



QEU Student Digital Space:
Enhancing student digital engagement and partnership in QE

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**A TRADITION OF
INDEPENDENT
THINKING**



UCC

University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Presentation Overview



The QEU and Student Engagement in Quality



Student Digital Space Initiative



Commitment to Student Engagement at UCC



Alignment with national and international policies

Student Engagement in QA & QE: A Partnership & Innovation Journey

UCC Quality Enhancement Policy (2018)

'In our quality enhancement approach, we are committed to engaging students as active partners in the QE process to embed a student-centred approach'.

UCC's QEU: Pioneers in student engagement in quality review processes

First Irish university: students as full Reviewers in Quality Peer Review Panels (since 2014)

Student reviewers: input into QE of QR processes

Peer Quality Reviewer Digital Badge since 2018/19

Student Digital Space since 2021/22

3rd QR Cycle (since 2015/16): 100% Panels with Student Reviewers



Latest QA Student Engagement Initiative 2022



Quality Enhancement Unit
Aonad Feabhsaithe Cáilíochta

COVID-19

COURSES

MY UCC

SEARCH

GA

MENU



Student Digital Space

Discover exciting opportunities for Student Engagement

[Find out more →](#)

[Student Digital Space →](#)

[Institutional Review →](#)

Student Digital Space (SDS) Goals, Objectives and Functions

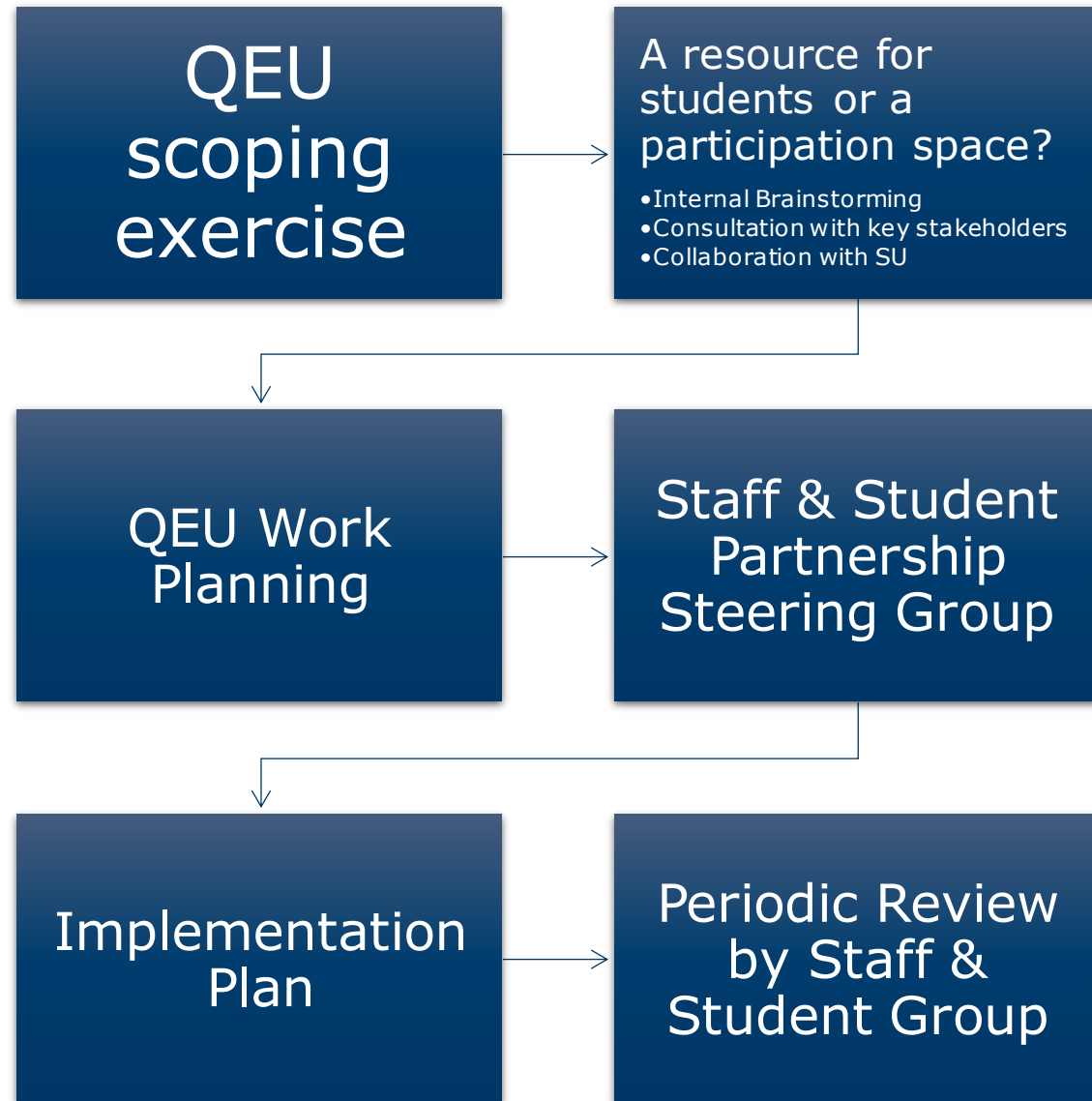
Overarching Goal		
To broaden, diversify and enhance the QEU's student engagement practices, reaching out to the whole student body		
Objectives		
One	Two	Three
To broaden the QEU's communication with students through the establishment of a Student Digital Space	To design and implement the SDS's Phase II through an inclusive staff-student partnership approach to be maintained for its periodical reviews and updates	To provide a successful example of inclusive staff-student partnership in QE for dissemination & duplication university-wide
Functions		
A) Information on QE/QA processes, initiatives and developments at QEU and University level		
B) Student Reviewer-dedicated area (information and resources)		
C) Awareness-raising on QE benefits for the student experience;		
D) Increasing local visibility of national initiatives/resources on quality and student engagement		
E) Digital comment box for student feedback and perspectives (Phase II)		
F) Other functions identified by students (Phase II)		

SDS: Implementation Steps

No	Milestone/Task	Target Date	RAG Status
1	Brainstorming exercise	April 2021	Completed
2	Project plan development, approval & implementation timeline scheduling	March 2022	Completed
3	Implementation SDS Phase One: Student Reviewer Section development and publication	April 2022	Completed
4	SDS Phase Two: co-planning and development in partnership with student stakeholders	Winter 2022	Scoping & design under way
5	SDS Official Launch	TBC	Not Started
6	SDS Periodic review and update	TBC	Not Started

Student Digital Space: Going Forward

- Phase Two to follow (2024/25)
- Benefitting from NStEP feedback (2022)
- Staff & Students Partnership Approach: *Enablers*
 - SU Strategic Plan as a springboard
 - Relationship-building with the student community (Good Practice)
 - International benchmarking
 - Study exchange through Erasmus +
- Key steps towards a successful outcome



Alignment with strategic priorities at UCC

Home > Support > The President's Office > Securing Our Future: UCC Strategic Plan 2023-2028 > Student Success

Student Success



Student Success Strategic Approaches and Priority Actions

- 2.1 Implement an academic plan to further embed the Connected Curriculum and lifelong learning, enabling educational and professional success for all students.
- 2.2 Be the university of choice for postgraduate study in signature areas of excellence and develop pathways to widen access into programmes at all levels.
- 2.3 Develop and provide excellent equipment, facilities, services and accommodation.
- 2.4 Support student success, health and wellbeing, informed by the student voice.
- 2.5 Provide a digitally enabled learning and teaching experience, equitable to all, which incorporates Universal Design principles.

About Goal Two: Student Success

'By embracing students as partners and experts in their university experience, we will ensure that the student voice informs UCC's activities and decision-making'

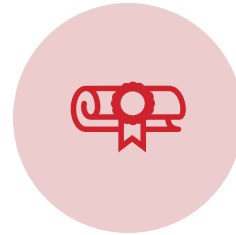
Alignment with National Approaches



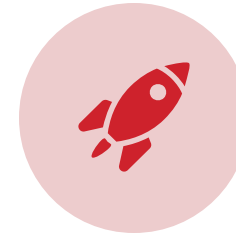
HIGHER EDUCATION
AUTHORITY, QUALITY
AND QUALIFICATIONS
IRELAND AND UNION OF
STUDENTS OF IRELAND:
NSTEP (2016)



**STEPS TO
PARTNERSHIP
FRAMEWORK** (2021)



QUALITY ASSURANCE
AND QUALITY
ENHANCEMENT: ONE OF
THE 4 DOMAINS OF
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



**NSTEP STRATEGY
2022-2025**
'AN AMBITIOUS PLAN TO
EMBED AUTHENTIC
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT'
INTERNATIONALLY-
FOCUSED &
RECOGNIZED
'AN INSPIRING
PRACTICE WITHIN THE
EHEA'

**National Student
Engagement Programme**
Clár Rannpháirtíochta Náisiúnta
na Mac Léinn



Any questions?

Thank you

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Useful Links

- [UCC QEU Student Digital Space](#)
- [UCC Strategic Plan \(2023-28\) *Securing our Future*](#)
- [UCC Academic Strategy \(2018\)](#)
- [UCC \(QEU\) Quality Enhancement Plan \(2018\)](#)
- [Guidelines on Periodic Quality Reviews](#)

Student Reviewers Testimonials

“I would highly recommend this opportunity for any interested students who are looking to make a positive change in the lives of students and quality of education.”

Andrew Brosnan

Cork University Business School

“I found my time as a student reviewer to be highly engaging. Being part of such a top-level project offers an interesting insight into the inner mechanisms of the University.”

Luke Watson

School of History

“Being given the opportunity to take part in a Quality Enhancement review as a Student Reviewer has developed and enhanced my skills and abilities that will also help and improve my postgraduate career.”

Orla Redmond

Student of Geography & Sociology

“The student voice was a valued one on the panel (...) I found that review was a worthwhile experience as a student.”

Aaron Frahill