



SKELLIG CRI

## Skelling Centre for Research & Innovation

### Ionad Taighde & Nuálaíocht na Sceilge



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# SkelligCRI offering educational opportunities in South Kerry

The Skellig Centre for Research & Innovation (Skellig CRI) based in Cahersiveen is a space which is open to various universities and educational institutes both nationally and internationally and which is facilitating the delivery of higher education programmes, research and practice locally in the Skellig Coast region. Funding for the project is provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. This funding provides Skellig CRI the financial support to offer alternative opportunities for learners wishing to study in an outreach campus under the guidance of the Skellig CRI partnership of University College Cork, Kerry County Council and South Kerry Development Partnership.

During 2018 and 2019 to date Skellig CRI has had the privilege of engaging with over 500 participants so far across many different programmes, research events, modules, talks, workshops and fieldtrips. So many highlights to mention, but one of the stand-out occasions include the visit of the transition year students of Coláiste na Sceilge to the College of Medicine in UCC. Students got to experience hands medicine via simulations, carrying out practical medical activities and taking part in workshops during their visit.

Other activities are that of several research projects which are underway in the region, including that of bat habitat identification and mapping. Researchers from the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences in UCC carried out a species habitat survey across three locations in the Skellig Region. As well as adding missing data to the national database the additional outcomes of the research were presented as a talk to the community recently in Cahersiveen followed by a visit to 5 local primary school that were located within the research area.

Another exciting project is that of the role of the Men's Shed within our communities. Researchers from the School of Geography, UCC are visiting Men's sheds in South Kerry to research their role within communities and for social inclusion, while the Geology Dept, UCC are carrying out specialised scanning of the geology of Skellig Michael. Results of these surveys were disseminated recently at a Geology Conference in Dublin and a geo-tourism guide will be produced shortly for use in the region. Skellig CRI is excited to announce the upcoming graduation of the first full

programme students from Skellig CRI who over the past 2 years have been studying for a Level 7 Diploma in Environmental Science and Social Policy in Cahersiveen. This highly successful programme is now in its 3rd year, with another cohort just having started in September this year.

Another exciting upcoming programme, is a Certificate in Women's Studies which is currently open for application and is due to start in November. Our winter schedule of upcoming free talks will also be announced shortly.



Principal Maurice Fitzgerald of Coláiste na Sceilge and staff of ASSET Centre during the Transition Year visit to the School of Medicine, UCC with Skellig CRI

Another huge highlight of the year was the enrolment of 13 students to the bespoke designed programme; a Certificate in Practice Support in Social Farming. This first of its kind programme was written and designed in UCC with collaboration from the disability service providers, the host social farmers and Kerry Social Farming. The programme which has been highly commended by lead authorities on European social farming models teaches the students in areas such as the role of the environment and well-being, social farming models and practice, disability communication, disability law and disability models, policy and education. Skellig CRI as a member of several organisations including the Úibh Ráthach Task Force and Skellig Coast Tourism Network, look forward to supporting the continued success of the Dark Sky Reserve with courses on Astronomy, the marine sector with marine research and studies, in developing programmes to support the Gaeltacht region and training for emerging skills. Skellig CRI looks forward to continuing to work with and for all the community of the region



Certificate in Practice Support in Social Farming students attending lectures in UCC



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### Kerry Social Farming

in collaboration with UCC are offering

Level 6 UCC Accredited

**Certificate in Practice Support in Social Farming**  
Next intake, September 2020, Kerry



### Upcoming Programme

**Certificate in Women's Studies**

UCC Accredited

Level 6 Part-time course

Cahersiveen, November 2019

For more information contact:

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*Skellig CRI - working with and for the community*



SKELLIG CRI



University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh



SOUTH KERRY DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP LTD.



Department of Rural and  
Community Development

An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaith agus Pobail