



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 11th September 2026

Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD Officially Opens TU Dublin's New Academic Hub and Library at Grangegorman

State-of-the-art five-storey facility opens in time for the new academic year, transforming teaching, learning and student support on the Grangegorman Campus

Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin) today welcomed **Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD** to officially open the new An Mol Acadúil – Leabharlann / Academic Hub & Library on its Grangegorman Campus, marking another significant milestone in the University's campus development programme.

The Taoiseach was joined by **James Lawless TD, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Dr Deirdre Lillis, President of TU Dublin, Eoin O'Shea, Interim Chair of the TU Dublin Governing Body, and Ger Casey, Chief Executive Officer** of the **Grangegorman Development Agency**, for the official opening ceremony, ahead of students returning to campus for the start of the new academic year on Monday.

The Academic Hub & Library is a landmark 12,600m², five-storey development that places learning, collaboration and student support at the heart of the Grangegorman campus.

The Grangegorman Development Agency (GDA), the semi-state body responsible for developing the Grangegorman site, delivered this building and plays a lead role in what has been recognised nationally as the ongoing successful redevelopment of the site into an emerging new health, education and community campus.

Designed by a team led by award-winning architects O'Donnell + Tuomey, the building carefully integrates the 19th-century North House building within a striking contemporary structure that reflects the University's commitment to innovation while celebrating the heritage of the Grangegorman site.

Funded through a combination of Exchequer support from the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the sale of TU Dublin properties, construction was delivered by the OHLA–Townlink Joint Venture.

The new Academic Hub & Library brings together TU Dublin's Library Services with key student supports, including the Academic Writing Centre, Career Development Centre, Disability Support Service, Maths Learning Centre, and Computer Learning Centre, creating a central hub for learning and student success.

The building provides more than 1,300 study spaces, collaborative learning areas, Special Collections and Archives, a café, exhibition and event spaces, a rooftop terrace and

panoramic city views. It also features TU Dublin's first automated book return system and a range of technology-enabled learning spaces.

Speaking at the opening of the Academic Hub & Library at TU Dublin's Grangegorman campus, **Taoiseach Micheál Martin** said:

"The opening of the Academic Hub & Library at Grangegorman is an important milestone in Project Ireland 2040 and reflects the Government's commitment to investing in world-class higher education infrastructure.

"I want to congratulate TU Dublin on the opening of this fantastic new building and on the growing success of the university. This year, TU Dublin was Ireland's most applied-to higher education institute, a tremendous achievement that demonstrates the growing appeal of practice-based education. This success speaks not only to the quality of the university's educational offering, but also to the dedication of its staff and the academic excellence of its students, and the important role TU Dublin plays in developing the talent and skills that drive our society and economy forward."

Grangegorman is also a place of remarkable history, having served the people of Dublin for more than 250 years. It is important that, as this site looks to the future, its past is not forgotten. The restoration of the North House and the 'Beyond the Walls' exhibition ensure that this heritage remains an important part of the campus.

Grangegorman has now entered another chapter in its long history – as a modern centre for education, research, innovation, health and community, helping to create opportunities for generations to come."

Highlighting the importance of student-centred investment in higher education, **Minister James Lawless TD** said:

"Investment in higher education is about more than new buildings. It is about creating spaces where teaching, research and innovation can thrive, and where students have the support they need to succeed.

The Academic Hub & Library reflects TU Dublin's commitment to strengthening higher education infrastructure and meeting growing student demand. By bringing academic resources and essential student services together, it creates a truly student-centred environment for learning and development. This project marks a major milestone for TU Dublin and the North Inner City, reflecting years of vision, planning and collaboration. It is important to recognise the outstanding contribution of the Board and Executive of the Grangegorman Development Agency in bringing this ambitious project to completion.

TU Dublin has a distinctive role in our higher education landscape, combining practice-based education and applied research with strong links to enterprise and industry. This facility represents an important investment in that mission and, above all, in TU Dublin's students. That investment is reflected in the University's strong graduate outcomes, which are the highest in Dublin, demonstrating the quality of its education and its strong links with industry and employers."

Dr Deirdre Lillis, President of TU Dublin, highlighted the importance of the new facility in enhancing the student experience and advancing TU Dublin's vision for a connected campus network:

"The opening of the Academic Hub & Library is another important milestone in the development of TU Dublin's connected campus network. As Ireland's first technological university, we are committed to providing outstanding learning environments across our campuses in

Grangegorman, Bolton Street, Aungier Street, Tallaght and Blanchardstown, ensuring students have access to world-class facilities wherever they choose to study.

"This exceptional new building has been designed entirely around the student experience. By bringing together our library services, academic supports, collaborative learning spaces and wellbeing resources under one roof, we are creating an environment where students can learn, connect, innovate and thrive. Opening its doors as students return for the new academic year makes this an especially exciting moment for our university community and demonstrates our continued investment in delivering an outstanding educational experience."

Highlighting TU Dublin's legacy of technological education, **Eoin O'Shea, Interim Chair of the Governing Body**, said:

"TU Dublin has a proud history stretching back to the City of Dublin Technical Schools and the founding of the Technical College at Kevin Street in 1887 by Arnold Felix Graves. That tradition of combining academic excellence with practical, hands-on learning continues to define the University today, alongside its growing contribution through research, innovation and graduate talent to Ireland's skills needs and economic competitiveness."

The Academic Hub & Library builds on that tradition, representing the latest investment in TU Dublin's connected campus strategy alongside new teaching and learning facilities in Tallaght and Blanchardstown. Together, these developments are strengthening our campuses and ensuring TU Dublin can continue to deliver for students, industry and Ireland's future."

Speaking at the opening, **Ger Casey, CEO, GDA**, added;

"I am delighted to see the Academic Hub & Library now complete and established as the academic heart of the Grangegorman site. This landmark building provides a modern, accessible and inclusive learning environment for students, staff and the wider community. It is also fitting to see the 'Grangegorman Histories – Beyond the Walls' as the inaugural exhibition hosted within the building, linking the site's rich heritage with its future as a place of learning and innovation. As the organisation responsible for delivering the overall Grangegorman project, the GDA is proud to have helped bring this important facility come to life. I would like to thank the design team, TU Dublin project team and building contractor for their dedication and collaboration in delivering a building that will benefit generations of learners and the wider community for years to come."

The Academic Hub & Library is the third major teaching and learning facility TU Dublin has opened since 2025, following Áras Geal in Blanchardstown and Áras Thuaidh in Tallaght.

Opening in time for the new academic year, the Academic Hub & Library will provide a new centre for learning and collaboration for TU Dublin's community of more than 28,500 students. The opening comes as the University records its highest-ever CAO demand, with over 30,000 applicants and more than 109,000 programme mentions for 2026/27, making it Ireland's most applied-to higher education institution. This strong demand reflects TU Dublin's reputation for preparing students for successful careers, with the University ranked number one in Dublin for graduate employability.

Grangegorman Histories

The official opening also celebrates the unique history of the Grangegorman site with a poetry reading by **Lianne O'Hara** and a dramatic reading of **Sylvia Cullen's Flighty Creatures** by TU Dublin Conservatoire student **Sophie Doyle**, who is studying for a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Drama (Performance). **Taoiseach Micheál Martin** and **Minister James Lawless** also took the inaugural tour of 'Beyond the Walls', officially launching the new Grangegorman Histories exhibition. Housed in the restored North House, the exhibition, now

open to the public, explores the site's transformation from a place of confinement and care into today's vibrant university campus.

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Notes to Editors

Academic Hub & Library – Key Facts

- 12,600m² across five floors
- Officially opened on Friday, 11 September 2026
- Fully operational for students returning for the new academic year
- Delivered by the Grangegorman Development Agency as part of Project Ireland 2040
- Designed by O'Donnell + Tuomey
- Main contractor: OHLA–Townlink Joint Venture
- Houses TU Dublin's integrated library service
- More than 1,300 study spaces
- Approximately 160,000 library items
- Café, exhibition space and Learning Commons
- Special Collections and Archives
- Career Development Centre, Academic Writing Centre, Disability Support Service and Maths Learning Centre
- Rooftop event space with panoramic views across Dublin
- Features the Grangegorman Histories exhibition *Beyond the Walls*, exploring the history and transformation of the Grangegorman site through archives, artefacts, artwork and digital media.

Academic Hub & Library – Cultural Programme

Grangegorman Histories – Beyond the Walls

The official opening coincides with the launch of *Beyond the Walls*, a new Grangegorman Histories exhibition located in the Academic Hub & Library. Housed in the restored North House, the exhibition explores the site's history through archival material, artefacts, commissioned artwork and digital displays, tracing Grangegorman's transformation from a place of confinement and care to a vibrant university campus.

Poetry Reading

As part of the official opening, poet Lianne O'Hara performed a reading from [The Patients All Seemed Happy](#), a collection commissioned through the Grangegorman Histories public call. The poems explore the history of Grangegorman, Dublin's oldest psychiatric institution, which operated from 1814 to 2013.

Drawing on research in the National Archives of Ireland and original interviews with former patients and staff, O'Hara's work gives voice to lives often overlooked in Ireland's history of institutionalisation and reflects on the site's transformation from a place of confinement and care into a vibrant university campus.

The Patients All Seemed Happy forms part of the wider Grangegorman Histories project, which examines the complex social history of the Grangegorman site through research, exhibitions, literature and public engagement.

Flighty Creatures

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Drama (Performance) student **Sophie Doyle** performed an excerpt from [Flighty Creatures](#), a trilogy of short stories written for podcast by Wexford writer Sylvia Cullen. Commissioned by Grangegorman Histories, the work is inspired by the lives of women and children who lived in the Grangegorman Asylum, Penitentiary and House of Industry during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

We are TU Dublin

Number 1 for Graduate Employability in Dublin

TU Dublin is proud to be ranked Number 1 in Dublin for graduate employability across undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes for the second consecutive year, according to the [2024 HEA Graduate Outcomes Survey](#). More than seven in ten graduates secure employment within nine months of graduation, reflecting TU Dublin's strong focus on applied, practice-based education and close industry engagement.

About Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin)

Creating a Better World Together—Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin) is Ireland's first Technological University and the second-largest university in the capital, serving over 28,500 students across five campuses in Grangegorman, Blanchardstown, Tallaght, Bolton Street, and Aungier Street, with a dedicated research facility on Camden Row. A national leader in STEM, engineering, creative arts, and business education, TU Dublin integrates academic excellence with real-world application through a distinctive practice-based, employer-engaged model.

TU Dublin is a hub of innovation and translational research, where over 850 academics are engaged in impactful, interdisciplinary work addressing global challenges in sustainability, health, digital transformation, and cultural inclusion. The University's research funding has increased by 88% since 2020, and its open-access repository Arrow has seen more than 14.5 million downloads. TU Dublin researchers play a key role in advancing science and technology, shaping public policy, and enriching Ireland's cultural and economic landscape.

As a recognised leader in knowledge transfer, TU Dublin has facilitated over 578 invention disclosures, 136 patent applications, 44 spin-out companies, and 226 licensing agreements, generating over €200 million in commercial impact. The University's research and innovation ecosystem has supported the creation of more than 400 new sustainable businesses, contributing almost €700 million in economic value.

TU Dublin is also a global sustainability leader. Its strategic commitment to inclusive, future-focused education and research earned it a Gold STARS® accreditation from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and a global ranking of 17th out of nearly 600 institutions worldwide.

With a strong international outlook, TU Dublin actively collaborates with partners across Europe, Asia, and the Americas through major cross-border research initiatives, mobility programmes, and knowledge networks. Producing over 7,000 graduates annually, TU Dublin is building a better future through impactful research, innovation, and globally connected education.

<https://www.tudublin.ie>