



National Student Engagement Programme

Clár Rannpháirtíochta Náisiúnta
na Mac Léinn

NStEP Conference 2022

Hosted via Zoom

10am – 2pm, Tuesday, 10th May 2022

Speaker biographies are listed below the session overviews.

| Time | Session Outline | Speakers and Contributors |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Section 1: The Future of NStEP | | |
| 10am - 10.10am | Welcome from the chairperson | Megan O'Connor, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Union of Students in Ireland |
| 10.10am - 10.15am | Launch of new NStEP strategy | Oisín Hassan, NStEP Programme Manager |
| 10.15am - 10.40am | Panel discussion: Response and perspectives on the new strategy. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr Vivienne Patterson, Head of Skills and Engagement, Higher Education Authority• Karena Maguire, Head of Partnerships, Quality & Qualifications Ireland• Yvana Mpressa, NStEP Student Trainer and Associate Intern for EDI projects, and Maynooth University student• Brenda Meira de Azevedo, Student Quality Assurance Reviewer and National College of Ireland (NCI) student• Lee O'Farrell, Student Record Manager, University College Dublin |

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| 10.40am - 11.30am | Showcase: Student Engagement and Partnership from Irish higher education institutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kate Goodman (DCUSU VP Academic Life) and Aisling McKenna (DCU Director of Quality Promotion and Institutional Research)• Kathryn Haley (3rd year graduate entry medicine student RCSI) and Prof Celine Marmion (RCSI Deputy Dean of Student Engagement and Professor of Bioinorganic Chemistry)• Peter Attridge (3rd year Chemical and Pharmaceutical Engineering MTU) and Dr Aisling O’Gorman (Programme Coordinator, Chemical and Biopharmaceutical Engineering, MTU) |
| 11.30am - 11.40am | Short Break | |
| Section 2 – Fostering student partnership | | |
| 11.40am - 12.40pm | Keynote Speakers: Fostering Student Partnership in Higher Education Chairperson: Michaela Waters, NStEP Student Trainer and Maynooth University student | Keynote Speaker 1: Dr Roisín Curran, Interim Head of the Centre for Higher Education Research and Practice (CHERP), Ulster University <i>Roisín’s theme: Wider conceptions of student engagement: the power and potential of staff student partnerships to influence and promote engagement</i> Keynote Speaker 2: Rhiannon Kavanagh, Student Associate and Coordinator of the National Student Associate Assembly, NStEP and NFETL <i>Rhiannon’s theme: Support and Enhancement of Student Partnership Both Locally and Nationally in Irish Higher Education</i> |
| 12.40pm - 12.50pm | Short break | |

| Section 3 – Enhancing Student Representation | | |
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| 12.50pm – 1.50pm | <p>Keynote Speakers: Enhancing Student Representation</p> <p>Chairperson: Diana Young, NStEP Student Trainer and student at Dublin Business School</p> | <p>Keynote Speaker 3: Emer Neville, President of the Irish Second-Level Students' Union (ISSU)</p> <p><i>Emer's Theme: The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Student Engagement</i></p> <p>Keynote Speaker 4: Dr Philip Carey, Dean of the Teaching and Learning Academy, Liverpool John Moores University</p> <p><i>Phil's Theme: Course representation: is it fit for purpose and whose purpose is it fit for?</i></p> |
| 1.50pm – 2pm | <p>Closing Address: Clare Austick, President of the Union of Students in Ireland (USI)</p> | |

Speaker Biographies and Information

Dr Roisín Curran – Centre for Higher Education Research and Practice, Ulster University



Dr Roisín Curran started her teaching career in Further Education in 1997 having previously worked in the financial services industry in London for nine years. Since 2004 she has worked as a staff and educational developer at Ulster University and is currently Interim Head of the Centre for Higher Education Research and Practice (CHERP). She is also the Course Director of the Master in Education (MEd) course, a professional development programme for staff. Roisín has also led a cross-disciplinary project team at Ulster as part of a national 'What works? Student Retention and Success Change Programme (2013-16)' involving 13 institutions across the UK. This collaborative action research has further extended sector knowledge of what works in relation to improving student engagement, retention, and success. Roisín has a particular interest in student engagement and has published papers on the impact of a 'students as partners' approach on staff-student engagement. She has co-developed a new Integrated Curriculum Design Framework at Ulster that scaffolds the student journey and that which promotes: a relational-based partnership approach, active learning, peer support, and ways of thinking and practising the discipline. Roisín is a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Rhiannon Kavanagh – National Student Engagement Programme



Rhiannon Kavanagh is a recent graduate from Waterford Institute of Technology. She went on to serve two terms as Vice President for Education with WIT Student's Union, participating in many Institute boards and committees as well as some enhancement initiatives and TU Merger conversations with IT Carlow. Rhiannon then went on to spend six months working as a Student Intern with the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, working predominantly in the area of Student Success and with the National Forum Student Assembly. She is now completing the final six months of her internship working in partnership with the National Student Engagement Programme (NStEP), continuing to co-ordinate the Student Assembly as well as supporting the NStEP team on some of their ongoing projects and initiatives.

Emer Neville – Irish Second Level Students' Union



Emer Neville is an 18 year old gap-year student from Co.Tipperary and is Uachtarán/President of the Irish Second-Level Students' Union (ISSU). The ISSU is the national representative body for second-level students in the Republic of Ireland. It is led by students, for students and works to represent, uplift and defend student voice by providing support to individual student councils, engaging with education stakeholders and developing policies on issues that affect second-level students. The ISSU aims to provide a collective voice for second-level students while working to continually develop a transparent, fair and modern education system.

Dr Philip Carey – Liverpool John Moores University



Phil Carey is the Dean of the Teaching & Learning Academy in Liverpool John Moores University. The Academy's role is to support the enhancement of academic practice across the university. Phil's research interests focus around student engagement. These formed the basis of his appointment as a Reader in Student Engagement in 2016. Phil is also a UK National Teaching Fellow.

Kate Goodman – Dublin City University Students' Union



Kate Goodman is the Vice President of the DCU Student's Union for Academic Life. Acting as the primary student representative for academic affairs taking into consideration work-based learning, including placement and Erasmus. She is entrusted to campaign on educational matters and engage with external education agencies in areas of policy development and implementation. Her responsibilities also include supporting and promoting student employability and skills development. Kate is responsible for the continued development of the student representative system, working with the appropriate bodies to this end whilst coordinating feedback through Faculty and Class Representatives and the extended student body.

Aisling McKenna – Dublin City University



Aisling McKenna is the DCU Director of Quality Promotion and Institutional Research at Dublin City University. Her work is focused on promoting, supporting and facilitating continuous quality improvement activities across academic and administrative units throughout the University. Her office also leads the university's approach to applying an evidence informed approach to institutional planning, strategy development, and quality enhancement at Dublin City University. She has worked within the higher education sector since 2007, and previous to her current role, was Institutional Research and Analysis Officer for Dublin City University.

Dr Kathryn Haley – RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences



Kathryn Haley is a third year graduate entry medicine student at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), University of Medicine and Health Sciences. Kathryn is the recipient of two RCSI Student Engagement and Partnership (StEP) grants, for which she proposed both the REPRESENT project: Revising medical Education for Progress against Racism through Education, Skillsets and Empowerment; and the Going Gold project: developing a Gold Humanism Honour Society at RCSI. As a result of her involvement in the RCSI StEP programme, Kathryn received a RIME grant from INHED to expand the REPRESENT project to other medical universities in Ireland, and has co-authored a short article on her student engagement and partnership experience in AISHE-J. Kathryn hopes to provide an overview of the many merits of the StEP programme at RCSI from a student perspective.

Professor Celine Marmion – RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences



Celine Marmion is Professor of Bioinorganic Chemistry in RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences. She is also currently President of the Institute of Chemistry of Ireland, the national body representing all chemists in Ireland. Celine has undertaken many senior administrative roles during her tenure in RCSI, most recently as Deputy Dean for Student Engagement (since 2018) within the Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences. In this role, she has nurtured the development of a formal, university-wide Student Engagement and Partnership (StEP) Programme. At the heart of this programme is bringing together students and staff to work collaboratively on key funded projects where the expertise and perspectives of both students and staff are equally valued. Students, staff and the wider RCSI community are benefitting as a result. An overview of our approach undertaken to date, together with an outline of key enablers that have helped establish a culture of partnership in RCSI, will be provided.

Peter Attridge – Munster Technological University



Peter Attridge is a third year Chemical and Biopharmaceutical Engineering student in MTU. He originally started off doing Common Entry Engineering and chose Chemical Engineering at the end of his first year. Peter plays gaelic football for Mallow GAA which takes up most of his time outside of college. He is looking forward to starting his industrial placement in a wastewater treatment plant in Bandon in June and is currently preparing for his end of semester exams. Peter is one of the student consultants working with Aisling on the RAFT project.

Dr Aisling O’Gorman – Munster Technological University



Aisling O’Gorman is a chemical engineer and is programme coordinator for the B.Eng (Hons) degree in Chemical and Biopharmaceutical Engineering in MTU. She has been lecturing on the programme since 1994 and delivers modules across all four years of the programme. Aisling has a keen interest in student engagement, the development of student competencies and in curriculum development. She participated in the Building Assessment Literacy Initiative project in MTU in 2020-2021 and is currently working on a research project as part of the Reimagining Assessment and Feedback Together project. This project is investigating whether the use of a Learning Plan enhances student engagement and performance in a capstone engineering laboratory module.

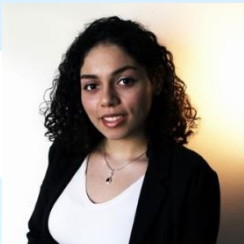
Strategy Launch – Panel Discussion Contributors

Yvana Mpressa – NStEP and Maynooth University



Yvana Mpressa is a Law student at Maynooth University. She is a Belgian-born, Irish-Canadian of Cameroonian descent. Yvana has been an NStEP Student Trainer since 2019, as well as a QA Reviewer, a co-chair of the project team that developed the Steps to Partnership framework, and is currently the NStEP Student Associate for EDI.

Brenda Meira de Azevedo – National College of Ireland



Brenda Meira de Azevedo, originally from Brazil, is an MSc Marketing student at National College of Ireland. Brenda also completed her undergrad at NCI, and has acted as both an international peer mentor and a class representative. She is a current Student Quality Assurance Reviewer and is a member of QQI's new Student and Learner Engagement Working Group.

Lee O'Farrell – University College Dublin



Lee O'Farrell has worked in Irish Higher Education for over twenty years. He has recently driven a number of sector-level initiatives with the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, encompassing the areas of Learning Analytics and Student Success. He is currently the Student Record Manager with UCD Registry.

Dr Vivienne Patterson – Higher Education Authority



Dr Vivienne Patterson has been Head of Skills, Engagement and Statistics since 2016, previously leading the Statistics Unit of the HEA for 10 years. Vivienne has responsibility for the management of both Springboard+, a national upskilling and reskilling programme and the oversight of national apprenticeships in higher education. In 2019, she implemented the Human Capital Initiative, a €300m investment in Agility and Innovation across the Irish Higher Education System. Vivienne's role in the HEA involves active strategic engagement with enterprise to strengthen the relationship between higher education promotion and future employment and innovation. In 2018 she sat on the Steering Groups for the Review of Guidance in Education and the review of the National Training Fund. Vivienne is a member of the CAO Board of Directors, the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs, and the National Training Fund Advisory Group.

Karena Maguire – Quality and Qualifications Ireland



Karena Maguire is the Head of Partnerships at Quality and Qualifications Ireland, with responsibility for strategic partnerships, stakeholder engagement and communications. Karena has been a member of the NStEP Steering Committee since the programme was founded in 2016. She is also a member of the Board of the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning. In 2021, Karena became a member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) Board.

With closing address provided Clare Austick – Union of Students in Ireland



Clare Austick (*she/her*) is President of the Union of Students in Ireland for the academic year 2021-2022. She is the former USI Vice President for Welfare. Clare is from Galway and studied Science, specialising in Chemistry, at NUI Galway.

She became involved in student activism as a Class Rep where she enjoyed representing the views of her class and resolving course issues. She then went on to be the part-time Equality Officer, Vice President for Welfare and Equality and President of NUI Galway Students' Union.

NStEP Conference 2022 chairpersons

Megan O'Connor



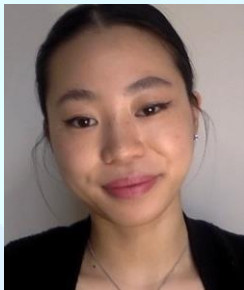
Megan O'Connor (*she/her*) is the USI Vice President for Academic Affairs. She was the Education Officer/Deputy President of Trinity College Dublin Students Union 2020-21 and is a General Nursing graduate. Megan previously held the positions of Off-Campus Part Time Officer, Academic Senator and Class Representative. She's originally from Kerry with a grá for student empowerment, improving placement practices and the overall accessibility of higher education.

Michaela Waters



Michaela Waters is a Final Year Business and Accounting student in Maynooth University. She is an NStEP Student Trainer, a Student Quality Assurance Reviewer and a student member of the NStEP National Advisory Group for Student Engagement. She is a National Forum Student Associate in Maynooth University. Highly interested in student representation and empowering students, she has supported Academic Representatives in her voluntary role as Social Sciences Faculty Convenor. Since 2020, she has been a Student Associate Intern for the Irish Universities Association Enhancing Digital Teaching and Learning Project in Maynooth University, focusing on improving the digital skills of students, lecturers and staff. The team have created resources and delivered presentations on numerous topics of relevance to higher education, including academic integrity.

Diana Young



Diana Young is a final year Psychology student at Dublin Business School. She is a current NStEP Student Trainer as well as a member of the national Student Associate Assembly. Diana has also been a Public Face for the student listening service Niteline, a past Vice President for Education at DBS Students Union, a head girl, a peer mentor and a Class Rep. Having grown up in three different countries (Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, and Ireland) and receiving her education in various settings, Diana's experiences are what have fuelled her goal in striving to be an advocate for all students, no matter their background, as well as for their teachers and institutions. Diana believes that the student contribution through student representation (whether on a peer to peer level, an institutional level, or national and international level) is vital to the academic experience.