



UCD School of Chemical & Bioprocess Engineering

Carthy Travel Award Report 2018

Recipient:
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Introduction and Proposal

Through family and friends and with the very generous help of Dr. Kieran, opportunities arose in New York and Boston for me to interview and shadow various businessmen and women in several industries ranging from Law to medical device innovation and entrepreneurship – at some of the most prestigious R&D laboratories and investment funds in the world. I had decided to begin an initiative which would allow me to share what I learnt, in the hope that it might be useful and interesting to my peers and others approaching the end of their degree like myself. This initiative manifested itself as a podcast website, whereby I could record each of these conversations and publish them for anyone to listen and draw valuable information from them, and I decided to call the initiative **GradPods**.

I also managed to secure an internship position for six weeks in the Pfizer headquarters in Manhattan - working for the Mergers & Acquisitions team. Alongside this work and my GradPods interviews, I was fortunate enough to visit the Johnson & Johnson R&D facility which opened in July of that summer. I received a tour of the facility and was able to speak with some of the CEOs of the start-up companies who had a residence there. Although most of my time was spent in New York, I did get the opportunity to travel to Toronto for three days (sleeping on my sister-in-law's couch to save money) where I visited JLABs there too.

GradPods is an online, not-for-profit, podcast platform. The site includes interviews with professionals, where their respective career paths are discussed. Questions follow the three main themes, outlined below:

1. What their current role entails and what a typical day might look like in that role.
2. How they came to be in that role - ie. the career choices they made from their time in university until now.
3. What, if anything, they would consider doing differently in terms of their career choices and any further advice they have for people interested in following a similar career path.

We have four main outcomes that we hope to achieve in establishing the platform:

- To *inform students of the wider scope of their degree*, in terms of possible avenues their career path may take
- To determine the *choices professionals make* along certain career paths and how to make those choices
- To *provide helpful advice to students* who are uncertain of where their degree may lead them
- To *discuss some of the successes of the individual* and to extract useful guidance from them

Equipment

Carrying out the podcasts would require suitable equipment and as such, approximately one third of the award was used for this purpose. The purchased equipment included:

- ALESIS Multimix 4 x USB Board
- Shure SM58 Mics x2
- Mic Stands x2

I usually transported the equipment across the cities in a small suitcase, which must've looked ridiculous with the mic stands sticking out the top but actually turned out quite well!



Fig 1: The second podcast with Florina Yezril of Mayer Brown, showing the equipment setup

Podcasts and J Labs Visits

Podcast 1: Gavin Daly - Bridge Engineer, HNTB

Gavin Daly is a bridge engineer at HNTB, based out of the 56th floor of the empire state building (as he describes it - a pretty cool job title for cocktail parties). Gavin studied Civil Engineering at UCD and completed a graduate program at Princeton University in 2008. Now a professional engineer in New York, and with ongoing projects across the US, I met up with him so that he could tell me a bit about what it means to be a bridge engineer. We covered a wide range of topics, from the application process for an Ivy League school to future possibilities for people who pursue the same path.

Podcast 2: Dan Carroll - Analyst, Proxima Capital

Dan Carroll is a hedge fund analyst at Proxima Capital. Having studied Chemical Engineering at UCD, Dan went on to receive an MBA from Stanford, where he was an Arjay Miller Scholar. Dan held multiple roles in project development, financing and construction in the energy sector before transitioning into the hedge fund industry. In our conversation we touched on several topics including making the transition from engineering into finance, as well as more general advice for graduates at the beginning of their career paths.

Podcast 3: Florina Yezril - Patent Attorney, Mayer Brown

Florina Yezril is a patent attorney and associate at Mayer Brown, one of the top twenty law firms in the US. Florina studied Electrical Engineering at Princeton University and subsequently Intellectual Property Law at NYU. We discussed her thought process in choosing law as well as how to go about choosing a law firm that suits your interests. Florina also gave some insight into law exams and the pressures faced in both engineering and law disciplines. We hope that this informative podcast is useful for STEM and law graduates alike.

Podcast 4: Maeve Coburn - SVP Learning for Transformation, L'Oreal

Maeve Coburn is Senior Vice President and Head of Learning for Transformation at L'Oreal. After studying Chemical Engineering at UCD, she went on to earn an MBA from MIT's Sloan School of Management. In this podcast - brought to you from L'Oreal's beautiful new offices in Hudson Yards - we discussed how a chemical engineer made the transition to the cosmetics industry, what success looks like for different people, and female role models in

business today. Maeve's career path exemplifies the professional scope that can be reached from a degree - exactly what GradPods is about.



Fig 2: View of Manhattan from the L'Oreal offices in Hudson Yards

Podcast 5: Mark Carthy - Managing Partner, Orion Equity Partners

The first series of podcasts draws to a close with a conversation with Mark Carthy. A UCD Chemical Engineering graduate, Mark has forged a career in the biotech venture capital space. Since completing an MBA in Harvard, Mark has been involved in several ventures, including holding his current position as CEO of AnToIRx. In this podcast we discuss the draws of the venture capital world, the steps involved in starting an early-stage biotech business and the transferable skills gained as an engineering undergraduate. We want to thank Mark for his support with GradPods and for participating in this first series.

JLabs Visits

JLabs is a life science incubator for the healthcare, medical device and biopharma industries - empowering innovators to provide leading technological solutions to healthcare issues around the world. I was fortunate enough, as part of my trip, to visit the JLabs locations in Toronto and New York; the latter of which opened in July 2018 in the NY Genome Centre in SoHo. While there I had the opportunity to meet with CEOs of some of the leading start-up companies in their fields and learn more about their careers to date and receive advice on a future career I hope to pursue in that space. This was an immense opportunity for me which would not have arisen without the help of the Carthy Travel Award.

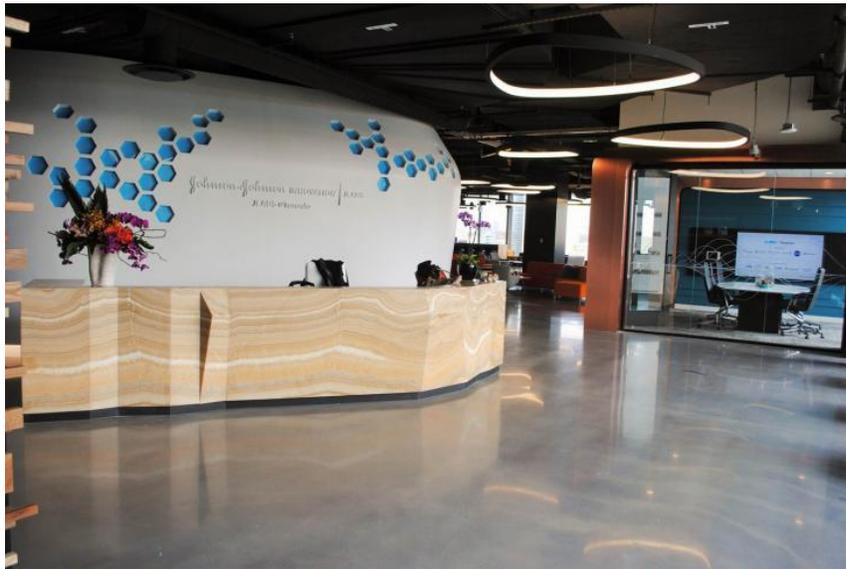


Fig. 3: JLabs Offices in Toronto, Canada

Website

As part of the GradPods initiative, I have put together a simple website to document my work to date and to upload podcasts so that they may be freely available to any undergraduate who may find them to be of some use in their own endeavours. Below I have attached a hyperlink to the site:

<https://gradpods.wixsite.com/mysite>

As podcasts are edited they will be uploaded to the site. I am still awaiting replies from some of the participants to ensure that they have approved the final draft of their podcast, and these will be uploaded as soon as that approval has been given.

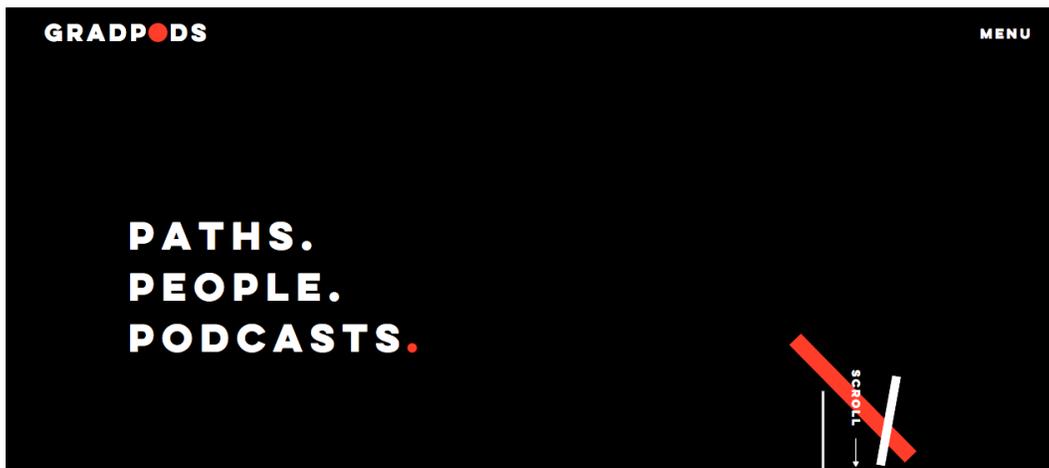
Some snapshots of the website

WHO WE ARE

We are a not-for-profit, online, podcast platform by students, for students. We provide short, informative, informal conversations with market leaders and professionals who have pursued compelling and notable career paths. We are University College Dublin undergraduate students. Our studies cover a broad range of industries but we all share a common mission.

**PLAY
OUR
FUTURE**

ARCHIVE



OUR MISSION

Expand the scope of future careers for Undergraduate, Masters and PhD students from all backgrounds and provide helpful advice to those who are uncertain of where their degree may lead them.

ABOUT US

POD 2 - The Hedge Fund Analyst

Dan Carroll is a hedge fund analyst at Proxima Capital. Having studied Chemical Engineering at UCSD, Dan went on to receive an MBA from Stanford, where he was an Arjay Miller Scholar. Dan held multiple roles in project development, financing and construction in the energy sector before transitioning into the hedge fund industry. In our conversation we touched on several topics including making the transition from engineering into finance, as well as more general advice for graduates at the beginning of their career paths. Enjoy pod number two.



POD 3 - The Patent Attorney

Florina Yezzil is a patent attorney and associate at Mayer Brown, one of the top twenty law firms in the US. Florina studied Electrical Engineering at Princeton University and subsequently Intellectual Property Law at NYU. We discussed her thought process in choosing law as well as how to go about choosing a law firm that suits your interests. Florina also gave some insight into law exams and the pressures faced in both engineering and law disciplines. We hope that this

Conclusion

I would like to conclude my report by thanking Mr. Carthy not only for his generosity in receipt of the reward but also for his time and insight for the final podcast of the series. It was a pleasure to speak to a UCD Chemical Engineering graduate in my intended field and I learnt an immense amount from the entire summer experience. I would also like to thank Dr. Kieran for her help in arranging interviews, and the School of Chemical & Bioprocess Engineering for their review of my application and support of my initiative.

The Carthy Travel Award genuinely offered me a once in a lifetime opportunity and I'm certain this experience will count hugely in my favour in my future professional endeavours. The trip and the people I have spoken to throughout the course of the initiative allowed me additional insight into my desired industry, that I would not have otherwise been exposed to. As it happens also, most of the interviewees were engineering graduates, many of whom studied at UCD. This allowed me to see the diverse range of career paths that are available to me as a graduate from the school as well as gaining meaningful career advice from those who were once in a similar situation as myself.

Once again, I cannot describe how grateful I am to Mr. Carthy and all of those in the school who made this experience possible and I would highly recommend to students in the following years to apply for the award and to extract as much out of it as I, and preceding recipients, have achieved.

Alexander Buckley