



**National Student
Engagement Programme**

Clár Rannpháirtíochta Náisiúnta
na Mac Léinn

Student Wellbeing, Belonging and Engagement Project

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Programme Manager*



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann



Union of Students in Ireland
Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn

HEA

HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY
AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS

New Project – Logistics

- **Funded:** Department of Health, via
HEA Healthy Campus
- **Term:** 18-months
- **Title:** Student Engagement,
Belonging and Wellbeing Project

About the Project

It is widely accepted that student engagement in decision-making and students' sense of belonging within HE are linked. Currently however, these links are under-explored.

This project will;

1. Seeks to explore the impact of student engagement within teaching and learning environment on student wellbeing and belonging
2. Aims to explore student-staff partnership models primarily at the programme/course level and identify ways engagement can support student sense of belonging, student wellbeing and positive mental health

Project Objectives

The proposed objective of the project is to generate and disseminate knowledge for promoting health and wellbeing around at least two trans-disciplinary themes (student engagement, wellbeing and belonging).

The project will:

- involve participation from institutional leadership and student representation as well as other sectoral representation,
- involve collaboration with the Healthy Campus Network and institution Healthy Campus Committees
- bring together student and programme leaders in the join between academic learning and broader campus engagement
- mobilise the student voice and promote leadership to develop mutual understanding between programme leaders and students, strengthen their relationships and increase the possibility of positive outcomes in the area of student success.

Strategic Priorities

1

*Strengthening
the value of
student engagement
nationally*

2

*Developing the
leadership capabilities
of students in Irish
higher education*

3

*Supporting staff
and students across the
sector to foster a
culture of partnership*



Steps to Partnership

A Framework for Authentic Student Engagement
in Decision-Making

4

DRIVERS OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

A CULTURE OF STUDENTS AS PARTNERS

THE INSTITUTION AS A SITE OF DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP

THE INSTITUTION AS AN INCLUSIVE LEARNING COMMUNITY

A CULTURE OF INSTITUTIONAL REFLECTION AND ENHANCEMENT

4

DOMAINS OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



5

PRINCIPLES OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- Dialogue
- Building Trust
- Equity and Inclusivity
- Empowerment
- Students as co-creators

5

ENABLERS OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- Capacity Building
- Institutional Approaches
- Supportive Policies and Practices
- Communities of Practice
- Sustainability

DEVELOPING A SHARED UNDERSTANDING AND APPROACH TO STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

STUDENT VOICE

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

STUDENT PARTNERSHIP

A shared understanding

STUDENT VOICE

is the **act of students sharing** their individual and collective lived experiences, expressed through **views and perspectives**, demonstrated by formal and informal conversation, debate, feedback, and ultimately, **active listening** and being heard.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

...is a **process by which students and staff seek to work together** to shape **decision-making** in higher education, building individual and collective capacity and knowledge to navigate institutional structures and cultures.

STUDENT PARTNERSHIP

...is the practice that both drives forward and emerges from meaningful student engagement, which recognises the need to **re-balance power dynamics** in higher education and seeks to enable a culture of change through **collaboration, reciprocity and shared responsibility** between staff and students.

Higher Education
Healthy Campus
 Charter and Framework
 Ireland



SUPPORTING HEALTH AND WELLBEING



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An tOire Breitheoireachais agus Ard-oideachais,
 Taoide, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
 Department of Further and Higher Education,
 Research, Innovation and Science

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**National Student Mental
 Health and Suicide
 Prevention Framework
 Implementation Guide**

2020



Saibhirín Sláinte
 Nice Fear
 a Forbairt



Building a
 Better Health
 Service



Connecting for
 Life



USI
 Union of Students in
 Ireland



Healthy Campus Advisory Group

Higher Education Authority (Chair), Tim Conlon



Health Service Executive, Maebh McGuinness



Irish Universities Association, Prof. Patricia Fitzpatrick (UCD)

Technological Higher Education Association, Treasa Fox (TUS)



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Higher Education College Association, Patricia O'Sullivan

Department of Health, Bidy O Neill and Ingrid Doyle



DFHERIS, Alan O'Callaghan/Anne Gorman / Kathryn Coleman

USI, Sarah Behan



An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science



Healthy Campus

‘A Healthy Campus adopts a holistic understanding of health, takes a whole campus approach and aspires to create a learning environment and organisational culture that enhances the health and wellbeing of its community and enables people to achieve their full potential.’



Whole Campus Approach

A whole campus approach is reflected in a Healthy Campus action plan that is developed in the context of the following four key areas:

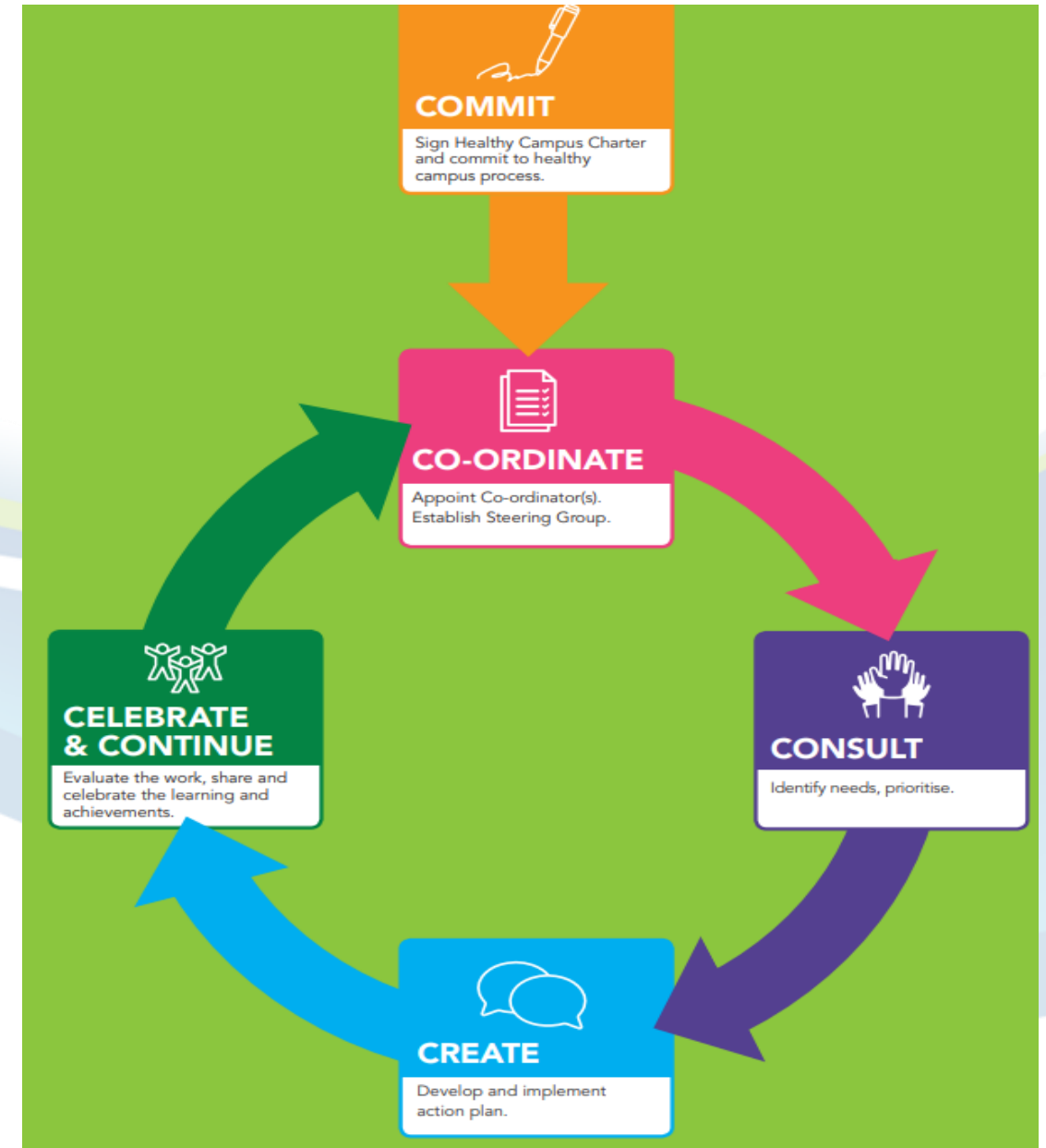
- Leadership, Strategy and Governance
- Campus Environment (Facilities and Services)
- Campus Culture and Communications
- Personal and Professional Development

*Whilst there is little research evidence on Healthy Campus per se, it is possible to draw on learning from other educational settings, which suggest that **holistic, multi-component, whole-campus approaches are more likely to be successful than isolated and fragmented activities.***

Healthy Campus Process

An inclusive, coordinated approach to improving health and wellbeing

1. Commit
2. Co-ordinate
3. Consult
4. Create
5. Celebrate and Continue



- ▶ Lead
- ▶ Collaborate
- ▶ Educate
- ▶ Engage
 - ▶ Reduce student isolation by promoting culture of belonging
 - ▶ Initiate peer mentoring programmes
- ▶ Identify
 - ▶ Make non-academic help such as social interpersonal skills an integral or mandated part of every student's HEI experience;
- ▶ Support
- ▶ Respond
- ▶ Transition
- ▶ Improve

National Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Framework

Implementation Guide

2020



Impact of Learning on Wellbeing

The influence of wellbeing on learning is well established.

Research on student wellbeing outlines the need for an institutional approach that recognises the role of the teaching and learning environment to support wellbeing through proactive and responsive cultures developed through student partnership. Chi Baik, et al (2019).

‘Academic staff and the curriculum are the only guaranteed points of contact between a student and their university. Therefore, any genuine whole university response to wellbeing must consider the role of the curriculum - and its potential for positive and negative impacts on wellbeing.’

Hughes, G., (2020).



Breakout 1

What do you see being the intersections of student engagement and wellbeing and belonging?

Breakout 2

How, if at all, have you seen
engagement practices
improve students sense of
wellbeing in your own
context?

Breakout 3

What do you see as important points to focus on in this project? E.g style of work, project type, engagement type.

Breakout 4

What resources would you like to see developed through this project?

Project Consultation

To start the project, we are currently planning a stakeholder consultation. This consultation will be open to staff and students interested in the development of the project.

At this stage no date is set but provisionally we are looking at July.

If you are interested please leave your email with us.





Any questions?

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