

First QS World University Ranking in Chemistry lists Trinity's School of Chemistry at place 36

In the first ever QS World University ranking of chemistry by subject area, the School of Chemistry at Trinity College Dublin hit the ground running and was placed at rank 36 internationally. It has also been ranked at 6th place in Europe. Next to two German universities, TCD chemistry was the only non-British European institution to make the top 50. Chemistry (and mathematics, which was ranked even higher at place 15), are the two top scoring Trinity subject areas, outpacing the overall College rating of 52nd place.

The ranking was based on academic reputation, an employer survey, and citations of scientific publications. Chemistry did very well in the first two, and scored especially high in citations, which is a measure for research publication impact. Here, the School of Chemistry surpassed institutions such as Oxford, Cambridge, ETH, Tokyo, Yale, Princeton, amongst others.

This is a significant achievement, especially in light of the economic downturn and changes in research funding in past years. It indicates the high academic qualities of the students and teaching programmes, the calibre of the School's faculty, and the attractiveness of our graduates to the global workplace.

By international comparison, TCD's chemistry is a small School with limited resources. The high ranking achieved is a vindication of the School's strategy to focus on its core mission in basic chemistry research and to advance knowledge. It attests to the quality of our undergraduate and postgraduate students and the calibre of postdoctoral researchers. It is a reflection of a modern syllabus, stringent recruitment policies, and the dedication of its academic, administrative, and technical staff.

Such a ranking could only have been achieved based on the investments made by the Irish taxpayer in the last decade. Significant funding from the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL), Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), the College's own funds, and others, have transformed Trinity's chemistry from a level of almost no infrastructure to one that competes internationally at the highest level.

The current state of the nation will make it a challenge to maintain or improve this ranking. Significant investments proceed apace in our competitor institutions, while none are possible here at present. Likewise, current constraints in hiring and promotion will create problems in the long run, while the lack of research funding will result in lower numbers of graduates. Yet, Chemistry's superior achievement indicates its potential for the future, and the underlying quality of our faculty and students marks it as one of the College's leading units.

Prof. Dr. Mathias O. Senge
Chair of Organic Chemistry
School of Chemistry
Trinity College