

## **Colleges scrub up well, despite tendency among young people to litter**

Dublin City University (DCU) is the country's cleanest campus, says IBAL

Despite a strong tendency among young adults to ignore litter laws, our 3rd level colleges are models for other public and commercial facilities to emulate, according to the business alliance Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL). Speaking in Maynooth at the presentation of environmental awards to local community groups, Dr Tom Cavanagh, Chairman of IBAL, said 18-24 year-olds were the most likely to drop litter on our streets. Despite this, only 3 of 21 third level colleges are classed as heavily littered.

A survey conducted by An Taisce on behalf of IBAL found DCU in Dublin to be the country's cleanest campus. By contrast, Limerick Institute of Technology was the only institution deemed to be 'very heavily littered', with GMIT Castlebar and Dundalk Institute of Technology graded 'heavily littered'. Trinity College, UCC and University of Limerick achieved a litter-free ranking, as did Maynooth itself, while UCD was considered 'moderately littered'.

Dr Cavanagh commented: "These positive results send out a message not only to other public and commercial centres, but to towns and cities at large. The systems in place in our colleges demonstrate how a litter-free environment can be created, even in the face of a strong propensity among the inhabitants of that environment to litter."

"The findings bear out IBAL's belief that public awareness campaigns will not solve our litter problem. Those in charge of our communities - local authorities in other words - must take the lead. As is happening in our educational establishments, adequate and flexible cleaning programmes, coupled with enforcement of our litter laws, is required.

"With 150,000 people living and working in our 3rd level colleges, they represent an important population centre in their own right. Added to which many of their inhabitants are at a formative stage in terms their social behaviour," he emphasised.

Dr Cavanagh went on to point out that, according to the Dept of Environment research, 49% of people admit to having littered. 18-24 year olds are the age group most likely to offend, at 61%, in contrast to the over-65s (36%).

The results of the IBAL study of 3rd level colleges for 2004 were as follows:

1. DCU (Dublin City University)	Clean, excellently maintained and presented
2. University of Limerick	Clean, excellently maintained and presented
3. NUI Maynooth	Clean, excellently maintained and presented
4. Institute of Technology Tralee	Clean, excellently maintained and presented
5. UCC Cork	Clean, excellently maintained and presented
6. Waterford Institute of Technology	Clean, excellently maintained and presented
7. Cavan College	Clean, excellently maintained and presented
8. Cork Institute of Technology	Clean, excellently maintained and presented
9. Trinity College Dublin	Clean, excellently maintained and presented
10. NUI Galway	Clean, excellently maintained and presented

11. GMIT Galway	Moderately littered
12. Sligo Institute of Technology	Moderately littered
13. DIT Kevin Street	Moderately littered
14. Dun Laoghaire College Further Education	Moderately littered
15. Tallaght Institute of Technology	Moderately littered
16. Letterkenny Institute of Technology	Moderately littered
17. UCD Belfield	Moderately littered
18. Athlone Institute of Technology	Moderately littered
19. GMIT Castlebar	Heavily littered
20. Dundalk Institute of Technology	Heavily littered
21. Limerick Institute of Technology	Very heavily littered

The final results for 2004 of IBAL's survey of towns and cities across Ireland will be announced in December.

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Editors note:

Set up in 1996, Irish Business Against Litter is an alliance encompassing more than 30 member companies, employing in excess of 70,000 staff. Members share a belief that continued economic prosperity - notably in the areas of tourism, food and direct foreign investment - is contingent on a clean, litter-free environment.