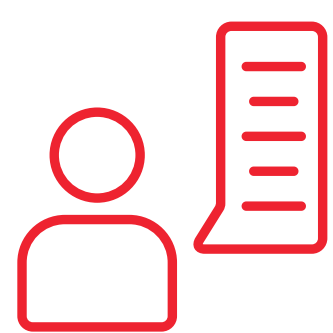


# Case Study of Good Practice

## Title: First Contact - A Ukraine Project

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### Case Study Synopsis

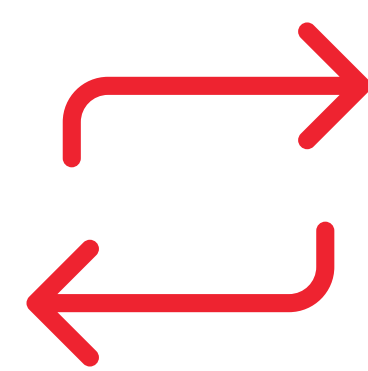
The case study is the story of the 'welcome to UCC' programme run by ACE for war displaced Ukrainian students - focussing on the initial development, and challenges overcome by a small yet agile group of UCC staff and students from the Postgraduate Diploma in Youth Work Program.

This component of the programme was co-ordinated similar to a youth club, guided by 'decompression theory' originally developed following the Vietnam war. The team received a briefing on dealing with trauma from Marie Lotty (resident UCC expert on this) before we started.

We accessed and activated multiple community partners, from the local YMCA (pizza) to Crane Lane Theatre (social), with outstanding on the go back up from Orna Hayes in ACE, with Willie Weir (also ACE) and UCC security guards who organised dinner from Penny Dinners.

We took them around the university and up to Shandon and got a train to Cobh. We took them to Cobh as it's unlikely that they'd have ever heard of Cork before ending up in Ireland, but everyone knows about the Titanic (we were right). And we had a student from Cobh who could give the guided tour of the town. And we got to know them and their stories, and they got to know us.

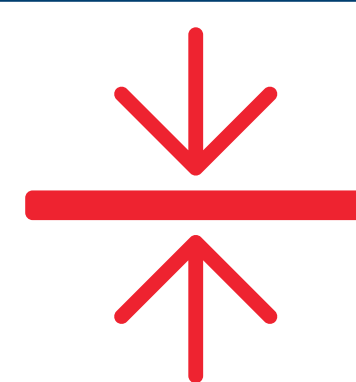
The case study shows how a fast and informed response, allied with a willingness to take risks and a skilled staff team can deliver profound good in unique circumstances.



### Intended Changes

We had three aims, make them feel safe, make them feel welcome and let them get to know each other.

Part of the safety was strategic dissemination of information to the Ukrainians concerning personal safety in Cork – some things are better delivered by peers, young person to young person.



### Area of Alignment

Student Success

People and Organisational Culture



### Key Impacts

The student learning was immense – learning for the Ukrainian students and learning for the Irish students.

It showed that it doesn't matter what something was designed to do, what matters is what it can do.



### Additional Information

ACE have a webpage for the overall program here:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/ace/ukrainestudentcourse/>



### Video Links | Graphics

