

**Irish National History Competition
Results of the 2016/17 Competition in Ireland**

In line with the requirements of the senior, second level, history curriculum in Ireland the choice of topic was left open. This allows potential entrants to choose topics that are interesting to them and still fulfil the requirements of the continuous assessment associated with the completion of their leaving certificate examination process.

Engagement with the Breaking the SEAL programme that supports the competition was once again high. A total of 140 students participated in the programme and a total of 125 entries were submitted through the online portal.

Students who submitted entries were aged between 16 and 18 with the majority of the applicants aged 16. This is reflective of the high stakes examination process that students experience in the final year of the second level study which often has a negative effect on additional or extracurricular engagement.

Topics submitted to the competition were varied however some general trends did emerge. Unsurprisingly the 1916 Rising was a common topic given that the centenary celebrations were held across the country in 2016. Variances on the submissions was limited and entries generally presented an overview of events. A small number of submissions looked at family history in relation to this topic. The development of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) was also another common topic. Various events during World War II were investigated and reported upon.

A number of entries were selected to formally present their work to an audience and judging panel. Three were selected as winners and all three made submissions to attend the Next generation Summit 2017. Two were successful and travelled to Berlin to take part.

Going forward, it is our intention to keep the topic of the competition open in 2017/18, however, we will use the data collected to inform the development of the competition in 2019/20 where the selection of a topic may be piloted with a number of relevant schools.