



Fheabhsú Cáilíochta Quality Enhancement

Case Study of Good Practice

Title: UCC Civic and Community Engagement Initiatives

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Case Study Synopsis

The 'third mission of universities' - engagement - is at the heart of the future vision and policy direction for higher education in Ireland and Europe. Engagement is prioritized in the Irish National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030 as a 'third mission' of Irish HEI's. 'Impact 2030: Ireland's Research and Innovation Strategy' prioritizes engaged research and innovation (R&I) at the heart of addressing Ireland's social, economic and environmental challenges.

UCC is an internationally recognized leader in this area, being only one of two Irish Universities to win the MacJanet Prize from the Talloires Network, the leading international prize for HEI civic engagement. UCC has excelled on the Times Impact Rankings, being ranked 8th in the world for impact in 2021. UCC is a leading signatory to the Irish University Association's Civic and Community Engagement Charter. As part of the IUA's national 'Campus Engage' initiative, UCC collaborates with 7 other Irish Universities, to embed a common evidence-based framework for societal engagement within and across our institutions, inclusive of partnerships for the SDG's across engaged research, community engaged learning, student volunteering and public engagement. Civic and Community Engagement is a core pillar of UCC's Academic Strategy: Connected Curriculum.



Area of Alignment

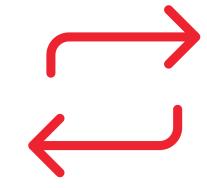
Learning and Teaching
Research and Innovation



Video Links | Graphics



https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/centralmedia/UCC_Civic_Engage_20 17a.pdf



Intended Changes

Support greater awareness of our institutional commitment to university third mission for societal engagement and our various initiatives that contribute to societal impact. Deepening awareness will contribute to continuous improvement of quality and increased effectiveness for engagement between University and society.



Key Impacts

We would like to share an overview of the achievements and societal impact made possible through our coordinated institutional approach. In addition to this example of an institution-wide good practice, we will focus on specific examples of good practice such as how service to society is integrated within academic promotions in UCC, and innovative UCC approaches to societal engagement across, research, teaching & learning, internationalisation and partnerships.



Additional Information

The University's development of an institution-wide approach to Civic and Community Engagement across colleges and centres and institutes, was noted as commendable during the ISER process. Indeed, recommendations to UCC from the IEP conducted in 2019/2020 includes prioritizing Service to Society, particularly integrating community engagement in curricula and research and ensure that there is one university-wide body looking at the integration of engagement across research and teaching. UCC is the only Irish University to have a university-wide Civic and Community Engagement Plan (available here), overseen by the University's Civic and Community Engagement Committee, reporting to the University Leadership Team.