



HEA Teaching and Learning Conference December 2024

Driving Changes in Teaching and Learning through Policy and Innovation

HEA AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS
HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY



‘My Maynooth on Moodle’ - Maynooth University Online Orientation Programme

Name of Institution/Organisation	Maynooth University
Who led the initiative?	Student Skills & Success
Date and timeframe of the initiative	Academic Year 2023/24 and ongoing.
What was the reach of the initiative?	3,500+ first year undergraduate students each academic year.
Aims/Objectives	<p>The ‘My Maynooth on Moodle’ programme aims to present important orientation information to students in an engaging manner across the entire first-year experience. It achieves this through;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing crucial information to students in advance of on-campus orientation • Delivering asynchronous, self-paced and modular content on Moodle, MU’s Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) • Providing holistic content to students preparing them to develop themselves personally, professionally, and academically • Partnering with students to develop relatable and engaging content across a variety of mediums • Releasing new content on a monthly basis to meet students where they are with relevant information
Rationale and Identified Needs	<p>When Maynooth University transitioned back to an on-campus orientation programme following the pandemic, we appreciated the role an online orientation could play in supporting the more traditional on-campus orientation activities. The identified needs for such a programme are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide students with relevant information in advance of their on-campus welcome, easing anxiety and building belonging. • To allow students to become familiar with the Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle) in advance of commencement of teaching & learning. • To assist students in developing their learning style while also signposting learning and support services. • To ease the ‘information overload’ that students face at orientation by splitting content across a year-long programme. • To provide a source of empathy, validation, and reassurance through sharing student peer experiences.



Frameworks, Policies, or Strategies Aligned (internal, local or national)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maynooth University Student Success Strategy (Maynooth University) • Maynooth University Strategic Plan 2023-2028 (Maynooth University) • A Strategic Action Plan for Equity of Access, Participation and Success in Higher Education 2022–2028 (HEA) • Next Steps for Teaching and Learning: Moving Forward Together (National Forum) • Embedding Student Success: A Guiding Framework (National Forum) • Guide to Developing Enabling Policies for Digital and Open Teaching and Learning (National Forum) • Steps to Partnership (National Student Engagement Programme) • National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030 (Department of Education)

Categories	Elements	Topics	Target Groups
Commit	Leadership, Strategy & Governance	Digital Transformation	Students
Coordinate			Staff
Consult	Innovation in Teaching		
Create			
Celebrate & Continue			
		Student Engagement and Partnership	
		Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Approaches	