carroll	International Education Officer	IT Tralee
Mr Mustafiz Gani	Youth Coordinator	Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland
Rev.Dr John Stephens	Student Chaplain	Methodist Student Chaplaincy
Ms Cecily Grant	Admissions Officer	NCAD
Professor Conleth Cunnane	Department of Eng. Hydrology	NUI Galway
Ms Ann Monahan *	Overseas Student Officer	NUI Galway
Ms Aoife Keogh	International Office	NUI Maynooth
Mr Brendan Gainey	Business Development Coordinator	Portobello College Dublin
Rev William McLaren *	Student Chaplain	Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Mr Brian Burns	Director	International Study Institute Ireland

Name of Representative	Position	Institution
Mr Philip Curtis *	Head of Admissions & Student Services	RCSI
Ms Corriena Brien	Student Services Advisor	RCSI
Mr Phillip J Smyth	Director	Shannon Coll. of Hotel Management
Ms Tara Ryan	Client Services Manager	Tipperary Institute
Ms Susan Phillips	International Student Officer	Trinity College Dublin
Mr John Mc Partland	Director of International Office	Trinity College Dublin
Ms Kelly Mackey	Welfare Officer	Union of Students in Ireland
Mr Matt Murphy	Faculty of Food Science and Technology	UCC
Ms Suzanne Buckley *	International Student Officer	UCC
Ms Marie Lawlor *	Manager International Office	UCD
Ms Carl Lusby	International Student Officer	UCD
Mr Liam Ó Dochartaigh	Director, International Division	University of Limerick
Ms Josephine Page	Manager, International Division	University of Limerick
Ms Sinéad Cooke	International Affairs Manager	Waterford Institute of Technology
Ms Linda Murray	International Office	Ashfield College, Dublin

\* Denotes members of ICOS 2006/7 Executive Committee

#### Individual Members

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

#### Subscriber

Ms Maura Gallagher, Langtrain International

## ICOS Summary of Activities 2006

	Objectives	Main Activities
01	Work closely with members and build profile of ICOS as a respected and authoritative voice on policy issues related to the rights and welfare of International students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Established policy action group and held 2 meetings</li> <li>→ Made representations to Dept of Justice Equality &amp; Law Reform on GNIB charges and right to work of study abroad students</li> <li>→ Organised delegation and made submission to Dept of Enterprise Trade &amp; Employment on right to work with special reference to Graduate Employment (DETE)</li> <li>→ On-going contribution to IHEQN working group on development of a Code of Practice for the pastoral care of international students</li> </ul>
02	ICOS should be visible to its members and respond to the need for professional development in the sector through tangible actions in the area of training and information services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Delivery of regular e-bulletin to members with 8 issues in 2006</li> <li>→ Launched ICOS training programme and delivered 5 courses (4 to member organisations and 1 externally)</li> <li>→ Organised seminar on Crisis management in International Education</li> <li>→ On-going response to information requests from members</li> </ul>
03	Work with international students and their representative associations to ensure that the students' voice is heard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Preliminary meeting and plans in relation to international students forum to be held on 17 November 2007</li> <li>→ Web based information service – ave 18,000 hits per month</li> <li>→ E-mail enquiry service for international students – 1258 individual enquiries responded to</li> <li>→ Support to students with problems with their institutions – on-going case work</li> <li>→ Support to students in difficulty – operation of small hardship fund</li> </ul>
04	Management of Fellowship Training Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ 2-year MOU with Irish Aid in place</li> <li>→ Administration of 102 fellowship awards</li> <li>→ Processing 87 new applications</li> <li>→ Travel, accommodation and insurance arrangements for all study fellows</li> <li>→ On-going welfare and support services to deal with illness, bereavements and other problems of study fellows</li> <li>→ Compilation and dissemination of list of approved courses</li> </ul>
05	Strengthen and secure the organisation's resources financial and otherwise through membership development, service contracts and service provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ New membership proposals put to Council at AGM</li> <li>→ 2 new institutional members and 1 subscriber</li> <li>→ Development of income stream from training services</li> </ul>



Irish Council for International Students  
41 Morehampton Road, Dublin 4, Ireland  
Tel 353 1 6605233 | Fax 353 1 668 2320  
Email [office@icosirl.ie](mailto:office@icosirl.ie) | Web [www.icosirl.ie](http://www.icosirl.ie)

