

**Centre for Teaching and Learning**

**2022 SPARK Initiative Funding – ‘*Change one thing and do it well*’**

**Call for Applications for Funding**

The CTL 2022 SPARK Initiative is funded by the Office of the Dean of Teaching and Learning. It follows on from the successful initiation last year. This 2022 SPARK initiative aims to support individual staff in implementing small-scale teaching and learning projects aligned to the theme ‘*Change one thing and do it well’*. The idea is to consider an aspect of teaching and learning you would like to enhance or initiate and begin with a starter project that creates opportunity to build on the initiative beyond the funding timeframe.

**Examples of last year’s projects are available in the** [2021 SPARK Initiative report](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document/Spark%20Report.pdf)

**Funding Availability:**

This year, there is a total fund of €10,000 available and individuals can apply for funding of between €250 and €1,000.

Suggested themes for projects could include:

* enhancing student engagement
* promoting a positive learning environment for a module/course
* community building within and between modules/programmes
* authentic assessment and feedback initiatives
* enhancing learning in the online space
* supporting student learning
* enhancing inclusive learning

**Who Can Apply?**

This funding call is open to all MU staff involved in teaching activities. We particularly encourage staff new to teaching and/or those who have not previously received funding through CTL to apply.

Staff are also encouraged to involve students in the project team and staff reporting on last year’s SPARK initiatives highlighted that this aspect greatly enhanced the quality and impact of their projects.

**Conditions of Funding**

* Funding must be spent on the implementation of the proposed SPARK Initiative.
* Funding cannot be used for computer accessories but may be used for purchase of software where software/licenses are specifically used to support initiative implementation. (Applicants should consider how licences can be sustained beyond the funding.)
* Equipment spend is restricted by the funding. In limited cases, funding may be used for discipline related equipment that is essential to the implementation of the proposed project.
* All funding must be spent by 31st December 2022.
* All projects must be completed by 31st March 2023.
* Project leads will be required to disseminate findings from their projects at a Centre for Teaching and Learning showcase event and by inclusion of a short project report in the 2022 SPARK Initiative Report (see example in [2021 SPARK Initiative Report](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document/Spark%20Report.pdf))
* Projects will be supported by the Centre for Teaching and Learning with; the process, the project itself where advise is required, and/or writing up the final report.

**Application Process and Key Dates:**

1. Complete the online SPARK Application Form available here: [SPARK Application Form](https://maynoothuniversity.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/tl514-module-feedback-202021-copy)
2. Apply any time up to: 31st May 2022.
3. Applicants will receive an email from CTL with a copy of their application from.
4. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within 2 weeks of their application by email from the Centre for Teaching and Learning.

**Selection criteria:**

Proposed projects must:

* Be narrow in focus i.e., make one small change to a teaching/learning aspect.
* Be informed by literature or recognised good practice in teaching and learning.
* Demonstrate how the proposed initiative will directly impact student learning.
* Outline a process and timeline for planning, implementation, and evaluation of the initiative.
* State the funding amount required along with a breakdown of how it will be spent.
* Outline how any students involved in the project will be engaged at each stage of the initiative.
* SPARK funding cannot be used to supplement other funded projects or initiatives.
* Not be a recipient of the 2022/23Teaching & Learning Fellowship Award.

If too many projects are received for available funding:

* Preference will be given to projects that involve students in the design and implementation.
* Preference will be given to projects not previously in receipt of SPARK funding.

The selection team will include members from; the Centre for Teaching and Learning, the Office of the Dean of Teaching and Learning and a student representative.

If you have any questions, please contact margaret.keane@mu.ie or teachingandlearning@mu.ie

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