

# MTU BUSINESS INTERN SHORTLISTED FOR NATIONAL 'WOMEN IN IT AWARDS'



**WOMEN IN  
IT  
AWARDS  
SERIES**

## BACKGROUND

While it is widely accepted that diversity of thought is one of the cornerstones of the future of work, the cyber security industry suffers from a staggeringly low representation of women - approximately 24% worldwide. Cyber Ireland's Cyber Security Skills Report 2021 found 27% of companies have difficulty retaining women in cyber security teams, while 43% of organisations don't have a diversity programme in place to support women in the sector. The Cyber Skills Report's recommendation to 'Support the Attraction, Retention and Advancement of Women in Cyber Security' provided the impetus for Cyber Women Ireland to create the Diver{Se}curity Project.

## THE NEED

Cyber Women Ireland (CWI) is committed to the advancement and capacity of women involved in all aspects of the Irish cyber security sector. CWI launched the Diver{Se}curity Project to combat the lack of diversity and low levels of women in the cyber industry. The goal of the Diver{Se}curity Project, comprising a National Survey, Industry Report, and a Toolkit, was to assess the cyber security sector in Ireland as it related to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).

## THE SOLUTION

MTU Bachelor of Business student Loren O'Driscoll joined the CWI team as part of her 3rd Year industry placement, playing a key role in the planning, development and execution of the Diver{Se}curity Project. Loren's work focused on two key areas:

- The first involved the research, scoping and curation of the National Survey, used as a data collection tool for the Diver{Se}curity final report.
- The second was researching and authoring the Diver{Se}curity Report and associated sister project the Diver{Se}curity Toolkit- a resource for companies and individuals to help attract and retain women in the sector



**LOREN O'DRISCOLL JOINED  
CYBER WOMEN IRELAND AS  
PART OF HER INDUSTRY  
PLACEMENT**

## BENEFITS OF THE ENGAGEMENT

The internship programme offered by MTU's Dept of Management & Enterprise provided Cyber Women Ireland with a talented business student who applied her expertise and academic knowledge to every element of the Diver{Se}curity Project. Encouraged and supported by the CWI team, Loren's passion and interest allowed her to craft the hard-hitting questions which revealed, for the first time, Ireland's current cyber security landscape and its lack of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

In recognition of its valuable outputs, the project was shortlisted for the **DEI & Education Initiative of the Year** at the Women in IT Awards, which took place on 7 December 2021. The Diver{Se}curity Project proudly sat in the esteemed company of large multinationals and organisations including Deloitte and Accenture.

According to Aileen Cotter, Placement Co-ordinator for the Department of Management & Enterprise, "The collaboration with Cyber Women Ireland has enabled our interns to get first-hand experience of the industry and the relationship is mutually beneficial for all involved. We are delighted that Loren is part of the CWI team that was shortlisted for such a prestigious award".

**"As a business student with little experience in Cyber, Loren came into the project with a fresh mindset and an outsider's point of view. Loren let her sheer passion for making a difference be the driving force in this project."**

Joanne O'Connor, Manager of the Cyber Security Talent Academy at HPE.

**Contact us to connect your Enterprise with MTU. Email us at [extended.campusCork@mtu.ie](mailto:extended.campusCork@mtu.ie) to discuss a collaboration to suit your needs!**