

Case Study

The challenge

The world in which Trinity's graduates will live and work is ever-changing. The University has launched a programme of initiatives to transform the undergraduate curriculum to ensure its students are provided with a solid disciplinary foundation in addition to a number of core graduate attributes. This has resulted in a set of curriculum principles and a new undergraduate programme architecture that require a wide range of modules to be available to all students.

What happened?

With the programme architecture defined, focus changed to understand how it could be delivered. To attract applicants to new joint honours programmes and to attract new visiting students from overseas, Trinity needed to be clear about which pathway and modules would be available through the timetable. At this point they asked SUMS to help them make their plans a reality. SUMS consultants worked with the project



team at Trinity to understand the drivers for this new curriculum. They looked at current policies, processes, systems and performance metrics, to understand the existing approach to timetabling and its end result. Then, drawing on their experience and knowledge of the HE sector, the SUMS consultants considered which timetabling model could best serve the desired, more flexible curriculum. They were able to advise the team at Trinity that there was no one model that would meet all their needs; this provided a useful focus for the team to clarify their main aim for the redesign.

The outcome

After careful consideration of the impact of each timetabling model, they recognised that the most important thing was to be able to clearly set out in advance which module combinations would be available to undergraduates. Once this driver became clearer, the SUMS consultants were able to put

We look forward to continuing this highly effective and rewarding association with SUMS Consulting as we move towards transitioning ongoing developments into a new era of Trinity education.

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together a recommended approach, using a partial block approach. This was signed off by the University governance structures over the summer of 2018. The new timetabling model is being implemented during the 2018/19 academic year and SUMS continues to support Trinity with the implementation.

Redesigning the curriculum at Trinity College Dublin

For More Information

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