



UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh
University College Cork, Ireland

Good Practice Symposium 2026

Call Document



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Foreword

Every day across UCC, individuals and teams are developing ideas, processes, and initiatives that make a meaningful difference. The Good Practice Symposium provides an opportunity to recognise this work, share insights and support a culture of enhancement across the institution.

Good Practice helps us understand not only what we do well, but how we achieve it. By capturing these examples through Case Studies, we build a shared knowledge base that strengthens quality, effectiveness and collaboration across UCC.

This next Symposium will be thematic, focussing on an important strategic enabler that underpins UCCs 2023-28 Strategic Plan, EDI Framework and Graduate Attributes: **Belonging**.

A sense of belonging ensures everyone across UCC's diverse community, "...can achieve their potential & succeed." It is at the heart of who we are and what we do.

The Symposium will provide a platform for colleagues to share ideas, innovations and outcomes that nurture and drive our sense of belonging at UCC, now and into the future.

We encourage all staff and students to consider submitting a Case Study that aligns with the event theme, and look forward to welcoming everyone at the Symposium on **19th May 2026 in the Dora Allman Room**.

Ms Elizabeth Noonan
Director, Quality Enhancement Unit

Beginnings

As part of the UCC Periodic Quality Review process, units engaging in review submit Case Studies of Good Practice which are published [online](#). These represent a sample of the many instances of Good Practice that exist across UCC.

UCC held its inaugural Good Practice Symposium in 2022 as part of wider preparation for Institutional Review. The event showcased Case Studies through [posters and presentations](#) and received highly positive engagement.

Building on this success, the Symposium now takes place biennially



Symposium of Good Practice 2026

The 2026 Symposium will be held on the 19th May in the Dora Allman Room.

In addition to the live event, all submitted Case Studies will be compiled into a digital resource, a lasting reference point that showcases the breadth of Good Practice across the University.



Case Study of Good Practice Symposium 2024



Good Practice Symposium 2024

What is “Good Practice”?

The term “good practice” is intentionally chosen over “best practice.” It acknowledges that UCC is a diverse community with different disciplinary norms, organisational contexts, and areas of expertise. What works exceptionally well in one setting may not transfer universally but it can still offer valuable inspiration and learning. Good Practice can be understood through several perspectives:

- EU Website on Integrations: Approaches that have demonstrated effectiveness, sustainability, or transferability in achieving desired outcomes.
- [InterReg Europe](#): Initiatives that have delivered measurable and positive results and hold potential value for other contexts.

Ultimately, Good Practice is defined by each area based on the measures and examples that matter most within their discipline or service.

Why it Matters

Identifying and sharing Good Practice is a cornerstone of UCC’s enhancement culture. It enables us to:

- celebrate the strengths and achievements of our community
- enhance awareness of effective approaches
- support continuous quality enhancement
- encourage collaboration and learning across units and disciplines



Belonging

The 2026 Symposium of Good Practice, with its thematic focus of *belonging*, aims to showcase case studies which are or intend to cultivate belonging in UCC.

At UCC, belonging can refer to the shared experience of feeling welcomed, valued, respected and the ability to fully participate in university life.

This sense of belonging, extends beyond staff and students to encompass a wider community of stakeholders, including alumni, local and regional partners, community organisations, industry, policymakers and international collaborators.

Grounded in UCC's strategic commitment to a people-centred, inclusive and engaged university, belonging is fostered through:

- Graduate Attributes Programme, which emphasises community, respect, global citizenship and ethical engagement,
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Framework, which actively works to remove structural barriers and address inequities,
- Global Engagement Strategy, which positions internationalisation as reciprocal, inclusive and values-led with an emphasis on meaningful partnership and ethical global citizenship,
- The efforts of all staff and students who enable belonging through what they do across teaching & learning, research and professional support services - either directly or indirectly.

Together, these approaches recognise that belonging is both cultural and systemic: it is created through inclusive learning, working and social environments where diversity is affirmed, voices are heard, and everyone can thrive and contribute authentically.



Making a Submission

How

If you have an example of Good Practice that may benefit others, we encourage you to submit using the submission link below where you will find a copy of the poster template to be used:

[Submission Link](#)

Who

The Good Practice Symposium is open to **all staff and students** across UCC.

The target audience of the Good Practice Symposium directly aligns with UCC's commitment to ensure diversity and inclusion across education, training, research and professional support services in UCC.

This includes areas and activities that do not directly fall under these domains, but which enable belonging as a result of what they do and who they support across the UCC community.

Scope

Submissions should align with the theme of Belonging and may relate to teaching, learning, research, professional services, training, systems, processes, or any initiative that embeds belonging within UCC.

Submissions must also identify one or more of UCC's Strategic Goals it relates to as outlined in UCC's [Strategy 2023–28: Securing Our Future](#):

1. Research and Innovation
2. Student Success
3. Global Engagement
4. Our Staff, Our Culture
5. Our Place, Our Footprint

Selection and Presentation

All submissions must be submitted by the **16th March 2026**.

Submissions can choose if they wish to be considered for a Poster or Talk in the submission form.

Up to **50 posters** and **3 short presentations** will be showcased. If submissions exceed available slots, a review committee will select entries.

During the event, a judging panel will be in place to select the winning poster and presentation.



Format and Preparation

Posters for selected Case Studies will be printed by the Quality Enhancement Unit (QEÜ) and set-up on the morning of the event.

Poster presenters will receive their poster number in advance to locate their respective posterstand.

Those submitting slide presentations will be contacted with full event details and preparation instructions once selected.



Good Practice Symposium 2024



Contact & Further Information

If you have any queries, please email stephen.hammel@ucc.ie.

Further information on speakers and posters will be made available closer to the event on the [QEU website](#). Here you will also find further information on the previous symposiums and published case studies.

