

Cell EXPLORERS

Summary report

2015-2016



Cell EXPLORERS Summary reports 2015-2016

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Cell EXPLORERS National Network



cell
EXPLORERS

Counties reached

Team Locations

1 NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh
School of Natural Sciences

2 AIT
Connect & Discover

3 DUNDALK
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

4 TRALEE
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

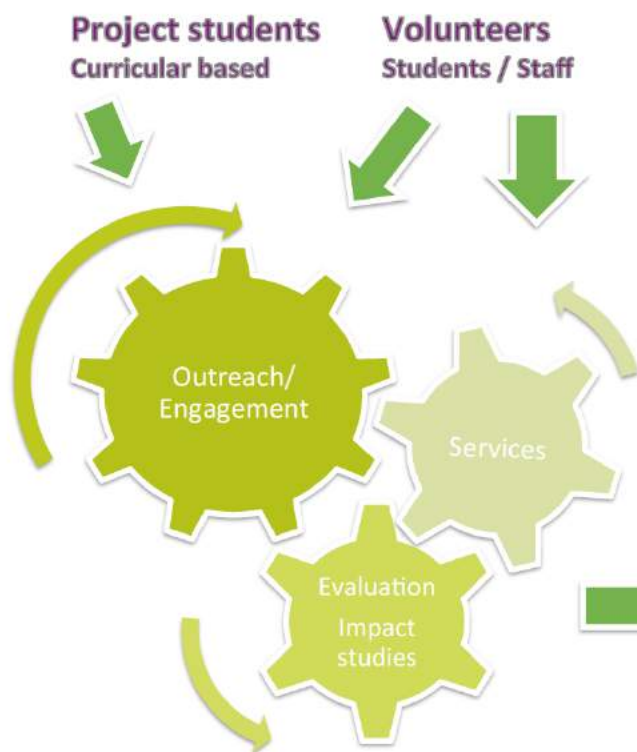
5 UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE



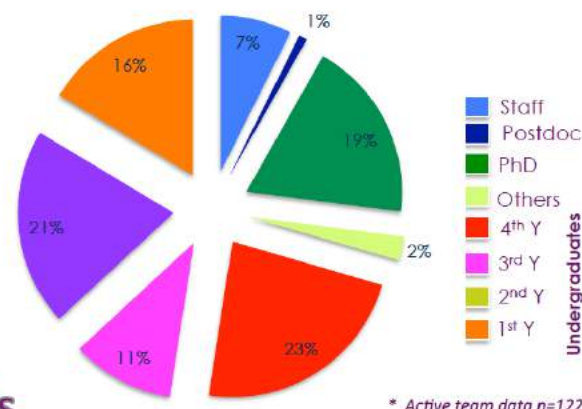
Cell EXPLORERS expansion, reach & funding history



Cell EXPLORERS working model

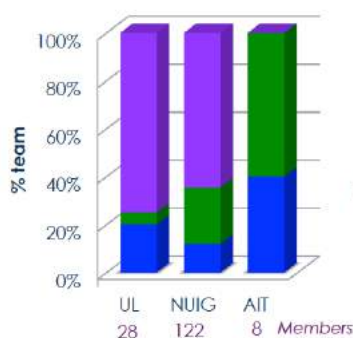


NUI Galway Team Composition* 2015-16



The 3 Cell EXPLORERS Teams* active in 2015

Staff PhD Undergraduates



Volunteering

75% Science Undergraduates

54%

92% Science Education undergraduates

78%

100% Researchers

40%



Teaching

32%

81%

40%



Mixed incl. Share interest about science, work with children

Teaching experience and practice

Share interest about science

* pre-volunteering survey, n=24, 27 & 5 for NUIG, UL and AIT respectively
SFI Discover award DP14_022

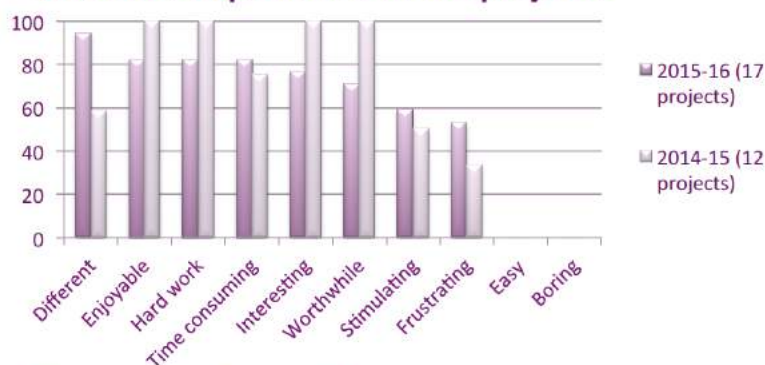
NUI Galway Final Year project students



- 97% students satisfied
- 100% students recommend science communication to be part of curriculum

37 students

Student's experience of the projects



Biochemistry External Examiner:

"The outreach projects are **very well organised**, and the students who take part in these **gain significantly from them**. This is to be applauded"

Cell EXPLORERS volunteers feedback

Data obtained from * pre-volunteering survey, n=56 # post-volunteering survey, n=44



Volunteers have gained:

1. Acquire teaching experience
2. Engage Children and Public in Science
3. Work with children
4. Contribute to the community
5. Add this experience to CV
6. Gain new skills
7. Seize an interesting opportunity
8. Meeting with people

1. Communication skills 91%
2. Teaching skills 91%
3. Confidence 86%
4. Skills of working with children 80%
5. Working in a team 77%
6. People management 77%
7. Speaking in group 66%
8. Oral presentation 63%
9. Organisation skills 60%
10. Time management 51%

Benefits of taking part#

Other gains:

- 'A whole new experience. It really opened my eyes to what I am passionate about.'
- 'I gained a love for passing on my scientific knowledge to younger kids and helping them have a good time.'
- 'I gained a better perspective of the scientific world after college etc. from the team and grew in enthusiasm and confidence.'
- 'I found out that whatever career I find my self in, I know that I want science communication and outreach to be a part of it'
- 'I feel I've developed as an individual by working with children and the other volunteers.'
- 'I have gained a fulfillment in making a little child smile when teaching them about science. I feel like a better role model than I did before.'
- 'The interaction with kids brings an awareness, a feeling of joy that is magical.'
- 'I have gained friendship of meeting new people.'
- 'My work with Cell EXPLORERS has developed my interest in the world of Biochemistry.'



View# on the Cell EXPLORERS programme

Positive feedback was provided on all aspects of the programme



2 Favorite Aspects

1. Work with children
2. Bring excitement of science to the public

90% would volunteer again with Cell EXPLORERS in the future. 86% think their experience will help them in their studies/career.



View# on Science Outreach

It is important in universities
100% Agree

Why is universities engagement important?

- To get young people in science
- To benefit society
- To complement science learned in school

it should be part of the undergraduate curriculum
100% Agree

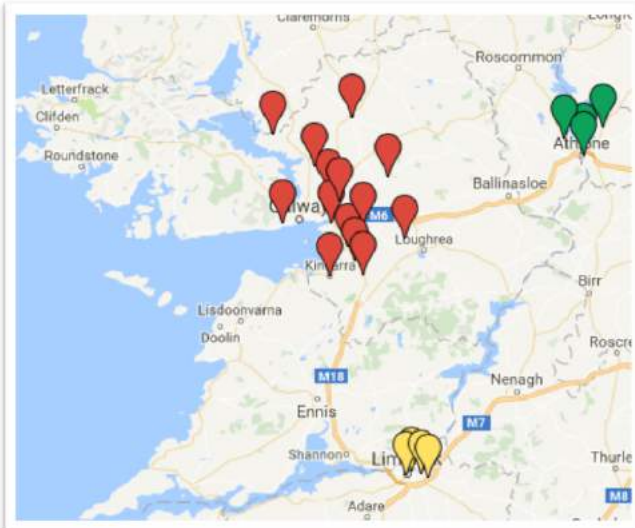
How should it be integrated?

It should be mandatory : 20%
It should be optional: 80%

- 'I loved every single minute of it and feel like I grew as a person.'
- 'I met lots of new people and realised I had a talent for public speaking which I never knew about.'
- 'I realised I loved teaching and I am considering it as a career option.'
- 'It's such a valuable experience and I feel as though the kids really get something out of it - it's a very unique program that I'm proud to be a part of'
- 'Overall the whole experience was great craic ☺'
- 'I'm really grateful for the opportunity to work with cell explorers, and fully intend to take part more in the future.'
- 'I thoroughly enjoy volunteering with Cell EXPLORERS and hope to continue my work with the programme over the course of my undergraduate degree.'
- 'I believe that it is a terribly worthwhile initiative, not only for the promotion of science within National schools but also the promotion of science and the science facilities within the NUIG itself.'

Cell EXPLORERS Fantastic DNA School Roadshow 2015

Schools visited by NUI Galway, UL & AIT teams



Map of Cell EXPLORERS Fantastic DNA school visits 2015



3 Teams

64 Volunteers

24 Schools

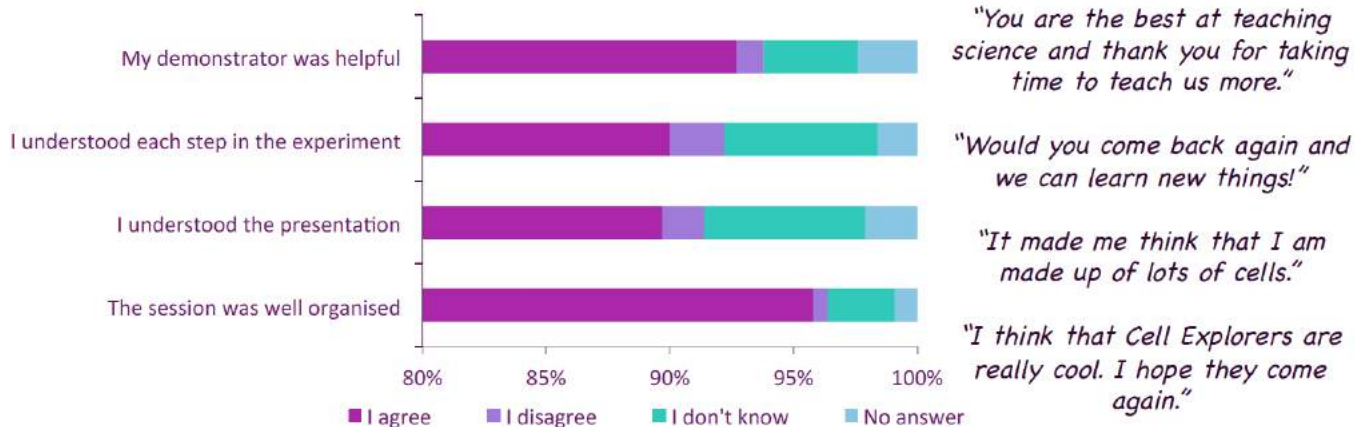
46 Classes

1285 Children

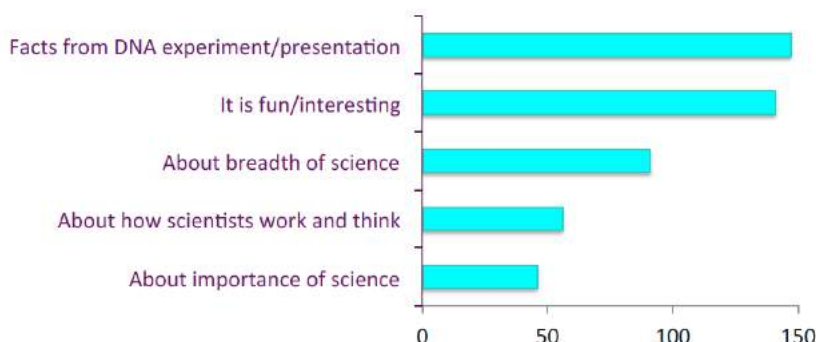
634 Children Feedback

21 Teacher Feedback

Children's Feedback



What new thing did you learn about science? (Top 5 answers)



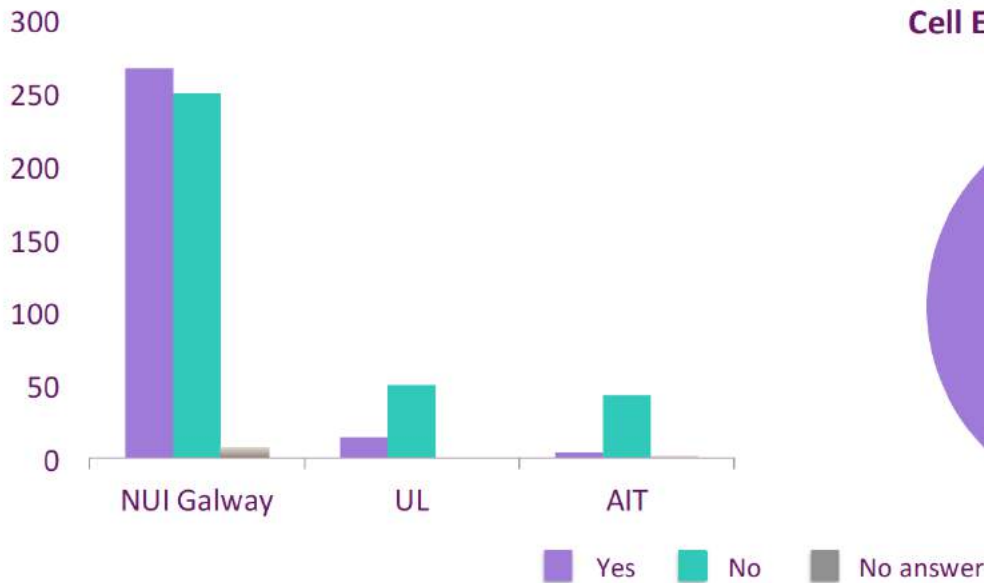
"I learned that science is interesting and you don't need to be an expert to do it."

"I learned that scientists don't just study they explore new things and can get many jobs."

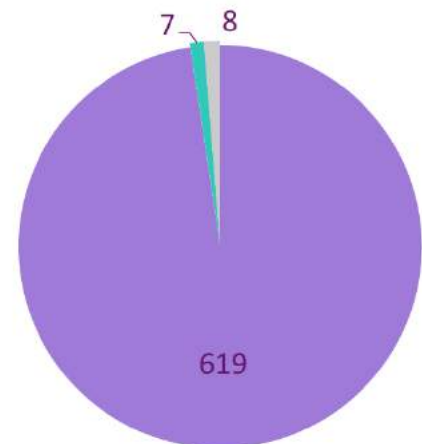
"That science is very important for the world, animals, people, plants and bugs."

Meeting scientists

Had you met a scientist before?



Did you like meeting the Cell EXPLORERS scientists?



Teacher feedback

Top two most beneficial aspects of the visit as ranked by teachers:

1. The opportunity for each child to do an experiment
2. The interactions between the children and local 3rd level science demonstrators

Differences between CE & other science visits to school:

1. CE more hands on (x8)
 2. CE has more instructors (x4)
 3. CE well organised / resourced (x3)
- Schools reported average annual science visits of 1.5 with St. Dev of 1.15 and mode of 1



"The children thoroughly enjoyed the session, and are now hoping to do more"

"Really enjoyable and memorable day. The children talk about it nearly every day since."

"The session was extremely well-organised and the facilitators very professional. The children loved the visit and it really got them interested in science."

"The session was fantastic and the class were totally engaged."



NUI Galway Cell EXPLORERS sample activities & reach

Direct Reach



BT young Scientist 2015&2016

3489



Teacher training Feb & March

38



Gao Science days 2015 & 2016

425



Spring/October open days

474



Pint of Science 2015&2016

388



Scientist for a Day Oct & February

124



Brain explorers 2015&2016

193



Workshops are Galway Science & Technology Festival

953



Exhibition day 2015: Little Cells, Fantastic DNA, Under the microscope, SNS next top Model Organism, Brain explorers



Famelab 2016

104



NUI Galway 1st MiniMedSchool 2016

150



St Patrick's Festival Big Day out

531

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We're backing the bid

Gaillimh 2020 Galway

