

Name	Siún McCarthy
Qualifications:	BA in Geography and Religious Studies UCC (2009 – 12) M.Plan Masters in Planning and Sustainable Development UCC (2012-14)
Profile:	Recent Graduate

In April 2012 I applied for the UCC Masters in Planning and Sustainable Development. I've always enjoyed getting involved with my community and engaging with people. The idea of public and stakeholder engagement, and the idea of shaping the places in which people live and work, was what initially drew me to study planning, coupled with my interest in public policy.

At the end of the first of my two years on the M.Plan course I was fortunate to secure an internship with Cork City Council. This was my first experience of public sector planning and allowed me to put into practice all I had learnt in my first year, and to positively and proactively build on that knowledge. The role I played was in policy formulation to inform the Cork City Draft Development Plan 2015-2021. As part of a team I assessed potential new Architectural Conservation Areas within Cork City, specifically Mardyke Walk, Blackrock Road and Bishopstown Park, in the review of the existing Cork City Development Plan 2009-2015. This work has since been included in Volume 3 of the Draft Cork City Development Plan 2015 – 2021, and is currently out to public consultation. This experience for me further instilled my interest in planning and allowed a new interest to flourish, namely my interest in the interrelationship between built heritage and planning.

Since receiving my results I have been interning at An Bord Pleanála under their annual Graduate Internship Scheme. Alongside Mr. Les Howard, Senior Inspector, I worked on an analytical project to produce a report on wind farm appeals brought to the Board since 2010. I greatly enjoyed my time at An Bord Pleanála, which has filled me with a new lease of life as I enter a difficult jobs market in the coming months.

I am confident however that the broad ranging and transferrable skills I

developed through the M.Plan course has prepared me for an exciting and fruitful career in planning.