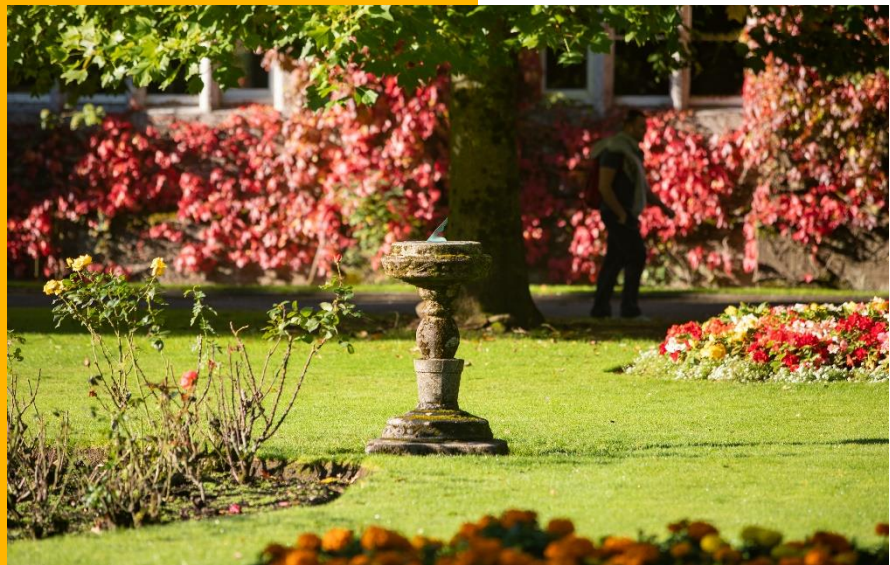


Palestine Solidarity Response

Report of the

Palestine and Israel Working Group

23rd January 2025



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Information is as complete as possible and it is up to date at the time of completion: 23 January 2025. It does not take account of developments since that date and as such, represents a snapshot in time.

Document Revisions

Issue	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Date Issued	Status
V1.0	Working Group Chair	Palestine and Israel Working Group	23.12.2024	Issued
V2.0	Working Group Chair	Palestine and Israel Working Group	20/01/2025	Submitted to ULT on 29/01/2025. Considered on 8 March 2025.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Aims of the Working Group

As part of the University's Palestine Solidarity Response, a Working Group was set up to identify the nature and scope of UCC's relationships with institutions in Palestine and in Israel. The Group, made up of representatives of the Colleges, University departments, the Students' Union and others with an interest in and knowledge of University partnerships, met six times in 2024 and early 2025 in an inclusive and constructive process. While the Group was established as part of the University's Palestine Solidarity Response, members were acutely aware of the broader application of the issues discussed to the University's international partnerships and research collaborations. In addition to making recommendations in line with its terms of reference, therefore, the Group initiated dialogue on a range of important issues including the role of the University in global affairs, academic freedom, and research integrity and security. Many of these general concerns are also under wider consideration across the University and in other Universities nationally and internationally.

This Report makes recommendations for consideration by the University Leadership Team. The work of the Group will also be taken into account as part of the University's other commitments in its Palestine Solidarity Response, in the implementation of its Global Engagement Plan – Securing our Future through Global Engagement 2024-2028 - and in the implementation of the University Strategic Plan – Securing our Future 2023-2028.

2. Approach of the Working Group

The Working Group was established following the approval of the Terms of Reference by the University Leadership Team on 23rd July 2024. Membership of the Group was filled by seeking nominations from the Colleges, offices and functions represented and the Students' Union nominated two members from its executive. The Terms of Reference of the Group are set out in [Appendix 1](#). Set up as a task and finish Working Group, the Group

met on five occasions between November and December 2024 and once in January 2025 to discuss its draft report. The membership of the Group and meeting dates are set out in [Appendix 2](#).

The Group agreed at its first meeting to work according to the following principles, namely an understanding that:

- The emergency in Palestine is dynamic and evolving and, as such, the Group should keep the situation under constant review.
- The principles of transparency and urgency should inform our approach.
- Solidarity and support for Palestine and those people seeking sanctuary are the priority.
- The principles of academic freedom are fundamentally protected.
- All current legal, regulatory requirements and existing commitments should be fully respected and considered.
- Existing structures and approval or reporting pathways should be utilised for any actions or recommendations arising out of the group.

The main purpose of the group was to identify and review the University's relationships and partnerships with Universities and other entities in Israel as part of bringing transparency to this area. Secondly, the Group considered the University's relationships with institutions in Palestine in order to highlight the importance of amplifying and strengthening these, where possible, as part of the University's solidarity response.

To identify the links that University College Cork currently has with Universities and other entities in Palestine and in Israel, the Group sought information from the University's four Colleges, the Office of Vice President for Research and Innovation and the Tyndall National Institute. Separately, a request was made of the University's Finance office with respect to contracts and other commercial arrangements. The results of these requests are set out in the Appendices.

3. Academic Freedom and Scholarly Engagement

Discussions within the Group raised important questions about academic freedom, including its scope and its relationship to institutional obligations. The Group worked with the following definition of academic freedom under the Universities Act:

“A member of the academic staff of a university shall have the freedom, within the law, in his or her teaching, research and any other activities either in or outside the university, to question and test received wisdom, to put forward new ideas and to state controversial or unpopular opinions and shall not be disadvantaged, or subject to less favourable treatment by the university, for the exercise of that freedom.”

The Group agreed unanimously that protection of academic freedom remained a fundamental principle and that as such, individual academic relationships were not within its scope. For the purposes of this report, therefore, all individual academic collaborations, including co-authorship, were excluded. The Group noted the importance of ensuring that academics are free and indeed supported to engage externally for the purposes of inquiry and research, and to undertake associated activity.

The following were considered outside of the scope of the Group:

- Ad hoc visiting professor appointments
- External Examiner appointments.

Other than UCC’s external examiner appointment process, there would appear to be limited approval or record keeping systems in place in these areas and data on such appointments is thus not readily available.

The Group considered there to be value in the discussion in the wider University of the scope and meaning of academic freedom, especially in light of the challenges presented by current geopolitical circumstances. In addition, it was noted that there may be value in providing staff with an opportunity to share experiences and perspectives on the challenges they may experience in these areas. In this respect, there was a useful preliminary exchange of resources that are included in [Appendix 3](#).

It is also clear that the current geopolitical context has raised questions about the role of the University, including the question of what can and should universities do to help address conflicts, human rights abuses and injustices. The University's Global Engagement Plan, approved by UCC's Governing Authority in December 2024, contains commitments to global partnership and global citizenship which are relevant here. Taking account of the significant academic expertise in UCC in this area, and the varying experiences of many universities around the world in this area, the Group discussed the value of convening a seminar series or similar on 'The Role of the University in a Globalized World'.

These elements are given further attention in the Recommendations below.

4. Current Protocols and Procedures

To aid understanding of the University's current approach to partnerships, the Group sought information as to the University's policies, processes and procedures that apply to the creation of new research partnerships, applying for international research grants and undertaking the necessary due diligence associated with these arrangements. The Global Engagement Plan commits to a more strategic approach to partnerships and to the adoption of an ethical and human rights framework that will augment this process.

4.1 Due Diligence for Research Partnerships

The primary institutional approver for University research partnerships is the Office of Vice President Research and Innovation. Tyndall National Institute, the University's largest research centre, has a separate approval process and work is underway to align these approaches. Details of these respective processes were presented to the Working Group. The Protocol used in the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation is set out in [Appendix 9](#).

4.2 Academic Partnerships

As a large, internationalised university, UCC has hundreds of academic partnerships with universities and other higher education and academic institutions all over the world. Its academic partnerships include both non-binding agreements designed to foster collaboration and binding arrangements that govern joint programmes, student exchange and other similar educational activity. Responsibility for approving these arrangements currently rests with the Academic Secretary and a process is in place to oversee basic due diligence, approval and maintenance of these agreements in the office of the Deputy President and Registrar.

4.3 Export Control

UCC engages widely in international research collaboration and the global movement of researchers. Some of the knowledge held, goods used, and research activities carried out have the potential to be misused. Export control law regulates the transfer of goods to other countries, aiming to prevent such technology falling into the wrong hands, impacting our security, regional stability and the protection of human rights.

These laws apply to the University in the same way as any other organisation. This means that individual academics and researchers in UCC may be obliged to obtain an export licence from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment before they can lawfully carry out certain activities.

Compliance with export control measures is recognised as part of the broader responsibility for research integrity at UCC and individual academics and researchers are required to be aware of their obligations to ensure compliance in this area.

Under University policy, compliance with export control measures is recognised as part of the University's responsibility for research integrity, including the responsibility to ensure that University staff are aware of their obligations to ensure compliance in this area. Current guidance is set out here: [UCC Export Control Internal Compliance](#)

[Programme](#) and in the [UCC Export Control Guidance Note](#). Introductory training on export controls is also available [here](#) and export control related queries can be directed to: exportcontrol@ucc.ie

A question regarding dual use products in Tyndall was raised in the Working Group and in response, confirmation was received that following inspection by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment in 2024, both Tyndall and the University received a clean audit with respect to export control matters.

4.4 Research Integrity and Security

The focus on research integrity and security is increasingly relevant to international research collaborations. This is relevant to all aspects of the academic role in order to ensure that the highest standards of professionalism and rigour are applied to the entire research process. In Europe, the [European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) was adopted in 2023 and in Ireland, the National Forum for Research Integrity updated the [National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland](#) in December 2024. Both statements provide importance guidance to all those involved in the research process and act as standard bearers for the academic community.

More recently, there has been a heightened focus at national and international levels on the various risks to Universities in the area of research security. All active research bodies are being strongly encouraged to put in place rigorous processes to protect against such risks. This work is being led at UCC by the Office of Vice President for Research and Innovation, and it is also being taken into account in the development of the University's new ethics and human rights framework led by the Vice President for Global Engagement.

5. Findings

The details of the partnerships and research grants in place with universities in Israel and in Palestine are set out in [Appendix 5](#). This information was gathered following:

- A request to the Office of Vice President and Innovation
- A request to all four Colleges
- A request to the Tyndall National Institute.

5.1 Links with Universities

5.1.1 Palestine

There have been a number of formal partnerships with universities in Palestine over the years. These details are set out in [Appendix 4](#) and include three Erasmus + capacity building grants with An Najah University. Considering the value of these projects, the Working Group considered that it would be timely to revisit their outcomes in order to explore the potential for follow up or further co-operation.

More recently, in July 2024, UCC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with An Najah University in order to support academic collaboration. A similar agreement was also signed with Bethlehem University in July 2024. These agreements provide a framework for collaboration between UCC and these two universities, with opportunities to strengthen and widen links for the purposes of research, knowledge exchange and capacity building. Greater awareness across the University about these links could help to highlight the opportunities that exist for deeper collaboration between UCC and An Najah and Bethlehem Universities. This should be explored further.

While there are many informal links, current and historical, between academics in UCC and universities in Palestine, there is only one research project currently ongoing. Led by Principal Investigators in the School of Law, the project aims to build a community of children's rights researchers in Palestine, to commission and publish a series of working papers addressing foundational aspects of children's rights in Palestine and to build capacity in children's rights research in Palestine. This three-year programme of research from 2023 to 2025 includes a Fellowship/Scholars at Risk Programme that will support displaced scholars to pursue scholarship in the area of children's rights in Palestine at University College Cork during 2025.

5.1.2 Israel

There are a number of different types of research collaborations between UCC and universities in Israel including Horizon Europe grants involving large scale consortia. UCC is the lead partner in one of these grants. Inquiries indicate very limited interaction between the UCC PI and the Israel partner and in many instances, the arrangement of work packages etc means that there is no interaction at all. These research grants primarily concern research in areas of medicine, health and the sciences. The Tyndall National Institute has confirmed there are no additional partnerships other than the Horizon grants listed and enquiries from the Colleges identified one additional research grant with an Israeli partner, researching Crohn's disease. A further grant has a connection with Israel from the perspective of company registration only. Details of all these grants are set out in Appendix 5: Research Projects.

All of these grants are underpinned by complex multi-party or consortia legal agreements, withdrawal from which would attract legal, financial and practical penalties. The European Commission¹ has reiterated the legal frameworks that govern the participation of Israeli partners in Horizon Europe and highlighted that any decision to seek to remove an Israeli partner from an EU funded grant would constitute discrimination. As part of the Working Group, there was engagement with Ghent University which has attracted international attention by its decision to withdraw from Horizon Europe grants with Israeli Partners. The approach taken by Ghent University, was enabled by the human rights assessment framework adopted by Universities in Flanders in 2017. In light of concerns with its engagement with Israeli institutions under the Horizon framework, Ghent has undertaken a series of steps intending to lead to discontinuing partnership with these institutions. A complex and difficult process, which is not yet complete, this is explained in [Appendix 6](#) and is being closely monitored by UCC.

¹ Letter from EU research and innovation commissioner, Iliana Ivanova, to The Flemish Interuniversity Council, 20th June 2024

There are no new partnerships under consideration with Israeli partners and the approval process in place in the Office of Vice President and Innovation enables early monitoring of any emerging links. The adoption of the new ethics and human rights framework, along with the work on research integrity and security, will provide an even more robust risk management and due diligence process with respect to any new partnerships or collaborations under consideration in this and other areas of concern. This is intended to apply to all international partnerships in the future.

5.2 Links with other Entities

As part of its commitment to bringing transparency to all its relationships, inquiries were made concerning existing contracts in place with entities in Palestine and in Israel. This process is complex and not at all straightforward, not least because University systems do not always record all the information necessary to provide a full picture. The complexity of corporate arrangements, involving parent and subsidiary companies and company registration systems can make this process even more challenging. As a result, it is very difficult to interrogate such relationships through the University's financial management system. However, it is possible to establish whether there are suppliers on the University's system with a registered address in either Palestine or Israel.

5.2.1 Palestine

UCC currently has no contracted suppliers in place in Palestine.

5.2.2 Israel

Inquiries identified three active suppliers on the list, relating to the provision of a specific form of antibodies (€12K), another relating to the payment of royalties associated with Cork University Press (€400) and a further consultant associated with a COST action project in the APC research centre. There are no contracts in place with these parties and the last payments issued to them in 2023. The details are set out in [Appendix 7](#).

Further to its Palestine Solidarity Response ([Appendix 8](#)), the University was requested by UCC BDS in Summer 2024 to identify the level of engagement with four specific companies: Hewlett Packard, Intel, Siemens and Axa. Inquiries at the time identified that there was limited to no placement activity with these companies through the Careers Service. Further inquiries have identified the following:

- Hewlett Packard – this Irish based supplier has provided server equipment to UCC in the past, but there has been very little direct engagement with the company in recent years.
- Intel – UCC currently has no supplier or contracted arrangement with this company.
- Axa – there are currently no contractual arrangements in place.
- Siemens - various divisions of this company are suppliers on the UCC system for a variety of purposes. These include Siemens Electronic Design Automation, based in the UK, relating to integrate circuit design tool licensing for which there are no alternative suppliers. This is considered business critical. The others are not especially active and concern either historic engagement or one-off recent payments. These include Siemens Healthcare Medical Solutions, based in Dublin, which provided ultrasound equipment once in 2019, Siemens Industry Software, a UK software company and Siemens Ltd, Dublin based which provided a mix of equipment and repairs/maintenance services. Our legacy Siemens telephony system is maintained by an Irish company.

As part of the University's Palestine Solidarity Response, University leadership has in place an early alert system which means that possible engagement with a partner of concern, which may in the current context include a company based in Israel, is flagged to the Vice President Global Engagement so that due diligence can be undertaken. More widely, consideration is being given through legal advice to the feasibility of including a human rights assessment in the procurement process.

6. Discussion

The Working Group shared different views on the role of the University as an international actor especially in the context of present conflicts and wars. While the starting point and primary focus was the war in Gaza, which has caused particular outrage and concern, the war in Ukraine and in Sudan were also referenced along with wider geo-political circumstances which create difficult working conditions for any globalised University. Traditionally, many universities have followed the lead of the University of Chicago [in Appendix 3], which emphasises the role of the University to prioritise academic freedom, supporting debate and protest but otherwise adopt a position of institutional neutrality. Others have, especially recently, reviewed their positions, with some preferring a more proactive approach seeking to distance themselves from institutions or jurisdictions of concern. [Ghent University](#) is one such example. This is clearly a very complex and delicate process for a variety of reasons. As a globally engaged University, UCC depends on its global reputation to have impact on the world's major problems through world leading research. At home, particular care must be taken to ensure the University remains an inclusive environment where staff and students from all backgrounds feel they belong and are respected.

In the Working Group, a number of factors were considered:

First, the destruction of Universities in Gaza, [which has caused UN experts to raise concerns about 'scholasticide'](#), has [displaced students and scholars](#) prompting calls for Universities to take proactive action in solidarity and support.

Second, the role of Israeli universities is not considered by some to be neutral in the current war. Attention was drawn to the scholarly work of [Maya Wind](#) in this regard.

Third, while Ireland has recognised the state of Palestine, Government has not put in place structures or finance to enable the support of displaced students and scholars and this has largely been left to Universities.

Fourth, in the Application of the [Convention](#) on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa vs Israel), before the International Court of Justice, the court reached the view that 'at least some of the acts and omissions

alleged by South Africa to have been committed by Israel in Gaza appear to be capable of falling within the provisions of the Convention'. Ireland filed a declaration of intervention in the case in January 2025.

To date, however, neither Ireland nor the European Union has enacted sanctions against Israel and the absence of a sanction regime is a relevant factor as to what steps can legitimately be taken in this area.

Fifth, it is important to highlight the protection afforded to academic freedom in a University, a principle to which UCC is unequivocally committed as a core value. This is related, too, to the important role Universities can play, as a force for good, in the global context as acknowledged in the University's Global Engagement Plan.

Finally, as noted above, the considerations highlighted by the current context are relevant to the University's wider relationships and require careful consideration in the context of the University's international role.

It is clear that conflicts like the current war in Gaza have challenged the University community. Aside from institutional considerations on which there are varying strongly held views, many have grappled with whether to continue with valued individual research collaborations in areas impacted by the conflict. It is important that the University supports all staff impacted, enabling the sharing of experiences and guidance formally and informally as appropriate.

It is also apparent from working group discussions that there is, for some, a thin line between those aspects of the academic's role that fall within the scope of individual academic freedom and those that fall within the terms of institutional responsibility. While there is no doubt that research collaboration such as co-authorship falls squarely within the terms of academic freedom, some consider that the situation relating to visiting professorships (outgoing and incoming) is less clear cut given the institutional support they entail. There is no consensus on these issues, however, and it is recommended therefore that they are kept under review and considered as part of the work underway to develop a human rights partnership framework with the associated work around research integrity.

7. Recommendations

The following are the recommendations of the Working Group:

7.1 Strengthen links with Palestinian Universities

In Palestine, UCC has two institutional partnerships and there is clearly scope for expanding and developing these links, to mutual benefit, understanding and solidarity. Building on previous experience, it is recommended that the findings and outputs of previous grants be revisited to identify any possible follow up actions. Secondly, and in the implementation of current agreements, it is recommended that interest be gauged among staff in UCC and its partner universities An Najah and Bethlehem University to develop a joint seminar series to share research ideas and knowledge. This could include online sharing of research, in line with UCC Futures, broadening dialogue on areas of common interest and concern. This could be strengthened to incorporate a visiting professor programme, once relationships are further developed.

7.2 Due Diligence Process for Partnerships

While the University has procedures and processes in place to approve its research partnerships and agreements, this Working Group endorses the commitment to develop a framework to support the compliance with its wider ethical and human rights obligations to include a set of principles that should inform the nature and extent of any such relationships. This should be developed as part of a due diligence process for all partnerships which ensures account to be taken of any ‘partners of concern’, a concept that should be developed to take account of wider geopolitical contexts and changing circumstances. In addition, it is recommended that such a process also take account of ‘subjects of concern’ so that the theme or substance of the research proposed is part of the due diligence process. In this regard, the experience of UCC’s peer universities should be further researched. The engagement with Ghent University, for instance, provides valuable learning for the University to take into account as part of its ongoing work in this area.

It is also important, however, that any new partnership framework enables support for those partners that would seek to advance human rights. Providing partnership in a spirit of solidarity and practical support is an important aspect of any University committing to values-based global engagement. Efforts should thus be made to prioritise such partnerships in the implementation of the Global Engagement Plan, which has pillars focused on both Global Partnership and Global Citizenship, including the University's role as a University of Sanctuary.

Taking account of academic freedom, it is recommended that consideration be given to mapping all current individual arrangements involving university support. These could include:

- Visiting or other honorary professorships inbound and outbound
- External examiner appointments at other universities.

The application of a formal process of approval for these arrangements should be considered with guidance developed as part of the ethics and human rights framework, while preserving the principle of academic freedom.

7.3 Human Rights Framework

Heightened concern for the protection of human rights in universities' international relationships led to the adoption by the National University of Ireland of a [Code of Conduct](#). Adopted as a set of principles in 2013, it is now under review to take account of current conflicts and global challenges. The Code led to UCC including a human rights clause in its international partnerships to highlight its expectations of partners in this respect. Also relevant to this area is the Magna Charta Universitatum originally enacted and adopted by over 380 universities worldwide in 1988. It was revised in light of changing conditions globally and for universities in 2020, when UCC became a signatory. The [Magna Charta 2020](#) recognises the principles, values and responsibilities of Universities in the modern age, and they serve as an important reminder of the context within which they operate.

Building on these frameworks, universities around the world have begun to develop human rights frameworks to support partnerships that are based on mutual respect for human rights. For example, the Universities in Flanders adopted such a framework developing a human rights self-assessment tool for individual universities to use. It was this tool that the University of Ghent applied when recently reviewing its links with Israeli Universities.

UCC has committed to the development of such a human rights framework as part of its Global Engagement Plan. Following horizon scanning and peer consultation, a working group has been established to develop this framework which is expected to be approved by the University in 2025.

It is clear that having such a framework in place is important to ensure the University enters into partnerships that take account of its human rights obligations. Such an assessment tool will raise awareness of the human rights responsibilities in this context, in line also with Ireland's statutory Human Rights and Equality Duty and provide a transparent and effective way to implement the values of the institution in all aspects of its global relations.

This Group endorses this approach and recommends that the development of the framework is expedited and resourced, so that account can be taken of the full range of circumstances and contexts in which it will be used.

7.4 Seminar Series on Academic Freedom and the role of the University in the global context

The Working Group discussed the concept of academic freedom throughout its work, identifying the need to provide greater opportunity for debate on the scope of the principle and the emerging obstacles to its protection. The Group was reminded of the module on Academic Freedom, previously developed by Dr Angela Flynn, Prof Kieran

Keohane, and Academic Secretary Paul O'Donovan, and it recommends that the details of the module are circulated to staff as part of a seminar series of events on the topic.

The related topic of the role of the University in the Global context, on which UCC has significant expertise, should also be the subject of University debate. This is especially relevant given the considerable expertise in UCC on this subject.

7.5 Summary of Recommendations

1. Develop a programme of work to support partnership with Palestine Universities.
2. Continue with due diligence process for all new research partnerships and contracts.
3. Develop the Ethical and Human Rights Framework, including a dynamic partnership assessment tool for all partnerships, to ensure account is taken of ethical and human rights considerations. As part of this process, it is recommended to explore a formal process of approval for relevant individual arrangements, such as visiting appointments.
4. Convene a seminar series on Academic Freedom and the role and responsibilities of the University in the contemporary context.

8. Appendix

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference

Palestine and Israel Working Group

As part of the University's response to the conflict in Gaza, a review of UCC's relationships with Palestinian and Israeli institutions will be undertaken by this Working Group on a task and finish basis.

Aims

This working group is established by the University Leadership Team (ULT) to carry out this purpose with the following aims:

1. Identify UCC's links with Israeli institutions
2. Identify UCC's links with Palestinian institutions
3. Review these links and make recommendations to ULT for consideration and approval as appropriate.

Membership

The working group will have the following membership

- VP Global Engagement (Chair)
- Representatives from the four Colleges,
- Representative from Tyndall National Institute
- Representative from Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Unit
- Representative from the Academic Secretariat/Deputy President and Registrar
- Representative from Vice President Research and Innovation
- Representative from UCC Global office
- Representatives (2) from the Student's Union

Methodology and Approach

The working group will:

- engage with internal and external stakeholders as appropriate

- take account of regular international standards in its work
- meet monthly
- Issue regular progress reports
- submit a final report to ULT in December 2024.
- be guided by a principle of transparency as appropriate.

Appendix 2: Working Group

Membership of Working Group

Members	Areas Represented
Prof Ursula Kilkelly	VP Global Engagement
Alex Angland	Students' Union
Dr. Chris Brown	Global Engagement
Prof. Patricia Kearney	College of Medicine and Health
Dr. Patrick Morrissey	Tyndall National Institute
Dr. Eimear Moloney	College of Science, Engineering and Food Science
Prof Andrew Cottey	College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences
Dr. David O'Connell	Office of Vice President Research and Innovation
Eoin O'Donnell	Students' Union
Paul O'Donovan	Academic Secretary and Deputy Registrar
Prof Mark Poustie	College of Business and Law

Working Group Meeting Dates

Dates	Forum
Friday, 18 th of October 2024	Online
Friday, 1 st of November 2024	Online
Tuesday, 19 th of November 2024	Online
Friday, 29 th of November 2024	Online
Friday, 13 th of December 2024	Online
Tuesday, 21 st January 2025	Online

Appendix 3: Group Resources

Freedom of Speech

[Watch: The role of Universities in supporting freedom of speech | News | Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington](#)

The Chicago Statement on Freedom of Expression (University of Chicago)

[Chicago FOE Committee Report.pdf](#)

Appendix 4: Erasmus + Grants with Universities

Palestine

	Key Action	Action Type	Funding Year	Project Title	Project Summary	Results Platform Project Card	Coordinating organisation name	Coordinator's country	Participating Countries	EU Grant award
Palestine	Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices	Capacity Building in higher education	2018	Strengthening of National Research Capacity on Policy, Conflict Resolution, and Reconciliation	Conflict is one of the most important development challenges facing the world today . Reports have clearly demonstrated that conflict is a key barrier to human development and prosperity. In Pales...	https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/598787-EPP-1-2018-1-PS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP	ARAB AMERICAN UNIVERSITY	PS	PS,DE,ES,IE	515,701.00
Palestine	Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices	Capacity Building in higher education	2016	Transforming Assessment Practices in Large Enrolment First Year Education	Freshman education across the country suffers from the absence of competency and skill-based instruction. There is no focus on life skills like problem identification, problem solving, planning an...	https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/573738-EPP-1-2016-1-PS-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP	AN-NAJAH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY	PS	PS,EL,ES,IE,SK	508,118.00
Palestine	Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices	Capacity Building in higher education	2016	Improving Governance Practices and Palestinian Higher Education Institutions	University Governance plays a crucial role in developing higher education institutions. It describes how the HEIs define goals, implement plans, assign responsibilities, take decisions, and measur...	https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/573684-EPP-1-2016-1-PS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP	AN-NAJAH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY	PS	PS,PT,IT,SI,IE	856,840.00

Israel

Israel	Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices	Capacity Building in higher education	2017	Assessment Tools for new learning environments in higher education institutions	Curriculum reform programs have been central to European Commission's TEMPUS and ERASMUS programs. Although assessment of the courses was included in these programs, none offered to develop releva...	https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/585587-EPP-1-2017-1-IL-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP	KINNERET ACADEMIC COLLEGE IN THE JORDAN VALLEY	IL	IL,GE,DE,AT,EE,IE	981,022.00
Israel	Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices	Capacity Building in higher education	2021	Sharing European Educational Experience in Public Health for Israel: harmonization, employability, leadership and outreach		https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/618578-EPP-1-2020-1-BE-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP	THE ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE EUROPEAN REGION	BE	EI, IL, SE, NL, PL	886,907.77

Appendix 5: Research Projects

Palestine

Funding agency:	Project Budget	Thematic Priority	Total Participants	UCC's Role	Palestinian Members	End Date
Fondation Botnar	€5,250,000	Children's Rights Capacity Building	3	Lead Partner	An-Najah and Bethlehem University	31.12.2025
Erasmus+	€515,701.00	Strengthening of National Research Capacity on Policy, Conflict Resolution, and Reconciliation	7	Partner	Arab American University, Hebron University, The Islamic University Gaza	14/11/2022
Erasmus+	€508,118.00	Transforming Assessment Practices in Large Enrolment First Year Education	10	Partner	An-Najah National University, Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission, Al Aqsa University, Birzeit University, Palestine Polytechnic University, University College of Applied Sciences	14/10/2019

Erasmus+	€856,840.00	Improving Governance Practices and Palestinian Higher Education Institutions	10	Partner	An-Najah National University, Birzeit University, Arab American University, Palestine Polytechnic University, The Islamic University Gaza	14/12/2019
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Israel

Programme:	Project Net EU Contribution	Thematic Priority	Total Participants	UCC's Role	Israeli Members	End Date
Horizon Europe	€20,998,624.00	Research infrastructure	159	Partner	Weizmann Institute Of Science	31.07.2025
Horizon Europe	€33,045,067.00	Health	44	Partner	Ministry Of Health	30.10.2029
Horizon Europe	€5,999,989.00	Food, Bioeconomy Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment	36	Partner	University Of Haifa, Israel Oceanographic And Limnological Research Limited	30.04.2026
Horizon Europe	€4,497,178.00	Digital, Industry and Space - call: HORIZON-KDT-JU-2021-2-RIA-Focus-Topic-1	20	Partner	Mellanox Technologies Ltd	31.12.2025

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Horizon Europe	€11,432,044.00	Health call: HORIZON-MISS- 2021-CANCER-02	14	Partner	Thermomind Ltd, Israel Institute Of Technology, Assuta Medical Centers Ltd, Sheba Medical Center	31.12.2026
Horizon Europe	€7,999,930.00	HADEA	14	Partner	Medical Research Infrastructure Development And Health Services Fund By The Sheba Medical Center	30.11.2028
Horizon Europe	€3,554,156.00	The European Innovation Council (EIC)	10	Partner	Qulab Medical Ltd	31.01.2027
Horizon Europe	€4,994,184.00	Digital, Industry and Space	9	Partner	MellanoX Technologies Ltd	28.2.2026
Horizon Europe	€11,845,429.48	HADEA	22	Partner	Agora P.S.V.D.	31.12.2027
Horizon Europe	€5,995,286.51	REA	14	Partner	Eshkol Innovative Agriculture Ltd	30.04.2027

Programme:	Project Net EU Contribution	Thematic Priority	Total Participants	UCC's Role	Israeli Members	End Date
Horizon 2020	€11,225,271.25	IHI	41	Partner	Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Limited	
Horizon 2020	€14,349,728.51	CNECT	18	Partner	MellanoX Technologies Ltd - Mlnx	31.12.2023

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Horizon 2020	€5,846,728.75	HADEA	10	Partner	Mellanox Technologies Ltd - Mlnx	
Horizon 2020	€8,179,214.26	REA	34	Coordinator	Equi-Nom Ltd	30.06.2024
Horizon 2020	€4,752,312.26	ECSEL-RIA	28	Partner	Mellanox Technologies Ltd - Mlnx	30.06.2024
Horizon 2020	€8,301,000.00	IMI2-RIA	35	Partner	Maccabi Sheirutei Briut Foundation	31.05.2025
Horizon 2020	€12,000,000.00	CNECT	55	Partner	Bar Ilan University	31.08.2024
Horizon 2020	€17,046229.63	REA	56	Partner	Docktech Ltd	31.01.2025
					Eco Wave Power Ltd	
					Technion - Israel Institute Of Technology	
					University Of Haifa	
					Agora P.S.V.D.	

Programme:	Project Net EU Contribution	Thematic Priority	Total Participants	UCC's Role	Israeli Members	End Date
Quoin Pharmaceuticals Clinical Research Fund	€547,000	Health:	2	Partner	Quoin Pharmaceuticals	Phase 1: 30.11.2025

		Pre-Clinical Development Of Rapamycin Topical Formulations for the Treatment of Skin Conditions				Phase 2 : 30.11.2025
						Phase 3: 31.05.2027
Helmsley Charitable Trust	\$2,248,190	Health	22	Partner	Rabin Medical Centre, Tel Aviv, Israel	28/02/2027
COST	€660,302	Health	276	Co-Lead	Haifa University	25/10/2026
Erasmus+	€981,022.00	Assessment Tools for new learning environments in higher education institutions	13	Partner	Kinneret Academic College in the Jordan valley, Gordon Academic College of Education, Hadassah Academic College, Mkhllt Sakhnin	14/10/2020
Erasmus+	€886,907.77	Public Health	10	Partner	Ashkelon Academic College, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel Medical Association, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, University of Haifa	30/09/2024

Appendix 6: Engagement with Israeli Partners in the Context of Horizon Europe: A Case Study from Ghent University

A. Human Rights Assessment Process (Israeli Partner Engagement)

The process undertaken by this institution to decide on external partner engagement (or de-engagement) was informed, and underpinned, by a Human Rights Assessment Framework that was developed, agreed and adopted at a sector-level in their region – key elements of the process, as applied to Israeli partner engagement in this context, include:

- Individual Israeli partner institutions are subject to a screening/due diligence process to assess whether there has been a violation of human rights, either directly or indirectly. The process is based on manual internet and media searches (undertaken by a team in their Research Office) and decisions to engage/collaborate are taken by an institutional-level Human Rights Committee (consisting of relevant VPs, Director of Research, senior academics).
- The scope of this process applies only to collaborations/engagements undertaken at *institutional level* (and/or contracted at institutional level, which includes Horizon Europe consortia).
- To respect academic freedom, individual researchers can collaborate (or not) with whomever they wish (e.g. publish together).
- The assessment process does not result in ‘blanket’ bans at a national level – if an individual institution is not involved in any human rights violation, the University will engage with this institution even in instances of violations at government level.
- Going forward, a ‘human rights’ clause is inserted in every research contract/contract template.

B. Process Undertaken with Current European-funded Projects (with Participating Israeli Partners):

With regards to current Horizon Europe collaborations, as a first step, the University consulted with the European Commission to question the participation of Israeli partners given that their inclusion is based on the EU-Israel Association Agreement, which details that the collaboration is based on both parties' commitment to human rights (Art. 2) – this approach was not successful (consistent with the Commissioner's statement on this issue which prohibited, on discriminatory grounds, the exclusion of a partner solely on the basis of nationality).

Ethical behaviour clauses in the relevant Grant and Consortium Agreements only refer to behaviour within the project itself, rather than wider institutional behaviour (so cannot be relied upon as the basis for a partner exclusion at a project level).

Process:

- As a first step, Israeli partners in relevant Horizon Europe consortia are subject to the above due diligence/screening process and a decision is made regarding the removal of the partner from the consortium.
- An 'informal' attempt is then made to communicate directly with the Israeli partner (via the LEAR) – setting out the outcome of the screening/due diligence process and inviting a response.
- If a response is not forthcoming, or is deemed unacceptable, and a decision is made to continue, the University undertakes the following actions:
 - Dispatch of a letter to the Commission outlining the general course of action regarding the Israeli partner.
 - Dispatch of a letter to the relevant consortium coordinator seeking the withdrawal of the Israeli partner from the consortium (in line with the procedures to remove partners as set out in the relevant Grant and Consortium Agreements).
- If a project coordinator agrees to support the action, the consortium partners will be consulted on the issue – further action will be subject to a consortium vote.

- If a decision is taken not to remove the Israeli partner, the University will withdraw from the consortium – the University will also underwrite any financial deficit that arises from the action.
- If a decision is taken to remove the Israeli partner, the Commission are informed, and they will decide whether the termination of the partner's participation is considered 'proper' or 'improper' – if deemed 'improper', the proposed action will need to cease immediately (or risk facing Commission sanctions).

With *Erasmus +* projects, the process is more straightforward as the exclusion of the Israeli partner can be undertaken from a personnel security risk perspective – these projects involve staff/student exchanges.

In these cases, an Addendum to the Consortium Agreement can be put in place that changes the Israeli partner status to 'inactive' (rather than formally exclude them from the Consortium).

Appendix 7: Active Suppliers (Israel)

Name	Last payment year	Comment
Alomone Labs	2024	Lab Chemicals
Ruben Borg	2023	Royalties
Individual	2023	Cost Action- expenses

Appendix 8: Palestine Solidarity Roadmap

Palestine Solidarity Roadmap: Actions On Track

Palestine Roadmap - Actions on Track (including completion dates and updates)				
#	Action	Status	Completion By/Further Update	Status
1. Partnerships				
1	Establish a Group, including student members, to develop a new ethical/human rights framework for all University partnerships and activity.	1. Consultation undertaken with SU, relevant staff and stakeholders. 2. List of Ethics Modules collated. 4. Scoping of similar frameworks. 3. Liaison with other HEIs underway. 4. Terms of Reference approved, and membership confirmed. 5. Meeting schedule in place.	Framework completed by April 2025 Approval by June 2025	On Track
4	Review all Horizon Europe grants to establish the level of engagement with Israeli partners and support.	1. Information on relevant Horizon grants in the public domain. 2. Support offered to all PIs.	Transferred to the P&I Working Group Dec 2024	On Track
5	Support all staff involved in grant activity with Israeli partners.	1. Support offered to staff via PIs. 2. Engagement with HR on supports.	Transferred to the P&I Working Group Dec 2024	On Track
6	Initiate revision of research integrity protocol to support ethical decision-making in all individual research, consultancy and industry activity.	1. Protocol being revised, following discussion at the P&I Working Group, and other standing university bodies on research. 2. Matter being actively progressed in tandem with related priorities concerning research security. 3. Human rights partnership framework being advanced.	Will be addressed as relevant in the P&I Working Group. Dec 2024	On Track

7	Identify the level of engagement between Tyndall National Institute and Israeli institutions.	1.Details of grants in the public domain. 2. Written confirmation of clean audit with respect to export control matters 3. Details of the due diligence process used by Tyndall shared with the P&I Working Group. 3. University approach being documented in the P&I Working Group.	Transferred to the P&I Working Group Dec 2024	On Track
8	Develop guidance/principles to inform decision-making relating to new research grants and activity with Israeli partners.	1. Due diligence and pre-grant activity being supported by OVPRI - OVPRI is actively monitoring all new grant proposals. 2. Collaboration taking place between OVPRI and Tyndall to align due diligence approaches. 3. Discussion of current process taking place. 4. Commitment to a human rights framework set out in the Global Engagement Plan and being advanced.	Transferred to the P&I Working Group Dec 2024	On Track
13	Establish level of engagement with companies identified by UCC BDS	1. Activity scoped during Summer 2024. 2. Up to date review underway as part of the P&I Working Group.	Transferred to the P&I Working Group Dec 2024	On Track
14	Add social impact, including human rights violations, to new procurement tenders.	1. Legal advice requested on the legality of this approach.	Dec-24	On Track
2. Awareness raising				
15	Develop seminar series on Palestine including Occupied Territories Bill	1. Public lecture by Prof Emeritus of Modern Arab Studies at Colombia University, Prof Rashid Khalidi, at UCC on Nov 6th, 2024. 2. Additional events being planned including seminars on Palestinian history, culture and contemporary issues, including legal seminar on the issues raised by the OT Bill.	Semester 2 2024/2025	On Track

16	Integrate Palestine issues, as well as wider issues of student protest and global engagement, into the curriculum of relevant University Wide (UW) modules.	1. Consideration given to adapting a UW module (complete). 2. Student demand unclear, to be kept under review.	2024/2025	On Track
3. Palestinian Emergency Response Group				
18	Secure funding for a scholars at risk programme for at risk Palestine scholars	1.Consultation with relevant stakeholders complete. 2. Scholars At Risk programme to be launched in Q 1 2025, with funding identified for four Scholars at Risk positions. 3. Work on humanitarian scholarships in development.	31-Dec-24	On Track
19	Secure funding for Sanctuary Scholarships for displaced Palestinian students	1. Feasibility of applying Sanctuary model to Palestinian students explored and barriers identified. 2. Ad hoc enquiries dealt with and gap in funding model identified. 3. Development of new humanitarian scholarship underway. 4. DFA Palestine scholarship programme advertised and programmes added.	Q 2 2025	On Track
20	In collaboration with ACE, consider the potential to offer part-time and online programmes of study to Palestinian students.	1. Range of programmes identified which may be of interest and available online to Palestinian students (located in Palestine or displaced). 2. Established that English language courses are available in person only. 3. Demand for such programmes yet to be established.	Q 2 2025	On Track

Palestine Solidarity Roadmap: Actions Closed or Ongoing

Palestine Roadmap - Closed or Ongoing Actions				
#	Action	Status	Further Update	Status
1. Partnerships				
2	Apply for HEA funding to support cross-sectoral approach to human rights partnership framework.	Funding streams considered and discussions took place on possible joint proposal. Ultimately, the Funding Call was deemed not suitable/feasible.	Objective transitioned to <u>EDI Action Plan</u> . (Objective 5, Action 6) Opportunity for HEA funding will remain under consideration at IUA level. Closed.	Closed
3	Lead out on national advocacy to promote an ethical/human rights to University partnerships.	1. Matter raised with: DFHERIS, IUA and other bodies. 2. Matter raised with other VPs Global. 3. Matter raised with international partners.	Actions continue to be ongoing.	Ongoing
9	Develop Interim arrangements to ensure any new partnerships or arrangements comply with the universities values and commitments.	1. Steps taken so that any new or proposed partnerships or contracts are brought to the attention of VPGE.		Closed
11	Complete internal approval for divestment for the only fund that has exposure to Israeli stock.	Divestment of minor stock complete.		Closed
12	Clarify association between UCC's contracted travel provider and an Israeli company	Complete.		Closed
2. Awareness raising				
3. Palestinian Emergency Response Group				
17	Establish Palestine Emergency Response Group to promote an emergency response to the crisis especially for Palestine students and the academic community.	1. Report was submitted and recommendations approved. 2. Recommendations added to ongoing actions. 3. Report published on the website.		Closed

21	Learn from University and Ireland's response to the Ukrainian crisis	1. Document on Ukraine process brought to Palestine Emergency Response Working Group. 2. Learning from previous experience has been incorporated into this project plan, including the importance of the international sanction regime and government supports.		Closed
22	Actively advocate with the IUA for Government supports and funding for displaced Palestinian students	1. Matter raised with: HEA, DFHERIS, other VPs Global and Registrars 2. Matter raised with: Sanctuary Ireland, relevant government and advocacy organisations.	Ongoing	Ongoing
4. Statement on Palestine				
23	Statement on Palestine to confirm support and address concerns regarding gaps in previous statement.	Statement complete and published.		Closed
5. Implementation of UCC Commitments				
24	Agree protocol re ministerial visits re SU involvement/meetings	1. Measures adopted so that ministerial visitors to the Campus are advised of SU interest in meeting with them to discuss the Occupied Territories Bill. 2. The operation of this measure will be reviewed in Q 1 2025. 3. SU will be kept informed.	Ongoing	Ongoing
25	Establish pathways/structures, with SU involvement, to provide transparency and accountability with respect to the completion of the relevant actions, and timelines.	1. Regular meetings with SU in place to update on progress and discuss any barriers. 2. SU participating in relevant working groups. 3. Ongoing reporting of progress to all relevant University bodies. 4. Updates shared on actions and timelines. 5. Website updated.	Ongoing	Ongoing
26	Meeting with President	Meeting held with UCC President.		Closed

Palestine Solidarity Roadmap: Acronyms

Acronyms	
SU	Student Union
HEI	Higher Education Institution
PI	Principal Investigator
P&I	Palestine and Israel
HR	Human Resource
OVPRI	Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation
UCC	University College Cork
OT Bill	Occupied Territories Bill
UW	University Wide
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs
HEA	Higher Education Authority
EDI	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
IUA	Irish Universities Association
DFHERIS	Department of Further Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
VP	Vice President
VPGE	Vice President Global Enterprise

Appendix 9: UCC's Due Diligence Process

UCC Research Due Diligence Process

The below steps outline the processes undertaken by *UCC Research* in line with the institution's Research Security Framework. These processes serve as current internal controls as part of the relevant risk, captured in the OVPRI Risk Register, for managing risks associated with potential reputational damage to the institution, misuse of University R&I, undermining of UCC's values and mission, and loss of commercial business, due to foreign interference and/or geo-political dynamics.

Pre-Award Phase:

1. Research security is a standing agenda item at monthly OVPRI Research Officer meetings. These meetings present an opportunity to highlight potential leads and risks associated with an potential engagement at an early stage. The focus of scrutiny is informed by current geopolitical priorities.

2. Risk appraisal and due diligence on any foreign-sponsored funding programmes and on prospective partners - including those identified through the Research Officer meetings above - is undertaken by the relevant Research Officer supporting the proposed pre-award engagement.

Post-Award Phase:

3. Risk appraisal and due diligence on prospective partners/engagements is carried out by the relevant Contracts Officer in the course of reviewing/preparing the relevant legal documentation governing the proposed engagement.

Note: *Under GDPR regulations, checks at Pre- and Post-award Phases may only use information available in the public domain and cannot access any legal documents or criminal history records.*

4. If any issues/concerns are identified, a Due Diligence Briefing is provided to the Director of Research Support & Policy for review. The Director then convenes the *UCC Research* External Due Diligence Group (Director of Research Support & Policy (chair), relevant Senior Research Officer, & Post-Award Manager) to discuss engagements which may present a risk to the University.

The External Due Diligence Group will evaluate the risk level and make a determination as to whether the benefits of the engagement outweigh the risk, and to define next steps: One option is to escalate the matter, in consultation with the VP for Research & Innovation, to the University Research Risk Committee (VP for Research & Innovation (chair) , Director of Research Support and Policy, Corporate Secretary, Bursar/CFO, and VP for Global Engagement) for further consideration at institutional level.

If a decision is made not to escalate to the University Research Risk Committee, then a Risk Management Plan will be developed that sets out how risk(s) will be addressed and mitigated.

5. The University Research Risk Committee will discuss the escalated risk, along with consequences, and further actions to be taken. There are two determinations that can arise from these discussions:

A. Low Risk Collaborations:

6. The Committee considers the risks (and relevant Risk Management Plan), and makes the decision to proceed with the proposed engagement. Additional, follow-on, actions to include ongoing monitoring of the engagement.

B. High Risk Collaborations:

7. The Committee arrives at a decision that institutional research security cannot be guaranteed, and the proposed engagement should not proceed. Rationale for the decision, and any associated mitigating actions including follow-ups, are captured and shared with relevant stakeholders.

8. Following the process, the decision for each engagement is recorded along with relevant information from the Due Diligence Briefings. Regular reports on the Due Diligence Process (and outcomes) are shared with relevant internal stakeholders as per

the OVPRI Risk Management Reporting Process. The database of due diligence exercises and outcomes is consulted as part of future due diligence checks.