



**National Student
Engagement Programme**

Clár Rannpháirtíochta Náisiúnta
na Mac Léinn

National Student Engagement Network Event

Beyond Feedback: Building Effective Student Voice Mechanisms

Monday 1st December 2025



**Dearbhú Cáilíochta
agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann**
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National Student Engagement Programme

Clár Rannpháirtíochta Náisiúnta
na Mac Léinn

National Student Engagement Network

1st December 1pm – 4pm via Zoom

Time	Session
1.00pm – 1.30pm	Welcome and NStEP Update
1.30pm – 1.50pm	<i>Amplifying Student Voice through Creative STEAM Engagement</i> , Sharon Shannon and Adam Breen, Chorus, UCD
1.50pm – 2.10pm	<i>Student Voice in Quality Assurance</i> , Orlaith O'Loughlin, QQI
2.10pm – 2.25pm	<i>Student Training and Representation</i> , Michaela Waters, SETU
2.25pm – 2.40pm	<i>What Students Tell Us When No One Is Listening</i> , Joan Broderick, Pathways
2.40pm - 2.50pm	Break
2.50pm – 3.10pm	<i>IADT FYF and Creative Pathways</i> . Mary Collins and Ethan Taylor, IADT
3.10pm - 3.30pm	<i>Student Voice amongst Postgraduate Students and Researchers</i> , MJ Quill, AMLÉ
3.30pm - 3.50pm	<i>Quality Assurance Student Reviewer and Student Voice</i> , Dhanushi Rodrigo, ATU
3.50pm - 4.00pm	Closing Remarks



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National Student Engagement Programme



National Student Engagement Programme (NStEP)

Niamh Kennedy

Programme Manager

Qualifications & Experience

- LLB, LLM
- P.Dip Leadership & Management
- Undergraduate and postgrad student rep
- Student Associate (National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning)
- NStEP Student Trainer
- Quality Assurance Student Reviewer
- Postgraduate Student Associate Intern (NStEP, 2021 - 2022)
- DELTA Reviewer
- Student Engagement in Higher Education Journal Reviewer

nstep@usi.ie



Rachael Sarsfield Ryan

Development Co-Ordinator



Qualifications & Experience

- BSc. in Applied Psychology
- Deputy President & Education Officer in IADT Students' Union (IADTSU) 2020/21 and 2021/22
- Advisory Board Member for Irish Open Access Publishers (IOAP)

nstepdevelopment@usi.ie



The National Student Engagement Programme (NStEP)

- ▶ Founded in 2016 – a partnership of Quality & Qualifications Ireland, the Higher Education Authority, and Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn.
- ▶ Promotes and strengthens student engagement at a national level by:
 - ▶ Working with students, students' unions, higher education institutions (HEIs), staff, and organisations/government bodies.
 - ▶ Providing training and professional development
 - ▶ Creating resources
 - ▶ Running workshops, seminars, network events, and conferences

NStEP is here to support you!



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Technology
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An Associated College of
Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

**NStEP's
Partnering
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National University
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Munster Technological University



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Ireland

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RIAM
Royal Irish
Academy of Music



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OF MEDICINE
AND HEALTH
SCIENCES

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TUS



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UCC
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ATU St Angeles



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



**UNIVERSITY OF
LIMERICK**
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

Our Vision

To inform, guide and support an Irish higher education landscape that **fosters student-staff partnership**, at both the national and institutional level, by **enhancing student engagement**.

Our Mission

To ensure **value is placed on student engagement** in Irish higher education through the **development of the leadership capabilities** of students and by supporting institutions and their staff **to create and sustain meaningful partnership with students**.

Strategic Priorities

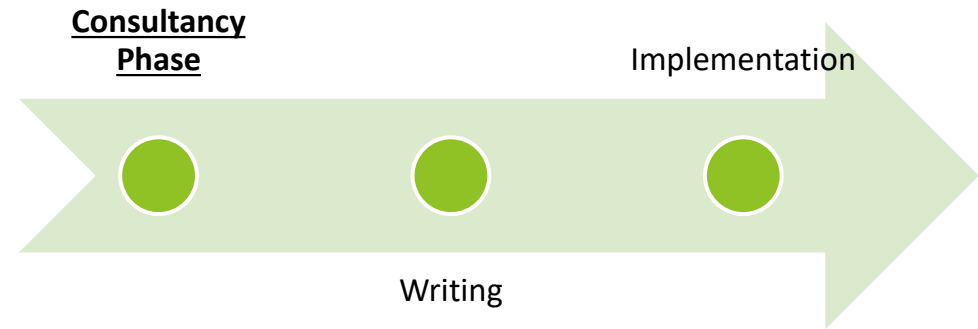
- A) Strengthening the value of student engagement at the national level**
- B) Developing the leadership capabilities of students in Irish higher education**
- C) Supporting staff to create and sustain meaningful partnership with students**

NStEP Strategy 2026+

- ▶ Input from 50+ individuals (and growing)
- ▶ From 10+ institutions (and growing)

- ▶ Feedback so far:

- ▶ More/updated training modules/courses
- ▶ Funding and resources
- ▶ Student champions within institutions
- ▶ Capture academic staff within institutions
- ▶ greater visibility and communication in the higher education sector
- ▶ KPI's and measuring NStEP's impact wider across the sector



Email nstep@usi.ie for 1-1 consultation





**National Student
Engagement Programme**

Clár Rannpháirtíochta Náisiúnta
na Mac Léinn

Student Training Programme Updates 2025/2026

*Rachael Sarsfield Ryan
Development Coordinator*



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Student Training Programme (STP)

- ▶ **30** participating higher education institutions
- ▶ **7700+** students trained across Ireland since 2016
- ▶ **20** Student Trainers
- ▶ **77** Student Quality Assurance Reviewers



Student Training Programme (STP)


► **4 student trainer-led modules (90 mins):**

- Introductory Class Rep Training (ICRT)
- Advanced Class Rep Training (ACRT)
- Representing Diversity Training (RDT)
- Institutional Review Student Briefing sessions*

► **Total trained this semester: 857**

- ICRT – 810 students
- ACRT – 47 students
- RDT – available in the spring semester

(as of 28/11/25)

► **8,584** students trained
across Ireland since 2016 

Student Training Programme – Session Breakdown

- ▶ NStEP has delivered a total of **39** training sessions in the 2025/2026 Autumn Semester, with 6 additional sessions still to take place.
 - ▶ Introductory Class Rep Training – 35 sessions
 - ▶ Advanced Class Rep Training – 4 sessions
- ▶ Of these sessions, **19** were delivered **in-person** which is the highest amount of in-person training sessions booked and delivered in the Autumn Semester since 2019/2020 (pre-COVID).



**National Student
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Student Training Programme Report 2020 - 2025

*Rachael Sarsfield Ryan
Development Coordinator*



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STP Training Programme Report 2020-2025

- ▶ Reflection on the past 5 academic years of the Student Training Programme: a period of significant growth and major developments in Irish HE and NStEP.
 - ▶ Co-developed Advanced Class Rep Training and Representing Diversity Training with student trainers and student associates,
 - ▶ Developed a suite of self-directed online modules,
 - ▶ Developed a national system of awards to recognise and reward the contribution of students to the enhancement of student engagement and partnerships with staff across Irish higher education.
- ▶ During this period, NStEP trained 5,034 student representatives across the entire suite of sessions and online modules available in the Student Training Programme.
- ▶ Read the full report [here](#).

Key Statistics

ICRT Total Completed	ACRT Total Completed	RDT Total Completed	Total Online Modules Completed	Total Trained in STP
4,114	256	266	298	5,034

Total Feedback Forms Received: 1,952

Feedback Forms Received: 39% (1,952 / 5,034)

Key Statistics

Of Feedback Forms Received: 1,927 would recommend NStEP training to peers.

99% (1,927 / 1,952) would recommend NStEP training to other student representatives.

Student Rep Demographics

▶ Institution Type:

- ▶ 27% - Institutes of Technology / Technological Universities
- ▶ 35% - Universities
- ▶ 38% - Private College / Other

▶ Study Type:

- ▶ 92% - Full Time
- ▶ 8% - Part Time

▶ Student Type:

- ▶ 72% - Domestic
- ▶ 28% - International

▶ Stage of Study:

- ▶ 1st Year – 51%
- ▶ 2nd Year - 22%
- ▶ 3rd Year – 17%
- ▶ 4th Year – 9%
- ▶ 5 or more – 1%

Student Rep Experience

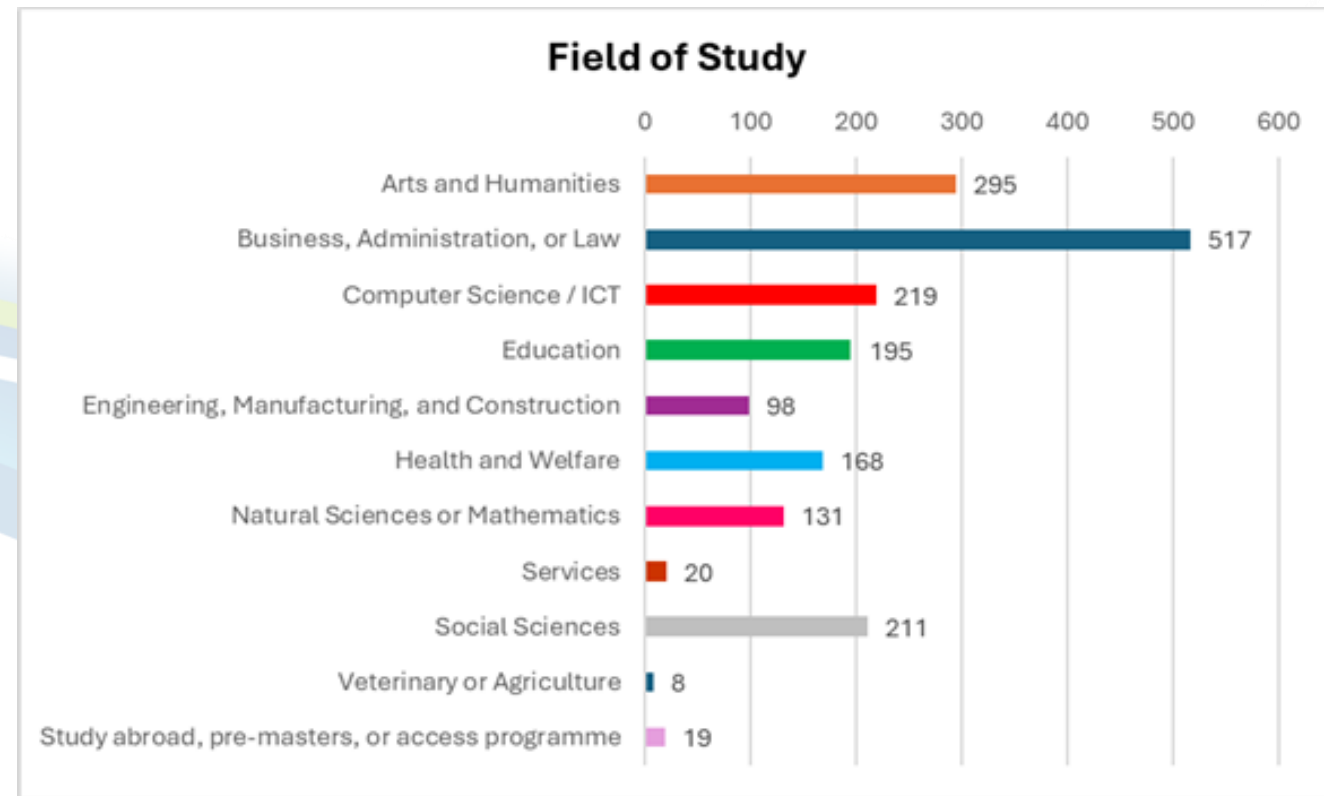
► Years of Experience as a Rep:

- This is my first year as a rep – 80%
- 1 year – 11%
- 2 years – 5%
- 3 years – 3%
- 4 years or more – 1%

► Pathways to Rep Role:

- Elected by class – 49%
- Selected by tutor – 4%
- Volunteered – 46%
- Other – 1%

► Field of Study:



Thank you so much for listening and engaging!

Questions?

► Contact Niamh:

- nstep@usi.ie
- 086 063 4843

► Contact Rachael:

- nstepdevelopment@usi.ie
- 086 033 3941

