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Student Intern Showcase 2026



CoLab.

INNOVATION
HUBS
GALWAY - MAYO

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Edited by: Brian O'Dowd, Turlough Rafferty and Caitriona Nugent

Photo Credits: Eamon O'Tuathail and LinkedIn

The logo for AuriGen Medical features the word "AuriGen" in a green, sans-serif font, with "MEDICAL" in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font below it.The logo for Endowave features a stylized orange and blue icon resembling a heart or a pulse line, followed by the word "ENDOWAVE" in a blue, sans-serif font.The logo for Empower Female Entrepreneurship features a stylized, colorful icon of a person with arms raised, followed by the word "EMPOWER" in a bold, purple, sans-serif font, and "Female Entrepreneurship" in a smaller, orange, sans-serif font below it.The logo for IsoVasc Medical features the word "ISOVASC" in a bold, purple, sans-serif font, with "MEDICAL" in a smaller, purple, sans-serif font below it.The logo for KinetikIQ features a stylized, blue, sans-serif icon resembling a double 'K' or a pulse line, followed by the word "kinetikiq" in a blue, sans-serif font.The logo for NUA Surgical features a stylized, teal, sans-serif icon resembling a pulse line, followed by the word "NUA" in a bold, teal, sans-serif font, and "Surgical" in a smaller, teal, sans-serif font below it.The logo for Main Circle Medical features a stylized, green, sans-serif icon resembling a pulse line, followed by the words "MAIN CIRCLE" and "MEDICAL" in a grey, sans-serif font.The logo for Medmark Occupational Healthcare features a stylized, blue, sans-serif icon resembling a pulse line, followed by the word "medmark" in a grey, sans-serif font, and "OCCUPATIONAL HEALTHCARE" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below it.The logo for Student Inc. features a stylized, red, sans-serif icon resembling a graduation cap, followed by the words "Student" and "Inc." in a blue, sans-serif font, and "SUPPORTING STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below it.The logo for SymPhysis Medical features a stylized, purple and green, sans-serif icon resembling a pulse line, followed by the word "SymPhysis" in a purple, sans-serif font, and "MEDICAL" in a smaller, green, sans-serif font below it.



ATU's Incubation Centres Internship Programme at Donegal, Galway, Mayo and Sligo provides students with a unique opportunity to gain valuable industry experience while applying the knowledge and skills developed through their academic studies. By connecting talented students with innovative start-ups, scaling businesses, and entrepreneurial ventures within the centres, the programme creates meaningful learning experiences that support both personal and professional development.

This Student Intern Showcase highlights the contributions of students from Atlantic Technological University, the University of Galway, international partner universities, and other institutions who have completed internships across a diverse range of sectors, including MedTech, software development, engineering, quality assurance, product design, business, and entrepreneurship. Throughout their placements, students have worked on real projects, collaborated with multidisciplinary teams, and gained insights into the challenges and opportunities of fast-paced, innovation-driven environments.

The experiences shared in this showcase demonstrate the positive impact of internships on career development, confidence building, technical expertise, and workplace readiness. They also reflect the vital role that industry partnerships play in preparing the next generation of professionals, innovators, and entrepreneurs. ATU is proud to support these students as they develop their skills, explore career pathways, and contribute to the growth of Ireland's innovation ecosystem.

Student Intern Showcase 2026

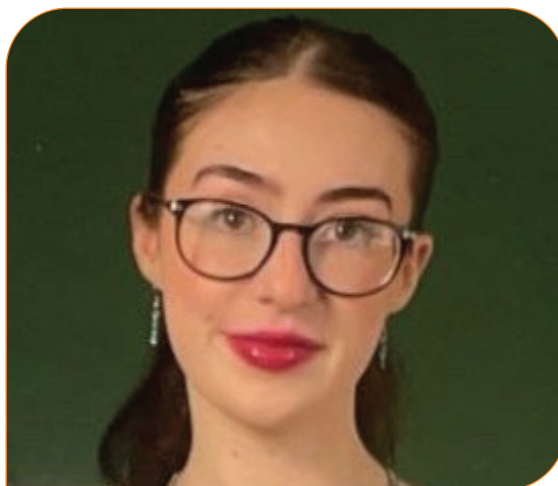
Name: Jessica Sarsfield
University: ATU Galway
Course: Applied Biology and
Biopharmaceutical Science
Studies Level: Undergraduate
Company: Isovasc

What Were You Working On:

Supported the Quality Management System (QMS) by assisting with document control, audit activities, CAPA processes, and quality compliance. Worked with cross-functional teams to maintain quality standards and support continuous improvement initiatives.

How Has Your Internship Positively Affected Your Studies/Goals:

I developed greater self-confidence by taking ownership of tasks, collaborating with cross-functional teams, and contributing to quality improvement initiatives.



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ISOVASC
MEDICAL

Name: Colm Murrer
University: University of Oregon
Studies Level: Undergraduate
Company: KinetikIQ

What Were You Working On:

I was working on the front end of KinetikIQ's app, creating new pages and functions while also monitoring the app for any bugs or errors.

How Has Your Internship Positively Affected Your Studies/Goals:

This internship has allowed me to practice what I have learned in class and given me real workflow experience. It has also kept me interested in what I am studying and helped me realize what I enjoy doing within computer science: front end engineering.



UNIVERSITY OF
OREGON



kinetikIQ

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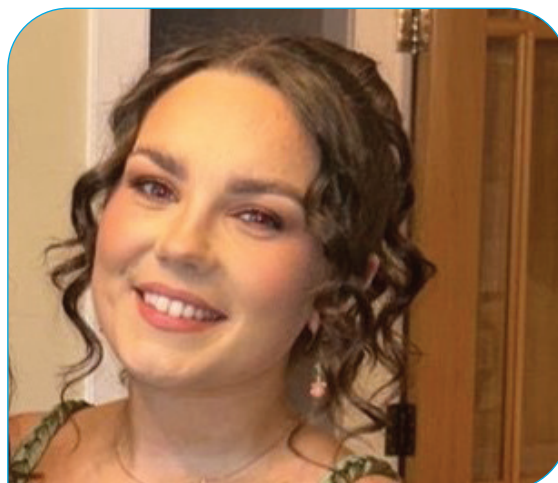
Name: Jasmine Murray
University: University of Galway
Course: Biomedical Engineering
Studies Level: Undergraduate
Company: SymPhysis Medical

What Were You Working On:

I was working on an Indwelling Pleural Catheter (IPC) for the drainage of pleural effusion in the pleural cavity surrounding the lungs.

How Has Your Internship Positively Affected Your Studies/Goals:

This internship has helped me further develop my engineering and communication skills while working across multidisciplinary teams such as Quality and R&D departments. It has given me great hands-on experience within the MedTech industry and has allowed me to take ownership of my projects through to completion, thereby building my confidence in an engineering environment.



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Name: Cian Davis-King
University: University of Galway
Course: Biomedical Engineering
Studies Level: Undergraduate
Company: Main Circle Medical

What Were You Working On:

I was developing work instructions, test methods, process line workflows and creating fixtures for process line implementation.

How Has Your Internship Positively Affected Your Studies/Goals:

The internship taught me better problem-solving methods, how real-life engineering work occurs, and helped me figure out the type of work environment and company that I work best in.



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UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



MAIN CIRCLE
MEDICAL

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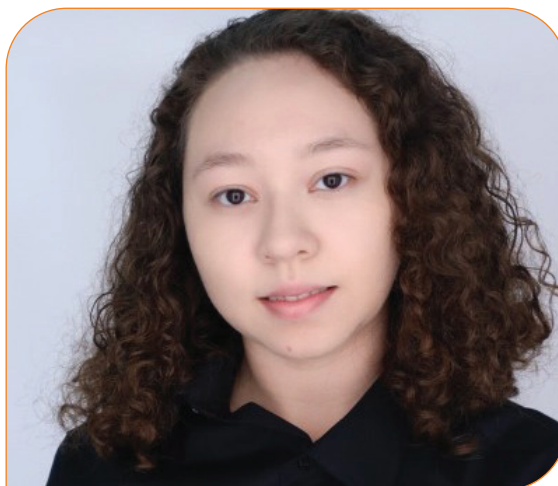
Name: Emily Davidson
University: Rice University
Course: Global Medical Innovation Summer Internship
Studies Level: Graduate
Company: Symphysis Medical

What Were You Working On:

I worked in the quality department, assisting with changes to SOPs, the document filing system, organisation, and other duties related to the documentation of manufacturing processes.

How Has Your Internship Positively Affected Your Studies/Goals:

I've learned a lot about the processes that allow a start-up company to function outside of just research and development. My opportunity to learn the ISO standards and FDA approval regulations has been very valuable to my studies as my programme is focused on medical device design, and I hope to end up in the medtech industry.



RICE UNIVERSITY



Name: Anjalee Weerasinghe
University: ATU Mayo
Course: MSc Digital Media and Marketing
Studies Level: Graduate
Company: Medmark

What Were You Working On:

I worked as a dual-hatted digital specialist at MedMark, combining front-end development with creative content strategy. I specialised in building user-friendly websites and producing engaging multimedia content that turns complex ideas into impactful digital experiences.

How Has Your Internship Positively Affected Your Studies/Goals:

My internship strengthened my research, communication, and leadership skills, supporting my PhD ambitions. Experience with local businesses and the Gaeltacht provided valuable professional networks and a deeper appreciation of Irish culture and community development.



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Name: Bradley Walden
University: University of Galway
Course: BEng Electronic & Computer Engineering
Studies Level: Undergraduate
Company: KinetikIQ

What Were You Working On:

I worked as part of the company's development team, contributing to software projects using JavaScript, Java, Unity, C#, and Python. This gave me experience working with a variety of technologies in a professional environment.

How Has Your Internship Positively Affected Your Studies/Goals:

The internship gave me valuable insight into working in the software industry and being part of a larger development team. It helped me understand how large codebases are managed and improved both my technical and teamwork skills.



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UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



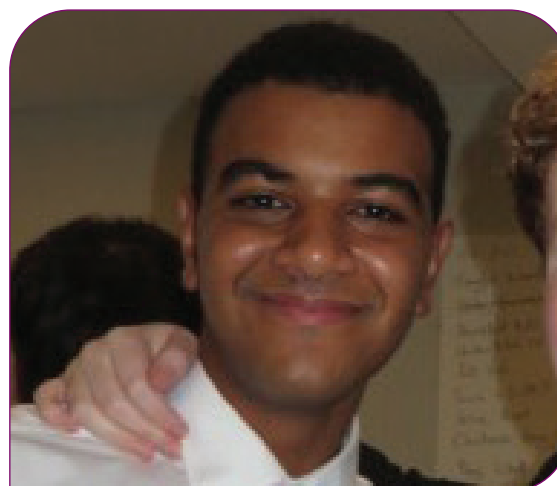
Name: Ahmed Galander
University: University of Galway
Course: Biomedical Engineering
Studies Level: Undergraduate
Company: AuriGen Medical

What Were You Working On:

I was working in product development using CAD, prototyping and additive manufacturing technologies. I created detailed 3D models and engineering drawings, produced and evaluated functional prototypes through 3D printing, and applied Finite Element Analysis (FEA) to assess structural integrity, optimise designs and reduce development risk prior to production.

How Has Your Internship Positively Affected Your Studies/Goals:

My internship at AuriGen Medical has greatly improved not only my knowledge of engineering-related subjects such as Manufacturing or Finite Element Analysis, but also interpersonal skills such as effective communication and collaboration.



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Name: Weronika Kierzenka
University: Rice University
Course: BIOE 600
Studies Level: Graduate
Company: Symphysis Medical

What Were You Working On:

This summer I worked as part of the R&D team. With this I wrote and validated test method protocols to contribute to the design validation and verification efforts of our product.

How Has Your Internship Positively Affected Your Studies/Goals:

This internship has given me clear insight into the medical device industry from a start-up perspective, and I hope to pursue a career in this field. It has also shown me what actual R&D prototyping and testing looks like in an industry setting, which has helped solidify my goal of joining a MedTech company as an R&D engineer.



RICE UNIVERSITY



Name: Camila Lopez
University: Rice University
Course: Graduate Bioengineering
Industry Internship
Studies Level: Graduate
Company: NUA Surgical

What Were You Working On:

I supported R&D activities by assisting with bench-top testing of medical device prototypes and maintaining technical documentation. I also participated in cross-functional meetings and contributed to data collection and communication of technical information across teams.

How Has Your Internship Positively Affected Your Studies/Goals:

This internship has given me a stronger understanding of how start-up companies operate and has improved my knowledge of medical device regulations. It has also increased my confidence in applying what I have learned in my studies to real-world industry projects.



RICE UNIVERSITY



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Name: Ciara O'Sullivan
University: ATU Galway
Course: Bachelor of Business
(Hons) in Marketing & Sales
Studies Level: Undergraduate
Company: EMPOWER Programme

What Were You Working On:

With Empower Cumasú, I developed marketing assets and promotional content to support women at the idea and early stages of entrepreneurship. I also helped promote bilingual and Irish language events and initiatives, contributing to the organisation's outreach and engagement efforts.



How Has Your Internship Positively Affected Your Studies/Goals:

This has been hugely beneficial to my professional development, particularly as a talking point during my successful interview for an internship position in Graphic Design and Communications with Met Éireann.



Name: Shaun McCormack
University: University of Galway
Course: Biomedical Engineering
Studies Level: Undergraduate
Company: SymPhysis Medical

What Were You Working On:

I was actively involved in supporting research and development activities within the laboratory environment. This included assisting with mechanical testing of devices and components to evaluate their performance, reliability, and suitability for their intended use. I also contributed to formative studies, helping to assess designs, gather data, and provide feedback that supports product improvement and development. Through this work, I have gained hands-on experience with laboratory procedures, data collection, and the iterative process of developing and refining medical technologies.

How Has Your Internship Positively Affected Your Studies/Goals:

My internship has given me invaluable experience of what the working environment for engineers is really like. It has helped me develop many professional skills, particularly my communication skills.

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Name: Alex McWeeney
University: University of Galway
Course: Biomedical Engineering
Studies Level: Undergraduate
Company: Endowave

What Were You Working On:

As a student intern at Endowave, I was involved in several areas of the company, mainly testing and research and development (R&D). I also gained experience in quality management and regulatory systems, giving me a broader understanding of how the company operates and develops its products.

How Has Your Internship Positively Affected Your Studies/Goals:

This internship has helped me see how a small start-up company operates and how the knowledge gained from my course can be applied in a professional environment. It has strengthened my practical skills, increased my confidence, and given me valuable insight into my future career.



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Name: Munaza Gilmore
University: DkIT
Course: MBS in Responsible
Entrepreneurship
Studies Level: Graduate
Mentor: Maria Staunton

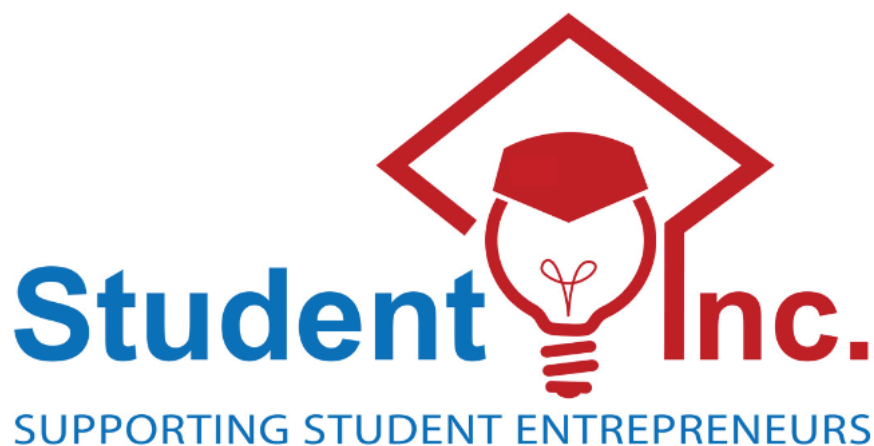
What Were You Working On:

As part of my Incubation Module on the MBS in Responsible Entrepreneurship, I was based at ATU iHub Mayo from June to September 2026, developing and validating a consumer eyebrow product concept for The Brow Movement, focusing on customer needs, shade guidance, commercial feasibility and responsible product development.

How Has Your Internship Positively Affected Your Studies/Goals:

Being based at ATU iHub Mayo gave me valuable support, guidance and a dedicated workspace to focus on my project. Maria's mentorship helped build my confidence, strengthen my research, and refine my business idea, leaving me better prepared to take it forward.





Student Inc. at ATU is a student entrepreneurship programme designed to help students turn innovative ideas into viable businesses. Delivered through the ATU entrepreneurial ecosystem, the programme provides participants with mentoring, training, networking opportunities and practical support to develop their ideas, validate their business models and explore routes to market. It encourages students to develop entrepreneurial skills while connecting them with industry, enterprise supports and the wider innovation ecosystem.

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Name: Ayush Puri
University: ATU (Galway)
Course: Entrepreneurship
Studies Level: Undergraduate
Company: Student Inc.

What Were You Working On:

I founded VANO, a same-day household help service in Galway. Customers book local student helpers for cleaning, gardening, dog walking, errands, and moving help. I lead sales, recruit helpers, and build the app and website.

How has your internship positively affected your studies/goals:

Building VANO through Student Inc. has helped me apply my course in real life. I've gained hands-on experience in customer discovery, marketing, pricing, and business development, along with valuable mentors, connections, and confidence to pursue entrepreneurship after graduation.



Name: Olena Anoricheva & Vladimir Mazare
University: ATU (Donegal)
Course: Bachelors in Food Science & Bachelors in Business
Studies Level: 3rd Year Student & Graduate
Company: Student Inc.

What Were You Working On:

Mood Wizard is a soft drink brand created for young people, with an understanding of the challenges they face. Made with real fruit, no added sugar, and mood-boosting herbal ingredients, it offers a refreshing and positive experience. Follow our journey and discover more on Instagram @drinkmoodwizard.

How has your internship positively affected your studies/goals:

Student Inc. has been an invaluable part of our entrepreneurial journey. The programme connected us with inspiring people, expert mentors and valuable workshops. The support and feedback helped us refine and pivot our idea to better meet consumer needs, giving us greater confidence.



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Name: Declan Jordan
University: ATU (Galway)
Course: Bachelor of Business
Studies Level: Undergraduate
Company: ATU – Student Inc.

What Were You Working On:

Zap It is an innovative mobile application focused on making in-person connections simpler and more efficient. I'm currently developing the platform and refining the user experience.

How Has Your Internship Positively Affected Your Studies/Goals:

This has helped me apply my studies to a real-world project, improve my technical skills, and gain valuable industry experience. It has also reinforced my goal of pursuing a career in technology.



Name: Isabella Doyle
University: ATU (Galway)
Course: Product Design
Studies Level: Graduate
Company: ATU – Student Inc.

What Were You Working On:

Bríach is an innovative wheelchair that replicates the natural movement of therapeutic horse riding to reduce pressure sores, improve posture, and promote circulation. Powered by the rotation of the wheelchair's wheels, it provides continuous dynamic seating without the need for batteries or motors, improving comfort and long-term health for wheelchair users.

How Has Your Internship Positively Affected Your Studies/Goals:

Student Inc. gave me a much better understanding of the business side of developing Bríach. Through workshops and talks from entrepreneurs and industry professionals, I learned about pricing, setting up a business, and the key steps involved in bringing a product to market.



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Name: Katelyn Madden
University: ATU (Galway)
Course: Bachelor of Business Level 8
Studies Level: Undergraduate
Company: ATU – Student Inc.

What Were You Working On:

Refill Hub is an initiative set up to help people cut costs and eliminate plastic waste through a low-cost, convenient refill station for personal care products.

How Has Your Internship Positively Affected Your Studies/Goals:

Student Inc. has helped me apply what I've learned in college to a real business environment. It has improved my confidence, communication, and problem-solving skills while giving me valuable hands-on experience. It has also given me a better understanding of how businesses operate and has strengthened my career goals for the future.



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Name: Marc Bolger
University: ATU (Mayo)
Course: Certificate in Personal and Vocational Development.
Project WAVE
Studies Level: Undergraduate
Company: ATU – Student Inc.

What Were You Working On:

I completed a 12-week WAVE placement at ATU iHub Mayo, supporting Castlebar Chamber membership projects. I developed valuable workplace skills, particularly determination, through data analysis, research, and identifying potential new members.

How Has Your Internship Positively Affected Your Studies/Goals:

I demonstrated commitment, attention to detail and a willingness to learn. My confidence and organisational abilities developed significantly over the 12 weeks, reflecting the positive impact of workplace learning opportunities provided through the WAVE Programme.



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Incubation Centres



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CoLab
ATU Donegal



iHub Galway
ATU Galway City, Dublin Road



iHub Mayo
ATU Mayo



Sligo Innovation Centre
ATU Sligo



The future is here

- 
- A stylized map of Ireland is shown in the background. The landmass is light blue, and the surrounding water is a darker blue. Eight red dots are placed on the map, each with a white number next to it. The dots are located in the following approximate locations: 1. North-east coast (Donegal). 2. North-west coast (Donegal). 3. North-west coast (Sligo). 4. North-west coast (Sligo). 5. West coast (Mayo). 6. West coast (Connemara). 7. South-east coast (Mountbellew). 8. South-west coast (Galway City).
- 1 ATU Donegal Letterkenny
 - 2 ATU Donegal Killybegs
 - 3 ATU Sligo St Angela's
 - 4 ATU Sligo
 - 5 ATU Mayo
 - 6 ATU Connemara
 - 7 ATU Mountbellew
 - 8 ATU Galway City