

Bystander Intervention at UCC

The UCC Bystander Intervention programme was developed to tackle issues of sexual and relationship violence, by educating and empowering students to support the development of a visible, pro-social institutional culture which stands against unacceptable behaviour and abuse but instead fosters a culture of positivity and support. The programme, modelled on the work of Dr Rachel Fenton, highlights the danger of normalising abusive behaviour, and cultivates an understanding of a bystander's capacity to intervene. The blended learning programme at UCC provides students with a safe environment to better understand appropriate social interactions and to identify unacceptable behaviour, ensuring an understanding of the importance and meaning of consent, but also more broadly, personal assertiveness and social responsibility. Students take the online modules at their own pace, completing a series of quizzes and interactive engagements, culminating with an in-person reflective group workshop where students share their learning experience and participate in role-plays to articulate their learning and intervention capacities.



NATIONAL IMPACT

The programme is led by Professor Louise Crowley, School of Law UCC, a member of the National Expert Group established by the Minister For Higher Education Mary Mitchell O'Connor, responsible for the drafting of the National Framework to End Sexual Harassment and Violence in Irish HEIs. UCC is proud to share our programme and research findings to support cross-sector responses to the National Framework and to date it has been shared with 10 Irish HEIs and will be available for first year orientation 2020/2021 on campuses across Ireland, under the direction and leadership of Minister Simon Harris.



"I can't stress enough how important it is that more students get the opportunity to participate in this workshop. I didn't actually realise that I was personally affected by the material, but it meant that I could go and talk about it."

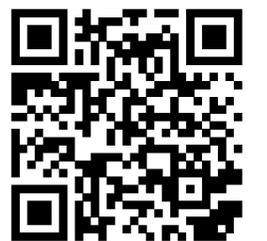
IMPACT OF BYSTANDER AT UCC

Since completing the programme UCC students report:

- 76% believe it should be compulsory
- 76% have noticed events where an intervention would be appropriate
- 69% have made an intervention
- 61% intervened directly; 39% intervened indirectly
- 83% feel they now have the necessary skills to intervene
- 68% stated they would attend a refresher workshop



ENROLL NOW!



WHY BYSTANDER?

A 2020 USI/NUIG Sexual Experiences survey reported

- 29% of females, 10% of males, 28% of non-binary students reported non-consensual sex by incapacitation, force, or threat of force;
- 51% of first year students, 62% of second year students and 66% of third (or subsequent) year reported experiencing sexual hostility since beginning college.
- Students who had attended workshops, events, and talks related to sexual conduct consistently reported higher awareness of supports and services.

“

I have a lot more confidence being able to speak and voice my opinions on the matter after taking part in the class

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