

Working with Gifted Children



DCU and ASU are proven leaders in the area of provision for gifted children. DCU is home to the Centre for Talented Youth (CTY Ireland) which provides fast-paced courses for high-ability children aged 6 to 16 in college-like subjects on Saturdays and during the summer. Last year some 5,000 students attended CTY Ireland including a number from overseas.

ASU hosts the Herberger Young Scholars Academy which is a full-time school for gifted children where students take accelerated courses in a highly engaging learning environment. The mission of the academy is to provide gifted young people with advanced educational opportunities commensurate with their abilities, strengths and interests. In the last year, representatives from both organisations have visited the respective programmes to learn more about each other and to share best practices.

Various collaborations have evolved from these visits with Dr. Kim Lansdowne, executive director of the Herberger Academy, becoming a member of the CTY Ireland academic advisory board. DCU and ASU are collaborating on research projects involving self-concept and social coping for the gifted child, cyberbullying and teacher attitudes towards gifted students. Plans are underway in the coming year for students from both institutions to have an opportunity to participate in study abroad programmes in Dublin and Arizona, either as part of Early University Entrance or through a fast-paced summer programme.

There is a need to better serve gifted children in the educational system and to provide them with the resources and expertise needed to allow them to fulfil their potential. This great partnership between two respected institutions goes a long way towards providing this desired outcome.



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