

**RCSI STUDENT  
ENGAGEMENT  
+ PARTNERSHIP**

# **RCSI Student Engagement and Partnership Programme - Promoting a Culture of Belonging and Well-Being in RCSI**

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Deputy Dean for Student Engagement

NStEP Networking Event  
RCSI  
28<sup>th</sup> November 2023



# ROADMAP TO STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP IN RCSI

03

Transformative learning - acquire leadership skills – to produce enlightened **'change agents'** of the future

02

Formative learning - acquire values – to produce **professionals**

01

Informative learning - acquire knowledge and skills – to produce **experts**

Frenk, Chen *et al.*, 'Health professionals for a new century: transforming education to strengthen health systems in an interdependent world', *The Lancet Commissions*, 2010, 376, 9756, 1923-1958



**RCSI**  
UNIVERSITY  
OF MEDICINE  
AND HEALTH  
SCIENCES



.... explicitly incorporated *student partnership* as a key strategy enabler in striving to ‘transform healthcare education, research and service for the benefit of human health’

Deputy Dean for Student Engagement  
established in Sept 2018

Student Engagement and  
Partnership (StEP)  
Committee

Benchmarking  
exercise



# Benchmarking exercise in more detail .....



1

Best practices in student engagement and partnership in national and international HEIs (with a focus on Institutions that had won an **ASPIRE-to-Excellence Award for Student Engagement**)

2

AMEE ASPIRE-TO-EXCELLENCE Award Programme



Established by AMEE in 2012  
*'to go beyond the traditional accreditation process to identify, recognize and reward world class excellence in medical education'*

The complex block contains the title 'AMEE ASPIRE-TO-EXCELLENCE Award Programme', the ASPIRE logo (a stylized 'A' with a star and the text 'ASPIRE International Recognition Of Excellence In Medical Education'), and a quote: 'Established by AMEE in 2012 to go beyond the traditional accreditation process to identify, recognize and reward world class excellence in medical education'.

# ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



## Criterion 1

Student engagement with management of the School, including matters of policy and the mission and vision of the School

## Criterion 2

Student Engagement in the Provision of the School's Education Programme

## Criterion 3

Student Engagement in the Academic Research Community

## Criterion 4

Student Engagement in the Community and the Social Environment/Service Delivery



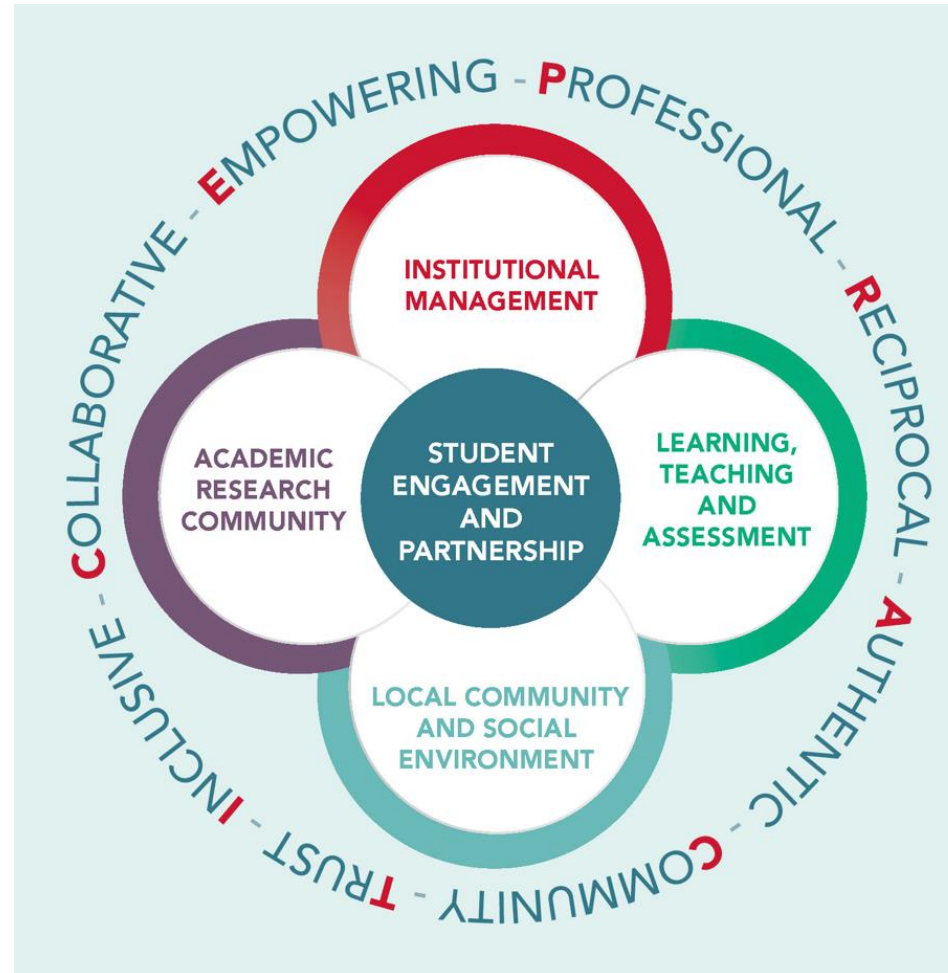
# RCSI STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP (StEP) PROGRAMME

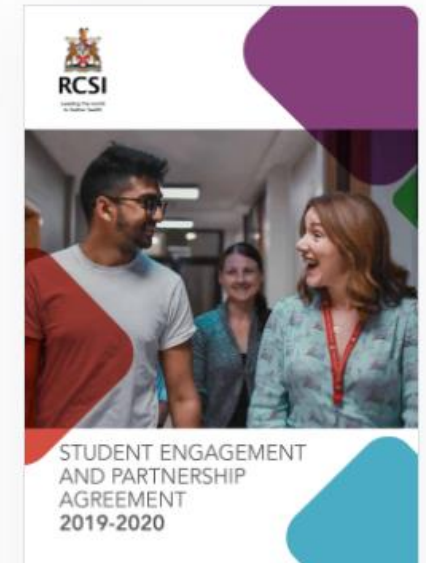


## RCSI StEP FRAMEWORK

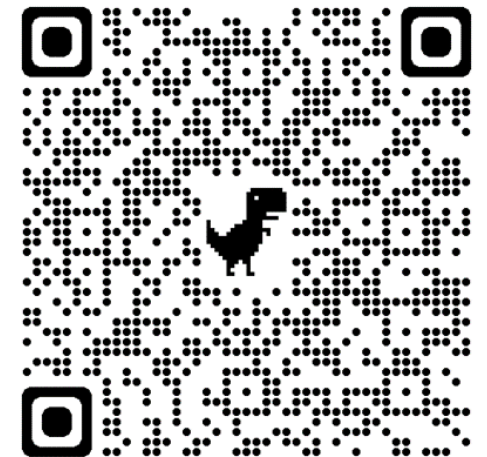
### DEFINITION OF STUDENT PARTNERSHIP IN THE CONTEXT OF RCSI

Through active student engagement, RCSI is nurturing, promoting and implementing a culture of partnership and inclusivity, **where the expertise and perspectives of students and staff are equally valued** and, by working together, we are **driving positive change** across the RCSI community for the benefit of human health.





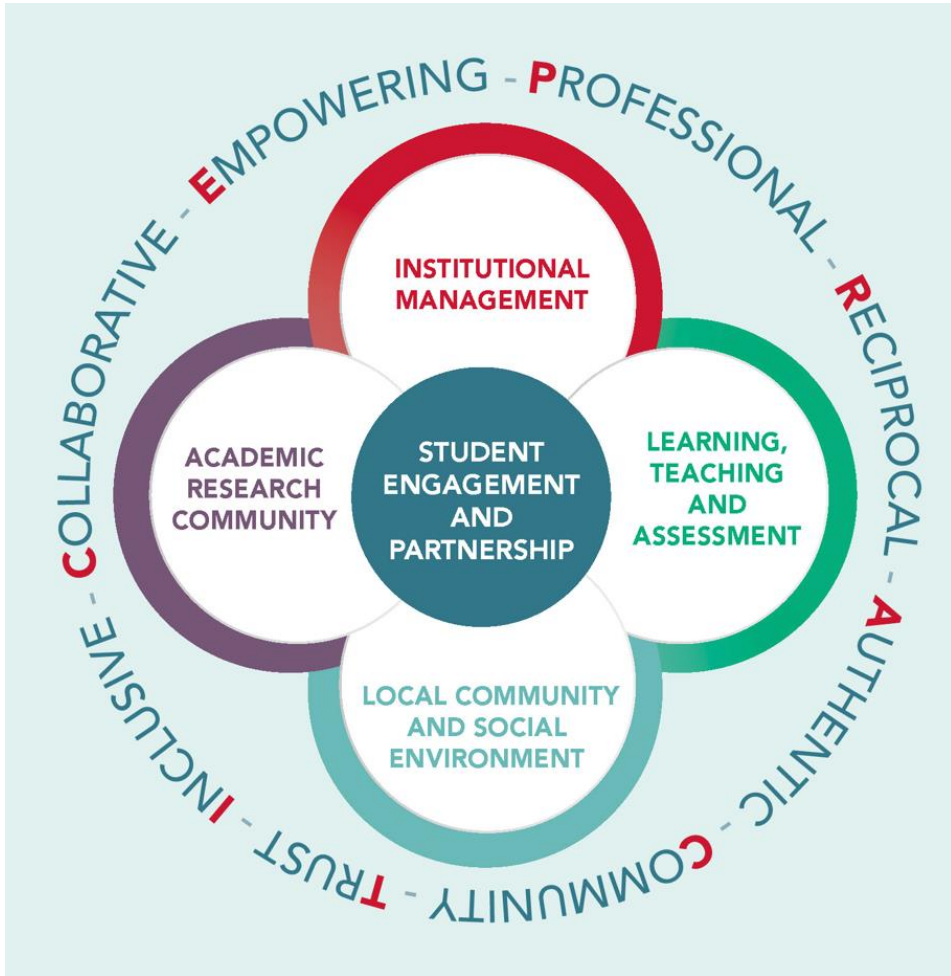
- StEP project priority themes identified in consultation with students and staff
- Students work in partnership with staff
- Students receive bursaries
- Students and staff receive RCSI Student Partnership Champion Award Certificates



Since 2020-2021 .....

45 StEP Level 1 Funded Projects  
26 StEP Level 2 Funded Projects

**129 staff**  
**117 students**



**FUNDING**





# Representative Projects Promoting Well-Being and Belonging



RCSI STUDENT  
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- Establishment of the RCSI Student Leadership Development Programme
- The novel use of an educational escape room to develop learners' capacity to manage uncertainty during medical school transitions
- Expanding existing RCSI Mentorship Programme to Postgraduates: the Alumni Mentor Network & Positive Connections of Staff Learning & Development
- Handling Trauma and Grief in distressing patient facing scenarios
- Healthy Campus Initiatives
- Let's Talk About It: A Week of Mental Health Workshops for Postgraduate Scholars
- Increasing diversity in clinical cases to deliver a transformative learning experience



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# INHED-Funded Study:



What are the key enablers, from a staff and student perspective, that have helped to promote and embed a culture of student partnership in RCSI?

*Invited students and staff who had participated in the formal StEP programme over one academic year (2020-2021)*

## 49 participants

- No. of student participants: 22 (18 undergraduate and 4 postgraduate)
- No. of staff participants: 27  
(15 academic and 12 professional administration staff)
  
- **Survey** (70% response rate)
  
- **Focus Groups** (3 x staff FG with n=15 staff; 4 x student FG with n= 13 students):

Reflexive thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2014, 2019, 2020) was used to analyse the data

# INHEd Research Study to Evaluate Impact of RCSI StEP Programme –

*How important is each element in terms of promoting a universal culture of partnership across RCSI?*

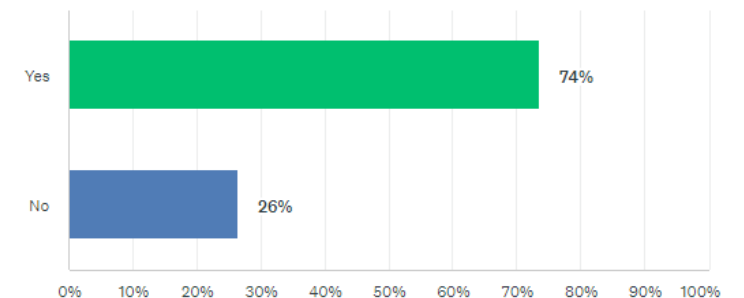


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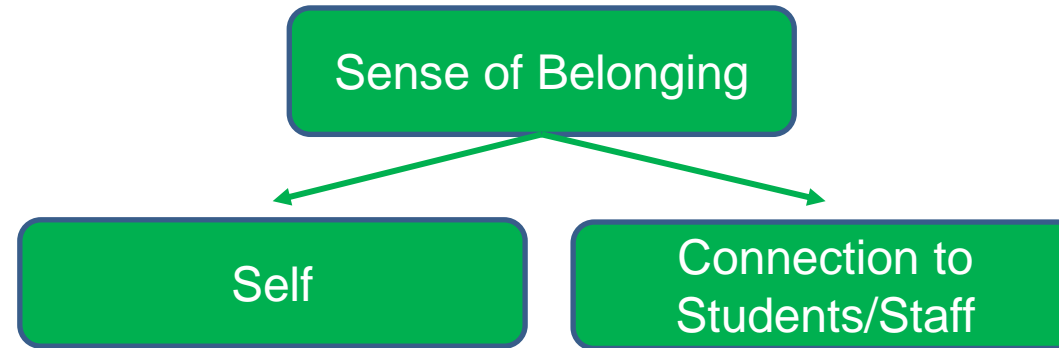


Have your views on/perceptions of student partnership changed as a result of being involved in a StEP-funded project?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 3



## Study Findings:

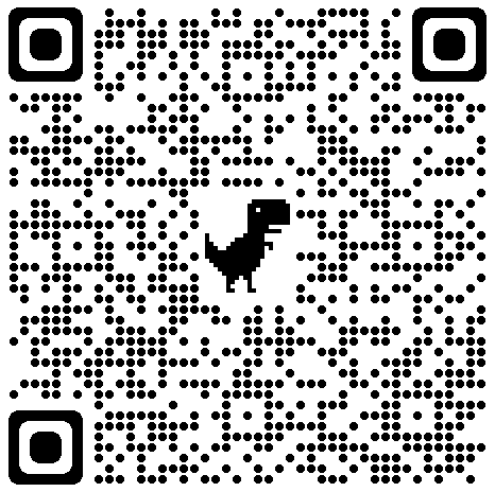
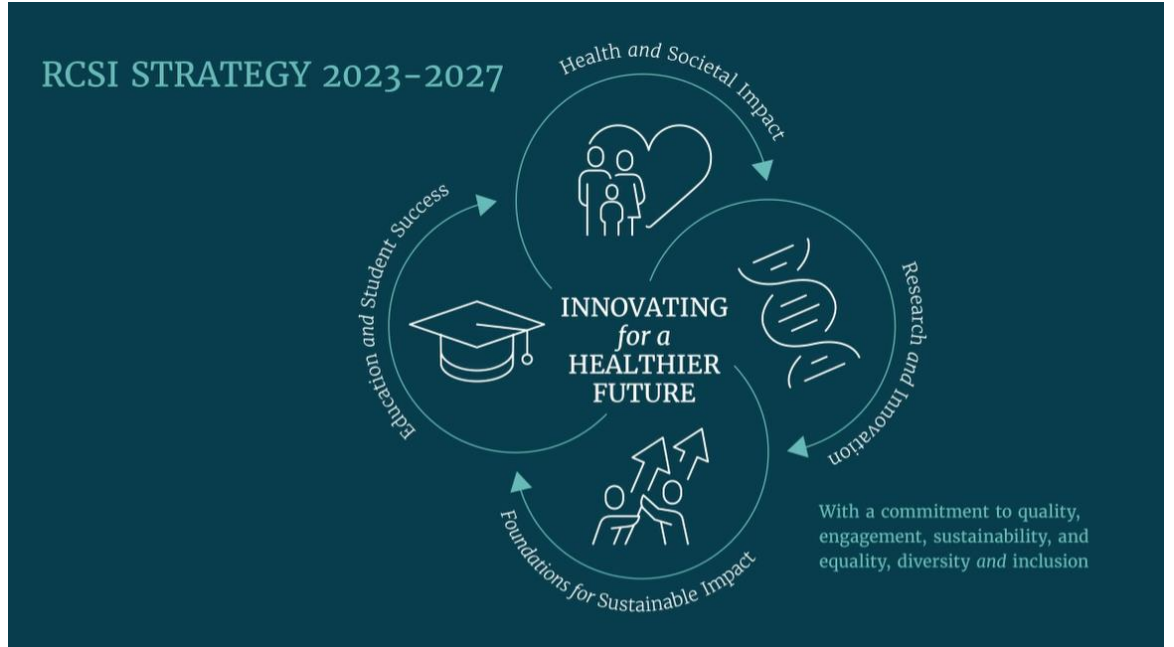


- 'Sense of belonging' appears as a significant theme
- Participants highlighted it in relation to **perceived benefits of the programme**, a **consequence of involvement** and in terms of **what partnership means to them**

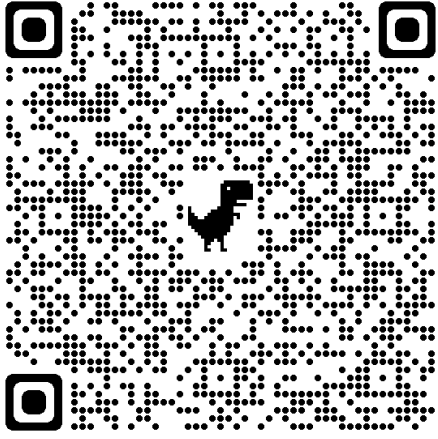
*The ability to build relationships with students and to get a sense of who they are and understand them better (Staff 3)*

*I felt like it really helps with students feeling like they belong to the community and not just belong, but also have an impact on the RCSI. I suppose like campus or administration or anything like that specific to my project. I felt like my work mattered. I felt like I was contributing to the betterment of RCSI. (Student 3)*

*You have contributed to the community and left something behind that you can see as being a beneficial thing. So I think it does spark this sense of school pride and concept of good legacy and positivity..... leaving places better than you found them' (Student 4)*



Student Engagement and Partnership (StEP) is at the core of providing our distinctive educational experience. Students contribute to developing and evaluating curricula, and to all aspects of educational, social and institutional decision-making, fostering a culture of genuine student engagement.



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@RCSI\_StEP



Thank  
You