#### **Less resources – more resourcefulness**

Eilis O'Brien
UCD Director of Communication & Marketing
University College Dublin

May 2014



# Ireland – 10 years ago

## The economy

- Very high confidence (Celtic Tiger)
- Upward annual growth in GNP
- Full employment
- Net immigration
- Soaring property prices

## **Higher Education Sector**

- Participation level: 64%
- Of which half are at 7 universities
- Massive investment in research and infrastructure
- Student "contribution" €670
- Total fee income paid by students - €40m
- Exchequer payment per student - €8,596

### Ireland 2014

## The economy

- 2-party coalition government
- Financial & political crisis led to economic recession, austerity and the arrival of Troika (EU, IMF, ECB)
- Performing sectors: agribusiness,
   pharma, computing
- Soaring unemployment small shoots emerging
- Austerity budgets sadly still with

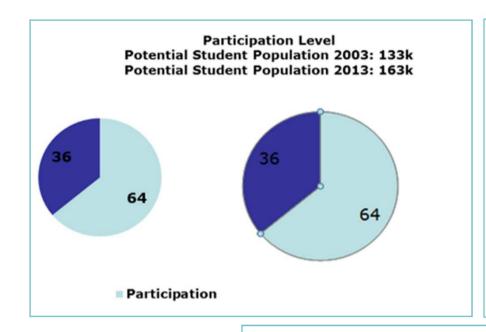
# **Higher education sector**

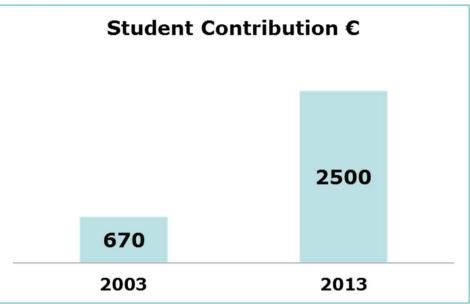
- Participation level remains constant at 64% but represents absolute increase of 22%
- Of which half are at the 7 universities
- Student "contribution" (fees): €2,500 (to rise to €3,000 by 2015)
- Total fee income paid by students: €110m
- Education budget down 1% but allocation to Higher Ed down by 8%
- Maintenance grants: rates are falling and thresholds rising

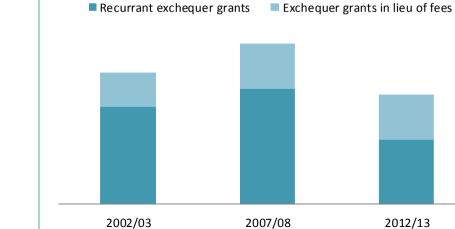


US

# The Changes







**Total Exchequer Funding** 

2012/13



# Communications strategy

## **Mission: Build UCD Reputation**

## Objectives:

- Market to students
- Promote expertise
- Build community

## Achieved through:

- UCD brand
- The courses
- The research output
- The students
- The academics



## The channels: what and where?

- The brand
  - Visual identity: physical and virtual
  - Events: through media and social media
  - Public outreach: physical and virtual
- UCD Horizons: the degree programmes: through marketing and advertising
- Profiling research output: media, social media, official web and in public
- Profiling achievements of students: through social media and media
- The academic expertise: through public commentary in media
- Public Affairs: 1-to-1



# Communication channels











3 - Proactive and reactive media



4 - UCD web and social networks



5 - Public Affairs



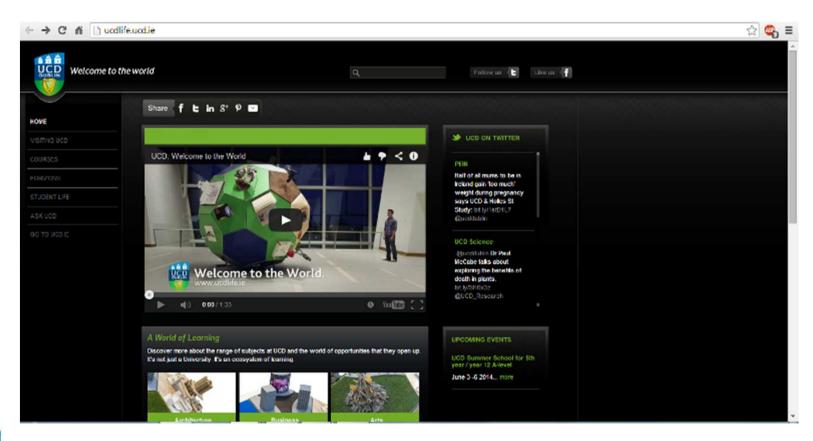
6 - Events



7 - Publications

# Blended marketing: paid and owned

http://ucdlife.ucd.ie/ welcome to the world





Blended marketing: paid, owned and

earned

- European Court of Justice case on digital rights
- Grad campaign TJ McIntyre
- UCD today
- TJ McIntyre article in Irish Independent



ECI says: EU-mandated mass

THE REPORT AND A DRIVE AND SERVICE AND PRODUCT - SERVICE.

European population"

surveillance "entails an interference with the fundamental rights of practically the entire

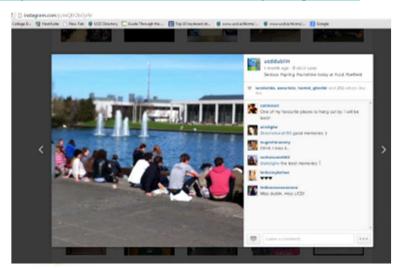




# UCD web and social media



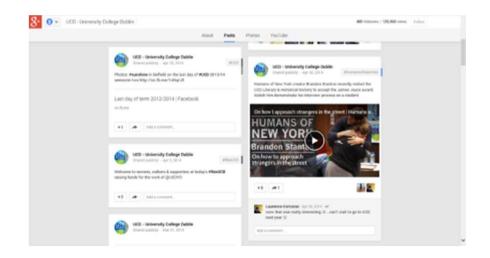
#### https://www.facebook.com/universitycollegedublin



http://instagram.com/ucddublin



https://twitter.com/ucddublin



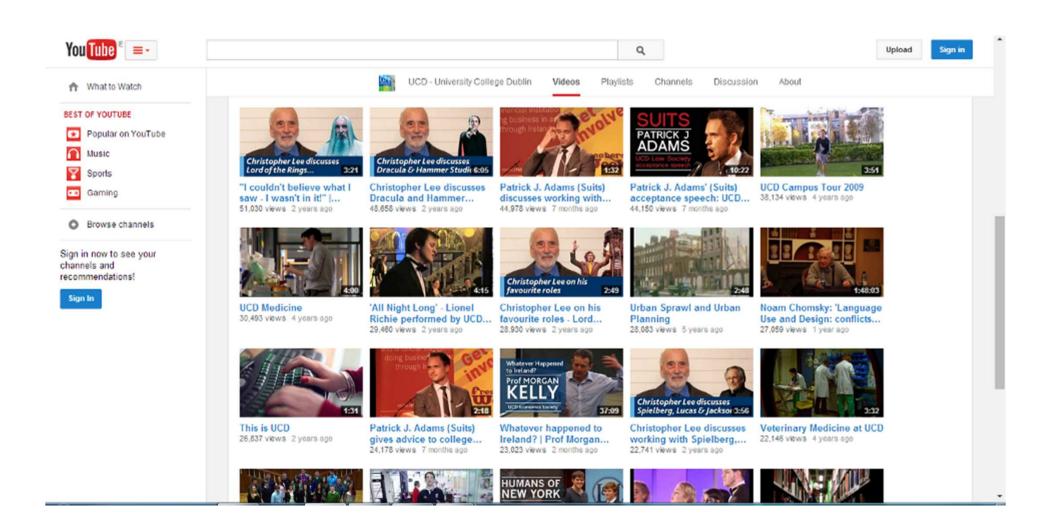
https://plus.google.com/+universitycollegedublin/posts

# Facebook: in good company... Brandon Stanton, 4.7 million fans



# Using social media for different audiences

youtube UCD



# UCD in the news: nationally and Irish Independent internationally

- Focus on increasing international coverage
- Online news increasingly important







# A picture paints a 1,000 words...







# Online press and media

speed gene story

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#### Nuacht UCD

Posted 25 January 2012

Scientists trace origin of 'speed gene' in modern racehorses to British mare of 300 years ago

- All modern variants traced back to the legendary Nearctic
- Wide increase in variants of original 'speed gene' traced to Northern Dancer

Scientists have traced the origin of the 'speed gene' in Thoroughbred racehorses back to a single British mare that lived in the United Kingdom around 300 years ago, according to findings published in the scientific journal Nature Communications.



#### In the Media...

- RTÉ TV News
- Irish Times
- Irish Independent
- MSNBC
- Irish Examiner (1)
- Irish Examiner (2)
- Evening Herald
- Belfast Telegraph
- The Journal

UCD news site and Twitter feed are resources for journalists

Links to national, international, specialist media and high-profile blogs show how story evolved, and improve search engine performance

Links to UCD Schools drive traffic and improve search engine performance

Stories can be easily shared on specialist blogs and social networks