



# National Student Engagement Programme

Clár Rannpháirtíochta Náisiúnta  
na Mac Léinn

## 2026 Call for NStEP Student Trainers

### About NStEP

The National Student Engagement Programme (NStEP) was launched in April 2016 by the Higher Education Authority (HEA), Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and the Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn (AMLÉ).

NStEP aims to strengthen student engagement in decision-making across Irish higher education, and champion a strong culture of partnership between students and staff through practice-based projects, training, and capacity building, as well as informing policy developments.

Student engagement is underpinned by the idea that students are partners and co-creators within a learning community, and NStEP aims to actively embed these principles within higher education. Involvement in NStEP requires a partnership between HEI staff and student representatives, with HEI leadership and Students' Union leadership signing partnership agreements to participate.

### About the NStEP Student Training Programme

NStEP's Student Training Programme has undergone significant growth over the last few years, with over 8,500 students trained since the programme was launched in 2016. Training is delivered through both in-person and online sessions. All our training modules are student-led by NStEP student trainers. During the 2025-26 academic year, student trainers led 75 training sessions across the range of modules offered in the Student Training Programme. NStEP currently offers three different categories of training modules which are led by its team of student trainers. These are detailed below.

#### **Introductory Class Rep Training (90 mins):**

Introductory Class Rep Training accounts for the majority of training sessions delivered by NStEP and are designed for new student reps. Core content includes an introduction to student engagement and the class rep role. It also explores the Student Learning Experience as a tool for collecting feedback, and the Feedback Cycle. The majority of sessions are delivered to undergraduate reps, with some specialised sessions adapted for reps on postgraduate taught courses. Sessions are primarily organised by participating institutions/students' unions, with an additional number of 'open' sessions run centrally by NStEP. These sessions can be delivered in-person or online.

#### **Advanced Class Rep Training (90 mins):**

Advanced Class Rep Training was designed by a team of NStEP Student Trainers for returning or experienced reps who have previously completed NStEP's Introductory Class Rep Training. This training explores tools used to navigate challenges in the learning community, as well as the LAPS strategy for embedding effective leadership, communication, partnership, and succession planning into the class rep role. These sessions can be delivered in-person or online.

## Representing Diversity Training (90 mins):

This training session introduces tools and resources that will help class reps effectively represent their diverse classmates and empower fellow students from all backgrounds and lived experiences to get involved in student engagement in decision-making. Core content includes recognising bias, understanding discrimination, universal design for learning, and signposting supports. These sessions can be delivered in-person or online.

## Special Purpose Training:

NStEP is occasionally asked to provide training for students by member institutions for specific purposes – such as for students participating in institutional review processes at their college. In this instance training content is tailored to these specific needs and student trainers with some background in this area may be asked to lead or assist with the training. These sessions are delivered online only.

## About the Role

The 2026/27 NStEP student trainer pool will be composed of up to 20 student trainers. To be eligible, trainers must either be a **current student, or recent graduate** (no more than 1 year past the date of their most recent graduation). Each trainer receives comprehensive training and is supported by NStEP staff. The role offers students the opportunity to develop many different skills including: communication, time management, public speaking, and administration. The work is flexible and compatible with study and other commitments. The majority of training will run from September to April in higher education institutions across the country. NStEP is committed to delivering training both in-person and online. As NStEP expands the training programme, as well as it's wider strategy to support student engagement across Irish higher education institutions, trainers will be able to avail of other development opportunities, playing a key role as part of the NStEP team. NStEP also hosts a number of events throughout the year, and student trainers may be required to attend and support NStEP staff at these events.

## Training for the Role

Training for the role takes place **in-person** over **2.5 days**. This training is a **key requirement** for the role.

The training for Student Trainers is currently scheduled to take place in-person in **August 2026, exact dates to be confirmed**.

## Responsibilities

- Attend training to develop the required skills and knowledge to deliver the NStEP Student Training Programme.
- Deliver training materials and liaise with NStEP staff, college staff and SU officers ahead of delivering training events.
- Deliver training to groups of third level students.
- Complete administrative duties related to training, for example keeping detailed records of attendance and contributing to social media promotion.
- Undertake meetings with the NStEP Programme Manager and the NStEP Development Coordinator to discuss practical and professional development.
- Involvement in planning conferences and meetings related to student engagement.
- Possible opportunities to be involved in and lead on projects related to student engagement.

## Skills & Attributes

- Excellent presentation skills in both a group and one-to-one settings
- Excellent time and task management
- The ability to deliver content with consistency and ensure training objectives are met
- Good writing skills
- Good administration skills
- Good command of spoken and written English (min. ILR Level 4/ CEFR Level C1)
- Knowledge of structures and governance systems in Irish higher education institutions desirable
- Competency with online tools (e.g. Zoom, Eventbrite)

## Working Hours

Trainers are paid a living wage rate of €14.80 an hour. Training session demands will vary, but each trainer is expected to deliver a **minimum** of 4 sessions. Reasonable expenses, including travel, will be covered.

## How to Apply

The application form can be found online [here](#). It is strongly recommended that you prepare your answers for the written responses in a word processor and then copy and paste these into the online form.

**Applications must be submitted by 6pm on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026.**

Interviews for shortlisted applicants will be completed by **in-person** on **Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026**. Late applications will not be considered.

If you have any questions, please contact the NStEP Development Coordinator, Rachael Sarsfield Ryan, at [nstepdevelopment@usi.ie](mailto:nstepdevelopment@usi.ie)

Further information on [studentengagement.ie](http://studentengagement.ie) and follow NStEP on our social media (see below) for updates.



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National Student Engagement Programme



National Student Engagement Programme (NStEP)

The National Student Engagement Programme is a partnership of:

