



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



Embedding Sustainability across the Curriculum at the University of Galway: An interdisciplinary approach

Name of Institution/Organisation
University of Galway
Who led the initiative?
Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT)
Date and timeframe of the initiative
Academic year 2024/2025 and ongoing
What was the reach of the initiative?
The 65 undergraduate programme leaders at the University of Galway, spanning all disciplines. This is the total number of undergraduate programmes in the University.

Aims/Objectives
The aim of this work is to embed sustainability across the curriculum at the University of Galway. The objectives are fourfold: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop a tailored approach, within each discipline, to embed sustainability competencies. - To explore and make visible the sustainability skills, knowledges and expertise within each degree programme. - To open up a space for interdisciplinary learning for sustainability within and between University disciplines. - To identify new programmes of knowledge and new actor constellations for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) within the University of Galway.
Rationale and Identified Needs
The rationale for this work is to provide specific and tailored pedagogical support to staff in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) through the provision of staff training and curriculum development. <p>In embedding sustainability across the curriculum, students will leave the University being able to analyse and discuss the impacts of sustainability in the context of their discipline; have the tools to tackle the ethical questions around sustainability; and have the capability to brainstorm creative solutions to interconnected global challenges.</p>

Frameworks, Policies, or Strategies Aligned (internal, local or national)
In line with the National Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and building on previous and existing work across the institution, this work focusses on identifying and further embedding sustainability competencies across undergraduate degree programmes at the University of Galway. <p>Sustainability is at the heart of the University of Galway's Strategic Plan, it is one of the core values. Embedding ESD across the curriculum addresses aspects of the Academic Strategy including strategic priority area 4 (our community and beyond) and strategic policy area 5 (culture of quality enhancement). ESD is a priority action as detailed in the University wide Sustainability Strategy. In addition, it links to the Race Equality Framework and Action Plan; Student Success Strategy and the University Performance Agreement and Implementation Plan, including the development of micro credentials.</p>



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHĒ
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

Categories	Elements	Topics	Target Groups
Commit			
Coordinate	Curriculum and Assessment	Education for Sustainable Development	Staff
Consult	Innovation in Teaching		
Create	Professional Development	Inclusive and Equitable Teaching Practices	
Celebrate & Continue	Research and Evaluation	Innovations in Assessment and Feedback	
		Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Approaches	