

7.6 Opportunities for Integration & Pastoral Care

ICD offers funding and support for student societies and also holds a number of events each year intended to provide learners with opportunities to integrate socially with our culturally diverse student body. This includes an annual barbeque that management, staff, and students are invited to attend, funded by the Management Team. Student days out occur at least once per semester, which involves management, staff, and students typically taking a bus to a particularly scenic part of Ireland for some rest and relaxation. This provides major benefits to building relationships between staff and students. ICD's Governing Body also funds an ICD cricket team, an initiative suggested by students themselves who were cricket enthusiasts.

Pastoral support is also offered by our dedicated administrative staff for learners who experience difficulties adjusting to life in Ireland or the learning environment at ICD. Although the college does not have the capacity to provide a dedicated student counsellor, an external counselling service is available to learners who experience personal difficulties. Details about this service are included in the student handbook and on student information board on campus. Counselling services are provided by ICD through an independent and impartial external counsellor; referrals to the counselling service are available to all students who contact June at ICD Reception, our Student Liaison Manager and member of the Administration Office.

Student representatives are also encouraged to bring issues related to social integration, cultural diversity, and the learning experience to academic council. As a smaller institution, ICD also operates an 'open door' policy at its reception and administrative office, and actively encourages learners to approach staff members about any matter pertaining to their study or personal circumstances. The college office will typically be staffed at all times during normal business hours, with a queue management system (with a ticket dispenser and LCD display) used during busy times.

