



National Student Engagement Programme

Clár Rannpháirtíochta Náisiúnta
na Mac Léinn

March 2017

NStEP begins roll out

2017 Roll Out

In December of 2016 a call for expressions of interest in the National Student Engagement Programme (NStEP) was issued. The responses were considered by the programme partners and a roll out structure was designed to cater for the demand. The Higher Education Authority (HEA), Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and Union of Students in Ireland (USI) are delighted to welcome 15 new institutions to the national programme, all 20 institutions participating in NStEP are listed to the right. As the programme develops further more institutions will have opportunities to engage in the different work streams and activities outlined below.

Institutional Analysis Work Stream

The final workshop for the pilot Institutional Analysis work stream took place on March 16th. The outputs from all five of the pilot workshops in National College of Ireland, Letterkenny IT, NUI Galway, Waterford IT and Cork IT are being analysed by the NStEP Coordinator with support from programme consultants sparqs (Student Partnership in Quality Scotland). The analysis will produce a national report and institutional reports for each of the pilot institutions. The national report will be reviewed by the National Working Group at their April 5th meeting and five new national work streams will be established and aligned with the Student Engagement Principles published by the Higher Education Authority Working Group on 2016.



The next phase of this work stream will see six HEIs complete an institutional analysis in 2017/2018 and a further six HEIs in 2018/2019. This work stream has limited capacity and all places have been allocated for the next two years.

Institutions

Athlone Institute of Technology
Carlow College
Cork Institute of Technology
Dublin Business School
Dublin City University
Dublin Institute of Technology
Galway – Mayo Institute of Technology
Griffith College Dublin
Hibernia College
Institute of Art, Design and Technology
Institute of Technology Carlow
Institute of Technology Sligo
Institute of Technology Tallaght
Institute of Technology Tralee
Limerick Institute of Technology
Letterkenny Institute of Technology
Maynooth University
National College of Ireland
NUI Galway
University of Limerick
Waterford Institute of Technology

National Student Training Programme Induction Event

The December edition of the programme newsletter included the positive feedback received in the first pilot phase of the student training programme. The feedback from the class reps who participated in the training, Students' Union Officers and staff in pilot institutions continues to come back to the programme. The success of the pilot phase has allowed the programme partners to roll out the training programme to interested institutions with minimal redevelopment. On April 6th an induction event will take place in Dublin for any HEI interested in arranging NStEP training for their class reps. The induction event will introduce the principles of student engagement and the tools which make up the training delivered to class reps. For further information on the event please contact NStEP coordinator Cat O'Driscoll – cat.odriscoll@usi.ie

Student Trainer Recruitment

As the programme grows the Student Trainers Pool is expanding to meet demand. At the beginning of February, a call for additional student trainers was launched and over 40 applications were received before the March deadline. The applications will be scored by a panel of experts from USI and QQI to decide a shortlist which will progress to interviews in April. The successful candidates will complete the sparqs residential training programme hosted in Dundee in August before a final training day in Dublin with the NStEP team.

National Student Engagement Network

To date the National Student Engagement Working Group, made up of the pilot institutions, national experts, programme partners and sparqs has led the programme discussions, supported knowledge exchange and determined work package progression. As the programme grows this group will become too large for the current structure and it has been determined a National Student Engagement Network will be a suitable evolution. The structure of the network will be developed over the summer months with the first meeting provisionally scheduled for late November 2017.



Student Engagement Digital Badge

As part of the work by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning on Digital Badges, NStEP is leading a consortium including Cork Institute of Technology and Dublin Business School to develop a digital badge for student engagement. This digital badge is aimed at staff in all roles and will align to the National Professional Development Framework developed by the Forum and launched in 2016. The design and creation of the badge will include contributions from students and use the National Principles of Student Engagement as a base.

National QA Experts Pool

QQI and USI are working together through NStEP to develop a national pool of student quality assurance experts. Students from across the sector will be recruited and trained before their details are made available to institutions for involvement in external and internal review panels, programme validation boards and related activities. The European Pool and similar national pools elsewhere are being liaised with to share best practice, training resources and protocols.

For further information go to usi.ie/nstep and follow @NStEPie on twitter for regular programme updates.

The National Student Engagement Programme is funded and supported by:

