



Postgraduate Student Engagement - Case Study 2

USI Postgraduate Working Group - A nationally-led
forum for postgrads



The Challenge: While there were some networking opportunities for postgraduates within institutions across Ireland, there was a gap in student engagement opportunities across institutions.

The Solution: The **USI Postgraduate Working Group** was established in 2017/18 to create a platform for postgraduates across institutions in Ireland to connect with one another

The Structure: Every postgraduate in Ireland is eligible to join the Working Group. This is typically via the local Students' Union where an expression of interest can be made. Alternatively, a postgraduate can contact the Vice President of Postgraduate Affairs (VPPGA) at postgrad@usi.ie. Meetings are held approximately every 6-8 weeks.

Aims and Objectives:

- To facilitate a platform for postgraduates across Ireland to seek advice from their peers on local issues, share practice nationwide, and discuss unique postgraduate learning experiences.
- To inform national campaigns, for example, on postgraduate-specific issues, welfare, etc.

Learning to date:

- There is a need to devote considerable time during meetings for local issues. This enables postgraduates to share any local challenges and provide a platform for postgraduates from other institutions to impart advice/guidance based on previous experience.
- While there is a good postgraduate membership of the working group, there is a need to broaden awareness of the group. The more postgraduates that feed into the working group, the greater potential success in rolling out national campaigns, and supporting local issues.
- Similar structures at an institutional level can contribute to wider collaboration and the development of shared understanding of issues, which in turn, would support the continued evolution of national approaches.