

MU Student Success Initiative Consultation Group 'Student Success Initiative' Information Sheet

The Maynooth University 'Guiding Strategies and Practices for Student Success Initiative' seeks to build on the university's commitment and significant track record in supporting Student Success by developing a strategic framework to further embed a shared vision and culture of student success at Maynooth University, with student consultation and the student voice central to the process.

What is Student Success?

Student Success can mean different things to different people. The National Forum (2019) undertook a nationwide consultation process and extensive literature review, and found that Student Success can mean:

- Empowering students to recognise and achieve their own potential.
- Enhancing partnership and engagement between students, staff, and the wider community and between all levels of the higher education sector.
- Removing any obstacles that may hinder students from achieving their own benchmark of success.
- Focusing on the entire student experience.
- Adopting a whole-of-institution approach.

Based on these insights, the National Forum has put forward a National Understanding of Student Success, which states that:

"Student success optimises the learning and development opportunities for each student to recognise and fulfil their potential to contribute to, and flourish in, society. To be

achieved, this requires a culture in Irish higher education that values inclusivity, equity and meaningful engagement between students, staff, their institutions and the wider community"

(National Forum 2019 p. 28).

Why is this initiative important?

The Student Success Strategy initiative will facilitate an institution-wide consultation process to develop a Student Success Strategy and proposed framework for the future specific to Maynooth University. The proposed strategy and framework will focus on the student lifecycle and help embed a holistic and whole-of-institution approach to Student Success.

What material is being used?

There are five themes to Student Success that this initiative will address:

1. Strategy and Enabling Policies and Practices.
2. Assessment and Feedback.
3. Engagement and Student Partnership.
4. Teaching Approaches and Learning Design.
5. Transitions and Cultivating Belonging.

Through the completion of a short survey, and guided brainstorming activities, you will be able to give your opinion on current Maynooth University practice in these areas, identify gaps, and make suggestions for improvements.

Student Success Strategy

Project Members

Name	Title
Dr Alison Hood (Project Lead)	Dean of Teaching and Learning
John O'Hara	Student Success Project Officer
Fanahan Barry	Centre for Teaching and Learning
Ian Russell	Student Engagement Officer
Dr Rose Ryan	Maynooth Access Programme

Contact

For more information about the Student Success Strategy project, please contact Dr Alison Hood (alison.hood@mu.ie) or John O'Hara (john.ohara@mu.ie).

Glossary of Terms

Term	Description
Policy	This refers a set of ideas or plans that are used as a basis for making decisions, e.g., University Governance Policy, Assessment Policy. These can be found at the bottom of MU's home page.
Process	A series of repeatable actions that are carried out in order to achieve a particular result, e.g., providing academic and non-academic student supports; Training for Effective use of technology in the classroom.

Glossary of Terms (Cont'd)

Term	Description
Practice	This refers to something that is done regularly. In a university context, it refers to the teaching, learning, and assessment methods, and the academic and non-academic student supports and activities.
All Levels of the Institution	This refers to the Governance Structure and decision-making, from institutional, faculty, departmental, administrative, and student support.
Formal Learning	This refers to accredited learning that takes place in the university.
Informal Learning	This refers to non-accredited learning that takes place in the university.
Extra/Co-Curricular activities	An activity at a school or college pursued in addition to the normal course of study.
Reflective Learner	Thinking critically about how you learn, and what your learning preferences are.
Experiential Learning	The experience provides the platform for learning, whilst the careful analysis and reflection of the experience develops the learning.
Global citizenship	This is the umbrella term for social, political, environmental, and economic actions of globally minded individuals and communities on a worldwide scale.
Transitions	This refers to key times of changes in the student lifecycle, such as orientation in first year, support around exam times, and supports before and after graduation.