



Irish Freshwater Sciences Association

Annual Meeting, 13 March 2026

Programme

Hosted by: Dublin City University

Venue: Seamus Heaney Lecture Theatre, Cregan Library, ground floor.

St. Patrick's Campus, Drumcondra, Dublin



09:00-09:30		REGISTRATION
09:30		Welcome and Overview
SESSION 1 (12 min talk + 3 min questions)		
09:40	S1.01	Richard O'Callaghan, Áine O Connor (National Parks and Wildlife Service): The conservation status of Ireland's freshwater habitats and species
09:55	S1.02	John Stack (Dublin City Council): "The Right Measure in the Right Place" – utilising scientific data to inform engineering decisions for achieving Water Framework Directive objectives; Case Study: The River Santry
10:10	S1.03	Avril Hanbidge (ERINN Innovation): Advancing freshwater science and innovation: Insights from EU-funded projects
10:25	S1.04	Peter Glanville (SLR Consulting Ireland): Nature-based solutions and catchment management: Bundorragha catchment pilot study and opportunities for catchment scale management in Ireland
10:40	S1.05	Sylvan Benaksas (Inland Fisheries Ireland): Hierarchical Bayesian spatial modelling of Irish river temperature to inform climate change mitigation
10:55	S1.06	Simon Johnson (Freshwater Biological Association, UK): Freshwater Biological Association - past, present and future (invited talk: 20 min)
11:15-11:45		COFFEE BREAK (30 min)
11:45	S1.07	Susan Hegarty, Laura Ribero (Dublin City University): Monitoring urban streams and rivers, in collaboration with the local community – an integrated citizen science approach: Urban Citizen's 6.3.2
12:00	S1.08	Chris Peppiatt (National Parks and Wildlife Service): Rescue of the remnant White-clawed Crayfish population in the Munster Blackwater catchment from advancing Crayfish Plague
SESSION 2 (7 min talk + 2 min questions)		
12:15	S2.01	Brian Hayden (Atomic Ecology): Atomic ecology: applied stable isotope ecology in Irish freshwater research
12:24	S2.02	Sean Neville (University College Cork): Underwater video as a novel tool to study salmonids in shallow streams
12:33	S2.03	Elvira de Eyto (Marine Institute): Changing phenology and phenotype of Atlantic salmon in Ireland
12:42	S2.04	Priya Pollard (Indigo Rock Marine Research Centre): Freshwater algae species selection for bioremediation and valorisation in peatlands based trout pond aquaculture
12:51	S2.05	Charlotte Carrier-Belleau (Trinity College Dublin): Transgenerational plasticity and maternal effects in <i>Daphnia magna</i> across multiple stressors and (mis)matching environmental conditions
13:00-14:00		LUNCH (60 min)
14:00	S2.06	Patrick Reynolds (Hamilton College, NY, USA): Population connectivity in the amphipod, <i>Gammarus duebeni</i> , among groundwater-dependent systems in the Burren
14:09	S2.07	Pascal Sweeney (Sweeney Consultancy): Where are all the Yabbies gone?
14:18	S2.08	Carl Owens (Inland Fisheries Ireland): Large wood habitat in Irish rivers - its role and findings from preliminary fish surveys

14:27	S2.09	Eva De Jong (University of Otago, Dunedin, NZ): Unearthing a new approach to gravel extraction: can it restore freshwater fish habitat and improve their population health?
14:36	S2.10	Thomas McCloughlin (Dublin City University): The Palmerstown sub-catchment in North County Dublin (Fingal): a call to action
14:45	S2.11	Darragh Murphy (Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants): The cautious implementation of nature-based solutions to address the multi-faceted pressures on rivers
14:54	S2.12	Fulu Zhuang (UCC): Evaluation of the effectiveness of nature-based solutions to reduce the impact on water quality of farmyard runoff
15:03	S2.13	Lisa Cronin (Dublin City University): Temporary, off-grid, remote, hydrodynamic water quality event monitoring in rivers in the North West of Ireland in the context of more frequent and more intense rainfall events driven by climate change.
15:12	S2.14	Izabela Antepowicz (Dublin City University): Molecular perturbations of <i>Daphnia magna</i> in response to glyphosate – From lab to river
15:21-15:41		COFFEE BREAK (20 min)
		SESSION 3 (2 min talk + 1 min changeover)
15:41	S3.01	* Leonid Antonov (Dublin City University): Revolutionising the risk assessment of complex cocktails of pollutants with water fleas
15:44	S3.02	* Anne Leung (Dublin City University): The impact of algal food and light on daphnids
15:47	S3.03	* Flavia Melati (Dublin City University): Growth measurements as a phenotypic endpoint in water fleas
15:50	S3.04	* Emir Selimovic (Teagasc / University College Dublin): Nitrate induced oxidative stress on aquatic bioindicators in a controlled microcosm experiment
15:53	S3.05	* Isabel Quinn (University of Oxford): The potential interactive effects of chemical pollution, heating and drought on integrated constructed wetland biodiversity and ecosystem functioning
15:56	S3.06	* Georgina Mooney (University College Dublin): Monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of ecological water quality restoration measures
15:59	S3.07	* Paige Kenny (Atlantic Technological University, Sligo): Improving water quality in cross border catchments through nature-based solutions and community actions to meet Water Framework Directive goals
16:02	S3.08	* Laura Nuala O Donovan (University College Cork): Balancing ecological flow requirements and water abstraction pressures in Irish river systems
16:05	S3.09	* Deign Frolley Soriano (University College Dublin): Understanding 'Hydrocitizenship' and the F.L.O.W. (Future Leaders of Water) framework
16:18	S3.10	Jan-Robert Baars (University College Dublin): Silent spreaders: the new demon shrimp invasion
16:11		*Elevator Pitch student prize award
16:16		Lifetime Contribution to Freshwater Science in Ireland award: Dr Julian D. Reynolds, Dr Declan A. Murray, Dr James P. O'Connor
16:31		Open discussion and IFSA Annual General Meeting
17:15-17:30		MEETING FINISH

Meeting Venue and Travelling Information



Venue: Seamus Heaney Lecture theatre, Dublin City University (DCU), [St. Patrick's Campus](#), Drumcondra, Dublin. (Located where the symbol **X** is on the map below)

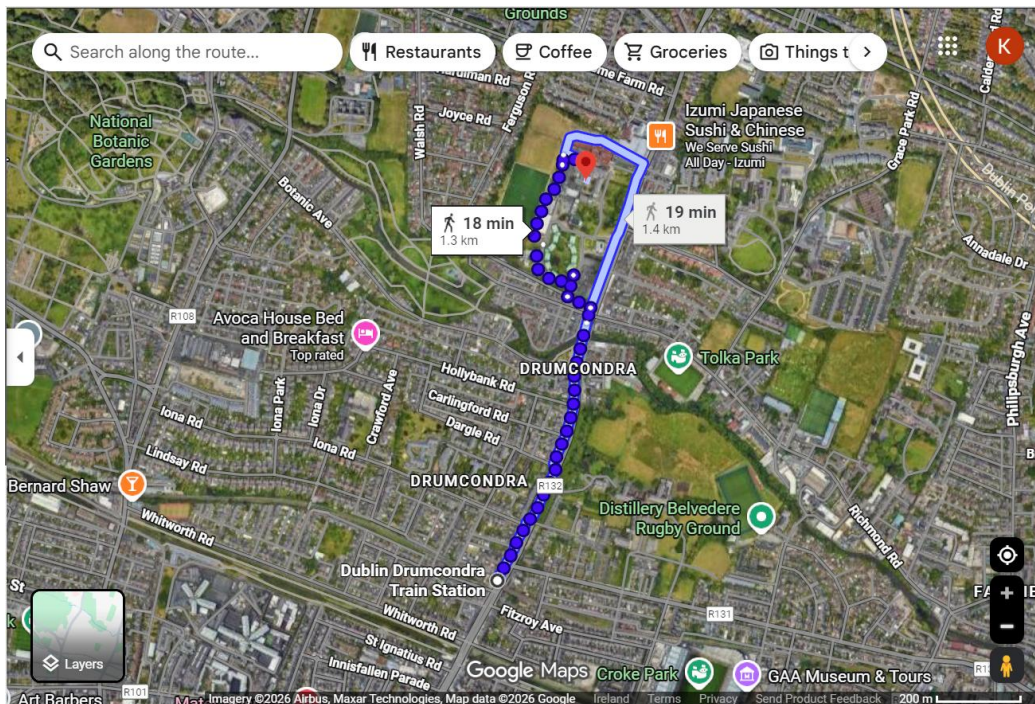


TRAVELLING TO MEETING:

Bus: Bus routes servicing St Patrick's campus from Dublin City Centre: 1, 11, 13, 16, 33, 41, 41B, 41C, 44. There are 2 bus stops outside the main entrance to St Patrick's campus on the Drumcondra Road.

<https://www.dublinbus.ie/timetables>

Train: Drumcondra Train Station is the closest train station to St. Patrick's campus, approx. 18 mins walk. See map below



Car: parking is available but parking spaces are limited at DCU and parking is on a first come, first served basis. Please consider using active or public transport options to reach the meeting venue.

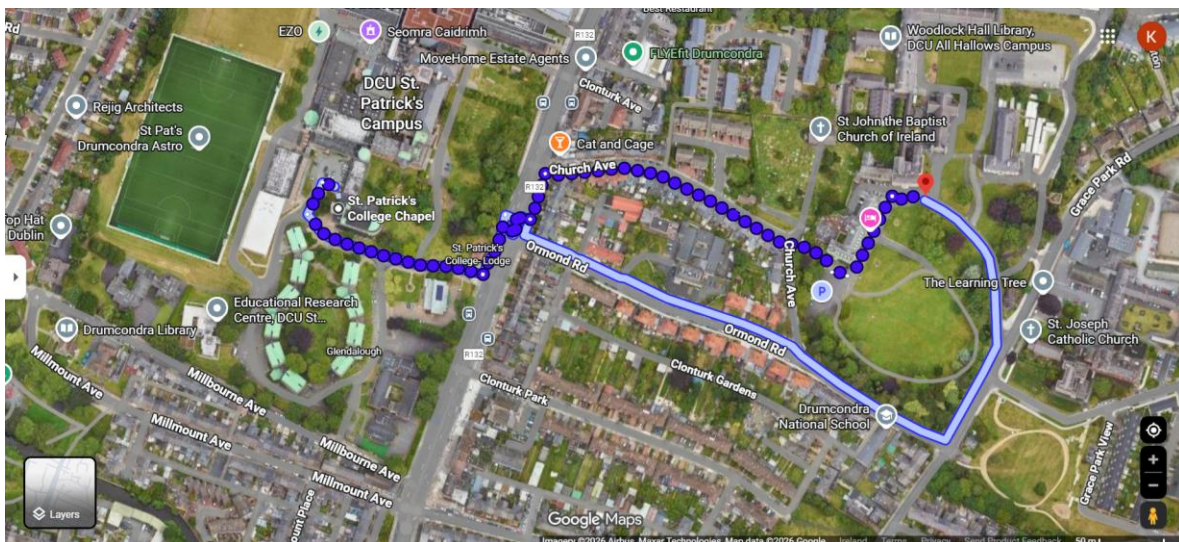
Conference/Visitor Parking: People attending a conference in DCU must pay for parking €1.50/Hr Pay as you go or €5 Day. Payment can be made through DCU's service providers APCOA on their app or by scanning the QR code locally within the car park.

Car Parks (CP) 2, 3, 4 & 5 (see map below): These are surface car parks, and are for staff, students and visitors with valid DCU Virtual Permits only. You can go directly to the parking permit site to obtain a virtual parking permit [here](#).

There is 'pay on the day' parking available (no prior online permit application required) on the DCU's St Patrick's Campus located at CP6 (see map below). This is again on a first-come basis and is limited. Do not park here if you have purchased a DCU Virtual Visitors Permit as it is not valid here.



Parking is also available on the All Hallows Campus which is approximately an 8-10 min walk from the meeting venue (see below map)



If parking without a permit in All Hallows please use Car Park (CP) 1 Purcell House (see map below). This is paid parking at €1.50/Hr Pay as you go or €10 Day Rate. Payment can be made through DCU's service providers APCOA on their app or by scanning the QR code locally within the car park.

Alternatively, you can use **Car Park (CP) 2 O'Donnell House**: CP 2 is a surface car park for staff, students and visitors with valid DCU virtual parking permits only. You can or you can go directly to the parking permit site to obtain a virtual parking permit [here](#)



There is also on-street parking available at various locations around the campus and the Drumcondra area, which are all Pay and Display with a maximum duration of stay usually about three hours. If you park here you will need to remember to renew the payment at the relevant parking meter.