



The Centre for
Cross Border Studies

MEDIA WATCH

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Trinity College Dublin sees 20% drop in applications from northern students over Brexit

APPLICATIONS from northern students to Trinity College Dublin have dropped by 20 per cent this year amid uncertainty over Brexit.

The university said the decline was a “worrying effect” of the UK’s forthcoming departure from the EU.

Describing itself as one of Ireland’s “most successful cross-border institutions” Trinity said it had more students from Belfast than Dublin in the 1950s and 1960s.

Although the numbers of northern students had dropped by the 1990s, applications had been on the rise by 2016.

In an open letter in The Financial Times, published yesterday, Trinity said it was experiencing an increase in applications from British-based academics as a result of Brexit.

“Many of them are outstanding but in truth we’d prefer to keep collaborating with them through existing programmes,” the university said.

“We believe many researchers in Ireland, the UK and the EU feel the same.”

The university said it was “devastated” by the 2016 Brexit vote.

It said Brexit threatened “more than four centuries of academic collaboration, enabled over the past four decades by the largest collaborative research network in history, the EU”.

Irish and British researchers collaborate on around a thousand projects under the EU’s Horizon2020 programme “far more than Ireland has with any other country”, Trinity said. It called for “prudence, deliberation and foresight” around Brexit.

Source: The Irish News

7 November 2018

All-island trade shows 'resilience' despite the challenges

JUST over 40% of exporters on the island of Ireland are reporting a negative impact from Brexit, according to cross-border body INTERTRADEIRELAND (ITI).

But 41% of businesses responding to ITI's business monitor for July to September said they had experienced continued growth.

ITI has said its research shows that cross-border trading increases a business's probability of rapid growth by some 60%.

Based on the views of more than 750 businesses, the organisation's quarterly monitor is considered one of the largest and most comprehensive surveys on the island.

In keeping with other recent trade surveys, it showed 54% of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) reporting issues with rising costs of overheads, with 41% of larger firms (50-plus employees) reporting skills shortages. Aidan Gough, ITI's designated officer and director of strategy and policy, said the monitor highlighted the higher growth performance of exporters and cross-border traders.

He said almost half of all firms that trade across the border are growing, with 30% of these companies experiencing a rapid growth in sales, compared to just 18% that do not export.

"Goods firms exporting across the border have 9% higher levels of productivity than firms that don't export beyond their local market, moreover turnover is almost 100% higher and employment is almost doubled," he said.

The monitor found that 42% of exporters reported Brexit has already had a negative impact on sales, with 38% stating that it has impacted negatively on investment decision-making within their organisation.

Source: The Belfast Telegraph