



Charlemont grant report

Recipient name:	Dr Leeanne Hinch
Discipline and subject area:	Humanities and Social Science
Amount and year awarded:	€1,230 in 2022
Title of project:	Identifying supports for gifted students from low-income households in Dublin, Ireland.

Summary of findings:

The primary goal of this project is to explore the various supports that exist for gifted socio-economically disadvantaged students in Ireland, and what supports parents, teachers and the students themselves believe need to exist so that these children can fulfil their potential. This will help to inform interventions for Irish gifted disadvantaged children. The RIA Charlemont grant has allowed me to start this project through the funding of an incredibly beneficial trip to Johns Hopkins University School of Education in Baltimore, to work with Professor Jonathan Plucker. His research has involved disadvantaged students from within the United States and abroad so his collaboration on this study would be incredibly valuable.

In late October 2022, I travelled to Baltimore to spend a week in Johns Hopkins University learning from Professor Jonathan Plucker. We had many enriching conversations about our shared areas of interest, and we discussed how we might go about answering the questions that we have about gifted disadvantaged students. During my time in JHU, Prof. Plucker had also arranged several opportunities for me to meet with researchers working in similar fields from whom I gained many individual insights. I had the incredible chance to meet with Dr. Linda Brody who is also an expert in the field of gifted education, having worked in the field since the 1970s. These conversations have laid the foundation for the next steps that I will be taking in my project; namely the finalising of my instrument and interview protocols.

In addition to learning from these experts, while in JHU I was asked to present on some of my work and to share my experience of gifted education in Ireland. I gave a lecture in the School of Education to invited academics, professionals from CTY Johns Hopkins, and students from JHU. Further to this I took part in a proseminar for PhD students with Prof. Plucker and gave a seminar session with a group of visiting postgraduate students. Finally, I travelled with Prof. Plucker to Georgetown University in Washington DC to be interviewed by undergraduate students about my experience with gifted students in Ireland.

During this trip I also had the opportunity to meet with other potential collaborators for future work. I met with numerous PhD students working in the field of gifted education. I had the opportunity to have a meeting with the Dean of JHU School of Education where we talked about some of the work I do with CTYI, DCU's Institute of Education, and any overlap they share with his School. I also attended a meeting with all of the associate professors in the School of Education where I heard about their area of interest and the fields they carry out work in. These were incredibly valuable opportunities that I'm sure will lead to positive outcomes at a later date.



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Plans for continuing collaboration:

Prof. Plucker is visiting CTYI in DCU in December 2022 to continue the work on this study. We will also be presenting on our planned work to staff within DCU during his time with us. In addition, Prof. Plucker will be presenting to parents of our students while he is visiting. The data collection for this study will begin in February 2023 and we intend to publish the results of this work.



Published work and publication plans:

This study will form the basis for at least one paper to be submitted to a journal such as ‘High Ability Studies’, ‘Journal for the Education of the Gifted’ or ‘Irish Educational Studies’. The findings of this study will also be incorporated into any relevant reports that CTYI prepare on their gifted students.

Dissemination and plans for future dissemination:

These findings will be presented at the two largest conferences in gifted education: ‘National Association for Gifted Children’ (NAGC) in the US – November 2023 and ‘European Council for High Ability’ (ECHA) in Europe – August 2024.

Collaborations and planned collaborations:

I met with quite a number of researchers who were very interested in the work that I’m doing in CTYI, so I’m confident that at some point in the near future other collaborations will start as a result of this trip.



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Outreach and engagement activities:

As I have just returned from this trip, I have not yet had the opportunity to formally present the current work with Prof. Plucker. However, we are eager to present our findings to parents and teachers of gifted disadvantaged children in Ireland. Once the work is at a more advanced stage we will be sharing our findings through the social media channels of CTYI, DCU and Johns Hopkins University School of Education.