



# Postgraduate Student Engagement - Case Study 1

## Developing a Postgraduate Research Society in Limerick Institute of Technology



**LIT**  
LIMERICK INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY

**The Challenge:** While postgraduate researchers can often encounter “a lonely road” during their research journey, this was exacerbated by Covid-19 restrictions.

**The Solution:** The **Postgraduate Research Society** was founded by a small group of LIT postgraduate researchers in 2020, in response to shifts in engagement opportunities due to the pandemic.

### **Aims and Objectives:**

1. To facilitate opportunities for postgraduate research students to engage with one another e.g., upcoming virtual ‘Tea and Chats’.
2. To develop a Peer Mentorship Programme and training for postgraduate researchers.
3. To host workshops for postgraduate researchers on core topics of interest e.g., academic writing, managing mental health, etc.

The Structure: Seven committee members with roles including (i) Secretary, (ii) Development Co-Director, (iii) Engagement Co-Director, (iv) Mentorship Lead, (v) Ordinary Committee Members.

While the group is a Society, they fall under the Graduate Research Office (GRO) and have close links with the Dean of Research.

### **Key Enablers:**

- ‘Buy-In’/Support from the Dean of Research who acts as a champion for the Society.
- Founder of the Society was previously heavily involved in SU activity within LIT and knew ‘the lay of the land’.
- As a society, the group can access funding for events etc.

### **Learning to date:**

- Not to be discouraged by fluctuations in attendance numbers. It can take time to establish the group and create a community.
- Catchment of postgraduate researchers is widespread as campuses based across Limerick, Tipperary and Clare. Online meetings can aid with this issue.