

# A Students as Partners Approach to Analysing Student Engagement Data for Teaching and Learning

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## Project Overview:

This project pilots a Students as Partners approach to analysing student engagement data from the Irish Survey of Student Engagement. This approach (Bovill, C., Cook-Sather, A., and Felten, P., 2011) taps directly into the rich, personal experiences of students which is directly relatable to the messages within the data and empowers students to shape institutional conversations around enhancing student engagement.

Analysis is ongoing, but early stages of the project have highlighted key moments in a Students as Partners project which can have a significant impact on the project which are worth considering on their own.

## The Process:

1. Student Partners recruited from former postgraduate students on CIRTLL Teaching and Learning courses.
2. Access to survey data for UCC secured through the Student Surveys Board.
3. Students identify and articulate research questions and key themes.
4. Periodic research workshops to discuss ongoing analysis, initial conclusions, possible institutional responses
5. Student partners submit draft analyses for compilation into a final report.
6. Final report submitted to senior administration and revised for publication.

## Snakes and Ladders:

Anyone adopting a Students as Partners approach must accept (and, perhaps, embrace) its very nonlinear nature. Of course, research is rarely linear, but inviting students into a project as full partners increases the variables involved – particularly as relates to research skills and experience as well as competing priorities (such as their degree and how they pay their bills!) It is still very much worthwhile, but anyone taking this approach needs to be prepared for an uneven – and sometimes even capricious – process.

### For more Information:

