



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

Coláiste Ósta na Sionna
Shannon College of Hotel Management

A Legacy of Excellence *A Vision for Impact*

Shannon College of Hotel Management

2026

Celebrating
75 Years
of excellence



A Welcome Note *from the President*



It is a great pleasure to welcome you to this special day of celebration marking the 75th anniversary of Shannon College of Hotel Management.

This milestone offers a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the College's proud history and its enduring contribution to hospitality education, both in Ireland and internationally. Over the past 75 years, Shannon College has built a reputation for excellence, professionalism, and innovation – qualities that continue to define it today.

At the heart of this success are the people who have shaped the College's journey: the dedicated staff who have guided generations of students, the alumni who have carried Shannon's values across the globe and the students who continue to bring energy, ambition, and fresh perspective to teaching, learning, and campus life.

The anniversary is a moment to celebrate past achievements and to look ahead with confidence. Shannon College remains committed to preparing future leaders for a dynamic, evolving, and rewarding career in the global hospitality industry, grounded in the same spirit of excellence that has sustained it for 75 years.

I hope you enjoy the day's events and take pride in being part of the Shannon College story.

University of Galway
President,
Professor David Burn

A Welcome Note *from Head of School*



This year marks a proud and significant milestone in the story of Shannon College of Hotel Management as we celebrate 75 years of education, leadership, professionalism, and global reputation.

Since its foundation in 1951 by Dr Brendan O'Regan, Shannon College has occupied a unique place in Irish and global hospitality education. What began as an ambitious idea in the Shannon region has grown into a world-renowned school, recognised for producing graduates who combine business knowledge, practical expertise, cultural awareness, and a deep understanding of service excellence.

Over the years, Shannon College has adapted to changing times while holding firmly to the values that have always defined it. Its approach to education has never been limited to the classroom. Students have learned through academic study, professional practice, international experience, personal discipline, and close engagement with industry. This distinctive blend has helped generations of graduates build successful careers across hotels, tourism, luxury hospitality, financial services, destination management, events, enterprise, and many other sectors.

The Shannon name is now carried across the world by a global alumni community whose achievements continue to reflect the strength of their education and the spirit of the College. Their leadership, professionalism, warmth, and integrity remain among Shannon's greatest legacies. Equally important is the wider Shannon Family: students, staff, graduates, industry partners, university colleagues, and friends whose support has sustained and strengthened the College throughout its history.

As we celebrate 75 years, we also recognise that Shannon College has never stood still. Its integration as a school within the University of Galway has opened new opportunities for academic development, research, partnership, and growth. Looking ahead, Shannon is continuing to invest in the future of hospitality education, ensuring that its graduates are prepared for an industry shaped by innovation, sustainability, digital transformation, global mobility, and evolving guest expectations.

A particularly exciting part of this next chapter is the introduction of the new Bachelor of Business Studies in Global Luxury and Experience Management. This programme reflects both Shannon's heritage and its forward-looking ambition. The world of hospitality is expanding into new areas, including luxury travel, premium guest experiences, lifestyle brands, wellness, events, retail, destination experiences, and personalised service. These sectors require graduates who understand business, culture, creativity, innovation, and the art of designing exceptional experiences.

The new programme will build on Shannon's long-standing strengths

in professionalism, practical learning, international perspective, and service excellence, while opening new pathways for students into dynamic and growing global industries. It is a powerful example of how Shannon College continues to evolve while remaining true to its core purpose: preparing talented graduates to lead with confidence, competence, and humanity.

Today's celebration is an opportunity to honour the vision, people, partnerships, and achievements that have shaped Shannon College since 1951. It is also a moment to look forward with pride and optimism to the next 75 years.

Special thanks to current and former staff for their contribution to this success story.

We are delighted to welcome you to this anniversary celebration and thank you for being part of Shannon College's continuing story.

**Head of Shannon College
of Hotel Management**

Adrian Sylver

A Welcome Note from Gerald Lawless



As Chair of the Advisory Board, I am deeply honoured to mark the 75th anniversary of Shannon College of Hotel Management.

Last October, I had the privilege of joining the Class of '75 in Ireland to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our graduation—a moment that reminded us all of the enduring values, friendships, and standards of excellence that define the College.

We also recall with gratitude the leadership of Jürgen Blum, who served as Principal from 1970 to 1986, shaping generations of graduates and leaving a lasting legacy following his passing in 2016.

He was succeeded by Phillip Smith, who continued to build on these strong foundations.

Today, through its strong association with the University of Galway, Shannon offers a range of degree programmes that combine academic excellence with its renowned practical training. Under the leadership of Adrian Sylver and his dedicated team, the College continues to evolve while staying true to its founding principles.

As Shannon celebrates this remarkable milestone, we look with confidence to its continued role in developing the leaders of global hospitality for decades to come.

Chair of the Advisory Board,
Gerald Lawless



A New Programme **BBS in Global Luxury and Experience Management**

The BBS in Global Luxury and Experience Management is designed to prepare graduates for employment across a broad range of premium, luxury, and experience-led sectors.

The programme combines business knowledge with specialist capability in luxury markets, customer experience, digital engagement, service excellence, and international brand environments.

As a result, graduates are equipped for roles that require both commercial understanding and the ability to design, deliver, and manage high-value customer experiences.

A key strength of the programme is its versatility; it equips graduates with a broad skill set, preparing them for diverse professional opportunities that open doors across multiple industries.

This breadth is important because the contemporary luxury sector increasingly values graduates who can operate across physical, digital, and service-based environments.

Shaping Global Hospitality Leaders:

The Legacy of Shannon College

"I have heard it spoken of in so many diverse places with deep respect and every time its name has been mentioned, I have felt that lovely glow of pride that comes from being associated with something so highly respected."

Former President Mary McAleese speaking about Shannon College at our 50th Anniversary.



400
students
28
nationalities



Work Placements 2024
102
Hotels
17
Countries

Shannon
Family

Students – Staff – Alumni – Industry

100%

Employment record for undergraduate programmes since 1951



Ranked Top 100

Globally for Hospitality & Management in the 2026 QS World University Rankings

Ranked in
Top 2%

of Global Universities



Progressive
curriculums

Developing industry - ready graduates



1st

Ireland's first dedicated College of Hotel Management



6 international university partners

Our Unique Ethos & Impact

Renowned for our unique blend of rigorous academic learning, intensive practical training and unparalleled international work placements. Our ethos cultivates discipline, professionalism, integrity and an unwavering attention to detail.

We instil a "can do" attitude and commitment to "Céad Míle Fáilte" – a hundred thousand welcomes – **ensuring our graduates embody the very best in global hospitality.**

Our Alumni

Our global network of **3,000+ alumni** are shaping the industry in roles such as:

- CEO of International Hotel Groups
- Chairperson of globally recognised tourism experience destinations
- President & CEO of Leading financial information and analytics company
- Area & Regional Vice President of Leading International Hotel Brands
- President & Chairperson of national & international hospitality organisations



Shannon College of Hotel Management *Throughout The Years*



1991

Bachelor of Commerce option validated by University College Galway & National University of Ireland.



1951

Shannon College of Hotel Management was founded by Dr Brendan O'Regan as part of Shannon Sales and Catering and operated on a benevolent non-profit basis.



1993

National Council for Educational Awards (NCEA) validates the National Diploma in Business Studies in International Hotel Management.

1991

First purpose-built facility constructed at Shannon College of Hotel Management, funded by Aer Rianta and the EC, who contributed half of the building cost of £400,000.



1994

Trust and Development Committee established.



1998

Membership of the Central Applications Office (CAO) for enrolling Irish and EU Students.

2000

National University of Ireland Senate grants Recognised College Status to Shannon College of Hotel Management.

2000

Second purpose-built facility constructed with philanthropic funds, raised by the College Trust with many graduates donating money for this project.





Shannon College of Hotel Management *Throughout The Years*

2000

Bachelor of Business Studies in International Hotel Management validated by the National University of Ireland.



2001

Shannon College of Hotel Management celebrates 50 years, with President Mary McAleese and Dr Brendan O'Regan in attendance.

2005

Newly refurbished Food and Beverage Education building completed with philanthropic funds.



2017

First delivery of Continuous Professional Development Programme.

2018

First postgraduate programme, MSc in Business and Hospitality delivered.



2025

University of Galway Management Team approve review of facilities and engagement with stakeholders re provision of state-of-the-art building, facilities and contemporary learning environment to deliver world-leading education.

2026

Launched a new BBS undergraduate programme in Global Luxury and Experience Management.

2000

Shannon College of Hotel Management students admitted to the "Free Fees Initiative" and Local Authority Higher Education Grants for EU students for the first time.



2003

First English Language Foundation Programme commences.

2009

Seychelles Tourism Academy partnership agreement signed.



2015

Integrated as a school within the College of Business Public Policy and Law, University of Galway.

2022

Two additional postgraduate programmes introduced.



2024

Partnership agreement signed with NMIMS, Mumbai India and Poly U, Hong Kong.



2025

Partnership agreement signed with Christ University Bangalore, Help University Bangalore, Manipal University Jaipur and British University Vietnam.

Join us in *building the future...*

As part of the University of Galway's Fundraising Campaign, Shannon College of Hotel Management is embarking on a pivotal phase of strategic investment through philanthropy, with a target of €30 million. This phase will focus on three areas:

1. New Building Development

Transforming the student learning experience, a new purpose-built, state-of-the-art 4,200m² building in Shannon campus will redefine hotel and hospitality management education, providing a world-leading learning environment, capacity for future growth, and integrated operations.

2. Faculty & Research Development

Investing in our world-class educators and researchers to maintain our position at the forefront of hospitality innovation.

3. Student & Programme Support

Equipping students for a changing industry with enhanced scholarships and new, industry-relevant programmes.

To learn more, contact:

Head of School, Adrian Sylver at
Adrian.sylver@universityofgalway.ie.

€50M

Capital investment
project

€30M

Fundraising target in
phase one

4,200m²

Purpose-built,
state-of-the-art building



Achieve
significant
growth over the
next 10 years



**Cutting-edge,
world-class,
learning
environment**







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