BICS is a national organisation constituted in 1995, dedicated to providing a national forum for the societies in Ireland’s Universities, Colleges and Institutes of Education. The Board is responsible for the promotion of interest in the activities of Irish college societies and of contact and co-operation between them. Over 400 students from sixteen universities and Institutes of Technology attended the 23rd Annual BICS Awards in Cork and they were addressed by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork at the commencement of the awards ceremony. The band Traffic played after the awards and all attendees thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Many thanks to our awards sponsors: USI, Please Talk, Comhlámh and Partridge Peartree.

Large Colleges

DCU
DIT
MU
NUIG
UCC
UL

Small Colleges

CIT
DKIT
GMIT
ITB
ITT

ITTD
LIT
MIC
NCI
WIT
Best Society in a Cultural, Academic or Social Field (Large College)

Sponsored by USI

Nominees:
DCU: Dance Society
Maynooth University: Dance Society
UCC: LGBT Society
DIT: Photo Society
NUI Galway: Musical Society
UL: Computer Society

(GUMS)

And the Winner is…

NUI Galway: Musical Society (GUMS)

One of NUI Galway’s most active societies, GUMS is a society where members sing, dance, act and perform at the same time. This year, they staged ‘The Producers’ as their main musical production and made a profit for the first time in GUMS history.
Best Society in a Cultural, Academic or Social Field (Small College)
Sponsored by USI
Nominees:

CIT: Indian Society
DkIT: ISoc
IT Blanchardstown: Colours LGBTQ*+ Society
IT Tallaght: Rainbow Society
IT Tralee: Events Society
MIC Limerick: MIDAS

And the Winner is…

MIC Limerick: MIDAS

MIDAS (Mary I Dramatic Arts Society) is the longest running MIC Society. Year on year MIDAS produce various plays, one acts, cabarets and the annual musical which runs in the 500 seat Lime Tree Theatre. MIDAS pride themselves on the quality of their shows and this is evident by the volume of work and commitment these students put into this Society year are year.
Best Society in a Charity or Civic Field (Large College)
Sponsored by Comhlámh

Nominees:
DCU: RAG Society
DIT: Mental Health Society
Maynooth University: Green Campus Society
NUI Galway: Sláinte Society
UCC: Friends of MSF

And the Winner is…
DCU: RAG Society

The Raising & Giving (RAG) society is the largest student volunteering organisation in DCU and specialises in providing high quality volunteering opportunities that engage the student population and help the local community. With innovative events to fund these projects, RAG is truly at the heart of the DCU society scene.
Best Society in a Charity or Civic Field (Small College)
Sponsored by Comhlámh

Nominees:
CIT: Enactus
MIC Limerick: St. Vincent de Paul Society

And the Winner is…
CIT: Enactus

Enactus CIT is a social entrepreneurial initiative that implements projects to help socially disadvantaged groups in Cork. They currently have two projects: Cocoon, a project to create a portable bedding that can be folded into a bag and carried around by homeless individuals. Renewable Restorations, an upcycling project that involves youth from disadvantaged backgrounds to make beautiful upcycled glass artefacts for decoration.
Best Society Event (Large College)
Sponsored by Please Talk

Nominees:

DCU: LGBT Society – DCU Drag Race
NUI Galway: Anime & Manga Society – Akumakon

DIT: Games Society & Japanimation Society – Shurikon

UL: Drama Society – The Cock and Plucker

Maynooth University: Games Society – Dominicon

And the Winner is…

DIT: Games Society & Japanimation Society – Shurikon

Shurikon’s an anime, gaming and cosplay convention organised by the DIT Japanimation and Game societies. The one-day event which took place on Saturday 10th February 2018 was a jam-packed day full of gaming tournaments, panels, and cosplay events. Including special events with our special guests CDawgVA, LuxCosplay, WarPandaCosplay and StuckshockerCosplay.
Best Society Event (Small College)
Sponsored by Please Talk

Nominees:
CIT: Musical Society – *Bad Girls Musical*
GMIT: FilmHub – *FilmHub’s Screening*
IT Tallaght: Radio Society – *Radio Week*
IT Tralee: BANG FM – *Student Awards Night*
NCI: Music Soc – *NCI Goes Unplugged*
MIC Limerick: SVP Society – *Spreading Vibrant Positivity*

And the Winner is…

**CIT: Musical Society – *Bad Girls Musical***

Our aim is to bring students from all CIT campuses together to explore their shared interest in musical theatre. We offer our students a chance to work with industry professionals gaining experience both on and off the stage. All of this is done in a safe and encouraging environment.
Best Society Individual (Large College)

Nominees:

DCU: Seanie Germaine  NUI Galway: Sally Cahill
DIT: Nikki Murphy  UCC: Asha Woodhouse
Maynooth University: Róisín Ní Mhaoláin  UL: Conor Walsh

And the Winner is…

UL: Conor Walsh

Conor is the President of the UL Computer Society. Under his dynamic leadership this year CompSoc has been reinvigorated and increased its membership, events, sponsorship and income. His commitment, passion, negotiating and organisational skills have ensured an improved experience for members and massively improved the society's equipment and services.
Best Society Individual (Small College)

Nominees:

CIT: Kiran Shaju
GMIT: Siobhan Conroy
IT Tallaght: Hannah Byrne
IT Tralee: Joseph Kavanagh
MIC Limerick: Colleen Noonan
NCI: Petra McDonough

And the Winner is...

GMIT: Siobhan Conroy

Siobhan is a third year student, studying Mechanical Engineering in GMIT. Siobhan single handily set up GMIT Music Society in October 2016. Since then, the society has gone from strength to strength giving students the opportunity to follow their passion for music. Siobhan is also a member of a number of societies in GMIT.
Most Improved Society (Large College)

Sponsored by Partridge Peartree

Nominees:

DCU: Sustainable Living Society
DIT: DJ Society
Maynooth University: DJ Society

NUI Galway: ISS | International Student Society
UCC: International Society
UL: ULFM

And the Winner is…

DCU: Sustainable Living Society

'Our aim is to work towards a more sustainable DCU, focusing on accessible changes for students including ‘fast fashion’ and waste reduction. We empower students to make changes that lead to a more sustainable lifestyle. This year we were one of the driving forces behind DCU becoming plastic free.'
Most Improved Society (Small College)
Sponsored by Partridge Peartree

Nominees:

CIT: Anime and Manga Society
IT Tallaght: Radio Society
NCI: Equality Society
IT Tralee: BANG FM (Radio Society)

And the Winner is…

IT Tallaght: Radio Society

Having recently been through a period of inactivity, the Institute of Technology Tallaght’s Radio Society had a long way to come in 2018. Their activity has risen dramatically since January, leading up to a week-long broadcast on ITTFM, ‘your big little station’, run and managed entirely by the Radio Soc.
Best New Society (Large College)

Nominees:

DCU: HeadstArts Society
DIT: Mature Students Society
Maynooth University: The Purpose Society
NUI Galway: Fáilte Refugees
UCC: STAR Society
UL: Women in Science Technology Engineering and Maths (WiSTEM)

And the Winner is…

DIT: Mature Students Society

The recently set up DIT Mature Student Society are one of the most, proactive new societies within the DIT. Founded in August 2017, the society won four of the recent DIT Societies Awards including, The People’s Choice with over 50% of the vote.
Best New Society (Small College)

Nominees:
CIT Debate Society
DKiT: Enviro Soc
IT Tallaght Music Society
IT Tralee: SCI-FAN
MIC Limerick: MIDANCE
WIT: Heavy Metal Society

And the Winner is…

MIC Limerick: MIDANCE

MIDANCE (Mary I Dance) started off as a subgroup of the larger dramatic arts society but this year have branched out to become their own fully functioning society. MIDANCE have worked incredibly hard during their first full year as a society and are on track to becoming one of the most popular societies on campus.
Best Society Fresher (Large College)

Nominees:

DCU: Hannah Leonard  NUI Galway: Aoife O’Shaughnessy
DIT: Adam Matthews  UCC: Diarmuid O’Donoghue
Maynooth University: David Ryan  UL: Ethan Carey

And the Winner is…

UL: Ethan Carey

Ethan Carey is a first year UL music society committee member who proved instrumental to the resurgence and revival of the society by merit of his passion, innovative ideas, and his trademark enthusiasm.
Best Society Fresher (Small College)

Nominees:

CIT: Zack Nuttawud Nutchanat
IT Blanchardstown: Noah Halpin
IT Tallaght: Sean O’Reilly
IT Tralee: Robert Harrington

And the Winner is…

IT Blanchardstown: Noah Halpin

“When returning to education last September, for the first time in 7 years, I couldn't have imagined that within weeks of semester 1, I would be elected Vice President of Colours LGBTQ*+ Society, and now President Elect. Or that I would be the Class Rep for my course, or sit on panels such as the Diversity, Equality and Inclusivity Working Group, Gender Equality Board and Course Boards. Nor did I expect to be leading 400 people (mostly students) on the streets of Dublin to call on the government for better provisions for transgender healthcare. I didn't expect to be invited to other colleges and training events across the country to give workshops and I didn't expect to be sitting at USI congress this month. None of this was expected, but I've loved every minute of it!”
## Best Publicity Campaign (Large & Small)

**Nominees:**

- **CIT: LGBT+ Society**
  - Anti-Bullying
  - #WordsHurt

- **DCU: Media Production Society (MPS)**
  - #DCUtv24

- **DIT: Japanimation and Game Societies**
  - Shurikon

- **GMIT: FilmHub**
  - Education is in the Red

- **IT Tallaght: Radio Society**
  - Your Big Little Station

- **NUI Galway: Energy Society**
  - Galway Energy Summit 2018

- **UCC: Alzheimer’s Society**
  - Raising Dementia Awareness

- **UL: ULFM**
  - ULFM Rebrand & Studio Refit Launch

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**And the Winner is…**

**NUI Galway: Energy Society**

Galway Energy Summit aimed to be Ireland’s largest student run energy event and with the help of the event’s publicity campaign, it achieved this goal. Prolific use of social media, competitions, partnerships with companies such as FoodSpace, innovative and original posters and our website were key to the success.

The award was accepted by NUI Galway USCG Student Reps on behalf of Energy Soc *(above right)* and the committee accepted the award in NUI Galway *(below).*
**Best Society Promotional Video (Large & Small)**

Nominees:

- CIT: Indian Society – *Fusion Fashion Show*
- DCU: Media Production Society – *Lads*
- DIT: Mental Health Society – *It’s Time to Talk*
- IT Tallaght: Dance Society – *Our Society*
- IT Tralee: BANG FM (Radio Society) – *This is BANF FM!*
- NUI Galway: Physics Society – *NUI Galway Science Ball*
- UCC: Cancer Society – *Relay for Life*
- UL: Drama Society – *Horror Tours*

And the Winner is…

**DCU: Media Production Society (MPS)**

Essentially, the aim of MPS is to provide a platform for members to produce media in all forms and to have fun while doing so. MPS acts a forum for people with shared passions to come together and create content.
Best Poster
Nominees:

CIT: Debate Society – 3D v 3D Waifus
DCU: Sustainable Living Society – Plastic Free DCU
DIT: Art & Design Society – Weekly Workshops
GMIT: FilmHub – End of Year Screening
IT Tallaght: Radio Society – Radio Week
IT Tralee: SVP Society – Fashion Show
Maynooth University: Drama Society – ‘Abby’
MIC Limerick: MIDAS – Seussical the Musical
NUI Galway: Dramsoc – ‘Deirdre + Naoise’
UCC: Greens Society/Simpsons
Society/Environmental Society – Environmentalism in the Simpsons
UL: Out in UL – Alternative Miss UL (AMUL)
WIT: Heavy Metal Society - Rockology
And the Winner is…

NUI Galway: Dramsoc – ‘Deirdre + Naoise’

Based on the tragic tale of Deirdre from the Ulster Cycle, Deirdre + Naoise has been adapted for stage by Niamh Ní Fhlatharta. It was staged as part of Dramsoc’s Theatre Week and was also performed at the 2018 ISDA Festival. The poster was designed by Niamh Ní Fhlathartha and Áine Cooney.

The award was accepted by NUI Galway Musical Society (GUMS) on behalf of Dramsoc (top right below) and the poster designers accepted the award in NUI Galway (bottom).
Best Mental Health Promoting Event (Large and Small)
Sponsored by Please Talk

Nominees:
DIT: Mental Health Society - #MindYourHead Campaign
NUI Galway: Comedy Society & St. Vincent de Paul Society – Round of Appaws for Irish Guide Dogs
UCC: Medical Society – Take Care Tuesday

And the Winner is…
DIT: Mental Health Society - #MindYourHead Campaign

It was a two week long mental health awareness campaign. Events included lots of guest speakers on topics such as body positivity and how you can remake yourself after addiction, a bungee run, yoga, art events, cups of tea, Bray to Greystones walk and silent disco and carpool karaoke.
Best Society Intervarsity (Large and Small)

Nominees:

DIT: DJ Society – Spinoff 2018
IT Tralee: Events Society – Dodgeball – Battle of the Counties!
NUI Galway: Emergency Medicine Society – SimWars

And the Winner is…

DIT: DJ Society – Spinoff 2018

The annual DJ intervarsity hosted by DIT. The prizes were fantastic, the crowd loved the show and the judges were impressed by the standard. Each DJ performed a 15 minute DJ set which they were judged on charisma, in the booth/crowd interaction, use of effects, track selection and were free to play any genre of music.
Best Society Photograph (Large and Small)

Nominees:

CIT: Debate Society
DIT: Photo Society
DCU: Dance Society
GMIT: Film Hub
IT Tallaght: Snow Society
IT Tralee: Cinema Society
MIC Limerick: MIDAS
National College of Ireland: Music Society
NUI Galway: Best Buddies
UCC: Music Society
UL: Airsoft Society
WIT: Horticulture
And the Winner is… DIT: Photo Society

“Midnight Magic”

Photographer: Donal Healy

This photo was taken in one photo that took about 30 seconds to take, with no Photoshop used. It took 10 people to take this image, we used different coloured torches and lamps to make it. Each member on this workshop in Bushy Park had a part in taking the photo.